

## Melanie Archibald

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**From:** Lance Christie  
**Sent:** 08 December 2016 16:05  
**To:** 'Lance Christie'  
**Subject:** Email to Mr Hales

Dear Mr Hales,

I would like to apologise wholeheartedly for being so difficult and causing you so much trouble.

Whilst not yet understanding things fully, I confirm that I accept your letter from Boston in October 2014 as from the Lord and have learnt the hard way that it's not within my remit to question the validity of information given to you from another place.

My re-involvement in Jim Hutchinson's matters in September 2014 was motivated by me being upset at unjust things that had been said about him and other brethren in his local place. Now that I've fallen into the same trap myself, I will seek to put things right with those that I've involved.

I feel heartbroken to have let you down.

What has bought me to my senses?

It's grace and mercy, really, Mr Hales.

Above all, the fact that you listened to me and overruled last Saturday morning in order to modify the judgement.

Accentuated by the fact that I received full repayment of my loan to Brownberrie Education Trust last Friday. This not only demonstrated righteousness but also the fact that the brethren must trust me sufficiently to hand this back without any caveats. To my mind, that overcomes the different spirit which was conveyed when I was told I could lose absolutely everything, including my place in fellowship. To be honest, I'd begun to wonder whether anyone had any trust in me at all!

Why?

It was humiliating being stripped of my responsibilities in running the school funding for York School after meeting you at Boston. Also, being told I could no longer have any part in any administrative matters locally.

Also, being undermined at work and unexpectedly finding mistakes in tax computations, partnership agreements and retirement plans. But that's due to be rectified now and we very much appreciate the UBT support group, including Dick Blackledge, Rolf Lyon and Johnny Andrews who have demonstrated faith in the business and even in myself. That gave me some real encouragement. Also, the proposal that Jed is repositioned as a non-executive board member should free him up and play to his strengths.

I would like to mention two unlikely brothers who've not wavered yet have consistently shown sympathy, despite my failings and they seem to respect the work of God in me.

1. Mike Shorto (our subdivisional father) who helped me by absorbing matters and pointing up that, even if we don't understand, we accept all you say is from the Lord. If you decide to work through my brother Garth, that's your prerogative. We have to accept that. This can be tough when I feel that I'm being misrepresented to you Mr Hales.
2. Dale Stewart (Wellsford) who's helped me to hit the deck these last few days. I understand that he's done the same. We've been together in criticising others but we now join in acknowledging this and wish to be a comfort to you, Mr Hales, and to our local brethren.

Mr Hales, I do need advice how to respond suitably when I find brethren, desperate for help, who seem to have reached an impasse with those helping them in their localities. I sometimes feel I need to do SOMETHING beyond prayer to help relieve their oppression. Some cases I've brought to you, Mr Hales. Others I grieve over, especially when ex-brethren are out of fellowship.

I submit that Jim and Louise Hutchinson, like myself, really need some compassionate understanding now. Jim previously had a nervous breakdown and Louise feels psychologically crushed.

I now feel unnerved myself after so many rebukes and "priestly" visits. Sometimes I'm left shaking physically and crushed emotionally after these experiences. I don't think the "priests", especially Garth, understand me at all. When I try to explain my own aspect of a situation to them, unless it agrees with their view, they seem to take it as a personal attack! Surely there's a better, more brotherly way to go, Mr Hales, so I'd be glad to submit to your counsel on this.

Trusting you understand.

Finally, I would like to move on now for the sake of my family in a suitably humble way. I'm in your hands and would really appreciate knowing whether you regard matters as settled between us, Mr Hales. All on the basis of mercy.

Much love in Him.

In appreciation,  
Lance.

P.S. Further to our conversation after the Sydney Care Meeting last September (2015) regarding Stuart Gear's outstanding loans from 1999, I understand that he is hoping to have it all paid back by the end of the year. Isn't that excellent? He'll be a free man!

Best regards,

Lance Christie | Managing Director

**weavabel**



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