

# The Ugly Truth That I Discovered About Michael Rood

By  
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It was Aviv 1,6002 the last time I was compelled to write down a dream and very few revelations since that day have demanded as much attention as I am compelled to articulate today.

This morning I awoke with a start and looked at my watch to consider whether it was proper to awaken Jamie at such an hour. I showered, dressed, and waited until 0430 when I thought he might be arising. I had an apology to make and a sin to confess that only he would understand. I offer the following incident as a setting rather than a justification, but it is important for the overview. After an incredibly intense week of preparations, I blew out a tire first thing in the morning and replaced a dead battery that afternoon after an exhausting trial of getting a jump-start. That night I picked up my four daughters at the airport three hours late and blew out a second tire at midnight with no jack in the ministry van. We finally hobbled into Todd Bennett's cabin in the middle of the night. Less than 40 hours later we received a call that Judith's mother had died within the hour, and so we packed our bags and began our all night trek to Baltimore. As I pulled up to the gas station, Todd Bennett called and said that Jamie has flown in and needed to meet with me. I said, "This ain't gonna happen! Not only was this my first vacation with all my daughters in over eight years, but Judith's mother just died an hour ago and I am driving all night to get to Baltimore to make funeral arrangements."

The following afternoon, having gone thirty-six hours without eating, I called Jamie and scolded him for being so inconsiderate as to interrupt my family time with something we could have easily discussed over the phone. I then went on to say something that I now regret... "You are doing this whole thing from your flesh, this forced emergency meeting was stopped by heaven because the Almighty knew that we would be on the way to Baltimore at the very moment that you arrived unannounced."

I was wrong in assuming and pronouncing that this was Jamie's "flesh trip" – I learned how wrong I was in the middle of the night – so now I am going to tell you the rest of the story.

Last night I went to bed rehearsing something that has been bothering me for over 10 months. Last August, Judith and I had arrived in Grand Rapids two weeks before schedule so that I could work in an environment void of air raid sirens and frequent trips to the bomb room that were interrupting my preparations for the Jonah Code Seminar that I was congealing in our home in the Galilee. The first morning in the hotel room in Grand Rapids, I awoke with an inspiration around 0400 and turned on the desk light and began writing. My wife awoke with a start and snapped at me for disturbing her sleep with the desk lamp and the soft click of my laptop keys. I quietly dressed and drove down to Starbucks where I paced and prayed for an hour and a half till it opened – then I paced

and prayed with a quad espresso for the next two hours. I didn't want to do it, but I knew that the only answer to my prayer was for me to go back and tell my wife that I needed two weeks in seclusion – without her. I was ready for the fur to fly but I knew that I had to tell her to go visit her mother for the next two weeks.

After one last silent prayer at the desk, I spun the chair around to look Judith in the eyes to tell her that I needed her to get on a plane that day and go visit her mother for a couple weeks. Just as I opened my mouth to speak her phone rang. Judith's continence dropped as her sister announced that Judith's mother had just had a severe heart attack. She didn't repeat what she was hearing, but I opened my mouth, and said, "We need to get you on the next plane out of here – you need to be with your mother!"

The timing of that incident and the grieving prayer that I had uttered aloud, over and over as I paced in front of Starbucks that morning, has continued to haunt me to this day. I do not, and I am careful not to over spiritualize every incident in life, but this situation would not leave me alone. Last night I found out why.

The timing of Judith's mother's heart attack and the timing of the moment of her death was a momentous spiritual event – but I cheaply assigned the moment of her death as a sign that Jamie was overreacting to insignificant matters completely "out of his flesh". This is where I came dangerously close to blaspheming against the Holy Spirit out of a fit of selfishness on my part. I was wrong and I wrongfully accused Jamie. I assigned to Jamie's motives, that of which I was myself guilty. This is the incident where I found out the ugly truth about myself.

The details of the vision in my mind's eye are so clear that I cannot assign them to anything other than the leading of the Holy Spirit to show me where I had wronged my brother. I heard a voice that spoke to me, "Come over here – Let me show you something." I walked over to the dinette table in the RV and looked down at the letter that I had sent out to the staff. The voice said, "You told Jamie that he was UNQUALIFIED!" I grabbed the letter and held it close to examine the words on the page. I read, "I am bringing on some qualified people..." and as soon as I read those words my heart was changed into Jamie's heart and I began to weep bitterly. In my flesh I did not realize that those words would be heard by Jamie as a direct affront to his years of service. I wept and wept (as we are only free to do in a dream). The voice spoke to me as I looked at those words on the page "You were mad at the staff for treating Barrett so badly, but you didn't consider how Jamie would feel when he read your letter. You were the one who offended him – he was just doing what you asked him to do: go fishing and get well! Your words, though not intended for him, made him feel like he was being blamed. You only looked at this situation from your own narrow point of view – this is why Jamie flew out to see you! He was hurt!!!"

