

## FRANCHISE REVOKED

By  
J.C. Settlemoir  
Letter # 5

Bro Bill Stang in Voice in the Wilderness gives us some information on the constitution of churches. EMDA, he says it is like a franchise. The mother church has power to grant a franchise to a would-be church. But he goes much further than this! He maintains the franchisor can revoke the franchise!

True churches come from true churches; but that's not all: they remain true to their Lord. For in every franchise there is, if the franchisee will not abide by the guide lines of the franchiser, the franchiser is within full right to revoke the franchise. [Voice in the Wilderness. [p. 35. col. 2. par. 2].

Whoever grants a franchise can revoke it, Bro Stang tells us! And this is a fact! If a church is the grantor of a franchise (this is the EMDA position) then it can also revoke the franchise! What this means in practical terms is that years after a church is EMDAized it can be unEMDAized! If Bro Stang is right, then the mother church can withdraw the franchise, the authority, the church-hood (call it whatever you will) if in the judgment of the mother church, the daughter is not hewing the line!

Now here is the question. If this is legitimate and a church can do this, and Bro Stang says they can withdraw the franchise, what does this mean? It means this mother church, beyond all question, if it has the God-given right to do the first, it can also do the second!

It churched! It can un-church!

It bore! It can *unbear*!

It embodied! It can un-embody!

It brought forth! It can kill!

It authorized! It can un-authorize!

It started! It can end!

It lit the candlestick! It can snuff it out!

It constituted! It can un-constitute!

It granted the franchise! It can disfranchise!

Bro Stang says: "...the franchiser is within full right to revoke the franchise." If the mother church is the franchisor and the daughter is the franchisee then of course she can withdraw the franchise!

Shades of Roman Catholicism! One can scarcely believe that he read such in *Baptist* papers! [Cf. BBB. Jan. 5, 2007 which also picked up Bro Stang's article]. These editors are so anxious for copy in support of EMDA they will print anything on this subject regardless of such errors as this!

Of course, EMDA brethren at this point will attempt to crowdad! (For all of you city slickers, that means backup and backup fast!) They will say, well this is not what we believe! But in spite of this, the analogy holds and some EMDA preachers and churches advocate this very thing. A case in point will prove what I am saying.

An EMDA church had a pastor who knew EMDA was unscriptural. For three years he had labored as pastor of this church. Then the politicking began. Outside helps were contacted secretly. The problem was how to get rid of the pastor. These preacher *helps* advised and counseled this church to *rescind* the call of their pastor! They did not vote to vacate the pulpit, which is perfectly legitimate if a pastor has departed from the faith! But they *annulled* what they had done three years before! They were told they could *uncall* their pastor! They could reverse what they had done years before! This is preposterous!

If a church can *rescind* the call of a pastor three years after he is installed (and this was what the helps [some of our leading men, I am told] counseled them to do!), then they can also rescind the action of constituting a church—years after the organization! Why not? What difference? Where is the limit?

The mother church holds the option! Note Bro Stang's words again:

For in every franchise there is, if the franchisee will not abide by the guide lines of the franchiser, the franchiser is within full right to revoke the franchise.

When does this option run out?

If it ever was in effect, then it must last as long as the two churches exist! It could last 200 years or more. It may last as long as the mother church exists. Thus Welsh Tract church could rescind what they did 250 years ago! They could go back and rescind some action they took in 1745!

As the Welsh Tract church is now a PB church it could un-church all the churches which were ever connected with it! It could pull the constitution rug from all the Missionary Baptists which had any connection with it! All the missionary churches which trace their line through this church could be dis-franchised by a single vote in one moment! This could be done 300 years after the fact as sure as something that took place three years ago! In fact, they might as well go as far as Rome has and claim they

can change things which happened a 1000 years ago! If this seems a bit bizarre, then let these EMDA men look at what they have created and see how they are knocking on the door of Rome with EMDA and the franchise held tightly in their fists!

The EMDA franchise is a fake! It is bogus! And it is so because it comes from the wrong place! When you go for the franchise of a gospel church, you go to headquarters in Heaven and the Lord of Glory will grant you the real thing! Mt. 18:20.

**Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.** 1 Peter 3:22

Where did your church get its *franchise*? Has it been revoked?