March 30, 2009

To whom it may concern,

 I write you this letter with much difficulty, as I have avoided this confrontation for many years but can do so no longer. The purpose of this letter is to warn you about Zak Kijinski, who I strongly believe to be a wolf in sheep’s clothing, a false prophet and potential cult leader. I know this will be hard for many of you to accept as true, but please read this letter prayerfully and don’t take the information or warnings lightly. I am taking the time and effort to write this letter due to a concern for you and the church of Jesus Christ at large. I will give an account of my history with Zak and explain why I believe him to be a wolf. I tried to keep the letter as short as possible but in order to accurately explain the situation it became much longer. There are many things that happened that are not mentioned in the letter due to either a lack of time or they have simply been forgotten.

 I have known Zak since grade school but became close friends with him at the beginning of the 2001 summer while in high school. We initially began hanging out because we had mutual friends, but we became close once Zak began to convince me of what he had convinced some of my other friends to believe. He convinced us that he was God’s chosen warrior throughout the history of the world, a vampire slayer, a fighter in angelic wars, and that he had superhuman powers. Let me assure you that none of this was a prank and was deeply believed by around fifteen to twenty people at various times including individuals living in Michigan and slightly by two adults for a short period. All the followers were men and all were roughly fifteen to eighteen years of age. My involvement in this quasi cult was only around five or six months, but other people, especially one individual, the time span was around three years. I repeat three years. Zak has a very wild imagination and we later made many connections of things he said and did to the show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

 We were led to believe that a catholic seminary, The Athenaeum of Ohio, located on Beechmont Ave. was a center of evil where demonic forces planned the destruction of the human race. I know this sounds crazy but stick with me. It was here that Lucillia lived, who was the leader of the demonic forces. We went there frequently as a group with Zak and many events happened there. We stayed the night at each other’s houses often and Zak would leave the house to fight vampires. There were times when he reunited with friends and would be beaten up, where he must have made himself bleed somehow. Other times, we were informed that he was demon possessed and we had to chase him down, physically hold him down and baptize him to return him to the good side. When he was demon possessed he fought us at times, ripped up a Bible, talked and acted differently, and was overall extremely convincing.

 He impersonated several different people to help convince us of his lies through instant messages, emails, and letters. When AOL instant messenger was fairly new, he figured out a way to log on as two different people at the same time, which we didn’t think was possible. As ridiculous as this may seem, we were messaged by the demonic leader Lucillia and it was terrifying. After a conversation with her where she informed me of her plan to kill me in my sleep that night, I slept on the upstairs couch of my parent’s house with a butcher knife horrified and shaking much of the night. This was Zak pretending to be her, while at the same time acting surprised by things she said and trying to comfort me. Other times, he pretended to be the general of God’s army the Knights of Isaiah. They were an army of God in a strange realm and fought against demonic forces in a physical battle with swords, which Zak would also fight in. The general told us about how their battles were going, encouraged us to follow and be trained by Zak, and left several letters on Zak’s porch. One of the letters explained that Zak was God’s chosen warrior throughout the entire history of the world. It listed nearly every major battle in history, explaining that God sent Zak to fight on the winning side in every one of these battles. He was able to convince us that all these things and much more were true.

 For several of us, the end of following Zak came when what was supposed to be the biggest event yet, fell apart. We were informed by the general that a huge battle was going to take place and at the last minute Zak was once again going to be possessed. We had to convert Zak back to the good side before the end of the day by baptizing him or else he would be evil forever and the world would be ruled by Satan. Our protection against Zak was “holy” water, reading scripture, and crosses. Everything fell apart when some of the people from Michigan skipped their first day of high school to come down and fight in the big battle. When they got lost in downtown Cincinnati, one of the group member’s parents had to help them out and learned about everything Zak was teaching us. So that day I ended up by myself trying to save Zak by trying to baptize him but failed as he somewhat fought me whenever I got close to him. Later in the day, he was miraculously back to normal and did not know what happen or what he did at all that day. Thankfully, this failed event led to the beginning of much confusion and us doubting that Zak was who he said he was. Also, around this time some of us started attending a local youth group which also led to doubts as what the youth pastor explained from scripture seemed very different from what Zak had been teaching us. Shortly after this, we were able to trace the emails that were supposedly sent by Lucillia, generals, and knights to Zak’s computer. Over the next few weeks most of the remaining members involved, including myself, stopped believing Zak altogether. His response was to isolate all of us from himself and one person who still somewhat believed. He then tried to convince this person of these things with new plot twists for another year or two. It finally ended with the last remaining person when he told Zak that he didn’t believe any of it and he wasn’t going to hang out with Zak or be his friend if he ever talked about it again. At this point Zak was probably seventeen years old and this is the last I know of Zak’s mini cult.

