

Ross and Shirley Hales  
46 Bain Place  
Dundas Australia 2117

Re: request for a public retraction.

Dear Ross and Shirley,

There is no dignified way of dealing with the contents of your letter dated 16th February 2005 and this follow up letter from your lawyers, dated 4th April, 2005.

To put it bluntly, I have had a gutful of the deceit, half truths, innuendo and full on lies that have been put forward by some members of your establishment, and meted out to thousands of folk, over the past 40 years.

That is why I have gone public again, in an attempt to try and explain to you that you can't keep playing with people's emotions and lives, from here forward. We are real people with real feelings and although you try and take the moral high ground, you still go to the loo like we do [separate sewer lines apart], drink the same water, buy the same veggies, drive on the same roads, drink the same Scotch maybe, but at the end of the day, you are a sinner as I am and in need of the same salvation.

When the Exclusive Brethren re-entered my life during 2003 and promised that things were going to be different and that matters were going to be put right with me so that I could see my boys again, I fell for it hook, line and sinker.

In your first phone conversation with me, you expressed some horror as to the way my family had been treated by your brethren and your words were, "The sorrowful way you have been treated, Warren."

I did say to you Ross, that I was not interested in the reversal of your assembly judgment, of me because I no longer believed in the Exclusive Brethren system. However if it made the poor brethren who had had doubts for years feel a little bit better about themselves and it opened the door to my boys, then go for it. "

Why did I fall for it and believe you were genuine in your interest and a contrived spirit of reconciliation? Because I loved my boys and although the missing years could never be made up, I foolishly thought that just maybe, I could start doing what most dad's love doing with their kids.

Your promises were never genuine and all it did was re-open old wounds, with this bizarre 'Review', that on reflection was maybe a 'Good Feel' tonic for the poor brethren or some sick social experiment by the Brethren leadership. Or maybe in an attempt to swell the numbers, you thought that you could entice people back who were missing their families like crazy.

We never asked for your 'Review', and for some it has been a positive experience to see families again but for others to open the door and then have it slammed in their faces again, is too hard to bear.

On a brighter note, the doors that Bruce Hales has opened, to allow brethren to smell roses of freedom, are the same roses that his dad forbade us to grow during the 80's and 90's. I don't believe that Bruce will ever be able to fully close the doors again because brethren are asking questions and are keen to know the truth and we are prying for a stampede towards freedom.

Another interesting couple of comments which have come out of this 'Review' are attributed to two of your Albury members, Chris Shore and Graeme Sealey.

Although I had pleaded with these people for over 10 years for my family to be returned and have found happy family life again, Chris Shore said recently, "Warren is living in an adulterous relationship", [**with my wife Sarah.????** ]

Where do these people get off ? They don't own us any more. Graeme Sealey told me in front of his local leader, Robert Huenes that, "The Truth is above human decency."

Maybe your truth , Mr Sealey but not the real truth. This is the type of mentality we are up against. Just think about that statement, Ross. He sadly believed what he was saying to be true.

Speaking about truth, I will try to deal with your issue in relation to the phone calls, and who called who and at what time.

My phone records show that on the 20th of February, I made my first phone call in Sydney at 6.50 and made 6 phone calls between 6.50am and 11.58am. None of those calls were to your number.

My phone records show that I didn't make another call between 11.58am and 4.48pm, because I was playing 18 holes of golf with a recent EB escapee .

I made a call to your home at 6.23 pm and to the best knowledge of myself and a witness, your wife rang me back shortly after. I have enquired of Telstra as to whether I can have records of calls made TO my mobile.

They are unable to give me these details[ yet we can put men on the moon. ] Because you are trying to belittle my credibility, I have done the best I can to get the facts straight and disperse the smoke screen!!!!!!

Ross, would you like me to amend the document to read "During a phone conversation with Shirley Hales etc, etc? "

You have my phone number, so if you would like it amended within 2 days, I will have this done with the web site host. Would that make you feel a little better?

Ross, I do have to tell you that the message your wife read out to me, in what seemed a prepared statement was this, and I quote,

*"Warren, I have a message from Mr Bruce, He says" If you take him on in the courts, he will financially break you. "*

This is the word-by-word message which your wife related to me and which was still ringing in my ears days and weeks later.

I am prepared to say on oath that, "This is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God. " My friend who was with me can testify that in his words "The message visibly shook you up and you repeated it word for word immediately to me."

Way back in 1989, your Uncle John sent a message through to Rachel McAlpin, my first wife: " *We have ways and means to get you free from your husband*".

Although I spoke against this message and was withdrawn from for "Speaking against the man of God" your brethren have denied he ever said such a thing, nor could he.

However I have a letter which Bruce and yourself have seen, signed by 4 of your Albury brethren, acknowledging that John Hales said, "There are ways and means for her to be free."

Not quite the truth but getting warmer !!!!!

So some 16 years later, some truth is starting to come out.

Ross, please don't add to the weight of untruth or is it really accurate what that gentleman in Albury said, but would probably regret saying now: "The truth is above human decency".

This is not an argument between Ross Hales and me. This is a defence of your leader, your cousin Bruce Hales.

Ross, let me appeal to the good in you and I do recall some funny times. As a young kid, I remember your brother Bill and yourself driving into the Melbourne meeting car park, in your brand new, flashy, matching Holden Monaro's. It was very impressive to us and I am sure to the young girl you were trying to woo.

I also remember your public singing of "How great Thou art ". I nearly said "How great I am ", but I love that old hymn and felt it might be disrespectful. But how you used to strut about and puff out the chest for all and sundry to see.

Why don't you speak to Bruce and tell him that my offer to meet with him still stands? One question I want to ask him is: *Why did his dad say before he died that he may have been a little hard on the brethren?* Did he really get sorted out before he died?

I have been through enough EB court cases to last me 20 lifetimes and I am sure that your System has been through enough and, with more cases possibly pending, you and I don't need the agro. I genuinely hold no grudges towards you or your wife and I am sure that if the scales fell from your eyes, we could enjoy a cold beer and have a laugh about your problem with me. At the end of the day, I now know what my two eldest boys look like and have a photo taken with them to cherish, partly because of you. It hangs in my office beside my new family photo and a photo of Jeremy and Richard that I have held close to me for the past 16 years. This is more than a lot of hurting folk have got.

In closing, I cannot and will not retract what I know to be the truth, the absolute truth but if you are determined to have your day in the sun in court, bring it on baby! Sorry, I was trying to finish on a positive note and you got me stirred up again.

If you wish to contact the owners of the web site , their details are very self explanatory and easy to find.

Kind Regards Ross and Shirley and please remember: '*The truth will set you free* ; the real truth.

Warren McAlpin