



the WATCHDOG bulletin



NEWS PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY IN GBC MANAGEMENT

Prabhupada quote

"...I have heard from Jayatirtha you want to make big plan for centralization of management, taxes, monies, corporate status, bookkeeping, credit, like that. **I do not at all approve of such plan. Do not centralize anything ...Once before you wanted to do something centralizing with your GBC meeting,** (added emphasis) and if I did not interfere **the whole thing would have been killed** (added emphasis) ...Krishna Consciousness Movement is for training men to be independently thoughtful and competent in all types of departments of knowledge and action, not for making bureaucracy." (Letter, Dec. 22, 1972)

MUST READ:

[http://
www.harekrشنا.com/
sun/editorials/01-10/
editorials5570.htm](http://www.harekrشنا.com/sun/editorials/01-10/editorials5570.htm)

✧ Questions on the NA GBC Bylaws ✧

Members of the North American GBC have crafted a certain set of bylaws for the N.A. ISKCON temples which they say are necessary to "protect" the temples from being taken over by outside groups. However not everyone agrees with them.

SOME TEMPLES SIGNED. OTHERS BELIEVE....

...that the new bylaws directly go against what Srila Prabhupada intended for his temples. Also, interestingly, there is NO GBC resolution on record from Mayapur, that says that any temple must sign these bylaws designed by the NA GBC EC. Yet even today members of the NA GBC EC and their enforcer Kuladri das, try to coerce or even force temple managers who have not yet complied. In a few quotes by Srila Prabhupada: "GBC members are simply to see that things are going on. Other centers have got president, secretary, etc. and they are managing separately. That is the formula. So how is it that the GBC are the final authority? They are simply to examine that things are going on nicely, that is all." [Letter – Umapati: 9, July 1971]

"GBC does not mean to control a center. GBC means to see that

the activities of a center go on nicely. I do not know why Tamala is exercising his absolute authority. That is not the business of GBC. **The president, treasurer and secretary are responsible for managing the center.** GBC is to see that things are going nicely but **not to exert absolute authority. That is not in the power of GBC.** Tamala should not do like that. The GBC men cannot impose anything on the men of a center without consulting all of the GBC members first. A GBC member cannot go beyond the jurisdiction of his power. We are in the experimental stage but in the next meeting of the GBC members they should form a constitution how the GBC members manage the whole affair. But it is a fact that the local president is not under the control of the GBC. "[Letter – Giriraja: 12, August 1971]

When There Is Too Much Control by the GBC ...

then someone can carry things away, sometimes even in a different direction from what Srila Prabhupada ordered. Prabhupada set everything up perfectly. He thought of how ISKCON should continue, with growth and spiritual vitality, for the next 10,000 years. No need for new schemes manufactured by an imperfect conditioned soul! Centralization was **FORBIDDEN** by Srila Prabhupada. An autonomous confederation of temples worldwide, all under the ISKCON banner, is what he wanted and started.

Below is a recent (2007) example, an alarm sounded by a dedicated servant of ISKCON for many years, of a North American GBC person who tried to exert too much control over the temple president, over the board of directors, and who basically centralized the funding of that temple through himself. The TP was not pleased! We do not think Srila Prabhupada would be pleased either. (some statements were highlighted by WDB).

GBC OF NEW JERSEY ORDERS COMPLETE CHANGE OF TEMPLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

> --- Romapada Swami wrote:

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>> Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2007 22:20 +0100

>> From: "Romapada Swami"

>> To: "Samik-rsi Prabhu"

>> Subject: "New Temple Committee"

March 14, 2007

Dear Samik Rsi Prabhu,



Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Per our discussion of Sunday evening, March 12th, **I am putting in writing** a more precise and formal description of what I communicated at that time.

In the history of ISKCON of NJ, it will be a very rare event that major financial expenditures of the magnitude of the proposed move to a new temple location will take place. **As the GBC of NJ, I want** to provide the proper level of financial and managerial oversight a GBC Zonal Secretary should exhibit, to ensure that we make the fewest mistakes AND to ensure that we get the best possible outcome, for the sake of our ISKCON followers in the current timeframe, as well as for generations to come.

To achieve the above, for the duration of this new temple project, **I am hereby appointing a "New Temple Committee" which will directly represent me. They derive their authority from the GBC Zonal Secretary, and they are directly answerable to me.** They are to function and interface with you in the following manner.

_____ (continued next page)

NEW TEMPLE COMMITTEE

- * New Temple Committee: members shall be Nilmani das, Ramacandra das, and Santosh Shanbhag. They may also involve Banke Bihari das, as circumstance dictates.
- * New Temple Committee's Roles & Responsibilities:
 - ~ Review and Approve All Major Financial Transactions including Budgeting and Fund Raising.
 - ~ Review and Approve all communications with external authorities including Township, Lawyers and any other Companies or Organizations.
 - ~ Work together with Samik Rsi Prabhu to collectively draw up plans for layout, construction, internal and external appearance, quality of materials, choice of labor selected to perform the construction, and other significant decisions in pursuit of our goals.
 - ~ Ensure that the wishes of the congregation at large and the GBC are taken into due consideration in these plans.
 - ~ Ensure that appropriate communications with the local neighbors takes place.
 - ~ Keep the local GBC Zonal Secretary informed at least on a weekly basis as to the progress, plus any issues or broader topics that may need direct input from the GBC.
 - ~ Discuss, agree and abide by all communications and announcements regarding the project to be made outside the committee group, including who should be informed, what information should be communicated and the format of the communication.
- * With the aim of being very clear in this communication, it may be helpful to both you and the New Temple Committee to know the explicit Hot Spots which **I wish the New Temple Committee** and yourself to closely monitor, and combinedly honor.
 - ~ **Do not bypass the GBC on critical decisions.**
Example: Who will become legal owners of the property; 'Names and wording on the deeds and contracts'.
 - ~ Do not bypass rules and regulations of local county or township.
 - ~ **No autonomous decisions on what I and/or the New Temple Committee representing me** would consider to be "major aspects"
Examples: Major Financial Expenditures;
Planning and New Temple Layout

I request you to duly inform the full Board of Directors of the formation of the New Temple Committee. Can you please inform me when this is done?

I want to remind you of one additional item which we discussed. In the time frame of mid-July/August **I intend** on making a comprehensive evaluation of the current structure of our "doing business" in Towaco, what structure might be the best for the duration of the construction of the new temple, and what structure we want to aim for after the construction is completed. **I will do this with the assistance of 2 other GBC members.** Please plan your travel accordingly. Your presence will be imperative.

I certainly wish you and the Temple all success with generating a magnificent success in this endeavor to provide the Deities with a new temple and the congregation with an expanded place of worship. All of the above is in pursuit of these goals. You have my full encouragement and well-wishes for maximum success.

*yours in service to Srila Prabhupada,
Romapada Swami*

WDB comments: Please note commands of Romapada (highlighted in in bold red for emphasis).

First of all, there was no vote by the temple Board of Directors, whether or not to install a new financial team overseeing the Towaco Temple. Romapada Swami, **on his own authority**, decides that now **all the money of the temple will be controlled by him!** Dr. Samik Rsi and his temple financial team were already fully and well qualified and up to the task to handle the organization and incoming laxmi for building the **\$8 million temple**. They all have professional backgrounds. Nor was there any previous case in the temple history, of money misappropriation under their management. RS move to monopolize and centralize the finances of the temple thru him, were done without proper procedure, and the TP Samik Rsi was very concerned at the time. One might add, there is NO accountability of this GBC person, and he just took over the temple hundi - potentially millions of dollars! Figure.