

**Attention: Colonel Mervin Rolland  
The Salvation Army Eastern Territory  
Fax: 02 92669885**

**Monday October 22 2001**

**What do we want:**

**Well a man was paid 2.9 Million dollars less than 12 months ago for getting 8 straps, and it would be foolish to even suggest the same amount is paid to us. Some days we were dragged or kicked and punched all the way to the office. Sometimes it would be for something small, sometimes it would be for something big, but the punishment would be the same. We would be caned up to thirty times and then receive a bashing as well. I call it a bashing when it is a grown man hitting a little boy with his closed fist.**

**Also we would have to endure sexual, physical and mental abuse. We were also sent out from the home as sexual favors for years, but we would still be expected to behave like normal children in the home as well as at school or where ever we were. So please tell us what you think you would ask for! If it were your children or grandchildren, what would you think years of systematic abuse would be worth?**

In your own guidelines for Salvationists dated June 1994 the Reporting of child abuse. You say the effects of abuse of any sort on a child are more than short term. A child may be affected for the most of his/her life by one act of abuse, though an abused child is commonly abused more than once, like us. The abuser frequently is a parent or caregiver as was in our case or a close relative/ friend of the child, who often has been abused as a child him/ herself. So it's quite obvious that this in itself is a problem because many of the home boys have taken this unfortunate route in life, but some have not, although to keep ourselves on the right track, and not repeating what was done to us, our family has to suffer and still does because we have to see a psychologist on regular basis just to try to keep us in some kind of order and have been diagnosed as having post traumatic stress disorder, in fact your solicitors have copies of the psychiatrist report yet dismiss them as evidence. We do not expect you to understand how hard it is to try to be normal like other people; don't forget you molded us in to what we are today. And maybe our children will turn out like us, but we pray they don't, we hope to break the cycle but it certainly isn't easy.

Also in your guidelines, you say to make every effort to ensure that appropriate support is given to both the child and the alleged abuser. Well what happened to us, did you forget us or was it because you were looking at the legal side of things. All we have ever received from you is more pain and suffering to add to our already suffering lives. What makes it more painful was the fact that the Salvation Army offered captain Laurie Wilson it's full Support at the court hearings in Sydney and completely ignored us the victims.

In one of your other statements you say that 28% females & 9% of males report an experience of childhood sexual abuse, I can tell you from our experience that children in the home with us the % was 100% and I do not mean once, I mean many times, for years. You also say in the same statement, that there is an evident need to reduce children and young peoples vulnerability to sexual exploitation and to intervene to provide supportive information to those who have been subjected to sexual assault. Again what happened to us, it looked to us that the Army was just looking, again at the legal side of the situation not at the people that have suffered because of a few people that went wrong, and we mean wrong.

Your statement dated October 1 2001. "we pledge to listen to the voice of suffering, rejection, loss and despair. To acknowledge past failures and to resolve to work for the good of all Australians." Well we have been crying out for years now, but nobody listens except our families, no body else cared even though you claim to listen to the suffering, you did not want to listen to us, maybe it is about time you sat down, and had a think about where you are heading, and maybe it is about time you went back to the beginning and started again. Bexley Boys Home did exist and the abuse did occur. It is time that the Army faced its responsibility as the caregiver of the time and compensated those who genuinely suffered and continue to be haunted by those memories of so long ago.

The Salvation Army settled in an out of court settlement eighteen months ago and as of writing this letter there are three cases before the courts in Sydney that the Army has chosen to ignore, why we do not know, only you can answer that. The only winners at the moment are the solicitors and lawyers. I am sure the money wasted on solicitors could be better spent on those in need. It is time to finalise this chapter for all concerned.

Mr. <sup>FV</sup> [redacted] and myself are more than willing to settle now instead of prolonging the pain and adding to the lawyer's bank accounts.

What we are asking for is \$500.000 each in our hand plus solicitors costs. This of course can be done without the need for lawyers.

**We guarantee to supply the Salvation Army with all documentation and evidence that we have gathered and will no longer pursue any further action, or assist anyone else in any action they may take against the Army, now or in the future.**

**I believe we have been more than patient with The Salvation Army but we assure you we will not give up our campagne for compensation or justice.**

**As you would be aware, all Corps officers received an E-mail last Monday informing them about how the Army has failed in their responsibility to listen and to acknowledge that they were the caregivers of so many young children that were abused whilst placed in their care.**

**We will continue to keep all Corps up to date on the progress or lack there of, of the case as it goes ahead or continues to stagnate in the court system.**

**Our next course of action is to notify by E-mail all of the Army's sponsors with the evidence we have gathered. We are not asking them to stop sponsoring, as the work you do in the community is desperately needed. We will be asking them to question your failure to assist those, the Army themselves have abused. This letter has already been prepared and is ready to be transmitted to every sponsor and media outlet within Australia.**

The next step is to put a notice in every major newspaper in Australia with a free 1800 number calling for anyone who grew up in any Salvation Army home to come forward and have his or her voice heard. All information will be collated and I can assure you, instead of having two cases before you, there will be hundreds. The Salvation Army will be tied up in court for many years.

We will then present all documentation and evidence to 4 corners and S.B.S, and will be more than willing to speak to the media.

Our intention is not to hurt or embarrass the Army or any of its sponsors, but this is the only course of action left open to us.

So brothers and sisters in Christ please think carefully as you and you alone can end the pain and anguish of <sup>FV</sup> [redacted]

<sup>FV</sup> [redacted], and <sup>ET</sup> [redacted].

**Sincerely**

<sup>ET</sup> [redacted]

**Bexley Boy**

<sup>FV</sup> [redacted]

**Bexley Boy**