

Statewide Investigation Service

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CLIENT:

PHILIP GREEN

CASE:

**HAMMER VS. U OF M
SIS FILE: # 06-5032**

INVESTIGATOR:

GERALD BORYCZ

FEBRUARY 23, 2006

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RE: HAMMER vs. U of M
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Taken by Gerald K. Borycz of Statewide Investigation
Interview with Ken White

B = Jerry Borycz

W = Ken White

Rhonda - Ken this is Jerry

- 1) B - I did bother your lunch, sorry pastor.
- 2) W - That's ok.
- 3) B - How are you doing? If you want to eat go ahead. Please, please.
- 4) W - (Inaudible) I'll stop eating, no, no. How's it going?
- 5) B - Ugh, tough, yeah it's tough. Well what we're doing, we're looking for a temporary housing, we're going to build, we want to build, cause we want to build as I mentioned to you for me mom and dad a special, I'm going to call it a mother-in-laws room, if you know what I'm talking about, something above the garage, but then I'm going to have to put in umm, elevators up the steps cause they can't, they can't walk, you know.
- 6) W - How old are they?
- 7) B - Eighty-six. Both of them. And they're both starting Alzheimer's and that's why, we need to keep them there, in Dearborn, at the assisted living there cause they do have a nursing home connected with it, but as I mentioned to you I just don't want to do that, I just can't do that do them, you know, I just can't do that so umm.
- 8) W - My new pastor just built his house last year.
- 9) B - Oh really. This area?
- 10) W - I guess, around, toward Canton.
- 11) B - Oh, ok.

- 12) W - It's a, it's a, if you go south of here, it's the first east, west road, major east, west road.
- 13) B - Oh, ok, We looked in Canton there's umm, I can't think of the name of the village now, ugh, oh, it's just, it's on Cherry Hill, near Beck, there's a complex out there and across the street is ugh, umm, former (inaudible), it's a beautiful area, it is.
- 14) W - Yes it is.
- 15) B - We wanted to stay in this area because of the hospital. Basically. You know umm, over there, where they're living now they have Oakwood Hospital.
- 16) W - We they be connected with St. Joe's or U of M?
- 17) B - U of M, U of M, or St. Joe's, but I checked into U of M, kind of like it a little better than St. Joe's.
- 18) W - Yeah. So you said you (inaudible) your wife?
- 19) B - Me and my wife. My wife yeah, she's ugh, (inaudible) we have to sell, I'm going to keep one out there as a summer home. You know, cause I don't want to leave the area, that's God's country. We've been living out there now, ugh, seven years. And ugh, (inaudible) got the retirement, what I did, ugh, I don't have a college education, ok, but I did well, and I bought into a dealership out there, in Pigeon, I don't know if you know the area at all?
- 20) W - I don't. That's the one area of Michigan that I'm not...
- 21) B - Oh really. You have to come out.
- 22) W - Yeah I've been up on the west side of the state, I've done a lot of things up in the Traverse City area and that whole area across the bridge.
- 23) B - Oh, ok.
- 24) W - You know all over the place, but (inaudible) and I have often said we to get..

- 25) B - This is right after Fell, right after Fell, (inaudible) actually, and then Pigeon's just ten miles south of that, you know, so I feel so bad, you know, the homes up there, we're going to sell those, and then see what we can find up here. And we're looking for a church, we have let me give you some back ground of myself here, umm, my son whose in the service in Iraq right now, ok we have three of his children, the wife is out of the picture, ugh, they got a divorce and she's just left the kids, she moved out to the west coast, she's got a partner, (inaudible) she's a lesbian, and just left the kids ok, and ugh, and it's our responsibility to house those kids, they were born and raised in Warren, Michigan and ugh, I also told I was a police officer?
- 26) W - Yes. I remember that.
- 27) B - And (inaudible) the streets like ok, and then we started checking on, my son is, first of all worried about what they are teaching in school, (inaudible) bring them up north, we'll put them in school up north, it should be no problem, so we put them in school up north, Huron Valley for the high school, and umm, which is kind of odd that's Huron Valley, and here I am at Huron Church.
- 28) W - Right.
- 29) B - And umm, anyway and we found out what they were teaching in their science classes and I said that's it, my wife is a formal teacher, so we pull them out and we're home schooling them now, that's what we're doing.
- 30) W - We have a lot of home schoolers in our church.
- 31) B - Oh do you really? Now, I was born and raised a Catholic I haven't been to church in many, many years, I have a problem cause, we can get into that, I don't know scripture as well as I should, neither does my wife, but we want the kids to be do something, you know, have to have some, we can do the education, you know, my wife does anyway, the education part about it, but we need some foundation, scripture and that's what I'm looking for, I'm tired of hearing, and maybe it's because of my old job too, I'm tired of hearing what's on the street, I'm tired of hearing what some of the teachers are teaching in some of the churches and I just, that's what I'm looking for. You know I listened to some of your, ugh, your sermons, ok. And I didn't know you had a lion until you told me yesterday and I was impressed, I would be more impressed to hear the ones on parenting coming up. (laughter).

