

Leanne Whiffen To all my lovely Friends who have decided to continue going to meetings

Corner Brook Newfoundland Canada

To all my lovely Friends who have decided to continue going to meetings, I have to ask:

What are your plans and expectations?

I ask because I know many of you will be attending Gospel Meetings held by perpetrators and staunch supporters of perpetrators because they have been assigned to your fields. You will be expected to have these people in your home for visits and meals. You will be expected to provide funding for their ministerial efforts, just as you always have.

When Bruergate broke 7 months ago, nothing immediately happened in response to it because it broke right at the cusp of convention prep period in North America. Good as we are, we all pretty much accepted that there was no way we would come to a complete standstill to deal with this at that time. We even accepted that we wouldn't come to a standstill when the names began piling up simply because it was convention time and - let's face it - we all love convention time.

But conventions are largely over now. All the overseers have been contacted repeatedly.

Workers have been contacted repeatedly.

There was a lot happening in those months.

We had Listening Meetings.

We had Zoom calls.

We had face-to-face visits.

We sent emails.

We sent text messages.

We spoke out during the conventions themselves.

We exhausted every form of communication we can possibly think of.

Yet, here we are.

And there they are, making it as clear as day that they just don't care. Many of the Friends are the very same, just wishing that we'd leave, or at the very least shut up about it all. It's unreal the number of people I grew up loving and trusting who either don't want to hear a single word of this or who don't believe SA or any kind is a problem because it's simply a part of worker life.

The results of all these efforts have revealed a really ugly truth that I still can't comprehend. So, where does an advocating professing person in this way go from here?

Can one be professing in this way and an advocate if they have to house and fund perpetrators in their field?

Can they be an advocate and (still be permitted to) profess in this way if they refuse to fund or allow perpetrators assigned to their field into their home?

This is not a criticism, I promise you. I just want to know what your plans, hopes, and expectations are going forward.

God bless you all.