

February 23, 2003

The Honorable Judge Hill

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you about Leslie. I am a friend of Richard's and I have observed Leslie mostly from a distance. What I have in common with Leslie is that I have worked with youth for several years. When I first heard of the accusations against him I had the normal reactions of outrage and finger pointing. But I didn't get to feel self righteous very long because God began to work on me.

As I have worked with young people I have had those situations when a girl had a crush on me. The girls come in to youth meetings wearing much less than is fair for us as boys and men. What I am saying is that only by the grace of God can I say that I didn't have wrong relationships. I have even thanked God that I am not a guy that the girls find irresistible.

Please, Judge Hill, be merciful in your sentencing.

Sincerely,

Barry Baker

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