- 32) W - (Laughter). I'm in better shape than my (inaudible). It's more, you know I've been a pastor here for seven years and we just, we had our concerns, I've been a lead pastor for three, we just have our concerns using parenting. And I just think..
- 33) B - You are a parent then?
- 34) W - I am, I have a fifteen year old and an eleven year old, soon to be sixteen and twelve. So, so it's time, but you know when ever you stand up, I mean this morning I thought to myself oh man people are gonna, Jonathon's gonna, my oldest he's going to now when I'm telling the truth or not.
- 35) B - You're right, you're right. My oldest granddaughter, she's fifteen. Yeah, she's fifteen years old and ugh.. And I noticed in there too that you have, you just mentioned you have a (inaudible)?
- 36) W - A what?
- 37) B - Youth program here too.
- 38) W - Yeah we have a youth program.
- 39) B - You know what I what impressed I told my wife, she's went back up north, but I told her I was impressed with these eighteen kids that are going to Biloxi, umm, I have never seen that in a Catholic church, I'm sorry, but I've never seen that, I was impressed, it looked like they were all college kids too.
- 40) W - There are a couple older folks (inaudible) age and then there are kids that are college and then there are two that are, two that are in high school.
- 41) B - You were talking about Spring Break so?
- 42) W - Yeah, yeah, we have ugh, I'm actually going to be going on this trip with my son, in the spring June 24th through July 1st, or is it, yeah that's right, we have two sets of groups going down to Taiwan, Mexico.
- 43) B - Oh, oh.
- 44) W - You know over the borders project down there, which is, Taiwan is a border town so people come up there, and they just can't get in the United States, so they end up just spreading out and living where ever they can in Taiwan and they end up forming a community up on a hill and they just have no services you know, no water, no latrines, no roads, no education and so we work with World Vision and

World Visions sets up kind of a community base you know a group of four or five leaders and then they take the money that World Vision gives and they say to these leaders how do you what to use this money in your community, and so they start building latrines and water up there and all that, and we've, we've been developing a relationship with them and ugh, we just go down, ugh, two years ago we had about thirty youth go down, we're gonna have I think about fifty five from our church and then plus, plus another five who are, not, not connected with our church and ugh, so we have a fairly active youth program that way..

- 45) B - So this is good to hear. We can only offer, offer so much at home, ok, and we realize that if we have to be (inaudible) this is where the (inaudible) I mentioned in the high school now a days, I can't see that, not what they're teaching. I don't know, I don't know you, I don't what you're teaching, I don't know how your teaching is here, I would imagine it's (inaudible), and that's kind of what we are looking for.
- 46) W - Yeah. Are you, you're from a Catholic background?
- 47) B - Yes.
- 48) W - You've been in a, a like a, (inaudible) church where people are born again, what has been your background since the Catholic church?
- 49) B - Well, I don't, we'll use the phrase born again, many, many years ago, ok, we're talking thirty years ago, pastor, all right, but there was things that happen there in the Catholic Church that I'm not too happy with and we just left.
- 50) W - I see.
- 51) B - Ok. And now, we look at the scripture, the Bible ok, not (inaudible), memorize that, you know, if there's a problem I feel bad about something well ok talk to me you know, and I know I should get into it and I know I have to set an example for my grandkids so, like you said with your kids, they'll know if your telling the truth, now if I don't do this, if I preach to them then I'm not following through then I have a problem here. You know and that's just it. See my (inaudible) is where ever we join, my wife and I, we already said this we'll be involved only because we can't, what's the phrase, walk the talk, walk the walk.
- 52) W - Yeah.

- 53) B - We gotta do that, ok, but I want again to get into a, a church, a congregation that believes in what I believe in. I mentioned briefly about the divorce and my son, ok, she's a lesbian and whatever happened and when I were, when I know there's some churches that will marry partners.
- 54) W - We're not that kind of church.
- 55) B - I hope not. Ok because that's, that's one strong, we got a girl here and you know, and although she has been since she gave the other two, they haven't seen their mother in awhile, you know she just abandon them, you know, took a partner and that's just, and that's fine with us. You know, but she has not turned over her parenting rights yet, we have it with our son, you know, we drew up the papers and he has custody of them. And she has visitation rights but she hasn't seen them in many years so.
- 56) W - How long ago was it that they gave her, she gave (inaudible)?
- 57) B - (Inaudible) since 2000.
- 58) W - And your son is stationed until how long?
- 59) B - He's been there now for about a year and half, and he's, he's..
- 60) W - In the Marines?
- 61) B - No he's in the Army, he's, he's a Coronal, he, he has, Jeff has what six, seven more years before he's through, and you know he's going to retire, which is good, but you know right now it's our responsibility. And he's given us the paperwork and everything to do. He said dad I know what you want to do, I'm going to trust you. You know, now umm, today my wife is going to e-mail him today and tell him, where I was yesterday and what I'm going to be doing today and we'll just see what kind of answer, and I know he doesn't go back to church either, I don't know what he does over there, I have no idea, you know, but it's just that umm, we're looking, we're looking.
- 62) W - Well we have a fairly developed, you're younger child is?
- 63) B - Twelve.

