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**Subject:** Re: Our Thoughts From Last Night  
**Date:** December 13, 2016 at 2:56 PM  
**To:** Brent Kinnie [brentrk@gmail.com](mailto:brentrk@gmail.com)  
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Brent

We appreciate meeting with you last night and taking time to hear part of our testimony. We also appreciate your kind words about our obvious passion for helping marriages and families within and outside First Alliance Church. Sadly a passion that has been quashed by the leadership at FAC. With the current challenges families are facing at FAC and in the community it makes us sad that nearly 40 couples and even more parents were not reached with Alpha family programs. Programs that nicely mesh with the Alpha evangelism Course as shown in Nicky Gumble's 'Whirlpool Effect' video.

As we asked Dave Orr we are looking for wisdom on a path to follow that is honouring to God. We believe that can only happen where an examination of the facts and a reconciliation process led by someone with the wisdom and experience and who has no bias. Its the reason in early September we asked to have somebody recommended by the national CMA Office. A request that was turned down.

We do take exception to Pastor Les's assertion several times to 'Its only our perception' as to what happened. As if we are not able to make a credible account of what happened to us. This has been a pattern of dismissing our claims that has added to our pain. This cannot be part of a well conceived process of listening carefully to and investigating serious allegations. We repeat again the allegations includes misuse of scripture : Pastor Les agreed Matthew 18:15 was involved May 27th but we 'had the wrong interpretation' of what transpired. Again we were deceived about the purpose of the meeting and we repeat there was no evidence, no indication whether we were both involved, no witnesses, no initial one on one meeting, Simply one big push to get rid of us.

Secondly the telephoning our National Director to tell her well ahead of the May 27th meeting that we were no longer part of the Marriage Matters Ministry because of conflict with Ron and team members. Again trying to hurt us in a ministry we have served for 18 years - an act we regard as bearing false witness. We cannot believe that Ron did this without consulting Pastor Les. Who else did Ron tell ahead of the May 27th? What were team members told? Again we say this fits the definition of spiritual abuse in that Ron used the power of his position to set out to deliberately hurt us.

Ron Buschman's action to take us out of service the first time because of "his suspicions" was covered and confirmed by him in an email late on the 27th January 2015. He made it difficult for us to share our concerns on a breach of confidentiality. He replaced us with not a single piece of evidence - part read **"Therefore, until there is a time when I can get a better understanding of what your mindset is, and how you can work to get closure on this matter, I can not have either of you participate, nor facilitate, co- facilitate or attend, either The Marriage Course or the Marriage Preparation course this Thursday and onward"** . It was the start of a pattern of behaviour to hurt and discredit us. He acted again on his own authority and no consultation with others more senior. Very poor problem solving skills.

Although the decision to remove us was subsequently rescinded and although we were badly shaken by this experience we decided the eight couples deserved the very best we could offer by serving them. Its turned out to be one of best courses we had the joy to run and sadly the last at FAC

We stand by our meeting notes of the meeting of the 29th January 2015 and 27th May 2016. In our professional lives our ability to record accurate notes was a legal requirement and a need to make progress in any projects we undertook. It is of equally important in any work to do at FAC and in the general community to bring honour to God.

If we need character witnesses to attest to our honesty we will provide them

The question of when did Pastor Les become aware of the serious conflict between the Buschmans and our ourselves is for us a critical factor. Last night Pastor Les stated that the first that he knew of a problem occurring was from the call from Tim Beadle at the area office. He later confirmed at the meeting with Tim Beadle on the 7th July that he knew of no conflicts between Ron Buschman and ourselves. Yet last night Pastor Les also confirmed that he was aware of difficulties between ourselves and Ron Buschman yet he took no action to intervene. We hope you can understand that we question whether honesty, transparency and openness exists. Frankly without having Pat Nixon involved we would have left FAC a long time back. An important part of any process like this must be allowing participants to bring third party witnesses and advisors to the kind of meetings we have been involved in.

As we said we find it impossible to believe that the Buschmans did not consult Pastor Les before taking such action as expelling us on two occasions. Surely it cannot be First Alliance policy to allow this to happen? In any case we would like to see any policy statements issued by the church that refer to dealing with serious allegations of this kind and the need that they are handled in an unbiased, open and transparent manner. If they don't exist then we would happily help assist in their preparation.

As to the job outlines ([www.jspeer.com/barrypendergast/Family\\_Life\\_Pastor.pdf](http://www.jspeer.com/barrypendergast/Family_Life_Pastor.pdf)) we have no evidence that shows any part of the requirements were met by Pastor Les or the Buschmans or that any oversight or review took place . In a period of two and half years we as team members had only one very short rushed conversation with the Pastor Les who was in charge of the Marriage Ministry . Apart from that no communication of any kind was received from Pastor Les - spoken or written word, email or text. Never a word of encouragement or critique. Does that fit the job description? Does it show FAC strongly supports good marriage and family values in the

church and community? Or again can our perception be questioned?

Fortunately we were blessed a number of times by the quiet way Pastor Ray Matheson has of making volunteers feel appreciated.

There was only one Marriage Matters Team meeting held January 19th 2015 where all the parts of the ministry were represented and the issues of confidentiality arose. There was no agenda provided ahead of time nor were there any follow up minutes. After that there was never a formal team meeting held again. Or if there was no minutes were issued to team members who could not attend. The whole question of having a responsible team to be part of the decision making never occurred. All decisions were made by the Buschmans

Lastly the question of confidentiality still remains. As we stated we did not see the need for any level of punishment but rather a well documented and understood policy and regular training on the matter.

Respectfully  
Barry & Jennifer