

# 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...

...When I was seventeen, and somewhat innocent at the time, (PERSON A) came to Montreal for Special Meetings in 1949. He was a visiting worker from Scotland who had come with two other workers, Jim and Nan Ross, who were brother and sister. They were lovely people, but (PERSON A) was a creep.

One evening, Margaret Delamere, an ex-worker, who was doing housework in Montreal, had invited all the workers to dinner at The Chicken Coop, a local restaurant downtown, and she had invited me to go along as well. (PERSON A) ended up sitting beside me. Probably not by accident. During most of the meal, he tried to hold my hand, play with my fingers and put his hand on my leg. When I moved his hand away, it always came back – always a little further up. I was glad when the meal ended and I could go home.

Two nights later Percy Herron, our Sunday morning elder, invited me for dinner. All the visiting workers were there including (PERSON A). Once again he ended up sitting at the table beside me, and after the meal he was again sitting beside me in the living room. The whole night was a repetition of The Chicken Coop. The following night, the night before the special meeting, he stayed at our home and slept in my room. I will not go into details. Suffice to say that during the night I awoke with his arm around me. I moved away and went back to sleep. Sometime later I felt his hand on my genitals and told him to stop. He said it would be good for my personal development and I should hug and kiss him. I was totally shocked and told him that if he did not stop I would tell my parents. He did stop, but I did not go back to sleep.

At ten o'clock the next morning he was in charge of the Special Meeting and gave out the first hymn. Later, he spoke very well from the 119th Psalm, just as though nothing had ever happened. I could not believe it.

When I left the Two-by-Two's in 1997 I revealed this episode in an open letter to the Sunday morning meeting where I went, with copies to several Workers and friends. The reaction was almost unanimous. *"You should not have revealed this because it will hurt the church."* The desire was so strong to keep everything under cover that even Adele, my sister, went as far as to say that she did not believe it, and said I had never slept in that bedroom. She had forgotten that her future husband, Allen, and I had shared that bedroom for several months when he was boarding with us.

A few months later, an ex-worker who had seen my letter, phoned me and said it was well known in Europe that (PERSON A) was a homosexual and that such episodes were common. The senior worker had decided to send him on a trip to Canada as a "therapeutic visit" to see if he might improve! Shortly thereafter he left the work and left the Two-by-Two's as well. He is now deceased.

This is an excerpt from my yet unpublished biography in which a chapter is devoted to corruption in the two-by-two religion, commonly and erroneously called "The Truth".

Leigh Townsend  
Montreal, Canada  
March, 1998

KEY: (PERSON A) = alleged abuser of Leigh. WINGS will not divulge names of any alleged abuser without strict guidelines being adhered to.

## LEIGH'S PROGRESS REPORT:

**RE: Molestation by Male Worker**

**COUNSELING:** None asked and non received.

**APOLOGIES:** None asked and non received.

**CHARGES:** None filed.

**REACTIONS:** The senior worker in the UK had decided to send the alleged abuser on a trip to Canada as a "therapeutic visit" to see if he might improve. "You should not have revealed this because it will hurt the church."

**OFFENDER:** Left work in 1960's; died sometime prior to this report (2008)

**VICTIM:** Left Meetings 1997, wrote letter to church commenting on the above event. Most, including his sister, didn't believe it took place.

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** *"He said it would be good for my personal development and I should hug and kiss him."*