TIMELINE OF EVENTS since we shared The Dean Letter on 3/23/23. Not everyone on this list has allegations of abuse. This timeline is noting any events or changes since The Dean Letter. Allegations/accusations do NOT mean someone has committed, been convicted of, or charged with a crime. Timeline dates are listed most recent to oldest. *Scroll to the end for the full timeline from the beginning, or check the top of the post for the most recent updates.*

****You can view, download, email, or share this timeline in PDF form from this link. The same link will be updated frequently:

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8/29- Adolph 'Abe' Elde (deceased 2004) was an elder in Moses Lake, Washington. He has been named in multiple CSA, grooming and stalking allegations dating back to the 60s. Church leadership was aware as early as the 60s and took no action. He was convicted of sex crimes against minors multiple times in his life. After each prison term, meeting was returned to his home.

8/29- Alan Flint (deceased 2016) has been named in multiple allegations of CSA. He lived in Mulkeytown, Illinois.

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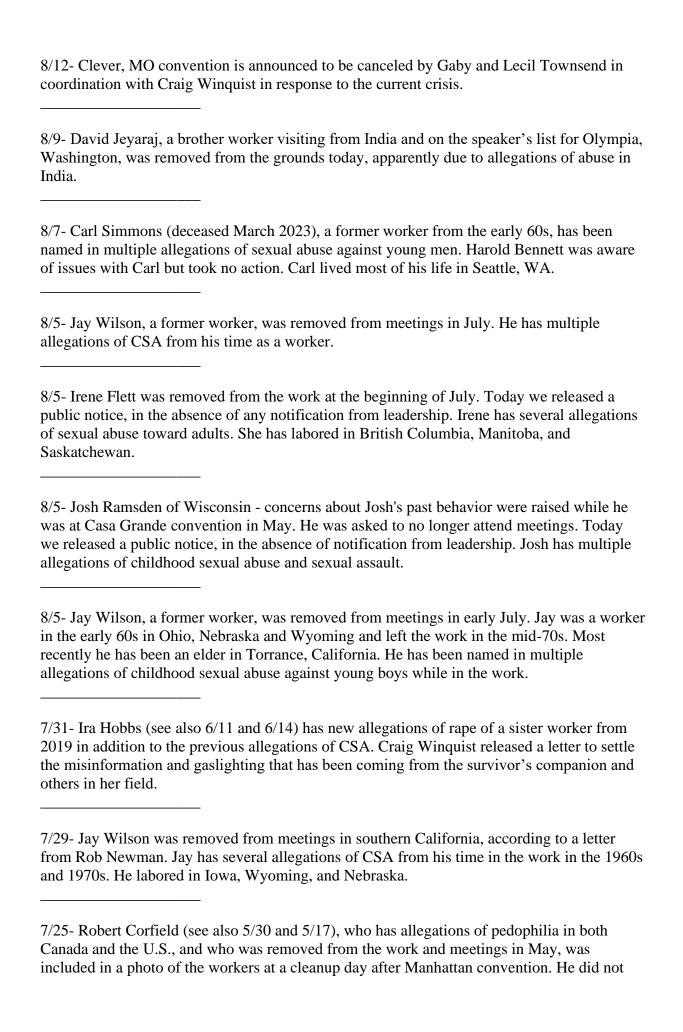
8/29- Robert Sutton, a church member in Arkansas, has been removed from meeting for at least one CSA allegation, per email from Craig Winquist.

8/25- Phil Robinson is a current member of the church and is the current elder of a Wednesday night meeting. He was convicted of sex crimes against a 15 year old in the early 90s. Workers at the time described his crime as "a breach of trust". His Union Sunday meeting was removed several years ago due to an alleged affair, but he now has Wednesday meeting. Overseer Jim Atcheson is aware but has taken no action.

8/20- Gilbert Smith (see 6/10 on timeline) has been allowed back into meetings after a vote by elders. Initially he was to be put back into regular meeting, but after concern voiced by members, a separate meeting was created for him to attend.

8/20- Alan Hand, a member of the church in Ontario, Canada has been removed from meetings. He has multiple CSA allegations. Allegations were brought to leadership 30 years ago with no action. It was again brought up in 2009 with no action taken. Last week survivor's pleas were finally heeded.

