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7th July 2015

From Monty Baker

Royal Commission request for statement

I would at the outset like to inform you that my memory is fading regarding events that happened 22 years ago. Please excuse any vague recollections. I have made no efforts to engage anyone to jog my memory as this would be awkward for myself and them. Also I have not been a member of the Church since 1993/4. The procedures and positions mentioned in my answers may not be the same today

Answers to questions of matters listed in your request.

1a Congregation attended?

Mt. Albert congregation NZ

Glen Eden congregation NZ

Loganholme congregation QLD Aust.

Beenleigh East congregation QLD Aust.

1b All roles held in church?

Congregation Member One who is viewed as a baptised servant of God's name Jehovah through the name of his son Jesus Christ. One who engages in Evangelising work to the extent his family or other commitments allow.

Regular Pioneer One who, due to circumstances, is able to devote his/her full time to the preaching activity.

Ministerial Servant A member of the congregation who assists the Elders in the functional duties of the congregation. These are men who have shown they have a desire to further the cause of God Kingdom on earth by bible study and active preaching of Gods kingdom.

Congregation Elder A Ministerial Servant who qualifies by meeting the scriptural requirements to be considered an Older man in a spiritual sense. Reflecting God's Love and displaying the attributes of Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding were essential to be considered an Elder. He works as part of the body of Elders. He is appointed by the Watchtower through the recommendations of the rest of the body and the travelling appointed Representative of the Watchtower called the Circuit overseer.

Congregation Overseer (Formerly called a Congregation Servant and then changed to Coordinator) A Servant to Organize a Body of Appointed Elders who bring their contributions together to form a coherent or efficient congregation. This involved Chairing Elders Meetings and assigning duties with the agreement of the whole body. Such duties as forming Committees to handle Judicial matters to keep the congregation clean and irreprehensible. Duties of the body of Elders also include teaching

at congregation meetings and dispensing directions given by the Watch Tower Worldwide Governing Body.

Assembly Overseer (Involves organising different department overseers to work together in sequence or in time with one another in order to facilitate the smooth running of the assembly. For example: The cleaning department organises his volunteers for an early arrival so as to assist the Food Service Department. Auditing and Attendance Departments Etc.

Logan City Overseer A rather flattering title for someone to Coordinate the annual Yellow pages and phone listings. From memory there were 3 congregations in Logan City. A position of which I would be surprised if it still exists due to the digital age we live in.

All of the above voluntary positions did not receive any payments or stipends from the Watchtower Society. Apart from the initial stage of being a baptised member, all the other positions are appointed by the Watchtower Society through the recommendations of their representative called the Circuit Overseer. The Circuit Overseer, a direct representative of the Watchtower, travelled to congregations within his designated circuit to see that the congregations were fulfilling their spiritual roles and functioning according to the directions from God's Organisation.

1c My role in the Beenleigh East congregation?

Congregation Overseer (Formerly called a Congregation Servant and then changed to Coordinator) A Servant to Organize a Body of Appointed Elders who bring their contributions together to form a coherent or efficient congregation. This involved Chairing Elders Meetings and assigning duties with the agreement of the whole body. Such duties as forming Committees to handle Judicial matters to keep the congregation clean and irreprehensible. Duties of the body of Elders also include teaching at congregation meetings and dispensing directions given by the Watch Tower Worldwide Governing Body.

2a Response to allegation or complaints?

If after investigations the allegations prove to be founded, the first response of the body of elders would be to the condition and welfare of the victim/s, making sure they were cared for during their traumatic ordeal. After that, a committee of three elders would be formed immediately to meet with the offender to render whatever discipline was needed according to Scriptural Laws. This would include disfellowshipping and in the case of a violation against the Law of the land, the various authorities would be notified. (Romans Chapter 13)

2b

Child sexual abuse is considered abhorrent to the congregation. Zero tolerance is applied to this sin. As a result of this stance, all members of the congregation would be vigilant to any hint of this activity and would report their suspicions to a member of the Body of elders for further examination. If an incident of such gravity like this was to occur, the congregation would be given a speech at the first available opportunity to make them aware of this particular serious sin. Without

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naming names of the offender or the victim, the congregation would be encouraged to see the need to keep the congregation clean remembering they represent the name of the Holy Sovereign God Jehovah. (1 Peter 1:16)

3 Any training received in relation to child abuse?

As I recall, no specific training was given in regards to child abuse. This was not endemic within the JW's church, as in some religious Institutions. In fact this is the only case I ever came across in the 25 years with the church. The only training that I can recall was the general overall scriptural references that were applied to any serious violations to Gods law which would also include the Laws of the land that do not contradict God's Law. (In Australia the laws of the land very rarely differ from God's Law. But this not the case of some other countries.)

