

27th July 1998

Dear Bruce

Further to previous communications I enclose this week's local newspaper report. I think we've managed to fend off the TV but as the newspapers had been pretty decent and sensitive in how they covered Jed's accident, I decided to answer a few questions from two local papers.

You may be interested to read the adjacent article regarding a bungalow conversion for a local meeting room, some 500 yards down the road from the city room.

I'm rather concerned regarding our testimony in the local district.

Many Churches have been praying for Jed. Neighbours have been weeping about him. Firemen, paramedics and hospital staff were very affected by his calm spirit when he was going through such intense suffering.

The officer running the case for Health and Safety says he's never before seen anyone get out alive in a trench collapse like this. God clearly shielded him which was emphasised by the softness of the clayey debris suspended above him, which we had been describing as a 'boulder'!

We're encouraged so far with the investigation from both HSE and the insurers. The depth of the overall dig was about 6 metres but the digging machine was set down below this. HSE are visiting Jed at home on Friday for his version of events.

On reviewing the timing of events around the time of the accident, it struck me as significant that Jed being pulled out about the time David Bill was announcing Jed's accident at Dunedin 3 days.

Also, the critical pelvis operation with its corresponding internal complications was starting as the Lord's day reading in Leeds with Tony Chapman was proceeding. Many brethren, particularly the young, were weeping and deeply affected as the critical nature of Jed's condition was announced.

The timing of the leg amputation coincided with a delayed reading at Harrogate on Saturday morning – see transcript enclosed.

On Friday evening, while Jed was down the trench, the expected reading was changed to a prayer meeting. About 20 brethren prayed for Jed and it was reported that there was evidence of togetherness.

Interestingly and unknown to me I understand that a brother had been intending to bring up the question of the meeting room on the site on the very night of the accident. At the previous care meeting I'd been asked to convey notes to the brethren throughout the city conveying the scheme for which we had obtained detailed planning permission during the month. These notes, now seen by all the brethren in Leeds, are enclosed.

Lastly, I enclose Mike Smaldon's report on the Mines Rescue Team as referred to on page 8 (paragraph 5) of my notes already sent.

Sorry to trouble you with all this but I feel the need of keeping close to your father and open for scrutiny at this juncture.

Poor Andy and Bridget Beaumont really should be deciding this week whether or not she should go ahead with a lung transplant.

Yours in Christ

Lance Christie