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FAO Mr Bruce D. Hales

Dear Mr Hales

It is with regret that I have to write to you once again. I have been respectfully appealing to you for 5 years about the urgent need to reform harmful brethren practices and pleading for you to compensate affected ex-members.

I believe that you've misrepresented God's holy nature as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and then use this misrepresentation to condemn individuals! I can only conclude that you must be depending on there not being any effective forum to challenge such judgements.

I write to advise you that I have in my possession convincing evidence of serious civil and criminal offences perpetrated within the PBCC fellowship which is under your control. I have made attempts to speak with you personally in a brotherly way to address these disturbing matters but you have not responded personally or agreeably. Some of these matters are in a category which should be investigated by the police and by other systems. Unless we have meaningful dialogue over this, I will have no alternative but to carry out my obligations in these matters.

Whereas my approach to you has been consistently brotherly, you retort by planning the next onslaught against me! Clive and Neil Christie have now resorted to engaging the Leeds police against me on behalf of all of the Leeds HGHT congregation, accusing me of harassment simply because I've written letters to them! I'm due to appear in court on 12th April.

Despite my sincerity you have ignored the points raised in all of my previous letters to you so this time I insist that you have the decency to reply in a meaningful way.

I raise outstanding issues as follows:

- 1) No one in your organisation seems to accept that they are personally guilty of any misdeeds that they have perpetrated. This was apparent by the shallowness of the way that the wrongful judgment against my father and mother in 1972 was dealt with early in your tenure as leader. Your congregants do know, though, that something is wrong with the system that you lead because it leaves coldness, detachment, and fracturing of

previously happy family relationships. By way of contrast, the guileless spirit of Christianity should be demonstrated by repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing.

- 2) Leavers who express genuine grievances are painted as “unworthy of fellowship” in the eyes of the PBCC congregation because your adherents are under constraint to inevitably fall behind your judgment, Mr Hales.

For example, the Baileys advised that you visited their household in 2002 and told them that I was a “bandicoot” or rat. The Nazis humiliated the Jews by calling them rats which in turn resulted in them having to face extremes of depravity and death. I am trying to understand you, but wonder whether you are waiting for me to join the silent dead who wait for justice so that my rational questions are forever ignored. In any case, why make me such a focus of hatred that attention is diverted away from yourself, the inciter of this hatred?

- 3) It seems that you need to maintain the strain and tension of continued conflict between me and my family and brethren in order for you to continue to enforce absolute power and authority over them all. Even though you don’t admit it yourself, your own people are scared to ever speak out against anything you say or do.

Why do you cause brethren to hate ex brethren? Is it that you need to inflict more and more pain on others to keep yourself in power? I have been appealing to you for almost five years now to allow me to have a proper relationship with my children and grandchildren despite what has happened. How much longer do I have to wait? My father died of a broken heart separated from Garth and myself in his 67<sup>th</sup> year. I am now 66.

- 4) Your surveillance systems via phones, computers, and private investigators are both oppressive and intrusive. Why engage in tactics like this which incite apprehension and fear? Is it that your object is to have personal power over how both your congregation and leavers conduct their lives? As far as I can see, the appetite for power is itself a predatory driver that governs the very world that you condemn.
- 5) Why insist that people have to be like you and think the same way as you in order to be part of your fellowship? Lloyd Paskewitz of Vesta USA, for example, is a worthy brother who has been told that he can return to the fellowship if he accepts that you are “The Man of God”.

Surely Christ should be supreme in our lives and hearts and not you, Mr Hales.

Is the situation that you need to have totalitarian power so that simple Christians like myself lose our grip of the truth as taught by scripture? It seems that whatever you regard as truth is the truth that the Brethren in turn have to regard as truth. That makes them cling to you like babies. Is that healthy for them or you?

- 6) I have been told on more than one occasion that I must destroy my written records! You destroyed your father's records soon after he died! Why??? Again, the Nazis destroyed the records and writings of Jewish authors before the war. It seems to me that the power of hatred can depend on the eradication of history so that a person's memory can be manipulated.

Bruce, you have successfully developed an extraordinary, seemingly impregnable system with Biblical Christian trimmings but I, and many other sincere ones, find no godly basis for submitting to its power. I do believe that we have within the Holy Scriptures sufficient for genuine seekers to grasp and enjoy, by the power of the Holy Spirit, what was revealed and continues to be revealed in accordance with the spirit of the incarnate Jesus Christ. 'Reconciliation' and 'Guilelessness' are, I suggest, central to the divine process, but, from my experience, are strenuously avoided in your methodology. The reason for this is obvious to any who have freedom to think critically. Instead of reconciliation, you have chosen the adversarial approach.

