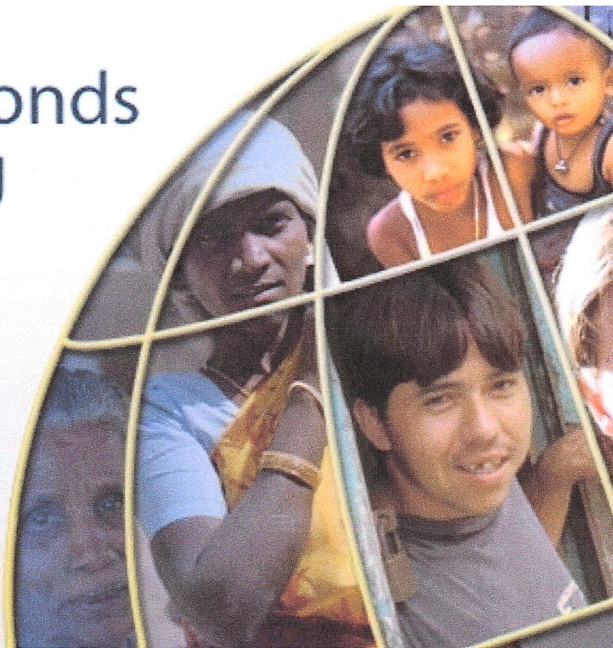


# March 26, 2011 Answers to Common Questions

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## ABWE responds to MKs Blog



### ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED

#### 1. Was Donn Ketcham's abuse reported by ABWE? Can anything be reported now?

We regret that ABWE failed to report the child molestation incident to the Michigan Bureau of Health Professions or to prosecutorial authorities in 1989. Although neither report was legally required at the time, we realize that our handling of this situation was wrong because additional children may have been at risk.

Following our discovery in 2002 that other MKs had suffered abuse, we investigated filing a report with the Michigan Bureau of Health Professions. We learned through a medical official at the hospital system in Grand Rapids (where Donn Ketcham worked) that since the abuse occurred outside the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan or the USA that nothing would be done with the report. Therefore a report was not filed at that time.

Subsequent to 1989, two churches which Donn Ketcham attended were informed by ABWE personnel of his past misconduct. Those churches took steps to prevent his access to children, and, in one case, requested he avoid contact with a former victim in attendance. Our attorney has recently contacted the Michigan Bureau of Health Professions; we were encouraged to file a report due to recent changes in attitude concerning allegations of abuse from several years ago, and we are doing so.

#### 2. How is ABWE reaching out to the MKs?

ABWE has maintained a ministry of compassion and spiritual care to all ABWE MKs throughout the world. Dr. Loftis has repeatedly expressed in various public meetings with adult MKs that we welcome any reports of mistreatment which will be handled confidentially. It was during such a forum with MKs in 2002, in response to his invitation, that we first learned of additional child abuse victims of Donn Ketcham and provided immediate counseling for those who desired it.

Follow-up assistance to some has been ongoing.

To date, all MKs who have notified us they were personally abused by Donn Ketcham have been informed of our willingness to assist in their healing process. This has included professional counseling, legal assistance, spiritual counseling, and emotional support. Due to the previously expressed concerns of these victims and their families regarding public exposure, we have sought to maintain confidentiality in our communications.

While circumstances vary, we recognize that not every victim of abuse feels safe enough or at a point of life readiness to address these issues on someone else's time frame. Guided by advice of experienced abuse counselors, we have never insisted on a specific time frame but initially offered help, and continue to maintain our willingness to help them through their own healing process when they are ready.

The care and well being of the abuse victims of Donn Ketcham remain our highest concern. In addition, we continue our attempts to privately contact other MKs who, though not personally abused, have been nonetheless affected by what took place. Not all those contacted have been willing to receive our offer to listen and help but we will continue our sincere offer of assistance.

### **3. Was 1989 the first time ABWE knew that Donn Ketcham was guilty of sexual misconduct?**

Yes, 1989 was the first time ABWE became aware of Donn's sexual misconduct.

There were two prior incidents involving inappropriate behavior with adult women. In each case, sexual misconduct was denied and the inappropriate behavior, which was not acceptable, did result in corrective counseling. The behavior that had been reported to the administration was not considered to be in violation of our moral failure policy by administrators, counselors, and pastors at the time. Corrective steps were taken and Donn was cleared to return to the field by his counselor and pastor.

Donn Ketcham's confession to sexual misconduct with other adults came when he was confronted with the sexual abuse of a minor in 1989.

Prior to 1989 there was no indication that Donn Ketcham had acted inappropriately with children. And until 2002, we had no reason to believe the 1989 case was not a single incident. All cases of sexual misconduct in violation of our moral failure policy have consistently resulted in the termination of ABWE missionary personnel.

### **4. Was the victim forced to sign a confession?**

No she was not. According to the counselor who accompanied her to the field with our administrator to confront Donn Ketcham in 1989, she was not forced to sign a confession but rather assisted to organize her testimony and put it on paper to help her through the emotionally traumatic experience of facing her abuser. The use of the word "confession" was and is unfortunate and misleading to those who see it today.

In addition, she was encouraged to do this to assure that in the event she was emotionally unable to confront him personally, her signed testimony would be strong enough evidence to bring Donn Ketcham to the point of admission of guilt. This in fact was successful and Donn Ketcham's actions were exposed and he was removed from the field immediately.

**Download ABWE's child protection policy** designed to provide safety for all our MKs and other children in our ministries worldwide.

If you have knowledge or concern about any child who was abused by Dr. Ketcham or other ABWE personnel, please contact our Child Safety and Protection Officer, Nancy Hepworth, at [nhepworth@abwe.org](mailto:nhepworth@abwe.org).

For questions and concerns regarding the blog or ABWE's response, please contact Tony Beckett, Vice President of Church Relations, at [Tony@abwe.org](mailto:Tony@abwe.org).

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3/30/11

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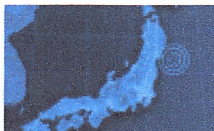
To our beloved MKs and your families...



3/23/11

### **ABWE responds to MKs Blog**

Recently ABWE was notified of a blog regarding past abuse of MKs (missionary kids).

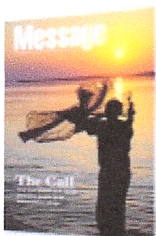


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