

September 28th, 2014

Judicial Hearing at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,

Fenway Congregation

49 Winthrop Street,

Roxbury, MA. 02119

Les Fashank: Chairman

Anthony Aguirre: Coordinator of the Body of Elders, assigned to keep minutes of the hearing

Peter Husbands: Field Service Overseer

Lance McBryer: Watchtower Conductor was originally assigned to sit in on this case but was replaced by Peter Husbands.

As a former elder who served in the Fenway Congregation as the Coordinator of the Body of Elders and previously as the Presiding Overseer for over a decade I was summoned to appear before this judicial body on the most serious charge that can be leveled against one of Jehovah's Witnesses, or any Christian whatever denomination he may belong to, that of **Apostasy**.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Peter Husbands. Les Fashank informed me I was being summoned here on the charge of apostasy. I was invited to follow along as they read an opening scripture found at Proverbs 28:13 "The one covering over his transgressions will not succeed, but whoever confesses and abandons them will be shown mercy. . .

Les Fashank reiterates why we are here, due to the charge against me of apostasy. He asks me to describe my views to them so they can be sure of what I believe. I responded; you have summoned me here on the charge of apostasy. Since you made the charge you should state the reasons for it. If you are making this serious charge, why would you ask me to supply you with the reasons for your charge of apostasy!

Fashank says we have three reasons for charging you with apostasy. I ask Fashank to allow me to write down the basis for each charge so I will know precisely the basis for the charges.

The first charge is because of my belief that all Christians should be partakers of the body of Christ. I told Fashank I would like to make it clear for the record that I do believe that all Christians are required to be partakers of the body of Christ based on Jesus words at John 6:48-59, where in part Jesus says: *"Most truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I will resurrect him on the last day."*

So I asked Fashank are you all clear that this is the first charge against me on apostasy? He replied "if that's what you believe, then yes," this is first reason for your being charged with apostasy.

The second reason he states is related to the first. Fashank stated that I do not believe anything the Society or Governing body teaches is correct. I told him you have misstated what I have said. I have made it clear on more than one occasion that not everything the Society teaches is in error. I acknowledged some things they teach are correct. But in regard to them limiting the number of those partaking of the body of Christ as Jesus commanded in John Chapter 6 and limiting the number of those who must *"keep proclaiming the death of the Lord until he comes"* as Paul stated all Christians should do at 1Cor. 11:23-26 They are wrong to do this! I reminded him that I have asked you brothers in particular

on more than one occasion to give me a scriptural reason why this does not apply to all Christians since neither Jesus nor Paul put any qualifiers on who should or who should not obey these clear and unambiguous requirements. So far no one has of yet has given me a Bible based answer for refraining.

I asked them again would they please provide a scriptural reason to disobey Jesus clear requirements in order to attain everlasting life and be resurrected on the last day. Peter Husbands chimed in we are not hear to debate the scriptures with you. I told him I was not asking for a debate. I was asking for an explanation. However they still were unable to provide a Bible based answer. They just rolled their eyes and pursed their lips in disdain of me.

The third reason I am being charged with apostasy is because I am failing to accept the “whole body of current teachings” of the Governing Body. I cannot pick and choose which teachings I feel are correct or incorrect.

I responded that the Society grants me the freedom to disagree. I attempted to point their attention to the Watchtower 9/15/2010, the study article entitled “Your Leader Is One, The Christ” but before I could go on Peter Husbands interrupted me as he would do multiple times during this hearing and not allow me to speak. If I had been allowed to do so I would have read this introductory paragraph to the study article:

Your Leader Is One, the Christ”

“Do not . . . be called ‘leaders,’ for your Leader is one, the Christ.”—MATT. 23:9, 10.

CHRISTENDOM’S churches have human leaders, such as the pope of Rome, the patriarchs and metropolitans of the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the heads of other religions. **Jehovah’s Witnesses recognize no human as their leader. They are not disciples or followers of any man.** This is in line with Jehovah’s prophetic utterance **concerning his Son: “Look! As a witness to the national groups I have given him, as a leader and commander to the national groups.” (Isa. 55:4)**

They shut me down and would not even allow me to quote from our own literature!

