

From: Scott Wendal [<mailto:swendal@vfbt.org>]

Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 5:55 PM

To: ALL VFBT <[REDACTED]>; Deacons <[REDACTED]>; PASTORS WIVES
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] Davis ([REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>;
[REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]
([REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; Canelo ([REDACTED])
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] Bilboe <[REDACTED]>

Subject: thank you for praying

Dear Staff, Deacons, & VFBT Leaders,

Some of you may know that 60 Minutes Australia has been airing a commercial for a story about Larry and Joy Harris to be aired tomorrow night. While Jodie and I were away a few weeks ago, I exchanged numerous emails with the 60 Minutes Australia Producer (Steve Jackson), Harris family members, and Australian pastors. At first I declined to do the interview and offered to give a statement. I did not want to open up old wounds that would bring additional hurt, shame, and embarrassment to the Harris family. Both Rebecca and Liz gave permission for me to speak. It wasn't until after the urging of some Australian pastors encouraging me to defend them against false attacks AND the providing in advance of the questions that I agreed to be interviewed.

As is typical of "fake news" reporters, they lied and it was an ambush (Lawrence and Jeremy Pinero suspected this would happen). God gave the words for me to refute many false accusations asserted by Joy and Jason Harris. After two hours these four Australian men both heard the gospel and my testimony again and again.

This Sunday morning I will simply announce that after the evening service I will give an update about some missionaries that we sent out in 1994. We will dismiss our Majesty Music guests to the foyer to complete their set up and cut the live stream.

Based on past emails with Jason and the questions posed two weeks ago, it is clear that Joy & Jason are just eaten up with deep bitterness and lashing out at pastors, their own family, Independent Baptists, etc.

Jason is embittered at his dad for his anger at his mother and he is also bitter over Kevin Harris disciplining him out of his church many years ago. Over the last few years Jason's bitterness has been transferred to his mother Joy. Jason is apparently upset at me for confronting him over his bitterness towards his father. This happened a number of years ago

Larry Harris is serving a 5 year sentence being found guilty on two counts of marital rape. Apparently that is not enough justice as a major theme of the story is to attack Kevin Harris as well.

Sunday night I will seek to be as discreet as possible, but will address the facts and false accusations as they come out in tomorrow's report.

Just a sample of what I was asked...

"Why did you cover up Larry's violence?" We didn't. Violence was never reported to us. Pastor Eifert has 150 pages of counseling notes when we pulled them from the field for anger issues in 2003. No mention of past or present violence during those 5 years of counseling.

“Why did you send them back to Australia?” We didn’t! We recommended they not return. But Joy insisted that their marriage was never better. We still counseled them to wait. They did not return as missionaries and transferred their membership from us in 2009 to an Australian church.

“Why did you excommunicate Kevin Harris?” We didn’t. We exchanged notes last fall. And emails this week.

“Why did you cut off Kevin’s financial support?” We didn’t – he asked to become independent and asked us to stop his support.

“Why did you keep Joy Harris overnight at your house when she was fleeing physical abuse and not report it to the police?” We absolutely did NOT keep Joy in our house overnight. My wife’s memory is better than mine and she confirmed that Joy did NOT come to our house.

I was told that my part was to be to help victims of domestic abuse. Five times I stated that anyone abused or threatened with abuse should get to a safe place and call 911. I’m sure they did not like the majority of my answers.

Below is a link that an Australian pastor sent me from an agnostic Australian reporter defending evangelicals from the attacks by ABC Australia. Clearly this is a larger attack by Satan that our Lord warned us about. To be attacked by Satan in such a public way shows that God is working through us.

“A great and effectual door is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.” I Cor. 16:9.

I will see if I can post it or share it. If you have the wherewithal to do so, it would be good for you to share this link as well.

If you are contacted by church members, you are welcome to share this email with them.

Thanks for caring and praying.

Delighted to Serve,
Pastor & Jodie Wendal