

'I would see Mark several times a week. I would see him about three times a week at the Kingdom Hall and several times either through work or socially.

Our association with Mark Sewell was so frequently because of the edict of faith that we were bound by. As Jehovah's Witnesses were only encouraged to associate with folks who were "good association", spending time with an approved ministerial servant or elder and their family was looked upon as a good decision. In fact, if a Jehovah's Witness were found to be in "bad association", they could be chastised and disciplined, or even removed from the congregation. I was glad my daughters were seen around men who had a good reputation in the faith, both socially and especially at faith-related activities. In fact, [CXC's] association with the Sewell family was primarily for Jehovah's Witness events. We would also see each other once a week and do some work together because both Mark and I ran cleaning companies.'

- 69 FXC describes Mark as always being 'tactile' with women. He would greet them by kissing them on the lips. He was 'hands on' with CXC. FXC says:

'I now feel his excessive tactile behaviour was a means to see how far he could go with inappropriate touching.'

CXC regularly stayed at the Sewells' home, from where she would participate in Jehovah's Witness activities including preaching, attending meetings at the Kingdom Hall and Bible study. The latter would take place at the homes of approved members. FXC says:

'The Sewell house was an "approved" venue by the Barry Elders.'

- 70 CXC disclosed to FXC that Mark had been sexually abusing her. It was difficult to get her to say what had happened, so FXC encouraged her to write it down. FXC and his wife, together with CXC, went to confront Mark and Mary with the allegations. FXC says:

'This was simply fulfilling the obligation to go see the individual first, which Jehovah's Witnesses say must happen.'

Mark and Mary denied the allegation. FXC then notified the body of elders. The elders wrote a letter detailing the allegations to 'Bethel', the Head Office of the Jehovah's Witnesses' Britain branch in London. Bethel wrote back saying that the victim should consider going to the police or, if the victim did not want to, their parents should go to the police or the elders should search their consciences and consider whether they needed to go to the police.

- 71 Within a month of reporting CXC's allegation, Mrs B approached FXC and asked to speak to him. FXC went to Mr and Mrs B's house. Shortly after he arrived, Tony Sewell also arrived. Mrs B told the two of them that she had been raped by Mark. Tony told her that, now she had told him and FXC about it she could forget about it. It would be dealt with. Tony then spoke to FXC on his own and tried to convince him that it was not necessary to take the matter further. FXC did not agree and went to the Presiding