8/18- Owners of Clever, MO convention, Gaby and Lecil Townsend, release a letter acknowledging the current abuse crisis with a heartfelt apology.



attend the convention itself. There was a child on the grounds during cleanup, and his presence in the worker photo is a message that he is still included within leadership. 7/26- Horace Burgess, a worker who is no longer living, has allegations of historic CSA from multiple sources, including a letter that was shared publicly on this date by a survivor. Horace labored in many states including North Carolina, Texas, New York, Ohio, and Michigan. 7/19- A letter written by a collective group of church members is released - asking for a restructuring of church leadership. The letter specifically requests the resignation of Ray Hoffman, Barry Barkley, and Dale Shultz, due to their historical mishandling of CSA, and the placement of a multi-person leadership counsel in each region. Over 800 currently professing people signed the letter. 7/19- Glenn Linderman's allegations of CSA, spanning several decades, are public. Glenn has lived in California, and is now in Nevada. He was asked to stay away from meetings in May, but was recently allowed to attend again. 7/15- John Badertscher, a former worker, has been removed from all meetings due to allegations of childhood sexual abuse from his time in the work. He was assigned to fields in Louisiana, Texas, Indiana, and Illinois. He currently resides in Hideaway, Texas and was an elder until his removal last week. There is an open case pending in Indiana. 7/12- Ray Zwiefelhofer (see also: 4/20), a professing man in Arizona, was arrested last year on charges of child pornography. His trial was originally set for February, was rescheduled for May, and then again to July. As of 7/12, his trial has been rescheduled for a third time to September 18, 2023. 7/10- David Wesley Carter, a convicted sex offender, was removed from all meetings in North Carolina. In 2004, he was sentenced to 5 years in prison in Georgia for child molestation.

7/9- Loren Spellman, a brother worker in North Carolina, has been asked to step down from the work due to an allegation of child sexual abuse, and inappropriate behavior toward women, according to an email from Jim Holt. Loren has been in the work for over 40 years, laboring in the U.S. in KS, CO, IA, NE, TN, PA, GA, NJ, DE, VA, NC, WV, MD, and SC.

7/7- Brad Holman (see also 6/7), a brother worker who was laboring in Oklahoma until he was removed from Scottsbluff convention grounds in Nebraska a month ago due to allegations of sexual abuse and child sexual abuse, has been removed from meetings and from the work indefinitely, per an email from overseer Craig Winquist. In the email, Craig writes that the decision to remove him from the work, "will not be reconsidered unless there are some profound changes regarding the multiple allegations against him."

7/7- Matt Jensen, overseer of Indiana and Illinois, announced in an email that he is taking some time away from the work.

7/6- Bradley convention in Oklahoma will not host convention anymore, according to an email from worker Daniel Farris.

7/1 - Dellas Linaman was named in multiple allegations of childhood sexual abuse. Dellas became a worker in the 1940s. He labored in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska, but spent the vast majority of his time in Taiwan. Dellas died in 2012.

6/29 - Jim (Jaime) Stipp was removed from all meetings due to multiple allegations of childhood sexual abuse. Jim was a worker for about 30 years, starting in the 70s. He labored in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mexico, Argentina, and Puerto Rico. Allegations were reported to multiple overseers, beginning about 20 years ago. Those overseers were Clarence (Clarencio) Anderson and Alan Anderson.

6/24 - Leslie White - a letter is released, written by 12 alleged victims, detailing their abuse, as well as the failure of leadership to address the crimes and remove Leslie from the ministry for many years. Leslie was allowed to continue in meetings, even speaking in gospel meetings on occasion, until pressure from members and ex-members succeeded in having him removed in June of 2023.

6/22- Blackwater, Missouri convention is canceled for 2023 by the convention owner, according to an announcement she made in a public Facebook group. UPDATE: Blackwater convention owner, Elizabeth Widel, announced that Blackwater convention is canceled "as long as I am living here. Not just this year".

6/20 - Rodney/Rodrigo Loera is removed from meetings, pending evaluation, for several allegations from his time in the work in Mexico and Central America. He is undergoing a risk evaluation process to determine whether he is fit to attend meetings.

6/20- Jeremy and Leonie Tomlinson, elders in British Columbia, go public with the backlash they have received from Merlin Affleck, including losing their Sunday morning meeting of 15 years, due to vague issues brought forward by the workers including Leonie's short hair. In an email to Merlin, the Tomlinsons write, "We have communicated the following concerns to you... handling of CSA and suppression of transparency... the unacceptable treatment, silencing and bullying of sister workers... overseers and workers' abuse of power."

