



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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SD:SSA April 3, 1992

The Judicial Committee
St. George Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses — Qld

Dear Brothers:

We have received a letter from the elders in the Beenleigh East congregation with regard to BCH [REDACTED]. We were a little surprised to hear that you have recommended his reinstatement seeing that he has only recently moved into your area.

The elders in the Beenleigh East congregation have encouraged caution in recommending the reinstatement of this person due to his persistent pattern of deception. Of course, while we do not want to hastily reinstate a person, if he is Scripturally qualified for reinstatement we would not want to delay his return to the Christian congregation. Pages 114-115 of the textbook "Pay Attention to Yourselves and to All the Flock" provides fine Scriptural guidelines for judging matters related to repentance. Genuine, godly repentance should be in evidence before considering reinstatement. We would like you to consider the Bible principles on these pages in relation to BCH [REDACTED]. Perhaps he wishes to be reinstated quickly so that he can marry [REDACTED].

With regard to his past wrong conduct, he seems to change his story depending upon whom he is talking to. Do you believe he has a genuine regret over his wrong conduct and the reproach he has brought upon Jehovah's name and congregation? Does he have a heart-motivated rejection of his wrongdoing? Page 130 of the above-mentioned publication mentions: "Where there is evidence of conspiracy between individuals to put away their mates and marry each other, considerable time should elapse before a hearing for reinstatement may be held." The length of time that has elapsed since a person was disfellowshipped is not the chief determining factor in deciding when a person may be reinstated. Rather, a person should prove his profession of repentance and his overall pattern of life should indicate that he wishes Jehovah's approval.

Thank you for considering these matters and the comments of the brothers from Beenleigh East congregation. No doubt the judicial committee from the Mareeba congregation will be in contact with you shortly as well. May Jehovah bless you with insight and wisdom by means of his holy spirit as you endeavour to effect his will. (Matt. 18:18-20) Be assured of our warm Christian love and greetings.

✓ cc: The Judicial Committee
Mareeba Cong. — Qld
c/- R. de Rooy

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. & T. Society
OF AUSTRALIA