

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) [REDACTED]

SDM:SSK August 18, 2005

[REDACTED]
WALES MA 01081

Dear Brother [REDACTED]

We received your letter wherein you tell us that you have been dealing with slanderous statements made by your daughter, Sister [REDACTED]. Currently, there is a restraining order against you. Under the circumstances, you wonder how you can go about addressing this matter.

Your daughters, Sister [REDACTED] and Sister [REDACTED] as well as another individual, [REDACTED] accused you of sexual abuse. You have adamantly denied the charges of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. However, you did acknowledge your wrongdoing toward [REDACTED] for which you were disfellowshipped. [REDACTED] continues to maintain that you abused her. As you know, without having another witness to her accusations no action could be taken against you. (Deut. 19:15; John 8:17) Since [REDACTED] still accuses you of wrongdoing, her only option was to report this to the elders. They had the responsibility of investigating these charges, which they did. On November 17, 2004, a telephone conference was held with you, [REDACTED] and elders from the West Congregation in Springfield and the Palmer Congregation during which [REDACTED] restated her accusations against you. It is regrettable that [REDACTED] discussed these accusations with others who were not in a position to address these charges in harmony with our theocratic arrangements.

You feel you have been slandered and desire to pursue matters in harmony with the direction Jesus gave at Matthew 18:15-17. According to *The Watchtower* issue of November 15, 2002, on page 17, paragraph 15, slander is defined as "a false report intended to damage another person's reputation." Do you have evidence that can prove that your daughter's accusations against you are false? Is it possible to pursue matters any further with your daughter? Since she has obtained a restraining order against you this would prohibit you from contacting her. In view of Romans 13:1, 2, 7, you should respect the restraining order and honor its stipulations. While you are not able to discuss this matter further with your daughter you have informed the elders of your concerns: The elders in Sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s congregations indicate that they have spoken to both parties. We are told that Brother [REDACTED] assured the body of elders that in the future he and [REDACTED] would use better judgment in dealing with you. Also, both parties assured their respective bodies of elders that they had nothing to do with distributing the flyers in the trailer park where you live. The actions of the elders and the counsel they have given should help in resolving some of the issues that have arisen because of your daughter's allegations.

This entire matter has been very distressing to you, your daughters, and others who have become aware of this situation. As you realize, Brother [REDACTED] all of us make mistakes, and could not the imperfections of others be covered over and forgiven in the spirit of Colossians 3:13? Since the elders are fully aware of the concerns of all involved and have given appropriate

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August 18, 2005

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counsel to all the parties, there does not appear to be a basis to pursue this matter in harmony with Matthew 18:15-17. However, if there is new information that the elders have not considered, then you should immediately discuss this with them.

What can you do now? Continue to apply yourself in the Palmer Congregation. As to privileges that you might enjoy, you will note some of these are listed in paragraph 1 on page 29 of the January 1, 1997, issue of *The Watchtower*. You can also discuss this matter with the body of elders. Brother ██████████ you will need to adjust your mind to the likelihood that you will not be able to serve in a position of responsibility in the congregation. This, of course, could be some cause for discouragement, but do not let this cause you to be downhearted. Rather, we encourage you to use the privileges and opportunities that become available to you, seeking always to bring honor to Jehovah and to be helpful to others. All of Jehovah's people, regardless of their situations or circumstances in life, have reason to be thankful to Jehovah for learning the truth of his Word and to have opened up to them the possibility of everlasting life in his new system of things. This side of the great tribulation, some face limitations in various ways in what they are able to do, whether imposed by health, location, or even things that encumber because of unwise conduct of the past, but they face these circumstances realistically and make the best of them.

May Jehovah grant you joy and contentment in his service. (Psalm 13:5, 6) We use this occasion of writing to convey our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: ✓ Body of Elders
Palmer, MA

██████████ MA-3

██████████ MA-9

PS to the body of elders, Palmer Congregation:

Enclosed is a copy of his letter. This information is being provided so that you will know of the direction we have given Brother ██████████ Please continue doing what you can to be of assistance to him. Thank you.

COPY

July 25, 2005

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Wales, Mass. 01081
1-413-[REDACTED]

Dear Brothers,

I have been dealing with the matter of slander for many years.

Recently the Presiding Overseer and the Circuit overseer asked for advice no doubt from you Brothers.

The advice was to apply Matthew 18 with [REDACTED] of the Westfield Cong in Massachusetts. My elders asked me to refrain from following through with the steps as she is emotionally disturbed and that violence would take place if she was in the same room with me, not on my part but hers.

She was the messenger of these bad reports, my daughter [REDACTED] of W. Springfield, Massachusetts was the source so now it must be with [REDACTED] that I need to apply Matthew 18. However [REDACTED] has a restraining order against me. How am I to proceed with this matter?

I do have a question that has never been answered. How can anyone make awful false charges against someone so many times without having to prove them? [REDACTED] herself has brought three separate charges against me as well.

Enclosed you will find copies of letters I have sent to their Circuit overseer, [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Persiding Overseer.

Psalms 94:19 disquieting thoughts are troubling me as I have waited so long for justice. Hoping that Jehovah's Holy Spirit will provide you with an answer.

My goal is to get this matter squared away in the best manner for all of us, so I can move on with my life. My wife and I would like to go serve where there is a need, since we are able to do so financially. We do not want this to follow us anymore.

Gratefully, Your Brother

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Palmer Cong. Palmer, Mass.