6/20- Harold Brown, a professing man in Illinois, has been removed from all meetings due to allegations of sexual abuse. Jim Holt, head worker in Illinois at the time, was approached 25

years ago about Harold Brown's allegations. Reportedly, nothing was done at that time. Harold is facing a legal case. Matt Jensen, current overseer of IN and IL, has as of yet not put anything in writing to inform others about the situation.

6/20- Edward Emberton, a brother worker in British Columbia, Canada, is on the care of health list. In an email he wrote, he talks about his experience in speaking out against child sexual abuse, which led to him being removed from the work in England. He writes, "I have been very distressed to discover a similar approach to the one I saw in England... I yearn for the day that survivors in BC get the recognition and help they deserve... my sacrifice in the work means nothing if it is facilitating abuse of whatever kind." Edward Emberton does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.

6/18- Don Reynolds, a brother worker in Pennsylvania, was removed from the work due to child sexual abuse, which he admits to in an email that he wrote himself. In his email, he writes that he made "an imprudent move... It was with a 15 year old minor, and was a CSA offense." Don is in his 70s or 80s now and would've been in his 30s or 40s at the time. Don has labored in the U.S. in PA, VA, OH, IN, NY, and in South America in Peru and Bolivia.

6/17- Lance Jesse, a professing man in Oklahoma, was removed from meetings where children are present due to allegations of CSA and has an open investigation, according to an email that workers in OK sent.

6/15- Joseph Schoen, an ex-brother worker, has multiple allegations of childhood sexual abuse. Ed Alexander was allegedly told about the abuse and did not report it, despite the victim being underage at the time. Larry Greenaway also knew of the abuse, although it is not clear when he was informed. Joe Schoen is no longer attending meeting due to health issues, although his meeting attendance was never restricted. Joe was in the work from 1976 to about 2007. Joe labored in CA, AZ, and WA.

6/14- Woodstock convention in New Brunswick (see also: 4/16, 5/7, and 5/20) has once again been canceled by the workers in response to some stipulations set forth by convention owners Bob and Stacy Bainbridge about the conditions in which convention would be hosted to keep people safe. In a letter, overseer Jonathan Freeburn wrote, "...we really think that it will be difficult to have the meetings there at your place without causing some kind of distress or conflict... I don't think it is right for you to have to leave during the time that we are there, and I would not want to have invited someone there causing you to feel like your principles have been violated."

6/14- Harold Bennett has been removed from the work, due to allegations of decades of grooming behavior toward young men. Harold has labored in Montana, Oregon, and Idaho. He was the overseer of Oregon and South Idaho for a number of years, but was removed as overseer in 2013 due to concerns about his behavior.

6/14- Ira Hobbs (see also, 6/11), former worker and overseer, has been removed from ALL meetings according to a new email from Craig Winquist. Previously, Ira was removed from the work in 2008 due to allegations of CSA, and was removed from meeting with children on June 10th.

6/11- Ira Hobbs, former worker and overseer of Texas who also labored in FL, GA, OH, CO, KY, and LA, was removed from the work in 2008 due to allegations of child sexual abuse. As of June 10th, he was removed from meeting with children, although despite elders pushing for his complete removal, he is still attending meetings in Missouri without children in a "zero-tolerance policy" according to an email from Craig Winquist. UPDATE: Ira Hobbs was removed from ALL meetings on 6/14.

6/10- Gilbert Smith, former worker and current elder, was temporarily removed from meetings, pending evaluation from a therapist, due to credible allegations of child sexual abuse. While in the work, Gilbert labored in CA, AZ, ID, AK, WA, 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) was approached with some of these allegations against Gilbert. His response was that the family was overreacting, and nothing further was done.

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6/8- Dan Hilton, a worker who died in 2002, had multiple allegations of child sexual abuse that overseer Sydney Holt (also now dead) apparently knew about. Dan Hilton labored in WA, CA, NV, AZ, and ID. UPDATE: Since this first post, more survivors with allegations against Dan Hilton have come forward.

6/8- Rick Simpson, a professing man in MO, was removed from all in-person meetings due to allegations of CSA, according to an email from overseer Craig Winquist.

6/7- Brad Holman, a worker laboring in Oklahoma, was removed from Scottsbluff convention grounds in Nebraska due to allegations of sexual abuse and child sexual abuse. Brad Holman has labored in MN, CO, OK, MO, and AR. UPDATE: According to an email sent from Craig Winquist 6/10, Brad Holman has NOT been removed from the work, only sidelined. UPDATE 7/7- Brad Holman has been removed from meetings.