 Around a year or two later I started hanging out with Zak again for some reason, probably because he is a very likeable guy and I did always enjoy his company. Around this time I invited him to the church I had been attending called Northstar Vineyard in Loveland, OH. He was one of my few friends claiming to be a Christian so we once again started hanging out and getting close again, but we never mentioned anything that happened in the past. I believe it was after a few months of going to Northstar that Zak became obsessed with end times prophecy. Nearly all of our conversations became about end times, in which he claimed to understand the book of Revelation and was convinced the world was going to end soon with the antichrist rising to power in the near future. It was also during this time period that we moved into a house in Clifton together with one of the guys who was also involved with Zak’s previous cult and a nonbeliever. Zak’s obsession with prophecy only grew stronger and at one point I recall viewing what looked liked hundreds of pictures of the pope at the time on his computer, who he believed to be the antichrist. He would always bring up things happening in the news to show that the world was coming to an end and the pope was evil. He also tried to convince random people about this end time stuff, sometimes in small gatherings. During this time we were still somehow growing closer, but we never mentioned things from our past except on one or two occasions where there was an insincere apology given to quickly end any true discussion about the cult. There never was and never has been any repentance for those things nor have there been any signs of sorrow over the events.

 The end times prophecies over time changed into a type of prophecy where God spoke to Zak directly. This grew drastically after Zak went to some prophecy group led by a man named Rob at Northstar Vineyard. Zak then claimed that God spoke to him directly every day, often telling him every little thing to do that day. He claimed he would wake up and God would then tell him a list of things he wanted him to do. Around this time he started hanging around new people and started a new small group that met to study the Bible. The small group meetings I attended and remember were all either on prophecy or how God speaks to people. Throughout all the prophecy times I was suspicious and believed that Zak was making it up once again, but at the same time conflicted because I liked him and didn’t want to think he was repeating what he did before in a different way with a somewhat biblical twist. Over the course of a couple months I felt very uncomfortable with what Zak was teaching and the things he was claiming that God was doing and speaking to him. At the same time I was confused because Rob and the pastor of Northstar Vineyard seemed to support and back what Zak was doing and I trusted their judgment. However, as a result of our differences Zak and I eventually parted ways and I joined another church at that time as well. That was around fall of 2006 and we have only spoken a few times since.

 The point in explaining this history is to show you how Zak came to the position he is in today. He has always made himself the leader and God’s chosen one in one way or another. He is by far the most convincing and manipulative person I have ever met, while be extremely likeable at the same time. I have heard second hand of strange spiritual things with angels and demons once again happening with Zak and his friends. I have heard a rumor that he lives with a group of guys who give him their paycheck every month and he gives them an allowance. I want you to know that he was able make us think we saw things like vampires or a fallen angel that weren’t really there. To my knowledge he has never repented or publicly acknowledged the mini cult he created and led as God’s warrior. If he was able to convince a group of people all the crazy things I have only begun to explain, he could much easier convince others he has the gift of prophecy and that he hears the voice of God. There is no reason to believe he is any different now than he was then other than the fact that he masks his new operation under a more biblical scheme. I implore you to deeply consider these things I have written and understand that these things he does have drastic consequences. Out of the fifteen or twenty people involved previously I have been the only one who is a Christian that’s a part of a church, until just recently when another friend came to repentance. This is extremely important and the things Zak has done and is doing are destructive. Please hear my warnings and seriously consider them. Make this letter known to others who are following him or may be influenced by him. I am more than willing to speak with you about these things and there are other people who were involved that have also agreed to verify these things and speak with you. In conclusion, take the warning the Savior gave us to “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

Sincerely,

Ryan Dennis