

IS THE SAD SAGA OVER?

CONCLUSION

Ecclesiastes 12:13 *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”*

The ABWE Corporate Office



There could be much, much more written concerning the ABWE/Donn Ketcham Final Report but this will be the conclusion to the first three parts. One does wonder if the culture at ABWE has changed enough so there is not a repeat of the Ketcham affair?

It's not like ABWE did not have policies in place to confront issues such as Donn Ketcham; for the Final Report says the "ABWE records indicate that there were Principle and Practice policies and other guidelines in place from ABWE's beginning to the present. These guiding documents were in place to instruct its members in proper conduct for the protection of the organization and its purposes around the world. On multiple occasions, Donn Ketcham was in violation of both the spirit and the letter of these instructions. His peers were often animated in their frustration over his behavior. His supervisors were aware, by their own statements, of decades of his violations. Even though his violations were tolerated and/or treated via counseling and discipline, he continued to be allowed to return to the field to violate again. His return to the field over and over was organizationally preferential. Others contemporary to him were not afforded the same treatment, in some cases for lesser violations. ABWE's consistent

tolerance of his ongoing violations is tragic in light of the abuse he was perpetrating on the field.”¹

In fact, “Beginning in 1957, ABWE instituted a screening process that included the following:

- Preliminary questionnaire;
- Battery of psychological tests evaluated by a Christian psychologist;
- Personal interview required with the Candidate Secretary;
- Interviews with individuals with special medical issues;
- Language aptitude test during candidate classes;
- Home church certification and interest form filled out by home church; and
- Christian Service assignment on weekends during candidate classes.”²

My wife and I went through all these when we went with ABWE in the 70’s. That preliminary questionnaire should have kept Donn and Kitty off the field if they had been truthful!

Then there are the ABWE’s “CONDITIONS OF MISSIONARY SERVICE, Qualifications” which in part states that each missionary would be required “...to **sign**, upon acceptance and once a year thereafter, a statement indicating whole-hearted agreement, without mental reservation, with the Doctrinal Statement, and the willingness to abide by and submit to the established Principles and Practices of the Association. Failure to do so shall be considered sufficient grounds for recalling or declining to reappoint the missionary (Emphasis added).”³

Note the missionary was to SIGN each year their agreement with ABWE’s P&P.

Then there is the “Statement of Principles and Practices, 1974, XI. Concerning Christian Life” which says “We believe the Scriptures teach that every believer, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, should walk in Christian love and **holiness**, exhibiting qualities of honesty, integrity, forgiveness, loving-kindness and spirituality (Emphasis added).”⁴

Note the word “holiness”! ABWE had all the policies necessary but Ketcham was a known liar”.⁵ He could sign anything because of that fact. Donn Ketcham even admitted to being a “liar”⁶ and those “around Donn Ketcham accused him of being a liar.”⁷

So the policies were in place and missionary signatures required to make it look like the missionary was accountable to the mission so what happened in this Donn Ketcham

¹ <http://piisafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2016-04-15-ABWE-Ketcham-Final-Report2.pdf> Simply Pdf.

From now on; Pdf. Page 243.