6/6- John Mastin (see also: 5/1), an ex-worker who was removed from the work and from meetings due to allegations of CSA, wrote an email on 5/31 which we released today where he details a dinner he had on Memorial Day at a professing elder's home with Darryl Doland and a sister worker. It is unclear whether Darryl was aware John Mastin would be there.

6/6- Gary Hunt was banned from the Walla Walla, WA convention grounds after attending Wednesday evening 6/1, due to an allegation of historic sexual abuse. According to the senior worker in charge at Walla Walla, Gary has been permanently banned from all fellowship

meetings, conventions and special meetings. Gary was a worker in WA, OR, ID, MT, and NM but has been out of the work for awhile.

6/6- Howard Campbell and Ed Alexander- Howard was convicted of rape in 1969. After his release, he was allowed to attend meetings and had a meeting in his home. Workers including Ed Alexander were informed that he was again abusing children. This was never reported. In 2005, Ed Alexander wrote a letter that noted that he knew of the CSA and knew it was his legal obligation to report it, but that he had referred Howard to therapy instead (which Howard never attended).

6/3- Dean Bruer's public incident report from his death is shared by us.

6/3- Leanne McChesney update: on 5/12 we reported that Leanne McChesney, a former worker in BC, Canada, is under investigation. These investigations are for historical sex crimes against minors that occurred while Leanne was in the work.

6/1- Dale Schultz- we released a letter written by Dale Schultz about a mass excommunication event that took place in Alberta in 1999, in which 8 meetings were removed by workers under Willis Propp, and 16 more gave up their meetings rather than support the workers in their ex-communication. Dale wrote in his letter that people need to obey the workers, "Whether the decision is right or wrong."

5/30- Robert Eberhardt releases new email (see also 5/26) explaining his 2019 decision to allow convicted pedophiles to attend meetings. Due to that decision, many families left meetings. Robert Eberhardt also clarifies some statements from his 2019 email. Robert Eberhardt does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.

5/30- Robert Corfield (see also 5/17)- new details shared on how Robert Corfield was removed from the work- 2 professing men confronted Robert Corfield (to which he responded, "it's all true"), and informed him he was no longer welcome in the work or at meetings. Robert Corfield admitted to still struggling with "feelings of pedophilia". The 2 professing men then informed overseer Scott Rauscher that Robert Corfield was removed from the work and meetings, and helped him write the email addressing his removal that was released 5/17.

5/30- Lukis Nighswonger, a professing man who taught 4th-grade in Wasilla, Alaska, was sentenced today to 46 years in prison, 15 years probation, and registration as a sex-offender for life for 24 separate charges ranging from sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, and harassment. Lukis was married with 2 children at the time of his arrest. Some of the workers visited Lukis in prison, where he has been since his arrest in 2018. News about Lukis was widely known, however, we have been told that there were no official or widespread emails from workers to make sure everyone was informed his charges of child sexual abuse.

5/26- Robert Eberhardt- In a 2019 letter while Wisconsin overseer at the time, Robert explains his reasoning for allowing convicted sex offenders in gospel meetings. Robert volunteers that he is a sexual offender, which gives him sympathy for other offenders. From what we understand, his "sexual offenses" involved consensual relationships in his early years, not abuse. Consensual relationships should never be treated as equivalent to pedophilia or sexual abuse/assault, especially when used to justify allowing dangerous criminals (or those with allegations of crimes) to attend meetings. Robert Eberhardt is the current overseer of AL/MS/LA. Robert does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.

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5/25- Ken Pinney, a brother worker laboring in North Carolina, has been asked to leave the work due to allegations of child sexual abuse (CSA). Ken also spent time in the work in Nebraska, North Dakota, Colorado, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia. Ken's overseer is James "Jim" Holt. No word on if Ken will be allowed to continue attending meetings.

5/23- Randy Schill (convicted of CSA 1996), John Hahn (convicted of kidnapping, battery, sexual assault 2000), Troy Thompson (convicted of child pornography 2016), Howard Ferguson (convicted of CSA 2004), Price Turner III (convicted of CSA 2012), and Enos Bontrager (CSA plea deal, 2016) were all or still are attending meetings in Wisconsin. UPDATE: Wisconsin workers clarified that these men have not attended special meetings or conventions since their releases and those with CSA convictions are not meeting with children. Howard Ferguson and Price Turner III are not currently attending any in-person meetings as of 5/16.

5/22 - Eric Nelson, an elder in South Dakota, has been removed from meetings - at least through the end of 2023 - due to allegations of child sexual assault, as well as texting and requesting lewd material from an adult female.

