

Brother Garth,

I continue my plea for reform so that harmful brethren practices are eliminated.

Basic justice requires that there shouldn't be any strategy to entrap unsuspecting brethren who are deemed to be a threat; victims should be able to present their case to the assembly; witnesses should be available to victims as well as oppressors; persons should not be respected in judgement; charges should be specific and defensible; advocates should argue the victim's case; victims have a right to self-defence; there should never be any predetermined outcome and judges (in this case the brethren) should be held accountable for their administrative actions, especially when causing harm to others.

It's now just about 5 years since you were involved in ganging up against me with some 30 brethren who in effect joined together in ostracising me from my family, my brethren in Christ, business and my whole social circle.

See link to [Build up towards LJC being shut up on 17th March 2017](#). I couldn't see any point in continuing such negative and soul destroying dialogue at the time.

In the light of the severity of all the consequences of your actions against me, I don't think that you can now accuse me of harassment when I've waited a full 5 years before replying.

Your statement that anyone charged with anything (true or false) should just 'hit the deck in repentance' omits to mention regard for truth!

Your quoted example of John Hales may well be apt but that might have been forced on him so that he could be allowed back into fellowship. Surely nothing's more important than establishing the truth so 'unquestioning repentance', to use JHS's expression, should clearly be subservient to truth.

1. Our Christian responsibility is to continue in and defend the Truth and to avoid, confess or repent of untruth. So it's not personal, it's not about me, it's about the truth. There is no 'moral value' in telling a lie in order to seem humble.
2. When it **is** personal matters, like one brother having spoken or sinned against another, then there **is** a need for apology (repentance), but there is also some value to the other person in having an explanation too. If a friend suddenly turns round and hits me, he needs to apologise, and I should be ready to forgive him, but that alone would still leave me feeling bewildered and let down. But if he also explains that it was something I said that reminded him of something that his enemy had said long ago, for example, then there **is** value for me in this, because now that I at least partly understand, forgiveness becomes easier, and I know what buttons not to press in the future. So yes, explanation with apology **has** had real value for me, and maybe for him too.
3. Evangelical and Bible-believing Christians distinguish between 'repentance' and 'confession'. **Repentance** is primarily what we do when we first come to Christ. It is not just being, feeling and saying 'Sorry', though it includes that. It is a change of direction to one's whole life. In military terms: 'Halt, About Turn, Quick March!' Instead of walking away from God and going our own way, we are now walking towards Him, or with Him. In the fullest sense, repentance can only happen once in a life, because it is linked to new birth, and we can only be 'born again' once. The new identity, the new life that Jesus gives us is eternal. It does not need changing periodically, like a car, or a pair of socks! (Otherwise, we would be marching to and fro like the Coldstream Guards!)

But **Confession** is different. In our walk with God, we should regularly (ideally daily) review our days, and confess to God where we have failed Him, and, as John says, we find Him

‘faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins’ – or really, to apply to us again the forgiveness that He has already given us because of the cross, so that we are gratefully conscious of it. So any deliberate conflation of repentance and confession is very subtle and serious. A Christian by definition is someone who has repented. The term that JT Jr used of the need to be ‘a constantly repenting sinner’ can’t be right because it takes away from the enormity of the transaction that took place when we first came to Christ.

4. The abandonment of Truth for ‘Humility’ is political and can be a psychological tool. Accusations can then become a necessary tool of manipulation and control. If the only option open to me when a leader (local or ‘universal’) accuses me of something is to ‘hit the deck in repentance’ then we have abandoned truth for control. In fact, truth no longer has any meaning, apart from what the leadership says or alleges at any time. So, in submitting to it, I would not be submitting to the truth, but to a person, a leadership. And there is ‘no moral value’ in that!

From my side I long for respectful communication with my family and those I love. But you and ‘the 30’ copied in obviously see me as so evil that I don’t warrant any negotiation.

The same happened to my parents via Oliver Smaldon, Martin Edwards and consequently all the brethren in Leeds in September 1972.

Their matters were reviewed after I raised the matter with Bruce Hales in 1998 but, despite writing to him eight times – see the latest [letter attached](#), there does not as yet appear to have been any review of outstanding questions that I’ve raised.

In the light of this and in view of the fact that there are two Doncaster brothers copied in here, I formally request to get re-married in the brethren’s Doncaster meeting hall where Olivia and I hope to convey to the brethren that we are actually bright and appreciative Christians, enjoying divine grace and simply wanting the best for all.

It’s probably over-ruled that our closest meeting will be Doncaster because it could be embarrassing for the Leeds brethren to welcome back one whom they’ve so firmly rejected.

I’d like the Leeds brethren to know that I’m the same Lance as I always was – a sinner saved by grace who delights in radiating the glory of the glad tidings. Sadly, my freedom to spread Christ’s glory was shackled during my last 5 years among the Leeds brethren.

However, ‘all things work together for good’ so the Lord has come in for me!

To bring you up to date, I attach my article entitled [Final Moral Appeal Rejected by Bruce D Hales](#) which outlines the ‘Matthew 18 Scriptural Approach’, ‘Moral and Legal Victories’, ‘Confrontation with Gareth J Hales’, ‘Break Down the Wall’ and ‘Transfer of Wealth from PBCC Families to PBCC Hierarchical Control’.

Unless you object, I will forward you some videos outlining my life in the PBCC. Yes, there’s a moral message in them but you’ll be tickled pink by some of the lighter stuff!

My motive in insisting on a review of my matters is to ‘Save a great people alive’ Genesis 50 v 20.

So, as responsible, you should bravely and without fear raise matters in the local assembly especially when they’ve resulted in detriment and harm to victims of your arbitrary enforcement of separation.

That could help to eliminate prejudice, discrimination and the defamation of person’s characters so will work for the benefit of all.

To argue that ongoing psychological harm to individuals and the breaking up of families can continue in order to enhance Bruce Hales's own personal status is outrageous, despicable and objectionable.

That must stop.

I look to you.

Yours faithfully,

Lance J. Christie