At about this point in the proceedings Peter Husbands asked me if I was tape recording this meeting. I asked him why should he be concerned about it? He told me just answer the question, are you tape recording this hearing? I told him no. I then told all three of these men, if what you are doing what is right, what is just, what is pure in motive, what is Biblically based, then why should you have any objection of a word for word transcript made available for future reference? I said that even Whitey Bulger who was accused and later convicted of serious crimes including murder, extortion and drug dealing was allowed to have a court reporter that accurately put down everything in the proceedings in word for word format. He was even allowed to obtain one of the best legal defense lawyers in the country. In my case I sat there as a lone single individual attempting to defend myself against three men who came into this meeting with their minds already made up that I was an apostate.

I then stood up opened my bag, pulled out my pockets, showed them my mobile phone and assured them that I had no recording devices.

Les Fashank said the reason we require no recording devices is so that the proceedings will remain confidential. I told him that his reasoning was incorrect because if they decided to disfellowship me the proceedings would become public when they made an announcement from the platform that I was disfellowshipped.

Peter Husbands then replied, you know from your years of being an elder that we do not allow recordings. I responded yes I know this policy but that every committee meeting I ever sat on was in regards to dealing with immorality, something which the bible has very clear guidelines on in which those who come before us agree are a just standard for judgment. However I have never sat before a

brother in judgment of apostasy whereby he is providing a biblical basis for his beliefs and a body of elders hearing him refuse to let him read any scriptures or cite any of the Societies publications in his defense. In this kind of a mockery setting a recording device would seem to me to be more than justifiable. *(If an actual transcript of these proceedings were made to the public there would be such a strong outcry of injustice that the doors of the people in many communities would be shut in the faces of Jehovah's Witnesses who claim to have a love for Christ and Justice.)*

I then related to them the experience of our Lord Jesus Christ when he was summoned after dark into an illegal mock trial by the Chief Priest, Scribes and Pharisees in the Sanhedrin Hall. None of his disciples, apostles or close friends was allowed to be present at this meeting behind closed doors. These evil men did not want any witnesses who would later report how they slapped, struck him with their fist and spit in his face while speaking the most humiliating insults.

Yet miraculously we have three detailed gospel accounts of what went on behind closed doors documenting every detail of what happened. I told them that while there are no recording devices being used by me in these hearings, both the eyes of Jesus Christ and a multitude of celestial beings are looking on at the entire proceedings. And just as the closed doors of the Sanhedrin Hall could not keep secret what these jealous men were perpetrating against the Lord, neither will these proceedings be kept secret just because there is no recording device.

This is the only time in this hearing where I saw a look of soberness come over their faces. They quickly recovered their composure to show their united strength against me!

Anthony Aguirre then says he would like to ask me a question. He asked, why is it you stick to only the Christian Greek scriptures in your testimony instead of the entire Bible? Why is it you feel that you are right and have God's backing I am wrong just because I don't go along with your beliefs. And why do you feel you need to be accepted by us when you don't believe the complete body of our teachings. *(This is the gist of the last question as best as I can recall from the meeting.)*

I told him these are very good questions and I would be happy to answer all of them. I began to explain to Anthony that until the time of Jesus much about God's purpose had remained a mystery. The writings from Genesis to Malachi are the highest and best concepts that the Hebrews could conceive of before Jesus Christ arrived. The teachings of Jesus was new even revolutionary as he said at Matthew 13:11 *"To you it is granted to understand the sacred secrets of the Kingdom of the heavens, but to them it is not granted."* Paul spoke repeatedly of the sacred secrets that had been hidden from past generations. Col. 1:26

It was at this point that Peter Husbands rudely interrupted again, and said we are not here to listen to your explanations of the Bible. I replied that I am answering a question put to me by a member of this judicial committee are you refusing to let me answer him? Again he said we are not interested in your explanation. I looked Anthony Aguirre straight in the eye and said to him; Anthony do you want me to answer your question? He sheepishly nodded his head yes without verbally uttering a word. Peter Husbands along with Les Fashank together said we have already heard enough about your beliefs we are not interested in hearing anymore. I then turned to Anthony who was assigned as note taker of this hearing and asked him to make a note that he asked me a question which he wanted to get the answer to, but Peter Husbands and Les Fashank refused to allow me to answer the question. Anthony shook his head nodding yes and began to quickly scribble some notes. Whether this event will make it into the final record of these proceedings is yet to be seen.