5/20- Dorothy MacDonald, a sister worker who labored in Atlantic Canada and Ontario, has been removed from the work due to allegations. UPDATE 7/12: Dorothy MacDonald is back on the workers' list in Ontario.

5/20- The Woodstock, New Brunswick convention, according to the workers in that area, will resume, but not as a full convention: it will be 3 days with 2 mtgs per day, no food, and no sleeping arrangements.

5/20- Eldon Tenniswood, overseer of California, Nevada, Arizona and Pacific Islands from 1974-2003, and who died in 2003, has had multiple allegations of CSA brought to light in the past week.

5/18- A newsletter from the Washington/North Idaho/Alaska staff states, "A new overseer for WA, N ID & AK hasn't been chosen yet."

5/17- Ronda Stidolph, a sister worker who has labored in South America and the U.S., has stepped aside from the work. Ronda does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.
5/17- Ron Hanson, an ex-worker in Saskatchewan, and more recently an elder in Calgary, Alberta, has been removed from meetings due to allegations.
5/17- Robert Corfield, a worker in Montana, has been removed from the work and meetings due to allegations of pedophilia. Allegations were brought forward while he was in the work in the 1990s.
5/15- Douglas Ogden (Minnesota/Iowa staff) is removed from the work and from meetings due to allegations of child sexual abuse. An investigation into the allegations is open and ongoing. He is currently in Colorado with his mother.
5/14-5/15- LeRoy Sandford, overseer of North Dakota and South Dakota, and Dorothy Kleeb, a sister worker in Minnesota, write letters admitting to a relationship they had with each other 20 years ago and stating that they will both step down from the work. LeRoy and Dorothy do NOT have any allegations as far as we know.
5/13- Aaron Farough, convicted of viewing and distributing child pornography, was released from prison early, and, according to Merlin (overseer of BC): "Aaron is now back home after complying with the court's decision in southern AB with his wife Elise and will be fitting into the suggestions of the workers and elders there".
5/12- Leanne McChesney, a former worker in BC, Canada who left the work in 2012 for health reasons, has 2 open investigations into allegations made against her.
5/10- Russ Hall, a former worker who now lives in Nebraska, was turned in to authorities and removed from attending all meetings over allegations of CSA.
5/10- Jeff Thayer, overseer of Minnesota and Iowa, steps aside over allegations of a relationship. Jeff does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.

5/9- Robert Flippo, a brother worker in Maryland and previous overseer of GA for 10 years the 1990s, as well as overseer of North Carolina in the early 2000s, was removed from the work due to allegations of abuse and relationships.

5/8- Kenion Bryant, a brother worker in Texas, was asked to step down from the work. Kenion does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.
5/8- Jennifer Brown, a worker on the Texas/New Mexico staff, was asked to step down from the work. Jennifer does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.
5/7- Woodstock, New Brunswick convention owners Bob and Stacy Bainbridge have their convention removed (for at least this year) by the workers after speaking out about the abuse of their daughter while she was in the work. UPDATE 5/20- the workers have decided that convention will resume, but not as a full convention: it will be 3 days with 2 mtgs per day, no food, and no sleeping arrangements.
5/7- Hodgie Holgerson, a professing man in Virginia, was arrested and charged for allegations of CSA, according to an email from the workers. His trial is December 2023. He is not currently allowed to attend meetings by court order.
5/3- Andy Scholl, a brother worker on the Washington state staff who has been laboring in China, sends an email that he is taking a break from the work to "rest" and "get help for things that are not criminal, but certainly not appropriate or wise". Andy does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.
5/1- John Mastin, a worker on the WA staff who has labored in the Philippines. He will be removed from the work and from attending meetings due to allegations, according to an email sent by the workers.
4/28- Walter Burkinshaw, a Canadian ex-worker, is confirmed to be still attending meetings in-person, despite open legal cases.
4/27- Kingsley Stone, a brother worker, is escorted off Mt. Ranch convention grounds prior to his scheduled speaking time that evening. Kingsley does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.
4/27- Mark Huddle's status is clarified in a letter released by WA workers after news that he was not fully removed from the work. The letter stated that he is now removed from the work AND from in-person meetings.
4/27- Brayden Dutton, a brother worker in MT, was asked to leave the work due to allegations of sending "very disrespectful" and "inappropriate" text messages to women, sister workers, and possibly at least one underage girl. No word on if he is still attending meetings.

