## Tracy Caekaert

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

BILLINGS DIVISION
TRACY CAEKAERT and
CAMILLIA MAPLEY,
Plaintiffs, Case No. CV-20-00052-SPW-TJC vs.

WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT
SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.,
WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND
TRACT SOCIETY OF
PENNSYLVANIA, and BRUCE
MAPLEY SR.,
Defendants.

WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT
SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.,
and WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND
TRACT SOCIETY OF
PENNSYLVANIA,
Cross-Claimants,
vs.
BRUCE MAPLEY SR.,
Cross-Defendant.

Tracy Caekaert

VIDEOCONFERENCE/VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION
UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF
TRACY CAEKAERT

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the
videoconference/videotaped deposition upon oral examination of Tracy Caekaert, appearing at the instance of the Defendant Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, was taken at 211 North Higgins, Suite 303, Missoula, Montana, on Friday, February 9, 2023, beginning at the hour of 9:11 a.m., pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, before Mary R. Sullivan, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public.

## Tracy Caekaert

A. I'm disfellowshipped.
Q. Anything else?
A. No.
Q. Did you ever talk to Shirley about the sexual abuse that you're alleging against

Bruce, Sr.?
A. Yes.
Q. When?
A. After it happened --
Q. Can you --
A. -- with Gunner.
Q. After it happened with Gunner. Is that what you said?
A. Mm-hmm. That's the first that I was made to tell her what had happened.
Q. Okay. How old were you?
A. Ten. Nine. Somewhere between nine and ten.
Q. And who made you tell her?
A. Bruce Mapley, Sr.
Q. We'll talk about that more here in a minute, but other than that instance when you were ten or so, have you talked to Shirley about these allegations at any other time?
A. No.

Tracy Caekaert
Q. And when you were ten and you told her, did you tell her about both Bruce, Sr. and Gunner?
A. No, I was only made to tell her about Gunner.
Q. And at that same time did Cami also tell her?
A. No.
Q. Why did Bruce, Sr. make you tell Shirley about the -- Gunner?

MR. SHAFFER: Object to form.
A. The night that Gunner sexually molested me, not long after that, he called Bruce, Sr. to tell him what he had just done to me. My father came and picked me up from the home, Gunner Hain's home, and in the car my father asked me if Gunner had done something to me, and he made me tell him what Gunner had done to me.

BY MR. SWEENEY:
Q. And that was immediately after it was done?
A. Within a few hours.
Q. And then in relation to that, when did you tell Shirley?
A. My father made me repeat the story all the way from Hardin to Fort Smith, took me up in

## Tracy Caekaert

Q. Approximately seven years old?
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. And so when did the sexual abuse by Bruce start? How old were you?
A. I was very young. I was probably somewhere around the age of five.
Q. And where were you living at that time?
A. I recall -- My memory is I recall it happening in Michigan.
Q. So it occurred before you were back to Montana.
A. Yes.
Q. And continued to occur after you moved back to Montana.
A. Yes.
Q. Is that true for Cami as well, do you know?
A. Yes.
Q. Have you spoken to Cami about that?
A. Well, it happened with us together, so we already know about that. As far as talking about it, I -- I'm sure that we have, yes.
Q. Okay. Before you moved back to Montana, where did the abuse occur? Was it in a home, someplace else?

## Tracy Caekaert

A. With me it was in my home. It was also -- He would take me to other people's homes when they were not home and sexually molest me in other people's homes.
Q. He would take you to just vacant houses and molest you there?
A. I'm assuming that they were people he was friends with and had access to their home.
Q. Okay.
A. I can't say. I don't know.
Q. At that point before you moved back to Montana, what did the sexual abuse consist of?
A. Gratifying him through oral sex, him lubing up my legs with Vaseline and making me cross my legs really tight and placing his penis close to my vagina and motioning in a sexual manner to gratify himself. Fondling or groping my genitals, making me kiss him as I was a -- like a lover. Just touching, fondling, groping, and just gratifying him in any way that gave him sexual pleasure.
Q. Before -- At that time before you moved back to Montana, did -- how often would this happen?
A. Every time my mom would leave the house.

## Tracy Caekaert

Q. Was that weekly, daily? Can you give me an idea of how often?
A. I understand she was on a bowling league, so it could be several times a week.
Q. Did anybody ever witness this? And I'm talking about the period before you moved to Montana.
A. No.
Q. The complaint says that you or your family joined the Hardin congregation in 1973. Is 1973 also the year your family moved back to Montana?
A. I remember that $I$ was halfway through my third grade year when we moved to -- to Fort Smith.
Q. Okay. How long had your family lived in Montana before they joined the Hardin congregation?
A. I was pretty young. I wouldn't be able to really give you an accurate answer on that.
Q. This abuse from Bruce, did it continue after you moved back to Montana?
A. Yes.
Q. And was the -- was it the same type of abuse or anything --
A. Yes.
Q. -- different?