Peter Husbands ask me, so are you here to be helped or not. I responded, *"listen Peter, I am a partaker of the body of Christ by symbolically eating his flesh and drinking his blood, I do keep declaring the death of our Lord till he comes by being a partaker at the memorial supper as Jesus and Paul commanded, I have had the spirit bear witness with my spirit that I am a spirit adopted son of God and brother of Christ, my spirit does cry out Abba Father, I am an ambassador substituting for Christ as though God were making entreaty through me, you brothers admit that you have none of these things going in your*

behalf. So how do you propose to help me? Which one of these witness bearers do you want me to deny so I will be in compliance with you?

Les Fashank said those are your beliefs which you are entitled to but they are not our beliefs. You are free to believe what you want but you may not remain in association with us and hold to these beliefs. I responded that throughout this entire hearing other than the opening scripture you brothers have not opened your Bibles one time or used any publication from the Watchtower Society to show me where I am in error. At this point Anthony Aguirre decided to speak up. He said I have a scripture for you, open your Bible to 2 John 9 there it reads: *“Everyone who pushes ahead and does not remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God. The one who does remain in this teaching is the one who has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. 11 For the one who says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.”*

I asked the brothers if we may back up a few verses and read the context of John’s statement. Peter Husbands abruptly said, no! I responded, you mean you are denying us the opportunity to read the context of these words? He said we are not here for that! I told him I have just been accused of being an apostate and this is the only scripture you have read to me that has any bearing on these proceedings and you mean to tell me you refuse to read the context? He adamantly refused to let anyone read the context of the scripture.

I told them it has been repeatedly emphasized both from the platform and the publications that you always consider the context. This is the only way to get an accurate understanding of what the writer had in mind. I reminded them that in the house to house preaching we force the householder to consider the context. This is the very basis of how we attempt to establish the truth. How can you justify denying your own fellow committee member who had us read this scripture from considering the context? They were all in agreement that they would not back up to read the few preceding verses.

If they had read the context this is what they would have discovered;

*(2 John 6-11) 6 And this is what love means, that we go on walking according to his commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should go on walking in it. 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, **those not acknowledging Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.** 8 Look out for yourselves, so that you do not lose the things we have worked to produce, but that you may obtain a full reward. 9 **Everyone who pushes ahead and does not remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God.** The one who does remain in this teaching is the one who has both the Father and the Son. 10 **If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him.** 11 For the one who says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.*

What these brothers did not want to have discovered, is that the one who the apostle John identified as pushing ahead was the individual who denied Jesus as having come in the flesh. This is the deceiver the antichrist. If they had read the context they would have had to admit I am as far away from denying Christ as one can be. I am in reality and actuality on trial before them because of my steadfast acknowledgment of the Christ and promoting being in union with him, by becoming a partaker of his body. The support of their case against me for apostasy by reading this single scripture in the entire hearing would have crumbled to shreds if they had read the context. What a mockery of a judicial hearing!

Les Fashank said it is apparent that you have very strong convictions in what you believe. Is that correct? I said yes, I have very strong convictions in what I believe and not only that I can support my beliefs by what both the Bible says and I have the support of many citations in the Societies publications. You brothers have supplied no support either from the Bible or from the Societies publications for what you believe.

Fashank said it is not our job to convince you.

So without further questioning they dismissed me to leave the room while they deliberated over the matter. I sat outside in the foyer of the Kingdom Hall dressed the way I would normally dress for a congregation meeting. Two congregations meetings had just ended and they were mingling together and happily bidding each other good bye.