4/27- Aaron Farough article was shared by us publicly. While in the work in BC, Aaron was convicted of viewing child porn using the internet in multiple professing homes. UPDATE 5/13- Aaron Farough was released from prison early, and, according to Merlin (overseer of BC): "Aaron is now back home after complying with the court's decision in southern AB with his wife Elise and will be fitting into the suggestions of the workers and elders there". 4/25- John VanDenBerg, a worker who has most recently been laboring in Arizona, has been removed from the work for allegations, including CSA, per a letter released by Rob Newman. No details on if he is still attending meetings are included. 4/24- Around this time/week, a new policy of having 3 overseers for Washington/North Idaho/Alaska (Darryl Doland, Brian Getz, and Wayne Bechtol) is established. UPDATE: 5/18- a newsletter from the Washington/North Idaho/Alaska staff states, "A new overseer for WA, N ID & AK hasn't been chosen yet." 4/24- Richard Schober, an ex-worker and professing man in Alaska, has been removed from attending meetings and convention. He was convicted and served time in WA state in the 1980s for CSA. At the time, WA state estimated he was the most prolific pedophile in the state. 4/23- We received news of a worker's meeting in NY, which among other things discussed whether the U.S. east should adopt the west coast policy of banning divorce and remarriage. As far as we are aware, this has not been implemented. 4/22- Jerome Frandle, current overseer of KY/TN, releases an email regarding recent accusations of CSA in his field, which he reported to police. Jerome Frandle was in jail in 2013 for 4 days for failure to report CSA when he was overseer of Michigan. 4/21- Alanna, a current sister worker in eastern Canada, releases a letter detailing her abuse by companions. 4/20- Ray Zwiefelhofer, a professing man in Arizona, was arrested last year on charges of child pornography. His trial was originally set for February but was rescheduled for May.

4/20- Ray Zwiefelhofer, a professing man in Arizona, was arrested last year on charges of child pornography. His trial was originally set for February but was rescheduled for May. UPDATE: Ray's trial has been moved (for the second time) to July 19th, 2023. UPDATE 7/12: Ray's trial has been moved (for the third time) to September 18th, 2023.

4/20- Walter Burkinshaw, an ex-worker in Canada, is discovered (despite recent statements from workers to the contrary) to have two active legal cases open and ongoing. Case numbers are public.

4/17- Walter Burkinshaw, an ex-worker in Canada, is referenced to have allegations of abuse against him in some Kelowna BC notes that were released. The notes state that the case against Walter was closed. UPDATE: Walter actually has two open, ongoing cases that have not been closed.
4/16- Woodstock, New Brunswick convention owners Bob and Stacy Bainbridge release a letter regarding their daughter Morgan and the abuse she suffered while in the work
4/16- Scott Hamilton, a brother worker laboring in Maine, stepped down from the work sometimes in the past week. A letter from workers Eric and Glenn said it was "not for any immoral reason". Scott does NOT have any allegations as far as we know.
4/14- Darryl Doland releases letter that there will be a website soon with resources for CSA and guidelines for workers, elders, parents, and children. UPDATED: Darryl noted in late April that he will be using email rather than a website.
4/10- Jason Lennox article was shared by us publicly. Jason, a professing man in Arizona, was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2018 due to sexual abuse of a child. Kari and Kyle Hanks personally met in meetings with Lennox (with their children) and were never told or informed about his arrest or charges by any workers. Lenox moved out of the area and was arrested shortly after. We found out he was in prison 5 years after his arrest (April 2023).
4/7- Mark Huddle, overseer of Washington, North Idaho, and Alaska is being removed from the work due to allegations, per a letter released by Washington workers.
4/7- Dave Pointer's meeting is removed due to public allegations (see also 4/5).
4/6- A meeting is held, led by the overseer Merlin regarding CSA and SA is held in Kelowna, BC. The notes mention allegations of CSA against Walter Burkinshaw, former overseer of BC. These notes were released publicly 4/17
4/5- Dave Pointer, an elder in Washington state, has allegations against him made public.
4/2- Mark Huddle, is stepping down as overseer due to multiple allegations, per a letter released.
3/29- Mark Huddle, overseer of Washington, North Idaho, and Alaska, has an allegation of CSA, according to a letter from Brian Getz and Wayne Bechtol.

3/23- We released Doyle's letter, "The Dean Letter", publicly

Note: allegations/accusations do not mean someone has been convicted or charged with a crime.

^{*}This information has been collected and compiled by Abbi Prussack.* #me2x2