Then the voice had a finger that pointed to a line on the page that I never wrote. "This is what was added by the enemy in the camp that wants to destroy your friendship with Jamie. Unless you repent, the work that was begun in the spirit will die in the flesh. You are the one that will determine the outcome." "Who did this? I raged." "It doesn't matter

– there will always be those in the camp who will be there for their own reasons and they all will be tried or destroyed in the fire.

“But why did Judith’s mother die at the very hour so that Jamie and I couldn’t meet?”  
“Heaven made it so that your friendship and bond of trust would be tried and tested before the fire comes. Brothers will hate and betray each other to death - and this is the test of your friendship. You were told that the path would be very difficult before you accepted your assignment – nothing has changed.”

The End

Jamie, this is why I had to speak with you today. Since you were out of pocket I had to write these things before the day was out. I am very sorry that I did not hear your heart through your words. Please forgive me for my insensitivity. It is not intentional, it is having so many things on my plate at once and not one of them is going smoothly. Unless you have forgotten, your job was very demanding and it is taking several of us to juggle the balls that you were constantly contending with. I have been overwhelmed and second guessing my thoughts and actions.

I heard you speak of the rumor that was circulating about you and I was angry. I remembered that Michele had told me the same story and I was enraged when I heard it. I asked Michele to read every single line of my staff letter to this person so that he would clearly understand that “Kemosabe” (faithful friend) and I will be riding a new range together in the near future.

Jamie, I am sorry that I did not hear your cry. I think that we understand each other better than our wives understand us, but we also bury our personal feelings and sometimes bear the pain for the sake of the ministry – and I know that sometimes I become a little too hard just to be tough enough to endure the battle.

As you well know for the past two years I have been drawn in my spirit to Michigan and it has been confirmed several times by specific words that I was to “look back to the rock from which I was hewed”. But over the past two years I could not articulate what this drawing to Michigan was all about. At the end of our Pittsburg meeting I told Glenn McWilliams that I was going to go to Michigan and pray and seek Yahweh on what His will was for the future of the ministry and the teaching path that I was to take. I knew by the end of this tour that ‘pastoral ministry’ was in the picture and I knew that a weekly Torah teaching series in a studio setting was also in the picture, but how, when, and where was a complete mystery to me. Judith and I went to Glenn’s in Muskegon for two days and I felt a resounding spiritual thud. There was nothing there. We prayed together for a miracle to let me know how to proceed but yet we saw nothing. I drove to Grand Rapids after a couple of days with my parents for dad’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. When we arrived in Grand Rapids something took place that was completely unexpected. The moment that a 3000 square foot office and a huge space for a video studio opened before my eyes, I choked and wiped back the tears from my eyes. This was the moment for which I had

prayed. Heaven has shown me that we are doing the right thing and that we are still on the path that I began in Michigan 35 years ago this month. This is the culmination of the provision for the video equipment, the studio, the office, the man power, everything for which I had been praying and hoping since the day that *“The Creators Calendar”* finished filming in Israel two years ago. Everything that we were pursuing for the future of our television ministry came together in a moment of time. But even with all of these confirmations, I did not make a commitment to lock in the building. I needed a second witness who was emotionally unattached to anything in Michigan.

Don and Pam left Atlanta and arrived Michigan to inspect the potential location as I was driving back from Baltimore to New York. In short, Don was elated. This was the answer to our prayer and an obvious provision from Heaven laid directly into our hands. Before I got back to New York, Don had sealed the deal and was on the plane to meet with you.

Don told me that the meeting with you and the staff on Friday went very well. At the same time you were meeting in Oregon, I was meeting with a graphic artist from Cornell who works as an illustrator for the university. She presented the first drafts of the Jonah Code charts. Unbelievable quality! We are also already working on next years calendar – She is our new illustrator!

With all of this good news I have to reiterate that, Michael Rood is not leading Jamie Louis behind or “throwing him under the bus”. Just as I am replacing myself with younger, more talented, and far more qualified people to do my work – it will leave me free to do what I am called to do. If others in this ministry are threatened by “qualified people” coming on board – **NEVER EVER** let that be a threat to you. Do you think that I have no brains or memory? You are the only one who has stood with me through the years. You were there before our wives. You have seen the miracles and you were there when the revelation from heaven opened in ways that are beyond the grasp of human understanding. There, of course, have been times that each of us have been right and wrong – but we have weathered storms that others have never imagined.