Among those mingling in the foyer were members of the Metropolitan Congregation. One elder whom I have known for years and has always greeted me enthusiastically, Micah Logan, looked right at me several times in passing and completely ignored me as if I had the plague! Another sister who is the wife of Roger Canty, an elder in the same Metropolitan congregation looked at me twice and refused to speak to me. This sister has always personally come up to me after I have delivered a public talk in that congregation to let me know how much she appreciated it. Now she would not even look me in the face.

However the brothers in the Spanish congregation who had apparently not been informed of these matters greeted me warmly and affectionately.

How is it that friends of mine in other congregations have already identified me as someone to avoid when this judicial case has not even concluded yet? Whatever happened to the Societies instructions on confidentiality? The elders have been instructed by the society in numerous schools and letters not to share judicial matters even with other elders in other congregations who have no connection with the matters under consideration. I was already feeling a sickening dread of even being in the building. My stomach felt bitter as if I had imbibed something contaminated.

I was called back in the hearing after about 15 minutes of deliberation. I was informed that I was being disfellowshipped for apostasy.

They read one final scripture to me which is found at Romans 16: 17,18 it says: *Now I urge you, brothers, to keep your eye on those who create divisions and causes for stumbling contrary to the teaching that you have learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For men of that sort are slaves, not of our Lord Christ, but of their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattering speech they seduce the hearts of unsuspecting ones.*

I told them I thought that to read this scripture was rather unkind and without basis. They preferred to differ.

I was told they feel very sorry for me. They believe I am totally wrong and have allowed my mind to be deceived. They said they were heartbroken over what I have done to myself.

I was informed that I have seven days to make a written appeal to them and if I did not do so then an announcement would be made to the congregation.

I was then dismissed.

46 years of service gone down the tubes and discarded by three men in less than one hour!

Following are the scriptural and Watchtower citations I was denied to introduce into the hearing.

John 6:48-59 48 "I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness and yet they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that **anyone** may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. **If anyone** eats of this bread he will live forever; and for a fact, the bread that I will give is my flesh in behalf of the life of the world."

52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them: "**Most truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves.** 54 **Whoever** feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I will resurrect him on the last day; 55 for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 56 **Whoever** feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in union with me, and I in union with him. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. It is not as when your forefathers ate and yet died. **Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.**" 59 He said these things as he was teaching in a synagogue in Ca-per'na-um.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26) 23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night on which he was going to be betrayed took a loaf, 24 and after giving thanks, he broke it and said: “This means my body, which is in your behalf. **Keep doing this in remembrance of me.**” 25 He did the same with the cup also, after they had the evening meal, saying: “This cup means the new covenant by virtue of my blood. **Keep doing this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.**” 26 **For whenever you eat this loaf and drink this cup, you keep proclaiming the death of the Lord, until he comes.**

*** w10 9/15 p. 21 “Your Leader Is One, the Christ” ***

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CHRISTENDOM’S churches have human leaders, such as the pope of Rome, the patriarchs and metropolitans of the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the heads of other religions. **Jehovah’s Witnesses recognize no human as their leader. They are not disciples or followers of any man.** This is in line with Jehovah’s prophetic utterance concerning his Son: “Look! As a witness to the national groups I have given him, as a leader and commander to the national groups.” (Isa. 55:4)

*** w98 2/1 pp. 21-22 The Other Sheep and the New Covenant ***

Busy in Sacred Service

12 In addition, Paul said: “Let us approach with true hearts in the full assurance of faith, having had our hearts sprinkled from a wicked conscience and our bodies bathed with clean water.” (Hebrews 10:22) How can we show that we have “the full assurance of faith”? Paul urged Hebrew Christians: “Let us hold fast the public declaration **of our [heavenly] hope without wavering**, for he is faithful that promised. And let us consider one another to incite to love and fine works, not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you behold the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:23-25) If our faith is alive, we too will not ‘forsake the gathering of ourselves together.’ **We will delight to incite our brothers and be incited by them to love and fine works** and to be strengthened for the vital work of publicly declaring our hope, **whether it is earthly or heavenly.—John 13:35.**

*** it-1 p. 1139 Hope *** (Insight on the Scriptures)

The Christian Hope. The hope of the Christian and, indeed, of mankind lies in Jesus Christ. The gaining of lasting life in heaven or on earth was not open to any of humankind until Christ Jesus “shed light upon life and incorruption through the good news.” (2Ti 1:10) **The spirit-begotten brothers of Christ are told that they have heavenly hopes because of the great mercy of God, who gave to them “a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1Pe 1:3, 4; Col 1:5, 27; Tit 1:1, 2; 3:6, 7)** This happy hope is to be realized “at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1Pe 1:13, 21; Tit 2:13) Christ Jesus is therefore called “our hope” by the apostle Paul.—1Ti 1:1.

