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October 9, 2026

Dear ICOM Board Members,

I am writing to formally go on record regarding ICOM's decision to not allow Rapha International to use the GRACE report concerning Niños de México in its workshops this year.

I have now had several candid and gracious conversations with Rob Maupin and with other members of ICOM leadership. I appreciate their willingness to talk openly with me. I want to be clear that I am not alleging bad motives on Rob's part or on the part of the board. I do believe those involved have prayed, sought counsel, and are trying to make what they believe is the best decision for ICOM.

Nevertheless, after those conversations, I remain convinced that this is the wrong decision. In fact, I am more concerned about it now than I was when I first learned about it. I want there to be no ambiguity about where I stand. As Executive Director of CMF, I strongly disagree with ICOM preventing Rapha from using the GRACE report and the Niños de México experience to help Christian organizations better protect children.

I understand that several factors have been considered by ICOM leadership. These include objections from people and churches connected with Niños de México, concern that people associated with Niños have already suffered through the closure of the organization and the public discussion of its history, concern about the Missouri church community and relationships there, and counsel from ICOM's attorney about legal liability.

Boards do have to consider legal exposure, relationships, and the impact their choices have on particular communities and sustainable funding. But risk assessment is not the same as mission clarity. Our responsibility as Christian leaders is not merely to aim for organizational safety or survival. It is to ask what faithfulness to our mission requires, even when that involves unavoidable risk. Attorneys can help identify risks, but they cannot determine our mission for us.

The independent investigation commissioned by the Niños de México board documented serious historical failures involving the care and protection of children and young people. In the wake of that report, the board of Niños made the difficult decision to close the ministry. All of this is already publicly available information. From what I understand, Rapha's proposed workshops were not aimed at attacking or shaming Niños, but at asking what the broader Christian ministry community can learn from those findings so that we strengthen our organizations, improve our safeguards, and do better in the future. The GRACE report actually described a way for Niños to remain open if certain steps were taken, and more importantly, it provided suggestions for other child serving organizations.

One of the objections ICOM has weighed is that people connected to Niños are opposed to the GRACE report being used in that way and refute the accuracy of the report. In effect, objections from people connected to the organization investigated have contributed to that organization's experience being taken off the table for discussion. That creates a troubling precedent. Are we comfortable with the idea that when

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an independent investigation documents serious institutional failure, objections from people connected to that institution, or the pain those discussions cause, can prevent the wider Christian community from learning?

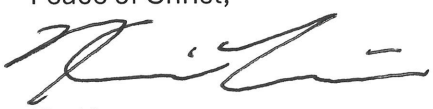
I recognize and do not minimize the suffering of people connected with Niños, but the suffering of survivors and others who have been harmed, and our responsibility to learn, also matters. ICOM has not entirely avoided these kinds of subjects in the past. Over the years, ICOM has included conversations about historical child abuse and organizational failures in global missions, including situations involving CMF International. Rapha helped lead some of those conversations. Those conversations were not easy, but they strengthened the community, and ICOM was publicly lauded for allowing those conversations to happen.

ICOM has enormous potential to educate and inspire a new generation to participate in God's work around the world. That is one reason this decision matters so much. Younger leaders are paying attention to how our institutions respond when difficult issues are close to home. I fear they will not be gracious when this decision becomes public, and all of us connected to ICOM will be implicated.

I am not asking ICOM to ignore legal counsel or to disregard fairness to people who have been part of Niños. I am not assuming that all allegations are true or asking ICOM to decide questions that belong in court. I am asking the board to consider what principle this decision establishes. Of course the current active litigation adds complexity, but it does not remove the underlying question.

I care deeply about ICOM. I want it to thrive, and I want it to be a place where the Christian missions community can face hard truths with courage, transparency, humility, and care for everyone involved. Precisely because I care about ICOM, I cannot remain silent. If questions are eventually asked publicly about how ICOM handled this moment, I do not want there to be any uncertainty about my position. I hope you will hear this in the spirit it is intended: with respect, but also with deep concern, and with hope for courageous, transparent leadership.

Peace of Christ,



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