

20.Mar.2001

Dear Bishop Brian,

I am sure you realize that when I was speaking to you earlier today I was very upset, due to nearly five years of pretty intense pressure. Having had time to "cool down", I wish to make an apology for any anger that I expressed.

However, I do hope that you will take account of the message I was trying to express, albeit inadequately & with an excess of zeal. As you said, there have been cases of sexual/physical abuse, but there have also been cases of false allegations, and I was & am hoping that some sort of acknowledgement & support could be given in

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any statement to those who have been & are in that situation. AN article in a recent "SWAG" was to the point on this matter. The following is an attempt to cover the situation. I write it to you as my own thoughts, and as a suggestion for your consideration when composing your statement:

Whenever physical and/or sexual abuse has occurred, the perpetrator is urged to genuine repentance, and the victim(s) are assured of the support as outlined in "Towards Healing".

By the same token, whenever the charges laid are in fact false, those responsible for them are also urged to genuine repentance. In both cases, justice will certainly be done, if not in this world, in the next, because nothing can be hidden from God's just judgment. Rev 20,13 reminds us that each one of us will be judged by God according to what we have done, and Matt 12,36 declares that His judgment will be so searching that it will include even idle words. God is merciful, yes, but he is also just.

Yours in JC

M Durham