



Dear ABWE Supporting Community,

Three years ago, we made the decision to hire an independent third-party firm to investigate a former ABWE missionary doctor, Donn Ketcham. We have now received the full report and it confirms that between 1966 and 1989, Ketcham engaged in the sexual abuse of nearly 20 minors—most of whom were the children of fellow ABWE missionaries—and four adult women.

The report also finds a blatant lack of oversight, accountability and significant missteps by our leadership to address these abuses over such an extended period. I am deeply troubled that ABWE has failed these women, repeatedly, over decades, and they have suffered in ways we cannot imagine.

As a pastor, a father and the Interim President of ABWE, I grieve the findings in this report and am deeply sorry. And I know that as a mission community, *we* are sorry. While every fiber in my being wishes that I could change history and correct the past, we can only commit to a vastly different future.

We are steadfast in our commitment to care for every victim and to create a new culture of vigilance. We are absolutely committed to providing counseling and support to the victims and their families, now and going forward. I am also grateful for the courage of the men and women who spoke up and perseveringly challenged us to hear and act on the truth.

We have been building safeguards and oversight to guard against this lack of accountability in the future, including implementing much more comprehensive, stringent and ongoing oversight for the protection of all of our missionaries and staff, particularly our children. We have also adopted a new best-practices Child Protection Policy and will be launching a top-tier mission-wide training and educational program about child protection later this year.

The ABWE Board has also assigned consequences to all ABWE leadership, missionaries, and Board members who were found to have "failed" in the report delivered by the investigation firm. Additionally, the ABWE leadership and Board of Directors who were serving during the time of the misconduct have been replaced.

I recognize that perhaps no sin scars its victims more than child abuse, and that our failures as an organization have tragically impacted the lives of some of our missionary kids. While we may never be able to erase their pain, I am personally committed to standing beside these women, and acknowledging our historic failure to do what is right. Their wounds are part of our collective memory, making us more attentive as an organization to guard against future harm.

The report summary and other information, including FAQs and contact information, is accessible at <http://www.abwe.org/protecting-our-children>.

I pray that even through the ugliness of what has occurred in past decades, we will be faithful today in how we respond with vigilance, justice and compassion.

Prayerfully yours,

Al Cockrell
Interim President, ABWE