² Ibid. Page 243

³ Pdf. Page 244

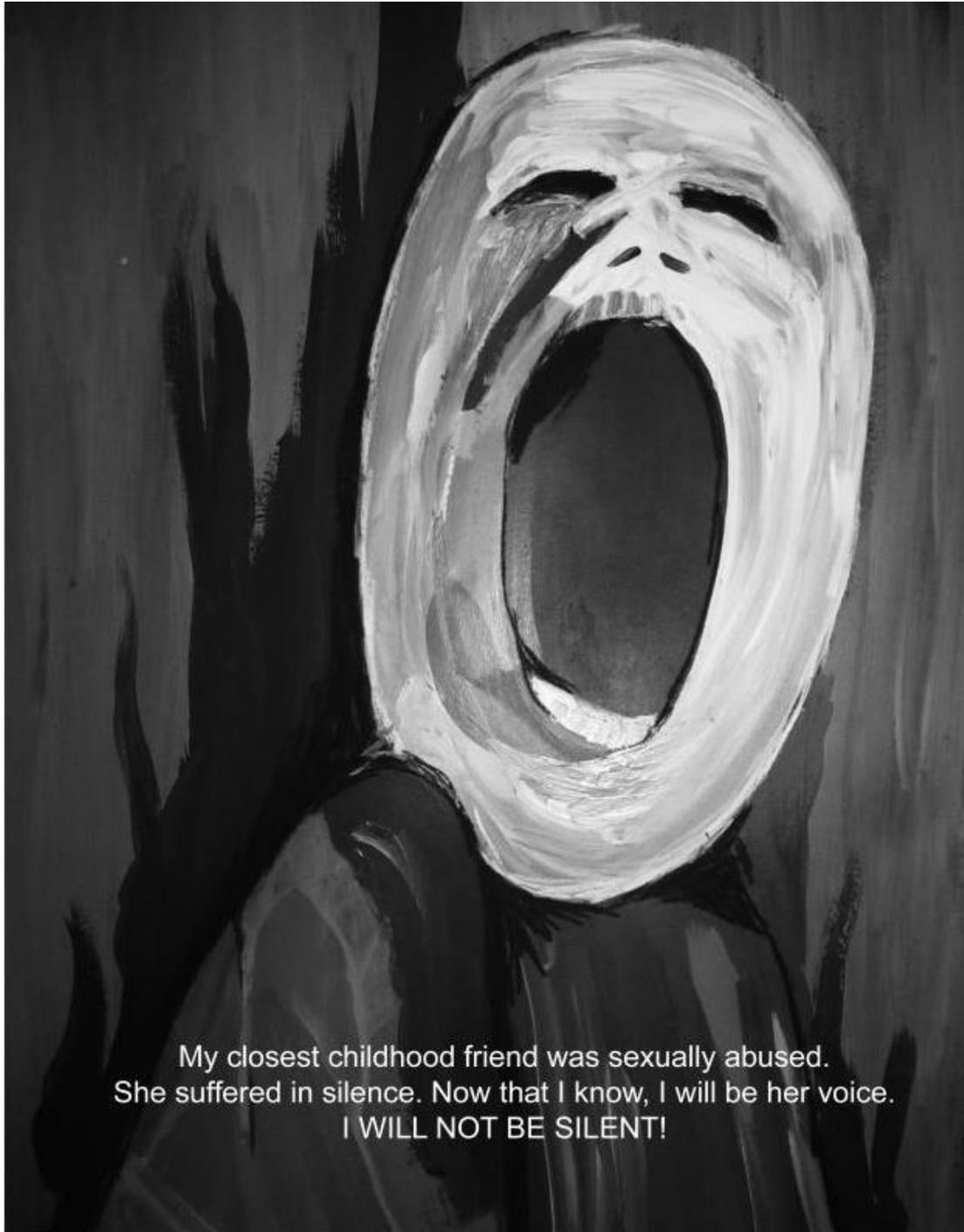
⁴ Ibid. Page 244

⁵ Pdf. Page 250

⁶ Pdf. Page 81

⁷ Ibid. Page 81

adultery/paedophile matter? In the first place Ketcham was accepted as a missionary before Wendell Kempton became President. Therefore, there was a failure in the very beginning probably due to Robert T. Ketcham's influence. Secondly, Donn Ketcham's "...indiscreet behavior while serving for ABWE"⁸ was allowed to continue because those in authority, such as Wendell Kempton and Russ Ebersole, were Donn Ketcham's "friends" and they just overlooked his sin and therefore put the single women and young female MK's at risk!



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⁸ Ibid. Page 81

⁹ Ibid. Page 165

Others in ABWE that mismanaged Ketcham’s adultery/paedophilia over the years were William Commons, Don Davis, William Davis, Joseph DeCook, Jesse Eaton, Lawrence Fetzer, Nancy Hepworth, Russell Lloyd, Michael Loftis, Viggo Olsen, Donald Parvin, Alice Payne, William Pierson, Richard Stagg and David “Jay” Walsh.¹⁰

An ABWE nurse aptly stated “If it had been a non-Christian group, it probably would have been dealt with better.”¹¹ So now with ABWE’s release of their “comprehensive child protection policy”¹² will anything really change? Policies and good intentions are great but will they change culture that has been prevalent within ABWE for so many years?

Truth is, ABWE needs to close shop as Evangelical Baptist Missions (EBM) did in 2011 due to poor financial management. ABWE has spent thousands and thousands of dollars given by well-intentioned churches and individuals for the Lord’s work and not for investigations and reports!

In fact, ABWE has a service charge for each missionary as shown in the chart¹³ which I am sure may be needed for some expenses for Ketcham’s sins.

BLENDED FLAT RATE FEE – Effective 9/1/2015			
Blended Flat Rate Caps	Percent between caps	Couple	Single
Mid 2015 Lower Cap	9%	\$620	\$310
Mid 2015 Upper Cap		\$820	\$410
2016 Lower Cap	9.5%	\$635	\$317.50
2016 Upper Cap		\$835	\$417.50
2017 Lower Cap	10%	\$650	\$325
2017 Upper Cap		\$850	\$425

Have the years spent in investigating the sexual sins of Donn Ketcham been partly the cause for ABWE

missionaries to have to pay more for the operation of the Home Office? “Unfortunately, the cost of the investigation in time, effort and money has been difficult on ABWE as communicated to Pii by ABWE’s Corporate Counsel. Pii takes the position that it is primarily ABWE’s decisions over the course of the investigation that have increased the costs and led to an untoward impact on their organization.”¹⁴ The money will come from somewhere.

Therefore, with some planning ABWE could settle their debts, sell their “miracle on the hill”¹⁵ and find another mission to take their missionaries. There might be some hiccups along the way but it could be done. There has been too much damage caused to the work of Christ and Ketcham’s victims. Therefore, the right and proper thing to do is close shop! No organization, including ABWE, is indispensable.

Yes, this is “...the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” Ecclesiastes 12:13.

¹⁰ Pdf. PP 167-192

¹¹ Ibid. Page 200

¹² http://www.abwe.org/protecting-our-children/ABWE_Child_Protection_Policy.pdf

¹³ Received in an Email from ABWE Finance Department

¹⁴ Pdf. Page 143

¹⁵ <http://www.abwe.org/about/our-home-office>