



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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SD:SSG December 27, 2013

The Body of Elders
Kalamunda - Perth WA

Re: BCH – plea for reinstatement

Dear Brothers:

We received your correspondence of December 15, 2013, regarding BCH's further request for reinstatement. Although you have assigned a new committee to "allow for a fresh look at the situation," our previous direction would still apply.

Although he continues to deny or misrepresent the offences involving two of his daughters, you explain that the "current committee has observed his conduct over several years, considered all the evidence we currently have and listened to BCH's personal testimony and we also conclude that he is truly repentant." However, as noted in your letter, the local elders do not have access to the "credible testimony" from three of his daughters as considered by the judicial committee. In addition, this case has been carefully reviewed by the branch office. In this regard, our letter of February 23, 2013, stated in part:

At least three of BCH's daughters have provided clear and credible testimony of sexual abuse by their father. This includes the daughter who serves as a REDACTE. Her testimony is balanced and reliable, as opposed to BCH's long-established pattern of lying to elders and judicial committees.

In addition to the conclusions drawn by various judicial committees, his deceitfulness is well known to responsible brothers here at the branch. As the matters have been clearly established judicially, and despite his repeated requests, there is no need for the local committee to review the original case with him. Rather, as the situation remains unchanged, we can only repeat the comments from our previous letters: ***Until he fully acknowledges to Jehovah and the judicial committee his sins of child abuse and of lying in connection with these offences, it would be difficult for a committee or the victims to consider that he was repentant.*** In view of this, and in harmony with the *ks10* elders' textbook, on page 118, two members of the committee should acknowledge receipt of the request and briefly inform him.

Despite his persuasiveness and the difficulty of the situation, we again advise extreme caution in recommending the reinstatement of a child abuser who has a proven history of dishonesty. If responding to future requests, two elders could briefly remind him that the only basis for reinstatement would be *genuine repentance* over the sexual abuse of his daughters and the associated lying.—*ks10* 11:4; 7:10; Prov. 6:16-19.

In summary, and regardless of the time elapsed, there would be no need to consider RE BCH's claims of repentance while he continues to deny clearly established offences. We trust our observations are helpful. Please accept our warmest Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. & J. Society
OF AUSTRALIA

cc: Loganholme - Brisbane QLD
Jeffrey Riessen