- 64) W - Twelve, so they'll all be in our youth program, children's program, we have a fairly developed children's program both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights and the center of them is about you know studying and knowing and understanding the Bible and Bible stories and we just think that's very important and out junior high and our mid high, we call it and our senior high also meet on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings.
- 65) B - (Inaudible) those run?
- 66) W - Ugh, the mid high is six to eight thirty, the high school is nine to twelfth. And our facilities are fairly extensive, we have a umm, I don't know if people gave you a tour of our facilities, about five years ago we had the option to purchase the land just to the west of us and on that land were two buildings and we, we remodeled both of them, one's a, called a lodge, and it, it holds..
- 67) B - (Inaudible).
- 68) W - Yeah.
- 69) B - Oh ok.
- 70) W - It's become a, the, a center of it is what we do with our youth.
- 71) B - Oh ok.
- 72) W - So we have umm, like I said on Wednesday night the, the, the middle high meets for kind of a teaching and a time of singing and time of fun, the senior high does the same thing on Sunday night sort of teaching singing fun. And ugh, and then up on, ugh, Wednesday nights the senior high meets, they can meet in small groups and study the Bible together and then the mid high does the same thing on Sunday nights. And you can kind of choose, you know, ugh, like for instance, my, my youngest son he comes to Wednesday night, he comes to Sunday morning, he has a, he has a Sunday school class on Sunday morning but he doesn't always come to Sunday evening, um, my other son, he, he comes to the Wednesday night small group, Sunday morning, Sunday evening, he just, he just does it all and again one of the center points of that is teaching the Bible, but also just getting to know other kids the same age and being around them.
- 73) B - That's what we want.
- 74) W - And having fun together and umm, learning what it means to be a follower of Christ in our, in our community.

- 75) B - It's an example with these eighteen people you know.
- 76) W - Yeah, yeah and that ugh, like I said the umm, the group that is going in June, fifty five of our people, twenty of them are adults and thirty of them are high school kids, including my son, so we have a pretty, we have options for kids to express their faith in more ways than just going to Sunday school, we really want, not just our youth, but everybody in our church to know and understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus. And like this gentlemen's (inaudible) that I'm doing right now is trying to help people understand in very practical ways, (inaudible) day to day to follow, follow the Lord and to be changed by God, cause you have to, God is, He's not opposed to effort in His grace, a lot of times we talk about grace being saved by grace as if it's just a ticket, once you got the ticket then your all set, where as I think that God also gives us grace to do things to become the kind of people he wants us to become, so grace isn't opposed to effort, you know, it's opposed to earning, you know, we can't earn our way to God, we can't save our selves, he alone does that through (inaudible).
- 77) B - (Inaudible) church. (Inaudible).
- 78) W - You know, often times I've thought about this passage in our letter of Paul where he says you know it's not by umm, it, people are saved by grace through faith it's not by work so that nobody can brag about it, but ugh, he created us in order that we would do good works and walk in them, so he, he saves us, but he wants us to live a life for him, so what we're really, we're very intent on here at Huron Hills is umm, helping people to become followers of Christ and then helping them in that path to do just know and understand what it means to be a follower of Christ, whether their a police officer or they're a heart surgeon, or their a professor, or they're a student in college and ugh, I love the fact that our church is very diverse with all those, those people for different walks of life, but that's, so that's sort of the heartbeat of what we try to do.
- 79) B - Ok. My, my (inaudible) that's the daughter, (inaudible) can my wife come and listen to the youth?
- 80) W - Sure, sure, I'll..
- 81) B - I just want, you know what I'm saying I don't want to waste your time and my kids time, I want to make sure that is going to be at home, in the church, I want to make sure you're in the same wave length.
- 82) W - We encourage that and I can introduce to Chris Peltz whose are youth pastor here.
- 83) B - What's his name?

- 84) W - Chris Peltz. And if he's here I'll go introduce you to him and he might another person that would be really helpful for you to understand you know, what it is we think and believe, cause he, at those Wednesday and Sunday gatherings he's the main speaker for that and so, there's a lot of Bible teaching there, but he also does a lot of other things, but he encourages parents..
- 85) B - Was he the gentlemen that spoke Sunday at nine thirty, is he, I, I didn't think he introduced himself.
- 86) W - No that was, his name is Jon (inaudible). I often times just have people who are in our church do leadership things that they're good at and he's just really good at that, so but no, no Chris is, Chris is actually playing the guitar on Sunday.
- 87) B - Oh, I don't know which. Now you said he's just a volunteer here or..
- 88) W - No Chris is on paid staff.
- 89) B - Ok. What's his background then?
- 90) W - He has a, a Bible school background, four year college and ugh, four year college and then he has done a couple of youth pastor before this, he's been here for the last two years. And he's doing a good job.
- 91) B - What is the, like you said, I'm going back to the high school in Warren where they went to you know, in Caseville, I am dead against this so called pro choice type deal, I don't know what your teaching is on that, but I do not believe in that.
- 92) W - No we are not pro choice, we are pro life.
- 93) B - Thank God.
- 94) W - And umm, as a church, now ugh..
- 95) B - Ok. What do you mean as a church, what about individuals then, what are you going to teach my kids.
- 96) W - Anybody that is teaching your kids is going to be pro life.
- 97) B - Ok.