Don told me that you had some concerns about your financial liabilities for things that you put in your name as we began organizing for our Israel project several years ago. You also voiced those concerns to me briefly over the phone while I was in Baltimore. My intention is this – and I will commit to it in writing:

1. We met with our greater advisory board over two years ago and we all decided that we would put a financial accounting system in place that would allow us to track every dime of income and expense so that we could make a financial plan to take this word of truth all over the world. Pam Harris was appointed to set up the inside book keeping system including the purchase order system and manage the bank accounts. An outside bookkeeper (Debbie Cooper) would make sure that we are squeaky clean in the eyes of the world. I am now having Pam reinstitute the agreed to plan for fiduciary responsibility with a goal of becoming accredited by the evangelical association for financial responsibility.

After reviewing the records produced by Debbie from last September through April of this year, it is the consensus among knowledgeable colleagues that it may be physically impossible to pay to have our financial records audited and brought up to an acceptable standard. The current idea being discussed is to let the temporary corporate sole '*A Road Awakening*' wither and become defunct after all debts have been satisfied. A new nonprofit corporation with a legitimate board of directors will oversee the financial constitution of the ministry. In this vein, I have asked Don as the Chief executive officer to immediately implement and oversee the financial accounting system that Pam Harris will administer. Don will also secure an accountant who will work us to have us qualified under the Evangelical Accounting Association standards. Again, I will not be signing any checks, but I will continue to direct the course of the ministry and make appropriate plans for the future based on timely financial information. A board of directors with financial expertise will oversee the financial reports and they will be produced in a professional format for all qualified persons to scrutinize.

2. An inventory system of all products will be immediately implemented and "back orders" will be a thing of the past.

3. Having proven the practical impracticality of our road tours as of this spring and summer, we will now focus on a necessary pastoral role in introducing more teachers and printed materials through several regional conferences through out the United States, and hopefully other countries as well. We will raise up a staff of younger and more energetic people to properly produce these life changing spiritual adventures in the form of three or four day restoration conferences. Jamie Louie and his family will be a vital part of these conferences – without having to haul in heavy boxes full of bookstore materials, which unnecessarily elevate your blood pressure!

4. All ministry debts from the temporary corporate sole will be hastily paid off before any "new projects" will be undertaken. All insurance policies, phone accounts, utilities, rental agreements etc. that were expeditiously opened in Jamie's personal name, will be properly re-assigned to the ministry if they have not already been accomplished. Jamie will be absolved of all liability for these rents, utilities, and fees that will be satisfied as a top priority in closing down the corporate sole. The RV will be repaired and sold and the note in Jamie's name will be satisfied as soon as possible. The remaining ministry vehicles will be registered and insured in the name of the corporation and Jamie will be absolved of any financial responsibility concerning these vehicles.

5. Jamie will be receiving his usual monthly salary from the ministry but he is also required NOT to work on anything except his family relationships, his health, and non strenuous work on his farm. Once we get things in order, Jamie will be a vital part of every major ministry event and will be part of future fund raising projects and international teaching ventures as his health permits. Jamie will be back in the saddle doing the work of the ministry as soon as he gets better and as soon as we figure out the path that the Almighty has set for us here in Michigan.

Jamie, I think that you and I need to write a letter to all of our supporters worldwide. I will construct the letter, but I want to send it to you and have you go through it because people need to understand that we are united together in this venture and that the changes that we are making in the ministry is to be obedient to Yahshua's final commandment before his ascension, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom". Now, for the first time in my life I feel that I am beginning to get a grasp on the Gospel of the Kingdom. Every once in a while I feel that I hit on something and that I'm communicating something to the audience that is reaching them on a deeper level that I have ever reached before. I am not going to quit – and I don't want you to quit or to fail in your mind. We have a job to do and I think we need to communicate that vision together.

Jamie, I am sorry that I did not hear how badly these rumors hurt you. Let's nip it in the bud and get moving on this thing. Thank for all of your hard work and doing the jobs that you neither volunteered for, nor were comfortable in doing, but you did them and that gave us the opportunity to get the work done in Israel and now to reach out to the rest of the world. Our job is only just beginning. We must get the foundation shored up. We must put qualified people in our places, people that are much more qualified than either one of us, to take us to the next level. We must give them the authority and our confidence. These are the people for which we have been praying for all of these years. We have both older and mature, and younger and energetic people who want to put their hand to the plow. We are doing something that is so much more important than the kingdom that we were building in New Knoxville.

I love you brother and I still hope to see you near the first part of August. There are a lot of changes brewing, and we have got a lot of exciting things to talk about. Lets talk about it in a boat on a Bass lake.

Michael