This hope of everlasting life and incorruption for those who are **“partakers of the heavenly calling” (Heb 3:1)** is solidly based and is something that can be confidently relied on. It is supported by two things in which it is impossible for God to lie, namely, his promise and his oath, and the hope resides with Christ, who is now immortal in the heavens. **Therefore this hope is spoken of as “an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm,** and it enters in within the curtain [as the high priest entered the Most Holy on the Day of Atonement], where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus, who has become a high priest according to the manner of Melchizedek forever.”—Heb 6:17-20.

Must be developed and maintained. The necessity for Christians to hold on to the “one hope” (Eph 4:4) is constantly stressed in the Bible. **It requires continued industriousness and the exercise of freeness of speech and “boasting” over the hope itself. (Heb 3:6; 6:11)** Hope is developed by endurance under tribulation; this leads to an approved condition before God, from whom hope comes. (Ro 5:2-5) It is placed alongside faith and love as one of the three qualities characterizing the Christian

congregation since the disappearance of the miraculous gifts of the spirit that were present in the first-century congregation.—1Co 13:13.

*** w95 6/15 pp. 21-22 “Sacred Service With Your Power of Reason” ***

Slaves of God and Christ, Not of Men

13 **Elders have to allow those under their care to use their power of reason.** The members of the congregation are not slaves of men. “If I were yet pleasing men,” wrote Paul, “I would not be Christ’s slave.” (Galatians 1:10; Colossians 3:23, 24) In contrast, the Pharisees wanted people to believe that it was more important to gain the approval of men than that of God. (Matthew 23:2-7; John 12:42, 43) **The Pharisees took it upon themselves to become moral dictators who formed their own rules and then judged others by how well they measured up. Those who followed the Pharisees were weakened in the use of their Bible-trained conscience, in effect becoming slaves of men.**

14 Christian elders today know that the flock is not principally accountable to them. **Each Christian must carry his or her own load. (Romans 14:4; 2 Corinthians 1:24; Galatians 6:5)** This is as it should be. Indeed, if members of the flock were to be slaves of men, obeying simply because of being monitored, what would they do when those men were not around? Paul had reason for joy over the Philippians: “In the way that you have always obeyed, not during my presence only, but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” **They were truly slaves of Christ, and not of Paul.—Philippians 2:12.**

15 **In matters of conscience, therefore, elders do not make decisions for those under their care. They explain the Bible principles involved in a matter and then allow the individuals involved to use their own powers of reason to make a decision. This is a serious responsibility, yet it is one that the individual himself must bear.**

I was told when I read this passage on a previous occasion to Les Fashank that advocating the partaking of the body of Christ is not a conscience matter it is a doctrinal matter, therefore the above counsel does not apply to me. I unsuccessfully attempted to reason with him that declaring my hope and making public declaration of it was indeed a matter of conscience. I told him my conscience would not allow me to keep quiet on this matter. He begged to differ.

Finally I would have liked to have shown them the picture below, and asked them if they believe their relationship with God depends on these men? WT 7/15/2013 p 20 par. 2 *“The faithful slave is the channel through which Jesus is feeding his true followers in this time of the end. It is vital that we recognize the faithful slave. **Our spiritual health and our relationship with God depend on this channel.**”* Evidently these men do not believe Jesus is the sole channel to salvation. (John 10:1-15)



One of these men is dead! Guy Pierce, who passed away earlier this year. It is just as the psalmist said: (Psalm 146:3, 4) *3 Do not put YOUR trust in nobles, Nor in the son of earthling man, to whom no salvation belongs. 4 His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground; In that day his thoughts do perish.*