- 98) W - I mean the fact that there are, umm, you know our community, Ann Arbor is umm, fairly strongly pro choice, so are the schools and all of the issues that you, you dealt with with your daughter in law they're going to be pro for that.
- 99) B - Right, that's what I'm concerned about.
- 100) W - And, and umm, you just have, you have to realize that, you know, if you come into the university setting umm, it just umm, it has that kind of mindset.
- 101) B - That's where the home schooling comes in, we're taking care.
- 102) W - Sure. And one of the things that I really felt about it, I mean I love our community, I, I came to school here and umm, that doesn't mean I agree with a lot things in our community but it does mean that I, I don't want our church to be set against the community, as far as we can, you know what mean, there's a lot, there's a lot of things that people believe in our community that our paired with other things, like they can be pro choice, you know, for a homosexual lifestyle and they can also be for feeding the hungry. You know and that, this is, this is one of the things that is difficult because if they look at a Christian, they just pair us up with all the things they don't like, so they wouldn't understand how we can be pro life, against a homosexual lifestyle, and still want to feed the hungry people, cause it all kind of goes together, and I, and I just think to myself it's easy to also to kind of think that back and I just want our people to have a, a decision, decisive act in their life to want to reach into our community, but our community is a place if God wants to speak His truth to people and draw them into relationship with Himself, and it just means being able to ugh, umm, I think the first part of that is just be convinced in our mind that God, God wants to draw people to Himself that way. Does that make, does make sense?
- 103) B - That makes sense to me. Now this is, this is, I mean I hear you talking but I you say your staff is like that too then.
- 104) W - Yes our staff is all pro life, sure.
- 105) B - All right. I don't want to use the word against, but homosexuality is not here.
- 106) W - No, no. Not at all.
- 107) B - I have that worry because we with it.
- 108) W - Yes I know.

- 109) B - You know, and it worries, worries me because we have a girl and I don't know how that affected her, you know, cause she was going to see a physiatrist for awhile, and it was a big thing for her, you know the boys, didn't see to really bother them, I don't know why, but it bother Sherry and that's you know.
- 110) W - Sherry is your..
- 111) B - (Inaudible) granddaughter.
- 112) W - It's two children you have?
- 113) B - No. Three.
- 114) W - Three grandchildren. How old is the youngest one?
- 115) B - Youngest one is thirteen and half, and (inaudible) fifteen.
- 116) W - Fifteen ok.
- 117) B - So, Sherry, if I say daughter, that's my granddaughter, not that they call us pop, you know, or dad, you know, Jeff's been away for so darn long.
- 118) W - The center of who we are as a people, is that we believe that people come to God in, through faith, through belief. And you know, I said that about you know, grace and earnings so that's what the Catholic believes in. Just curious, I, I mean you might of just said it but where, where are on, you know kind of on your spiritual journey, have you, you don't think of yourself as a Catholic, you don't...
- 119) B - No, no I think of myself as a Christian, not a practicing Christian, I, I know it's missing, and I know if I get back into you know, things will be better in my life and I don't even know why I'm saying better in my life, but you know, it's just, I know I should get more into scripture and maybe it's because of my age, you get older and you say oh God, I'm going to meet my maker in awhile you know, I'm sixty-three, I'm not that, you know, but I, it's just the walk that I want back again you know.
- 120) W - Yeah.

