

SB 6 FEB 1992

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CIRCUIT W2 OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Doug Jackson

REDACTED

February 1, 1992

Watchtower Society
 Box 280
 Ingleburn 2565

Dear Brothers,

I am writing in reply to your letter SB:SSA dated January 13, 1992 concerning Brother William Neil now serving as an elder in the Narrogin Congregation and his conduct with a young sister in the congregation some years back.

I investigated the matter further with the other elder in the Narrogin congregation, Brother Max Horley, and spoke to the sister involved and her husband and also other brothers and sister in the congregation. We gave counsel to both the husband and the wife about going to the elders and setting the matter straight with Jehovah; James 5:13-15. Then showed that after we have done this, that if we have repented Jehovah would forgive us. We also made mention of the Awake October 8, 1991 which the sister had read lately and appreciated the support from it and how she could continue to get support from the elder which we highlighted as important. We also highlighted the part on page 11 of that Awake about "A Spiritual Recovery". Her husband is also very supportive and a great help. At present she still has a nervous and scared feeling when she is talking to Brother Neil.

We also spoke to other brothers and sisters in the congregation who knew about the matter through another sister who had spread the story after being told about it by the sister with whom Brother Neil had conducted himself in an unchristian way. The sister who has spread the information has since left Narrogin. It appears that a number of brothers know about the matter and unfortunately there may be worldly people who also know but we are not sure. The brothers we spoke to feel that Brother Neil is no longer "free from accusation" and does not have "freeness of speech", 1Tim. 3:2,10; Titus 1:6,7.

After interviewing the brothers and sisters and reviewing the scriptures, Our Kingdom Ministry, November 1972 Question Box and the Watchtower November 15, 1977 pages 698,699 we felt that "uncleanness" had been committed on several occasion but it was not "loose conduct". We felt that Brother Neil could not speak with confidence and we recommended to him that he step down as an elder due to these points which we reviewed with him. He agreed to this and that he would accept the direction of ourselves as elders and the organization. He has been given strong counsel and we feel that no further action or restrictions need apply.

Brother Max Horley (the other elder who worked with me) and myself were both impressed by Brother Neil's acceptance of counsel and his humility

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throughout the ordeal. Brother Neil and his family have served in an exemplary way for many years in this assignment. He came to Narrogin to serve where the need is great and has faithfully shown his loyalty to his assignment. He has truly repented of what happened and constantly reproved himself and has taken the counsel from us well. Now that it is all in the open and discipline has been applied and accepted he feels much better about his relationship with Jehovah. I said to him that the next few months would be hard but for him and his family to lean heavily on Jehovah, his organization and to have the remaining elder visit him regularly. Also brothers, I would recommend that once this has died down and it appears that Brother Neil again has the freedom of speech that he be recommended as an elder again so that he can be of help in the congregation as he has done in the past.

In the meantime I would like to recommend that Brother Max Horley becomes the presiding overseer and his address and telephone number is:-

Maxwell F. Horley

REDACTED

In writing we send our Christian love,

Your brothers,



Doug Jackson
Circuit Overseer



Max Horley
Secretary