

Concerning Decision Despite Opposition

Aug 18

Recently a private (secret) meeting was held in the Sacramento area. The Sunday morning elders for the 11 meetings were invited (no wives, no union elders or Wednesday night elders) by Rob Newman and Richard Denherder to discuss a known and personally admitted CSA perpetrators readmission into fellowship meeting.

They were told that while this man has admitted to (some) of his abuse, that a 4 hour phone assessment was done, and he had passed (assessed as no longer a risk).

So he is now able (according to the CA/AZ policy) to be readmitted to attend meetings (including those with children).

Rob and Richard took a vote of the 11 elders as to who would be willing to have this known and confessed perpetrator in their Sunday meeting.

- 4 elders voted NO.
- 2 elders said that they wanted to asked their meetings.
- 5 elders voted Yes.

It was determined based on this minority vote of 5/11 that this known and confessed (of some of his abuses) perpetrator, is now allowed to attend meeting in the Sacramento area.

Friends have raised many concerns about this process:

- What information did ministry share with the risk assessor regarding GS?
- Were victims or victim impact statements part of the process?
- How many victims of GS did the risk assessor know about?

- Did the risk assessor know about the AFTT investigation or did they reach out to AFTT to get more facts than ministry has?
- Did anyone other than ministry and the predator talk to the risk assessor in the GS case?
- Declaring GS "low risk" (just like they recently did for others) does NOT mean he should be back in meetings and does NOT fit with a zero-tolerance policy.
- Wives should have been involved.
- The wider meeting community should have been involved.

This process is contrary to the expert advice posted at [Urgent Professional Request to the overseer and workers in the States of CA AZ NV HI](#)

- No one can accurately predict or identify offenders by observing them.
- Risk assessments should not be used to determine whether an offender can attend fellowship meetings. Alternate arrangements should be made to meet with offenders outside of fellowship meetings.

Previous information was posted at [Gilbert Smith, California elder, removed from meetings](#)

WINGS Note: Gilbert Smith is a former worker and current elder in California. During his time in the work, Gilbert labored in California, Arizona, Idaho, Alaska, and Chile. Known allegations stem from his time in Alaska and Chile.

In the late 90s, Mark Huddle (who was removed from the work in April 2023 due to several allegations of child sexual abuse) was approached with some of these allegations. His response was that the family was overreacting, and nothing further was done.