

CORRESPONDENCE RECORD

From: Nicholas Paul Franks
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: info@banneroftruth.co.uk
Subject: Re: Join the Banner Conference Livestreams

Dear [REDACTED],

At the risk of being further misunderstood by you and/or Banner, I am pasting below a consolidated summary of a recent chat with AI that I had when I was praying/mulling over my feedback, our brief discussion and apparent disagreement. I urge Banner to take what I'm saying to the Lord.

I know you think I am being needlessly negative and/or dismissive of the positive, but this is not the reality: I have no doubt that, as brothers, we are all living and ministering within a fragmented declension that is far worse than we can comprehend without the help of the precious Holy Spirit...and only when our business as usual is laid willingly on the altar.

I am not an enemy; I am an affectionate ally but with a very different calling and therefore modus operandi.

What follows captures the core of my concern, and what I hope you can hear in good faith:

1. Corporate Climate vs. Individual Morale

The critique I offered was focused entirely on the public direction and corporate "climate" of the 2025 conference—specifically the absence of a sober, root-level, focused lament for the current state of the Church and nation. Your response pivoted to the "individual weather" of the attendees' private lives. By focusing on the exhaustion and need for "mirth" among rural pastors, the Banner platform is effectively shielded from a necessary critique regarding its public responsibility. These two realms are not mutually exclusive, but using the personal weariness of pastors to deflect a challenge regarding corporate direction is a misstep.

2. A Misinterpretation of Motive

To suggest that a call for public, corporate repentance somehow implies a lack of empathy for what individual men are facing privately is a categorical error. Biblical lament is not an attack on tired pastors; it is often the only honest pathway to true, spiritual refreshment. True safety for a heavy heart does not come from an institutional buffer or a bit of levity, but from the safety of radical reality before God.

3. A Conflict of Paradigms

Ultimately, this is a clash of fundamental outlooks. One side appears to be prioritising institutional maintenance, individual morale, and safe fellowship. The other is looking soberly at the reality of the hour and calling for a radical, root-level postural change, one that is proportional to what we have/are witnessing across the Church. When these two meet, the insistence on precision and truth will frequently be misconstrued as harshness, negativity, or "strife." The tension felt is the loneliness of carrying a shared burden that the institution is simply not yet willing to share.

Please do not let this be a burden for anyone in needing to reply; I do not need a reply but I do need to say what the Lord has given me.

With sincere love in Christ,

Nick Franks

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Date: 8 May 2026, at 17:38
To: Nicholas Paul Franks

Dear Nick,

Sorry for the delay in replying, it's been a busy week with various projects.

Regarding the recordings of the conference, we are launching an app in the next month or two, and the plan is that all conference recordings from over the years will be available to purchase on our website and listened to on the app. So, the best thing to do would be to look out for that over the next few weeks.

I think you have to see the conference for what it is. Men are coming from all kinds of different situations, but many have been faithfully pastoring small congregations in run-down provincial places for years, and the conference is not only a time for hearing and responding to preaching, but also for fellowship. Some will be lonely in their pastorates and appreciate the refreshment that the fellowship, including a bit of mirth, can bring. We cannot know what each individual is currently going through, repenting of, lamenting etc. To really get to know someone and their spiritual state would require a lot longer than the few days of the conference. I'm sure many of the men lament the state of the nation and the church at large, but the conference is a place to be reminded of the way in which God is working in different parts of the country and world.

I hope you continue to be encouraged by the books the Banner puts out.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Nicholas Paul Franks <npfranks@gmail.com>
Date: 7 May 2026, at 07:02
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Following a couple of conversations with you last year, I thought I would reach out to you personally having expressed honestly to [REDACTED] (below) concerning last year's conference.

I was hopeful of being able to listen carefully to what was said at this year's gathering when I saw the ML-J quote and the theme of revival.

I've just happened to read Psalm 85 this morning and hoping it might be possible to listen to the sessions from the conference?

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Nick

From: Nicholas Paul Franks <npfranks@gmail.com>
Date: 21 April 2026 at 08:50:39 BST
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Join the Banner Conference Livestreams

Hello [REDACTED],

Before the Lord, I recognised a need to drop you this note back to set the record straight:

I love Banner, the books and I love the men at the gathering last year, but I didn't *enjoy* the conference at all; I came away deeply grieved at the absence of a facing up to the spiritual realities of the hour and, especially, the state of the Body of Christ in our current condition.

There was no lament, no distress, no room in the corporate thinking that Banner men should themselves be entering a protracted period of repentance (even leading such at a national level) and that this would be the soil from which the Gospel is proclaimed.

ML-J's hope for revival integrally involved this corporate responsibility, the call to a sober realism and radical repentance that disrupts at the root-level.

My sincere hope and prayer is that this is an emphasis at this year's conference, by His Spirit.

This is our confession here.

Sincerely and soberly in Jesus,

Nick Franks