4. A summary of my overall experience re BCH ?

Most of the answers to this question are covered in the next few questions that are asked. My overall experience was one of disgust for the individual. In the letter for this request, 'You' (The Commission) stated that I was involved in at least two requests by BCH for reinstatement. Well I am quite sure that I personally was only involved in 'One' request by BCH for reinstatement.

(NB) There were one or two other Elders of the body who seemed to be very familiar with the case, which leads me think there may have been an earlier request by BCH before I was sent to the Beenleigh East congregation in the early 1990's. I am unable to recall the name/s of these one or two protagonist/s, but I am sure they were existing member/s of the body of elders prior to my moving to Beenleigh East congregation. I use the term 'Protagonist' not to denigrate them but to indicate they took the lead in the discussion.

I also seem to recall that after he was denied reinstatement by our Beenleigh East congregation, he moved to another congregation to request reinstatement. I do not know the outcome of that request. I may have exited the church by then.

5a. Relationship with BCH prior to the request for reinstatement that I was involved with?

I had never heard of him.

5b When did I become aware of his request for reinstatement?

An elders meeting was called by the above mentioned protagonist/s (NB) to consider a request for reinstatement. As I was unfamiliar with the situation, I must confess I took a back seat in the proceedings.

5c My understanding of reasons for his disfellowshipping?

At the above mentioned Elders meeting it was revealed by the protagonist/s (NB) that he was expelled from the Mareeba congregation for his abusing his two daughters. At the meeting my only input was to ask about the welfare of his two daughters. In view of the statement that the mother his daughters was aware of the wrongdoing at the time of the abuse. This would unlikely make her a

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fit person to care for them. Also mentioned at this Elders meeting, was that [BCH] was sent to prison for his actions. Therefore the question arose, "In whose care had the daughters been placed?" This was my concern.

5d Specific considerations made for his reinstatement?

Normal procedure was to write to the congregation of his disfellowshipping to find out first any details we should consider regarding his request. The Beenleigh Elders needed to determine that he was truly repentant and had stopped the activity that caused him to be removed. Also if he had fulfilled any reparations necessary for the wrongdoing he committed. He would also had to have proven that he was now a person of good character, fit to be called a Witness of Jehovah.

5e Any correspondence with Watchtower?

Not that I can recall. If other elders in the Body of Elders had correspondence with them, then I was not aware.

5f Any correspondence with any other congregation?

Upon receiving [BCH]'s request, there would have been a letter sent by the Beenleigh East Body of Elders to the Mareeba Body of Elders to determine the reason for his removal and any relevant matters regarding things we need to take notice of. I do not recall the reply from the Mareeba Body of Elders. I have no copies of any correspondence. All paperwork I had accrued over the years with the church were voluntarily handed back when I exited the church.

6a [BCH]'s period of membership in Beenleigh East congregation?

He was never a member of the Beenleigh East congregation. I do recall possibly seeing him sitting during a meeting, at the rear of the congregation meeting hall. This was the usual requirement for a disfellowshipped person. They are required to have arrive at the very commencement of the program, and then to leave immediately at the conclusion of the program, having no interaction at all with the members of the congregation.

6b 6c 6d Role?

No role at all. (See 6a)

I feel that the questions above may apply to any future requests for reinstatement that [BCH] may have made to another congregation after my time as a Jehovah's Witness.

Yours Faithfully

Monty Baker.

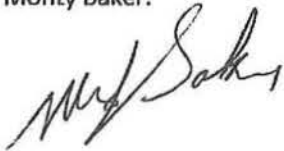
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I feel that the questions above may apply to any future requests for reinstatement that BCH may have made to another congregation after my time as a Jehovah's Witness.

Due to my disfellowshipped status with JW's, I have had no contact with anyone in the organisation regarding this case or any other matter.

Yours Faithfully

Monty Baker.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monty Baker', written in a cursive style.