- 121) B- And I want the walk where the fundamental down to the basics, let's get down to the basics, I've been that way, when I opened up this dealership that's what we got, that's what I said to my crew, down to the basics, this is what we are going to give our customers, this is how we treat our customers, period, I don't care what other dealerships are doing this is what we're doing. And I've done that, you know, basically with that as a police officer I've done that, you know, I want to get back to the basics.
- 122) W - You know, the thing, I, I always use a relationship as a sort of a symbol of a relationship (inaudible) you been married, how long have you been married now?
- 123) B - Twenty-eight years.
- 124) W - Twenty-eight years. When you were married on that wedding day..
- 125) B - This is our second, my second marriage.
- 126) W - So when you were married though you exchanged rings?
- 127) B - Yes.
- 128) W - And you know, people could look at you and said, that day you were married and that would have been true, but you know, there's an old adage you ask a pastor when somebody married and he says you know when they've been married thirty years. Cause then you have walked through things and, there's nothing that you do in your relationship that's gonna make you not married unless you make a decision to walk away from it, which, you know, can be done, but it's like the same thing with a father and a son. You know I mean there's nothing your son can do things that make you upset, angry, but he's never gonna be not your son, and I think when you think about your relationship with God it's the, it's the same thing, you know, you make a decision to follow him and faith and you can be a better follower, you know, I just don't want people to, to go the opposite extreme, like if I say to people we need to become a better follower, we need to be somebody who takes this seriously and reads the Bible and learns what God, I don't, want people then to think I'm not good enough, I'm not a good enough believer, God doesn't like me, God doesn't want me to do, you know is upset at me all the time, cause that's just not true, so we, we don't try to strike the balance, we try to ugh, just portray it as it, as it is in the Bible. That God loves us, call to Himself in faith, wants us to grow in faith and ugh, and that's what His calling is to us and that's the calling we're going to give to people when they come into our church is the calling I give to you. And try not to, I, I just don't want people to

feel guilty about their spiritual walk, cause nothing will kill their spiritual walk more than that.

129) B - Well I don't think they feel guilty, but obviously, but there's more I can do.

130) W - You feel responsible.

131) B - I do, yeah I do. I mean there's more I can do.

132) W - When we take our, we take our stewardship of the children of our church very seriously, you know from the moment that they come in, when they're born all the way through till, whenever they want to leave us, and we have a very strong college ministry and we just care about what's going on in our youth, but we also care about what going in, in our adults too, you know.

133) B - Well sure, sure. Let me back to youth, because that, that kind of, hits home with me because of the kids. Like I said we do the education, well we, we pray together and we say grace, things like that all right, cause they're gonna have to (inaudible) they don't know scripture like I'm sure your children are do.

134) W - Umm, I have to (inaudible)...

135) B - I mean how do you feel..

136) W - We try to be sensitive to where kids are at, at every stage of the, you know, journey, so and you know, I think if we mentioned that to Chris he would say you I'm trying to make it so that every person can, who comes in, no matter what kind of background their in can, can take away from here, I try to do the same thing in my preaching. I mean I, I could go, I could go to some you know, places that are really complicated and that doesn't help anybody, so when I preach from the Bible I want every single person in there to be able to take from it something fairly, fairly strong.

137) B - When I was listening to you preaching and I listened to it on the internet, you weren't, you weren't preaching over, you were preaching to me and you were down at my level which I like you know, that's what God made, my wife's supposed to listen to them today you know.

- 138) W - And that's it, that's the model, cause it's Jesus' heart, you know and I, I think that you can actually in being direct to people actually say some very significant things to people, get it into their mind. I mean like I was talking about how, you know, God looks at every person in the same way, I mean he loves every person with the same kind of love, well that, you know if I extended that into what that (inaudible) it's about God's eternal character, His omniscient, His omissions. You know those are kind of big words.
- 139) B - Yeah.
- 140) W - And I don't want to use those kinds of words, I want people to grab a hold of those concepts because again I think that's what God is doing with us all the time. So umm, and we're very intent like going back to your, your grandchildren, we really want them to not feel excluded, but included, but challenged.
- 141) B - Oh yeah, yeah I understand that. I understand that.
- 142) W - How long have you (inaudible)
- 143) B - Twenty years.
- 144) W - In Warren?
- 145) B - No, no, no in Detroit.
- 146) W - What part of Detroit?
- 147) B - Eighth precinct, this is Grand River, you know where that's at?
- 148) W - No.
- 149) B - Right where Grand River and Six Mile come together, in that area.
- 150) W - Ok. (Inaudible) good or?
- 151) B - Yeah it was.
- 152) W - What the high archery, what, what kind of did you do? Were you on the street most of the...

- 153) B - I was a sergeant, yeah, I retired a sergeant. I mean the pension was good and through the years I made some goods investments, you know, so that's why I was able to buy the dealership up there you know, well with some partners, is wasn't just me. You know.
- 154) W - I'll have to introduce you to the other law enforcement guy in our church, Gary Hopkins, he's a, he's actually works on the DEA, he a trainer now.
- 155) B - What kind of trainer?
- 156) W - Ugh, he trains people in tactics and small arms and that.
- 157) B - Oh really.
- 158) W - Yeah he a, yeah.
- 159) B - You mean at a gun shop out there, is that what you mean?
- 160) W - No he's like a, he's only described it to me, he used to be in the Army, he was a, I think he was a major in the Army and then he left the force, or left the force, or left the Armed Forces, went into the DEA and was a, was a narcotics officer and now what he does, and you, you can correct me if I'm wrong I think what he, how he described it is he trains people in you know, tactics of how to take a building or how to..
- 161) B - Oh, oh I got it. Who does he do that for?
- 162) W - The drug enforcement agency.
- 163) B - (Inaudible) Full time.
- 164) W - Yes. He's a great guy, you'd like him.
- 165) B - Ok. My, my son in law lives out in Texas, he lives out there and he's in narcotics too.
- 166) W - Oh he is ok.
- 167) B - We got a laugh last week, he also served, up to lieutenant, but ugh, I called Nancy and says where's Jack, he's at school, what do you mean he's at school, he's a machine gun school (laughter and inaudible) they made machine gun part of the tact, I says ok, whatever. This youth pastor is he young too or.