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I again suggest that a fair solution could come out of a meeting between myself and Jed's well-respected local brother, Duncan Hulbert. I have known him for 50 years and he's never been part of a hierarchy. He's balanced, is a "man of truth, hating covetousness" (Exodus 18 v 21), has ministered quietly and consistently all his life and is acquainted with the brethren position from the '50s onwards. I enclose the paper that he once wrote on separation (see [attachment 1](#)) which I would appreciate discussing with him along with my open letter enclosed (see [attachment 2](#)). If he could see that there is a righteous basis to abandon 'physical separation', great conciliatory results could ensue. I'd be happy for him to bring along one of his grandsons – maybe Joseph, son of John. I already suggested to Jed in November 2017 just after you withdrew from me in October that he should work matters out with Duncan – see letter attached ([attachment 3](#)). If you'd allowed him to listen to me, much heartache, sorrow and expense could have been avoided.

Surely you and the PBCC should comply with the legislation that you drew up in conjunction with the British Charity Commission, especially with regard to conduct towards ex members.

In the meantime, I can't understand why Almanzo Cunningham of Deloraine, Tasmania and his family recognise you, Mr Hales, as being responsible to pronounce on a matter involving the life or death of a member of the PBCC church. The petition below from a number of your inside brethren should be presented to Almanzo and his family so as to give them total freedom to make their own choice, unaffected by yours.

To whom it may concern,

We are a collective of current members of the Plymouth Brethren. It is with pain, concern and deep sorrow that we note the grievous condition of Almanzo Cunningham, and his imminent death. We note too that he has been released to his home. This is scant reassurance to those who avow the sanctity of life. We are aware that James Taylor Junior, in his series of rescripts, formulated a rule of 'no heart transplants'. This was a man made emanation with no basis in The Holy Bible, the cornerstone of Christian teaching. The basis upon which this rule was formed was thus, that as the believer had 'given his heart to Jesus', the heart was Divine territory. We are aware that many members 'in good standing' have received internal cardiac defibrillators and new artificial valves. These members have been given the grace and prayers of the Assembly, and have been indeed commended for their faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. If the heart was inviolable Divine territory, why were these members publicly commended unto God that His healing hand might work in healing after the operations had taken place? We have, after much prayer, meditation and reading, felt the Divine Hand of the Holy Spirit guide us.

It must now be stated plainly that there is someone who may change this deplorable doctrine. He has a name. His name is Bruce David Hales. We state it plainly that to omit to act is in itself an action. To choose not to act is still to act in choosing not to, with all the irrevocable culpability of having chosen. We believe that Bruce Hales has demonstrated an egotistic desire for persons to 'suffer for The Testimony', unchained from the right humility of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, Who bore all sin and suffering upon the Cross and healed many, even raising persons 'from amongst the dead'. We call on Bruce Hales to abolish this false rule. We avow the inherent dignity and value of Human Life, as a Principle in its own right, and call on all to protect and defend it. In the Ten Commandments, it is written, 'thou shalt not kill' or 'do no murder'. Reverse this cruel rule, so that once again, they may 'bring away the boy alive' and that many may be 'no little comforted'.

We, the Concerned Lives of The Assembly

Back in 2018/9 I raised many incidents of suicides, drownings, deaths, paedophile activities and general abuse with your UK lawyers, Kingsley Napley. These are of great concern, not only to many of the brethren that you've excommunicated, but to some of your own brethren as well.

I enclose a list of names (see [attachment 4](#)) whose matters have been raised with you before and whose pleas you have ignored.

I feel now that nothing less than a full independent forensic investigation into each incident needs to be instigated. You owe that to these victims' families as well as to the rest of us, Mr Hales. Please confirm that you will co-operate with any investigators who are appointed so that they are told 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth'.

My attention was drawn to the names of brethren who have died in strange circumstances (see [attachment 5](#)).

Right now I can assure you that Ernie Hughes from Doncaster loves his wife Jo and she loves him. Chris Thomas and the brethren in Doncaster under you, your father and my brother Garth's control have kept them separated for 31 years. Jo was the subject of sexual abuse from one of the EB leaders at the time when she was living away from her parents, who themselves had been wrongly dealt with. She's a lovely sister and deserves to have her husband back.

