



LETTER OF REFERENCE

My name is Paul Hagelgans and I serve as Field Director of Bible Mission – an international missionary organization serving in the countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as in other countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Asia. I first met brother Charles Lyons in the second year of my ministry with Bible Mission in 1991.

It was in January 1991, and I had just come to Chicago with my family to study at the Moody Bible Institute. I was looking for a church that would be not too far from our apartment, because we had the desire to attend and do ministry in a church. One Sunday afternoon, we went out for a walk and discovered a building that was called „Armitage Baptist Church“. There was also an announcement outside with an invitation to Bible Studies at 5pm on the same day. We decided to attend this meeting, but I have to say that my first impression of the music they were playing at the beginning of this Sunday evening service was – to put it mildly – „not my kind of music“, and I decided to better not come to this church again. BUT!!! After the music part, Pastor Lyons started teaching the truths of God’s Word (at that time, they were studying Paul’s Epistles to the Corinthians). It was this sermon / teaching that made me change my mind. We stayed, and we came back...

For over 30 years, Pastor Lyons has been a spiritual father to me, a tutor, mentor, my beloved brother in Christ and close friend, and – together with Armitage Baptist Church – a faithful partner in the ministry God has entrusted to Bible Mission. Pastor Lyons has visited the mission field many times. His experience and expertise, his enthusiasm and passion for the Gospel and his obedience to the Word of God have been and continue to be a great inspiration for the ministry and have given direction to our ministry many times. It was just obvious that God was using him.

From my personal experience and knowledge, I can say that God has used Pastor Lyons in three ways:

1. In the process of building the church (church planting and development):

- through faithfulness to the vision and work God has entrusted to him
- through the ability to mobilize, teach / train and organize people / teams to accomplish the goal
- through wisdom in working with people

2. In the proclamation / preaching of God’s Word:

- through knowledge of the Word of God
- through the ability to teach the truth’s of God’s Word in a comprehensible and accessible way
- through his passion and his heart that is burning for the practical application and implementation of God’s Word in daily life



3. In the expansion of God's Glory (missions):

- through his experience and vision for outreach to the urban population
- through his devotion and confidence in the power and victory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- through his commitment to training disciples – servants of the Gospel

This my knowledge and my personal experience in serving with Pastor Lyons gives me all reason to not only invite him to the mission field where I'm allowed to serve with Bible Mission, but also to recommend Pastor Lyons to others as a faithful servant of Christ with excellent knowledge and expertise – for the purpose of teaching the Biblical truths to the local churches and to train, disciple and grow young servants and leaders (Next Generation Leaders).

I will be glad to answer any questions or provide more information.

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Paul H.

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