



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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LLC November 1, 2002

The Presiding Overseer
Loganholme Congregation of
Jehovah's Witnesses — Brisbane QLD

REDACTED

Dear Brother Harrop:

We are writing to you in connection with Brother **BCH** who we understand associates with the Loganholme Congregation. Brother **BCH** was disfellowshipped in the Mareeba Congregation in 1989 and reinstated in 1992 in one of the Brisbane congregations.

You may be aware that Brother **BCH** has recently been prosecuted for sexually interfering with two of his daughters some years ago. We have been informed that it is a matter of public record that Brother **BCH** has pleaded guilty to four charges — three sexual assaults on his daughter **BCG** and an indecent dealing with his daughter **BCL** who is no longer involved in the truth. We are advised that he is due to be sentenced on January 24, 2003.

In 1989 when the judicial committee in Mareeba decided to disfellowship him, Brother **BCH** appealed the decision and an appeal committee heard the case. The appeal committee upheld the original decision and additional grounds for disfellowshipping were added at the hearing when he admitted to sexually abusing his daughter, **BCG**. In their report about the case, the appeal committee made the following comment about Brother **BCH** behaviour: "it must be noted that during the appeal hearing the appellant's attitude ... was in fact obstructive, devious and lying, denying earlier admissions."

Since he was disfellowshipped, Brother **BCH** has consistently denied that he sexually abused his daughter even though he admitted to doing so at the appeal. For example, Brother Ron de Roy, who was a member of the original committee and who heard him admit to this sin during the appeal, has told us that Brother **BCH** telephoned him some time after the appeal and told him that he had only admitted to this sin so that the meeting would come to an end. The committee in the Beenleigh East Congregation hearing his plea for reinstatement wrote to the Society in a letter dated August 16, 1991:

"Of the above grounds for which he was disfellowshipped, at this point in time, he still refuses to acknowledge the porneia he committed with his daughters, ... **BCH** is determined to maintain his innocence of the charge of porneia."

We also understand that throughout the present court proceedings up until his recent guilty plea, Brother **BCH** has maintained that he did not molest his daughter. We are advised that he claimed he was not disfellowshipped for molesting his daughter, but for other acts of impropriety. Brother **BCH** children also confirm that he has continued to deny that he molested **BCG**. He has said to them that he is innocent of the charges for which he was disfellowshipped and on many occasions has said of his abuse of **BCG** "it's all in her

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head." Notwithstanding these actions, as already mentioned, we are advised that he has now pleaded guilty to three counts of sexually abusing [BCG]

We do not want you to follow-up the matter involving [BCG] since it has already been handled to the extent possible at this stage. We simply provide it as background information to assist you to be aware of the kind of actions that Brother [BCH] has exhibited in connection with past wrongdoing of the kind that we now want you to handle.

As mentioned already, Brother [BCH] has pleaded guilty to sexually abusing another of his daughters, [BCL]. We understand that the incident in question occurred in 1988 when [BCL] was approximately 6 years of age. She claims that Brother [BCH] told her to go and have a shower which she thought at the time was a bit strange. When she got into the shower, he got undressed and got into the shower with her. He then took her hand and placed it on his penis. He then started to wash her vaginal area and digitally penetrated her. This is the first that we have heard of this accusation which, we understand, has never been handled. We therefore want the elders in your congregation to handle the matter and we suggest that you proceed to do so in the following manner.

Two elders should be appointed to approach Brother [BCH] and inform him that they are aware that he has been charged by two of his daughters, [BCG] and [BCL] of sexually molesting them. The elders should also inform him that they are aware that it is a matter of public record that he has entered a plea of guilty to three charges of sexual assault in relation to [BCG] and to one charge of sexually interfering with [BCL] when she was approximately 6 years of age. He should be asked to explain his actions. We would like to think that he would be forthcoming with sufficient information to enable the matter to be handled judicially. If he is not prepared to cooperate and provide the elders with an admission of his wrongdoing, even though he has already done so on the public record, he should be told that when he is sentenced on January 24, 2003, without any further contact with the elders, he will likely be disfellowshipped for sexually abusing [BCL] as a child as well as for being dishonest.

Once the two brothers have met with Brother [BCH], we would like them to contact the legal department before proceeding any further with the case. If you have any questions concerning this matter, or need any additional information before approaching Brother [BCH] please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please accept our warm Christian love and best wishes as you handle this important matter.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. & J. Society
OF AUSTRALIA