## Tracy Caekaert

When did the abuse from Bruce, Sr. stop?
A. I was 17 years old -- and about four or five months old when $I$ finally stood up to him when he tried to grope me, and I stood up and I said, "You will never touch me again."
Q. Just so I'm clear, you're saying you were 17 and four or five months old?
A. $\quad \mathrm{Mm}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q. During that time between when you were five and when you were 17 -- I'll just say 17 and a half, I know it was less than that, but 17 and a half, did -- was the abuse always the same or did it change throughout the years?
A. I would say that there was times it was different for -- Are you asking for an instance? What are you asking for?
Q. I'm just asking, you -- you described in detail what the abuse consisted of before you moved back to Montana. I'm curious if that changed at all after you moved back to Montana or if it was the same.
A. It was basically the same, and there was a lot of groping, touching, using me to gratify himself.
Q. Talking about when you're now in Montana

Tracy Caekaert
Q. Okay. So let's walk through this so I understand how this works timeline. Did all of this happen in the same afternoon, that you told Shirley about Gunner and that Bruce confessed about what he did to you?
A. My best recollection is yes.
Q. Okay. And it started out -- correct me if I'm wrong -- but it started out with you and Shirley and Bruce, Sr. in a room, and you telling Shirley about what Gunner had done to you.
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And then what happened after that that led to Bruce, Sr. confessing what he had done?
A. I don't know what initiated him to then confess that to my mother. I have no idea what -- I don't really know what spurred that on.
Q. You were in the room when he confessed that to your mother?
A. Yes.
Q. And how did Cami and Bruce, Jr. end up in the room?
A. I don't know. He brought us all into the room.
Q. Okay. What did Bruce, Sr. say to your mother?

## Tracy Caekaert

A. He -- He was crying. He put his hands -- his head into his hands, and he had huge tears dropping, and he just said, "I've been molesting Tracy for years."
Q. Okay. Did he say the same thing about your sister Cami?
A. Not that $I$ recall of.
Q. Okay. And what was your mother's reaction?
A. My mother had a very stern look on her face. You know, it's kind of hard as a kid to be able to tell you exactly how I remember my mother, but I remember when I told her about what Gunner had done. I don't think I remember looking at my mom when Bruce was confessing because I was so focused on these huge tears that were coming out of my father, I'd never seen my father cry, but when I had to tell Shirley about Gunner, her face looked -- I don't have a better term than to say maybe grief stricken or shocked. She never said anything, but her face was -- you could tell she was not -- she was unhappy.
Q. Did -- Did Shirley say anything?
A. No.
Q. How long did this meeting last, this
Q. Were you still living at the home at that point?
A. Yes.
Q. How long did his abuse of Cami continue, do you know?
A. No. That I don't know.
Q. Other than the one time Bruce broke down crying telling the family that he had molested you, did he ever -- were you ever present when he told the family that again?
A. No.
Q. Did Bruce ever confess that he molested you to anybody else?

MR. SHAFFER: Object to form.
A. That --

MR. SHAFFER: Foundation.
A. That I wouldn't know.

BY MR. SWEENEY:
Q. Nothing that you were a part of?
A. Nothing I was a part of. Well, you know, that's -- Well, the thing is I don't know. All I know is what happened afterwards. 'Cause he -- from what I understand, he openly confessed to -- to the elders.
Q. Were you present when that happened?

Tracy Caekaert
A. No, that's what $I$ think I'm trying to say is, no, I wasn't present at that.
Q. Where do you get that understanding?
A. Not long after it happened Martin Svenson got up on the podium at the end of the meeting and made an announcement to the congregation that Gunner was being removed -- he was being put on public reproof, and he was being removed as a ministerial servant.

After the meeting, $I$ was in the back of the Kingdom Hall, and Gunner's wife, Joyce Hain, cornered me, stuck her finger in my face, and told me "This is all your fault." She had her teeth gritting, and she said, "It's all your fault, and I want you to stay away from me and my family."

And then at that point, that $I$ knew that the elders knew because these men told them.
Q. Do you remember who the elders were at that time?
A. Yes.
Q. Who were they?
A. Harold Rimby and Martin Svenson.
Q. Is Joyce Hain deceased?
A. Yes.
Q. Was your -- your father ever