- 168) W - Yeah he's young, he's about twenty-six. And umm, I'm about forty-five.
- 169) B - You're about four-five.
- 170) W - I am four-five (laughter). When I say about I think that's what it is.
- 171) B - I want to tell my wife cause she's gonna have to come in, when do they meet now, on Wednesdays?
- 172) W - The junior high kids, meet on Wednesdays night at, starting at seven, right over, down the hall.
- 173) B - What about Sunday? Do they meet on Sunday you said? Because she's (inaudible)
- 174) W - The senior high kids meet at seven o'clock up in the lodge.
- 175) B - On Sunday?
- 176) W - On Sunday night.
- 177) B - Ok.
- 178) W - But I could, why don't I walk you down to Chris's office, if he has the materials, he might be able to give you some more information.

(Too much static from walking)

February 20, 2005

RE: HAMMER vs. U of M

SIS FILE: # 06-5032

Taken by Gerald K. Borycz of Statewide Investigation
Interview with Chris Peltz

B = Jerry Borycz

P = Chris Peltz

- 1) White Chris can ask you to assist somebody? Do you have a moment?
- 2) P Yeah.
- 3) W This is Jerry Borycz. This is Chris Peltz, Chris is our youth pastor and Jerry has three kids ages, twelve, thirteen and half and fifteen. They are looking at our church, and they need to get some information about the programs and stuff like that. I think he and his wife are maybe interested in listening to the programs on Wednesday nights.
- 4) B That a problem?
- 5) P No, no problem at all. How old?
- 6) B Twelve, thirteen and half and the girl is..
- 7) P That would be six, seven and right?
- 8) B They're home schooled so. They're home schooled.
- 9) P All right.
- 10) B What's your name, Chris what?
- 11) P My name is Chris Peltz.
- 12) B Peltz. Ok.

- 13) P Let's see the twelve and thirteen, they would probably be mid high. That's usually the twelve, thirteen is six, seventh grade. Ugh, Fifteen is usually nine. We have a very interesting home, multi layered ministry, with our youth group, we have two separate groups, we have ugh, a mid high ministry and a senior high ministry. Ugh, mid high ministry is called Threeway.
- 14) B Threeway, ok.
- 15) P Threeway. Umm, it's based off of John 14:6, which is I'm the way, the truth and the light and so we say, you know, Jesus (inaudible) is free so. We may (inaudible) they meet um, we have, we have, within each of our large and small groups, within each of our (inaudible) we've got large group time, small group time and Sunday school. So we have three main activities that we have throughout the week. And then there based on different times, like with mid high you know Sunday school is at nine thirty in the morning on Sundays, umm, there small groups are on Sunday nights, from seven to eight thirty and then their large groups are on Wednesday nights from seven to eight thirty and we run, Sunday school usual about forty to fifty, ugh small groups, we've got fifteen to twenty that participate in small groups, and then umm, large group we run, a low night is forty, a good night is probably sixty.
- 16) B All right. What I was telling the pastor is that their being home schooled, I'm not up on scripture and that's what we are looking for. So and we don't, these are my grandkids that we have custody of. And umm, we don't do scripture like we should and I don't want them to come to the classes here and feel out of it, I'm sure your children your kids just right up to snuff, you know.
- 17) P Some of them were, you know we do, we encourage, you know when I teach umm, I, I don't use any other book but the Bible, so I mean when we teach we talk about, umm, I do, I do and I have always come from this is, you know we have guests and visitors all the time.
- 18) B No kidding.
- 19) P And so umm, where there are moments where we do go a little bit deep umm, most of the time it's very ugh, you know we start each, each of our lessons are geared toward from the person that has absolutely no Bible knowledge to a person that you know, that knows most of it. You know we have mid hires who ugh, some of them couldn't quote you John 3:16,

you know for..

