

Service Desk: SDK:SSH

Legal Desk: LPW

Pursuant to your letter dated October 21, 2004 we present a summary of our investigation in the above matter:

We note that in a letter from the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses dated February 27, 2000 the Palmer Congregation (Massachusetts) was advised how to proceed in the matter of Brother

██████████ and the accusations of sexual misconduct with his two daughters, ██████████ and

██████████

Your letter of March 27, 2000 advises no judicial action can be taken until ██████████ the accuser, can be in a position to face her father, either in person or by conference call with two elders present to hear the interchange. Additionally, if ██████████ is willing to face her father about the accusation she has against him the congregation can proceed if appropriate.

██████████ has been reluctant to face her father with her accusations of physical and sexual abuse and no action had been taken in the matter until Brother ██████████ moved from the Palmer Massachusetts congregation to the Warehouse Point Congregation (Connecticut) in October 2002. A more detailed report is given to this matter in the transmittal letter from the Palmer Congregation, which conveyed some information regarding accusations, by ██████████. (Which see enclosed)

Subsequently Brother ██████████ admitted his guilt in the accusations brought by ██████████ and was disfellowshipped by the Warehouse Point Congregation. On August 7, 2004 the judicial committee in Warehouse Point met to consider the reinstatement of Brother ██████████ and he was reinstated. (See their letter dated August 15, 2004 transmitted with the S-77 form. Also see Warehouse Point Congregation letter to Palmer Congregation, dated September 23, 2004, transmitting the Congregation's Publisher Record Card)

Now comes copy of a letter from the Fort Kent Congregation (Maine), dated August 15, 2004 to the Watchtower Society, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY, detailing an accusation by [REDACTED] of sexual abuse against Brother [REDACTED] (Which see enclosed)

Subsequent to receiving the letter regarding a new accusation against Brother [REDACTED] the body of elders here in Palmer Congregation asked Brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] elders, to investigate these matters to determine whether there was enough evidence to form a judicial committee.

On September 20, 2004 these brothers met with [REDACTED] and her husband, [REDACTED] at the Palmer Kingdom Hall to hear, in person, her accusations. Brother [REDACTED] was not present at this meeting. (See INTERVIEW September 20, 2004 enclosed)

On October 29, 2004 we received a statement signed by [REDACTED] further accusing her father of sexual abuse. This statement was requested of her by Brother [REDACTED] of the Fort Kent Congregation whose concern, apparently, was that [REDACTED] accusations never "made it to the judicial committee that originally disfellowshipped him." (Note: Although [REDACTED] printed her signature Brother [REDACTED] has been assured this is how she signs her name due to health problems.)

On October 31, 2004 Brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] met with Brother [REDACTED] and revealed to him that he had been accused by [REDACTED] of Fort Kent, Maine. He repeatedly and most assuredly declared his innocence, denied the accusation and agreed to a telephone conference meeting.

This meeting was arranged for November 13, 2004 at 7:00 PM. Present in Fort Kent was [REDACTED], the Presiding Overseer, [REDACTED], elder, [REDACTED] the accuser and her father, [REDACTED] Present in Palmer, Massachusetts were Brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] elders as previously noted and the accused, [REDACTED]

Following a prayer and some direction on how the meeting would be conducted and its purpose [REDACTED] was asked to make her statement. She stated that when she was about four (4) years

old she was in a trailer home owned by one [redacted] at a trailer park. [redacted] was there and so was the accused, some money was passed between them and she went into a room, laid on the floor and closed her eyes. She then said, "[redacted] was there and had sex with me." Brother [yellow] asked some questions:

Q. How often did you go over there to the trailer?

A. Twice a week

Q. Was it [sex] a one-time thing?

A. It was a one-time thing with [redacted] but lots of other people.

Q. Did you ever see [redacted] there on other occasions?

A. No.

Q. When was the last time you saw [redacted]

A. About two (2) years ago in Fort Kent Kingdom Hall.

Q. Did you have any conversation with [redacted]

A. No.

Q. How many times were you assaulted by [redacted]

A. Only once.

Q. Did you see [redacted] while he was having sex with you?

A. No. I had my eyes closed

Q. Did he speak to you during this time?

A. No. He didn't speak.

Q. When did abuse stop? [By others]

A. When I was about five (5) years old.

Questions by Brother [redacted]:

Q. Have you received counseling by a psychiatrist?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you talk to the psychiatrist about the abuse?

A. (Pause) No because it was vague in my memory

Statement by [REDACTED]

On November 17, 2004 a meeting was scheduled with [REDACTED] to formally accuse her father, [REDACTED] of sexual abuse. This meeting was by telephone conference. Present in West Springfield, Massachusetts were Brother [REDACTED], who is the Presiding Overseer, another elder-Brother Tower, [REDACTED] the accuser and her husband, [REDACTED] Present in Palmer, Massachusetts were elders- [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the accused.

After prayer and directions on how the meeting was to be conducted, [REDACTED] was asked to make her statement to her father, [REDACTED] Her accusations were substantially as outlined in the printed material elsewhere in this letter. Her final statement was that her father was a danger to children.

Statement by [REDACTED]

CONCLUSION:

The statement by [REDACTED] seems credible on the face of it. Undoubtedly she has undergone trauma in her life and suffers emotionally. Considering the loss of her mother in death and the separation of her parents plus the fact that her mother has serious emotional problems must surely have played a part in her condition. We find no other reason to question the validity of her claim.

The statement by [REDACTED] was short and left some doubts of its validity. She said she went into the room, laid on the floor and closed her eyes. When questioned whether her assailant spoke to her or if she saw him she said no, he didn't speak nor did she see him because her eyes were closed. She also said at the time she saw the psychiatrist the details of the encounter with the assailant were "vague". She was not for these reasons, considered a credible witness.

We therefore are still left with only one credible witness. Given the length of time that has past from when the alleged abuse began and when it stopped as well as the reliability of witnesses to recall events that occurred at such a young age it is difficult to know the whole truth. We may have to rely on Jehovah and his holy spirit to bring forth that elusive truth. (Luke 8:17)

ADDITIONAL NOTES from [REDACTED]

It is difficult to review this case, discuss the problems involved, interview the principles and not be struck with the vicious and sometimes vehement attitudes on display.

It appears that some have enlisted others, not involved in the matter, to fight for their cause. There are those who have shown a lack of confidence in the judicial arrangement within the congregation. This has only served to cast suspicion on the motives of those involved.

What reproach has fallen on Jehovah's name when someone has committed such heinous, flagitious acts as is alleged here! It would appear that these allegations have gone on for so long, involving gossip in a number of congregations, requiring countless hours to investigate and judicate and the cloud of suspicion still lingers. (Luke 15:8-10; w60 4/1 p.201)

There is no doubt that these girls have experienced trauma that has left them emotionally disturbed. The injury cannot be dismissed by saying "Forget it, get over it". Our heart goes out to them and we pray that Jehovah will soon bring to light the truth in the matter so that peace once again can be restored to the congregations and we can go on with the ministry and receive his blessing.

The feeling of the body is there is not sufficient evidence to form a Judicial Com. We await your comments and/or further direction.

11-01-04

Re accusation of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Bro. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Bro. [REDACTED] met with Bro. [REDACTED] on 10-31-04 and revealed to him the accusation of sexual abuse brought against him by [REDACTED]. Bro. [REDACTED] repeatedly and most assuredly expressed his innocence and denied the accusation.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]