

FROM THE DESK OF JOE WHITE

To victims and their families,

Only my wife, who has watched me go to bed in grief and sorrow over the past twelve and a half years, can attest to the truth of the words of this letter. I am sorry; so deeply, profoundly sorry for the pain you have endured as a victim of abuse during Pete Newman's association with Kanakuk Kamps. In hindsight, I wish I would have understood what I was truly dealing with, and I am devastated by your pain and suffering under my watch.

It also breaks my heart to realize that I have not been clear in my support for victims and their families. I have learned that some victims feel muted and afraid to share their stories. I am so sorry that we have added confusion and frustration when we have spoken on this topic. Our understanding was wrong, and we failed to recognize the restrictions – both real and perceived – that many victims are under. Victims of abuse should never carry an extra burden of fear for sharing their experiences. You may feel that you cannot share your story out of fear of legal consequences. If this is you, know that Kanakuk and I will not object to you sharing your story with those who can support your healing. The freedom to tell your story should not be a question – and to us, it's not. I am opposed to any legal maneuver or action meant to suppress the voice of victims. Since most agreements involve insurance companies who may choose to defend their interests, you should keep the terms of your settlement confidential.

By God's grace, I have had the opportunity to speak with several brave victims. Listening to the pain and anger is tearful, heart-wrenching, and humbling, but I am forever grateful for the privilege to share my sincere sorrow. In these conversations, it has become abundantly clear that I have often added to your pain through my words, and this fact is devastating to me.

Healing and mending relationships are my deepest prayer. After several years of working through major health issues, I believe I can attest that emotional pain is far worse than physical pain, and my suffering pales in comparison to the pain you have experienced in your own personal trauma.

I humbly plead for an opportunity for personal reconciliation and forgiveness. Please get in touch with me at jwhite@kanakuk.com if you would be willing to meet with me face-to-face with an end goal of reconciliation. I will continue to pray for healing, restoration, and a reconciled peace that only God can give.

Sincerely,
Joe White