I've taken personal responsibility to resolve Ernie's debts so he's now a free man. He's having to leave his accommodation in Doncaster at the end of March so it's now necessary for you and the brethren to pay his first class airfare to Rangiora so that he can be reconciled with his wife, children and grandchildren. He also needs his wife's letter of commendation and passport number.

Indeed, I'm due to marry Olivia Francis later this year so if it were possible, we would love the Doncaster brethren to conduct our full wedding ceremony and service. We would like to suggest brothers to give words. We were both converted among the brethren so still love them despite being wrongfully cut off. Doncaster will be the nearest locality to where we hope to take up residence.

Another shocking situation is that of the late Andrew Wallach and his family. Despite two visits in 2003 when Andrew and Christine met Garth and yourself, neither of you have shown them and their family any mercy or justice especially in view of the awful way that they were treated in the build up towards their withdrawal in 1994/95. They're still being treated badly, especially by Glen Stacey (Glen has even been nosing into my own private business matters). Indeed Glen, Hans, Jarl and Ross Stacey, the trustees of Hawksdown Holdings Ltd and Blackhedge Holdings Ltd have tied the family up in tenancy agreements and Glen has tied them into illegal confidentiality agreements. If they had been properly compensated, there wouldn't be any need for further shame and secrecy. It sounds like Roman Catholic indulgences!

Substantial financial restitution is required by the family if any credibility is to be given to the reversal of their assembly judgments. So far they've only received a pittance. Gail, for one, was withdrawn from for fornication when still a virgin! Another was the subject of paedophile abuse from one of your members. The brethren would have expected you to search out this evil when you and Garth visited the family so that the responsible locality could resolve all outstanding matters honourably.

Why didn't you take away their angst by giving Andrew and Christine generous compensation – say £5 million – back in 2003? You and your family have received vast amounts of money from me and other generous brethren around the world so why not pass it on? Indeed, it's not too late now. Christine Wallach and her sons would trust me to manage the distribution of the substantial compensation that the family need from you, Mr Hales. When compared to the £2 million plus spent by me and my family needlessly fighting each other, I think £10 million for Christine would be a small price to pay. Certainly the two boys and Gail require at least £2 million each but maybe the other four daughters should receive the same.

Another is Richard Storry, older brother of Ray who I helped when still in fellowship. I have details of the awful way in which he's been treated and left destitute by Keith Birch and others. Again, he's worthy of compensation of at least £2 million.

Yet another case is that of Sam Forrest of Auckland, NZ. In 2009 his ex-wife accused him of a dramatic crime that he never committed. He pleaded not guilty. The court case went on for around 9 months. Eventually the priests – Denys Filleuel and John Mason – told him that he'd never see his kids again unless he pleaded guilty. In that same week your brother Daniel also threatened him with consequences if he didn't change his plea to guilty. Prior to the court appearances, John and Denys went behind closed doors with the lawyer and decided what to do without involving Sam at all. The lawyer then insisted that unless he pleaded guilty he would lose his business. Under such extreme pressure, Sam changed his plea. He's regretted that ever since because he's been punished for something that he never did.

In every court appearance thereafter, Denys and John insisted that Sam had to stick with the untrue statement that they'd given him in the first place. The priests later told Sam that he couldn't see his kids ever again unless he admitted and confessed his 'guilt' before the whole assembly. And so he did! On a Saturday morning from the back row he picked up the mike and confessed to things that he'd never done. The next 30 minutes were spent listening, agreeing and apologising for every grievance that brethren brought up against him. Despite this public humiliation, Sam still hasn't ever seen his own children.

Substantial financial compensation is needed by Sam for the way he's been treated by the brethren. I suggest £5 million, especially in view of the fact that he's now severely disabled after severing his hand and has a disabled son to provide for.

Why don't you invite someone like Peter Harrison of Palmerston North, NZ, to come over to help you and the brethren in Sydney, Mr Hales? The brethren have already acknowledged that they withdrew from him wrongly so, like Duncan Hulbert, he could guilelessly testify to the wonder of forgiveness and reconciliation.

I look forward to a speedy and respectful direct response from you this time, Mr Hales, whether it be by email, letter or phone.

Yours sincerely,

Your faithful brother

Lance J. Christie

PS. Please contrast John 10 v 1 with v 2 and 11