



Andy Buchan <mail.com>

Diocese office Edinburgh

Kurtis Peters <kn@gmail.com>
To: gmail.com

2 February 2013 15:21

Dear Andrew,

I appreciate your forthrightness regarding your video. I have watched it and I think I would respond with the following comments (I am only responding as myself and have no authority to speak for the church):

1. You mention that you were abused by members of the church in Aberdeen (if I remember correctly). As shallow as it may seem from someone you've never met, I am deeply sorry that any such thing has happened to you or to anyone. No one should ever have to deal with such things. I myself come from the west coast of Canada, where there have been countless cases of physical and sexual abuse against indigenous children in people of various church-run schools. It is an atrocious history and one that has not been dealt with well. My own brother-in-law is a lawyer and defends the survivors of these schools (many children died). His father and many of his family members are survivors themselves.

2. You came to the Church, it seems, on thursday evening of this week. That was a night when people are practicing for a band concert that is held occasionally at the church. The people with whom you spoke are not, as far as I know (though I haven't been at the church for very long), members of the church, but are regular members of the band that practices there. I could be wrong about that. If I am right, however, then they may not be able to answer your questions as adequately as you would like. I'm not sure who to point you to, other than somebody at the diocese office, though it sounds like you've been there already.

3. You entered the church and, I think, caught people by surprise. It also looked as though your camera was covert or hidden (unless I am mistaken). I recommend a more open and transparent approach, as I think you would find people willing to chat. However, if you prefer the current method, then I will not attempt to dissuade you.

4. You are very welcome to attend a service. We gather at 10.45am on sundays. We're a small group, and right now we do not have a regular priest, but should have one soon. We also often have tea/coffee after the service together, at which you are also very welcome.

5. My major concern with the film was actually with the caption attached to it below. I was confused as to whether you were claiming to have been abused by people at St. Martha's Church in Aberdeen, which is what it sounded like in the video, or by people from St. Margaret's here on Easter Road. I would only ask for clarification in the claim, especially as this is a very serious claim indeed.

6. Lastly, I for myself agree with you about free media and how it should not be controlled by the elites. I would much prefer open-access and people-powered media. That being said, I also would hope that all such media would aim at mutual respect and harmony. Sometimes that means stating inconvenient truths, but I think always needs to be aimed at promoting goodness in our communities and around the globe. That's 'fluffy' but I assume you know what I mean.

I hope that you find this response to be at least written with care and good intentions. The last thing we would be a flippant response or none at all.

I've responded from a personal e-mail address simply because I have responded on my own initiative and my own opinions. As I said before, I have no authority to speak for the church (I'm just the interim e-mail person). But I thought that you at least deserved a response.

All the best,

Kurtis

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