- 20) B That one I know.
- 21) P And then we also have a Bible quiz team where they can go through the entire book of Romans and I can't even do that, so umm, you know, we, we have a wide range of students, and so we do, we make sure that we gear each of our lessons so that everyone understands.
- 22) B And so your teaching the fundamentals.
- 23) P Fundamentals.
- 24) B Let me give you a little bit of background and I understand, that umm, we have custody because my son is in the service over in Iraq, the mother is out of the picture, that umm, unfortunately she was a lesbian and just abandon the kids and left. Sherry is the daughter, she's a fifteen year old who is going through some help with, about that, and umm, all of them ask questions to my wife about lesbians, homosexuality and (inaudible) and we are looking for a church that believes like we believe ok, and he said that's what you guys teach here.
- 25) P Well we, you know, in that sense you know we have, we live in Ann Arbor?
- 26) B That's what he was saying too, yeah?
- 27) You know we live in an area that does have ugh, ugh a large homosexual community, umm, and are students deal with it on a daily basis, umm, you know with, with friends that, that are gay, so we, we do talk about that a lot.
- 28) B I was gonna say how do you handle that question?
- 29) P Well we talk about you know what does the Bible say, umm, and the Bible is very clear that homosexuality is a sin, umm, and ugh, just like any other sin though, it's just, you know, there is no level to sin, you know lying a sin, homosexuality a sin, cheating a sin, ugh, we ugh, when we talk especially with the senior high, because this has been a big issue with them that, you know, I, I grew up in the south, so ugh, you know, a gay person in the south would have been ridiculed pretty bad.
- 30) B Yeah.

31) P And you wouldn't, wouldn't of wanted to come out, if you came out you were about to subject yourself to (inaudible) and even the church, and I know it's always hard for me to understand because ugh, you know, I've known former homosexuals, that the only way that they changed is because someone dared to love them this person called Christ and so we talk to our students that this is sin and we don't need to accept sin, so when someone does this, a person comes out and says I'm a homosexual, we don't need to say, ugh, look that's great, that's cool, you know, you go be you, we don't say that, and at the same time we don't take a Bible a slap them over the head with it and go you're a sinner, you know, we go ugh, we, we teach our students what is sin, to know why it's a sin, so if that person asks well you know I'm just living my life.

32) B (Inaudible).

33) P I just wanting to do my thing, and ugh, so we talk to them about that, about how you define sin, how we know that it's sin, well the, we talk about what the Bible says, and we also talk about what's our response, what's our Christian response and umm, you know, I think our Christian response is to love unconditionally, but at the same umm, that doesn't mean that we accept ugh, sin, just the same way we don't except our own sin, you know, if I have a problem with lying, um, I don't need to be ok with the fact that I lie, umm, you know, when you talk about the forgiveness of God and, and atonement under the blood or ugh, or repentance, there's something that, that Christ does inside of us and the Holy Spirit that causes me to want to change.

34) B What if they don't want to change, that's the question?

35) P That's a tough question, you know, umm, because we've always had, you know, we had the question can a homosexual go to heaven, can a homosexual be saved and you know, as we kind of battle through that question I think the answer to that is yes, umm, but it isn't a, a practicing homosexual, one that..

36) B I'm talking about one that is a practicing homosexual?

- 37) P I don't think that one is a, a, personally, I don't think that a practicing homosexual can understand and ugh, grasp salvation.
- 39) B That's what you are saying personally, but my question is how the church here believes?
- 40) P That's what the church believes, I mean, you know, we're a typical Baptist Church, umm..
- 41) B It teaches though that homosexuality is a sin.
- 42) P You know, but they are, they are people in, in the, I think the issue is practicing, there are some people that have just said you know I feel like I am that but I know that's wrong and I'm just not going to do it and they've lived a celibate life. And I, I can't see any issue with that, they're not acting on anything, they're not doing anything and they're activity trying to have God help them change, umm, the difference is someone that doesn't understand or doesn't want to believe that what they are doing is wrong and there is a point, you know, the book of Romans talks about that, about when a person just refuses to admit their sin and refuse to repent and change and then that's when the Bible (inaudible) all right, that's (inaudible) and, and Paul specifically says Romans and there's, there's an issue there and that's not good.
- 43) B That's also (inaudible), in, in your classes comes up, this is another issue that Sherry had brought up about pro life, pro choice, you know, she was kind of for awhile to my wife as pro choice, now what is your teaching here.
- 44) P I'm (inaudible) to believe pro life, umm, I, I ugh, I, you know, it's kind of interesting I think he probably got it from a pastor some where but the president said that, there's, there's something about umm, a community of people that ugh, that ugh, want a culture of life and that's, that's what drives ugh, you know people to live and do these things.
- 44) B To me, the best I can, (inaudible) we're talking about homosexuality and pro life because pro life says it's my (audible) I can do what I want, but it seems to me.

45) P

To understand the Bible says that we are not own. That we were bought with a price, that we're not, we sing a song that says that in our youth ministry umm, and we understand that our body is the temple, it is the temple of the Holy Spirit and ugh, that ugh, when we accept Christ as our Lord and savior then we accept certain things and that means ugh, one, one of the things I always tell the kids is kind of like handing the keys of your life over and going ok God here, you know, I'm, I'm not going to do that anymore, so my body is not mine, my body is Christ's, ugh, you know, everything that I do is His and should be done to be give Him glory to give Him honor, so on those particular issues you know, I'm I ugh, in, in honestly we do, ugh, ugh, I'm not going to say we tip toe around it, but we are careful with how we present it because we do live in ugh, in an area that is, is umm, you know kind of the way that it is, it's Ann Arbor, so you know on an issue like homosexuality where we have friends, we have students who have a lot of friends who are, you know say their gay or whatever and you know, I don't, I don't want my young people going out there and just you know taking Bibles and smacking people over the heads with them, because I don't think that's going to, that's not gonna do anything good, it's not going to draw those people to Christ which is what they need, I mean more than anything they need to know Christ as their Lord and savior and so we, we, we ugh, we believe firmly that sin, is most definitely sin, ugh, you know, but that Christ can change lives and so we ugh,...

46) B

What if they don't want to change?

47) P

If they don't want to change and you know the one, wonderful and sometimes difficult to understand mystery that God has given us is the ability to change and we can chose to do right or we can chose to do wrong, ugh, why he sometimes does that I don't know.

48) B

I think that's where he made a mistake. (Laughter)

49) P

You know it's, it's one of those things I, I, one of the best books I read was from Billy Graham and Billy Graham just kind of said that ugh, without choice there cannot be anything, there cannot be unconditional and true love without choice and ugh, you know, it's, it's every morning that I wake up that I chose to follow Christ, ugh, I mean it's not like I just made a decision you know like ten years ago and now all of the sudden every day is honky dory, I mean I wake up every morning and I go today I will serve Christ and so ugh, and I do the same thing with my wife, today I'm going

to love her, I'm choosing to love her, and ugh, and we do the same thing with God, and so ugh, he has kind of given us a weird choice.

- 50) B What about the issue of abortion, is that also pro life?
- 51) P Oh we're, yes very much so, now that's one were I'm kind of very understandably out there and I got to say look you know I just I don't ugh, you know I don't want to condemn someone who has already done it, umm, you know, because I have known, I've known people down south that have them and some of them feel really, really bad that they did the wrong thing and then some of them could really careless they think it was the greatest thing in their life.
- 52) B But the church teaching, this church here?
- 53) P Yeah, we are pro life, so we..
- 54) B So it's across the board.
- 55) P Culture of live, yes, we believe that ugh, you know, umm, there is no accident, I don't, I don't think that there is such a thing as an accident I think that ugh, even in the most horrible cases and normally you'll hear about this on the news of, of most pro choice folks will say that umm, that we need, the reason we need choices because if a father rapes his daughter and she gets pregnant, should she have the choice to get rid of the child and it's like well, that's a horrible, horrible thing to have happened, you know, we're not demeaning that by any means that that was it was horrible that what happened to this little girl, but I just don't believe in accidents, umm, the Bible is very clear that from the moment of conception that God has planned and knows that person and he's putting them together, (inaudible) so, umm, God can bring a whole lot of good out of people and ugh, he's done that consistently and he's done it forever, since the beginning of time and so ugh, I just, I believe that, that's what I have to go with you know and we deal with ugh, we have dealt with some difficult issues I mean those are not easy issues to deal with.
- 56) B See those are, those are the three things that my wife and I are concerned about, one is, is the pro choice, pro life and you already said the church, not just you, but the church from the pastor down teaches pro life, which is abortion is a no, no.
- 57) P Definitely.

- 58) B And homosexuality is a no, no. Especially if they embrace it and are not ready to change. You know, ok, cool. I think my wife will probably be down this, we still have a home up north that we are selling, and I'm looking now with a real estate for a property to build or a home to buy, so I've got to get back up there tomorrow. What's your last name again,?
- 59) P Pelts.
- 60) B P-E-?
- 61) P P-E-L-T-Z.
- 62) B Ok. Great, I will give you a call.
- 63) P We have (inaudible) our senior ministry is called CX?
- 64) B Are you in charge of that too?
- 65) P (Inaudible) but I'm very lucky we have about twenty five adult leaders who work with me, half of them work with the mid high, half work with the senior high and that's helped because you know, we have upon an average week we have a hundred twenty to hundred and forty students between six grade and twelfth grade that come through these doors. And there's no way I could do that on my own. Ugh and so having that many adult (inaudible) is great and it really helps the students too and I mean there's only so many students I can personally interact with, I try to interact with all of them, I mean..
- 66) B (Inaudible) I'm sure.
- 67) P I do ugh, I go to homes, I do to ball games, I go to their schools and have lunch, so I try to do as much as I can, but there's no way I can hit a hundred and forty I mean it's just impossible. So you know, one of them (inaudible) she's one of our best (inaudible) she leads one of our girls small groups and it's just it's really great to have this group of people ugh, who love kids, love God and want to see kids succeed and do well in life and in their spiritual life too, so it's fun.
- 68) B I've got to met with a real estate manger.
- 69) P I'm usually here the whole time, you can always give me a call, and our,

our WebPages, my e-mail address for it.

70)B I picked it up when I was here for services on Sunday and I wanted to see what it was like. I enjoyed it. I thought it was good.

71)P Good luck.

Jerry Borycz

It's know quarter to two on the 20th, that's quarter to two p.m. on the 20th of February 2006. I am through with my interview.