



Investigate

23 messages

Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]>
To: Vbm <vbm@visionemail.org>

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 5:22 PM

We need an outside, independent, investigation.

On the one hand, because we love brother Gardner and have known his spiritual influence in our own lives, and know the results of his ministry over the years, The first reaction for most of us at these allegations is disbelief. Surely these actions could not be associated with the man that we know.

On the other hand, we have an obligation before God to try to understand the truth and deal with it scripturally. Brother Gardner is a man, as we all are. Other men have had their ministries marred, and we should not pretend that Bro Gardner is any less vulnerable--as we all are.

It is our duty to do the right thing, no matter who is involved. And the right thing is truth and accountability. If that truth is good news, praise God! If the truth is ugly, then it is ugly. We should neither condemn nor defend blindly. We should love Bro Gardner, and find the truth.

An investigation and a seeking of the full story from both sides is the most obvious thing to do if we are actually interested in the truth of this matter.

Sure it has been "mentioned", but it should not require days of deliberation to determine whether we are even going to see if what is being said is true or if there is more to the story?

I find it kind of funny that Chris Gardner just called me to see if I was wanting to resign, and tell me that he has already told Edward Jones that they were going to be some rumors coming out about him, and Edward Jones immediate response was "OK, well, we are going to have to do an investigation, of course".

But for some reason the church, who is supposed to have a concern for truth, righteousness, and justice, can't seem to decide whether this is worth looking into.

Adam Ragsdale <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 5:39 PM

I agree with you, James and Walz that an investigation should be done. Also shouldn't be a divisive opinion.

Your servant in Christ,
Adam Ragsdale

On Aug 5, 2021, at 6:22 PM, Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]> wrote:

We need an outside, independent, investigation.

[Quoted text hidden]

Jason Holt <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: Vbm <vbm@visionemail.org>

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 6:23 PM

Thank you Philip for your email. I have spoken with Jeff and the directors and will give a brief response to let you know how we are working together on this entire issue. Please be aware of what action has been taken in the first 48 hours:

1. Initially acknowledged the investigation and conclusions that MWBM came to concerning these accusations back in 2004. There is legitimacy to the pastoral board of directors, Pastor Wayne Cofield, and their office directors' decisions.
2. The board of directors of VBM (Trent, Robert, Mark T, Mark C, Travis, and me) has been on high alert since the news broke. We have been meeting together, coordinating with the deacons and pastor of VBM, seeking legal counsel, speaking with supporting pastors, and meeting with our missionaries (you all). The directors have invested 18-20 hrs a day for the past two days. My last call ended at 11:00 PM last night and my first call started at 3:30 AM today (speaking with the directors in Europe, Africa, and Asia). We are trying to serve and do it well. Admittedly we are learning and are leaning on the counsel of many others with more experience. Two lawyers have been consulted along with Rhonda Gibby, who is a human resource expert with experience in corporate crisis management. She is also a member of VBC and my families' yoke-fellow. While our hearts are broken, we understand the mission of God is important and we are trying to address each person and issue with wisdom. Our counsel insisted that we move slowly and thoughtfully. Austin Gardner, on the other hand, insisted his resignation be posted today by the mission. The church also needs clarity tonight. So, our timeframe and focus have been on managing these first steps well.
3. This afternoon, as we considered feedback from you all, the directors discussed contracting an independent firm to investigate the sexual abuse allegations. Some initial research was done online to identify companies that have experience in ministry settings. The idea was met with approval among the leadership. At the time of the brief conversation, each director was working through a list of call-backs to pastors, supporters, and concerned missionaries.
4. I'm not surprised that Edward Jones has a better plan in place. Their company is large and has a long history and a large legal team. Be clear, we are not as prepared as they are for these types of crises. That's not a surprise for any of us.
5. Much of our team is also involved in local church ministry. Vision's midweek service just started. My Chilean church service starts within the hour.

Be patient and don't assume the worst. Ask any questions openly and freely. We are trying to serve the Lord, you all, and our supporters.

*While this message represents the ideas discussed among the directors, it has not been reviewed by them before being posted now. I lament that we have to be so careful with our words, but we are trying to honor the Lord with excellence. Please understand that.



Jason Holt

Chile Church Planter // Latin America Director for VBM



[Redacted email address]



@JasonHolt



/MissionaryJasonHolt



ConnectChile.org

[Quoted text hidden]

Aaron Vance <[Redacted]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 6:36 PM

I agree.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Aaron Vance

[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

Jim Roberts <[Redacted]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 6:40 PM

Thank you Jason

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 5, 2021, at 19:37, Aaron Vance <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]>
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 7:44 PM

I appreciate the effort of everyone. It is crisis mode for us all.

Also, I am not assuming the worst or attempting to convict. I am saying this needs to seriously be looked into without bias.

Speaking of assumptions, what I find bothersome is that everyone seems to assume innocence as a default posture toward the situation, which is understandable, but NOT *insist* that this innocence be verified through additional investigation.

Another thing that bothers me is that there was not even a *discussion* of an independent investigation until after our zoom calls this morning. The initial email thread included, almost exclusively, seeming *verdicts* from everyone that this is a lie, there is no merit, and he is innocent *with no hint of doing further investigation*, just conclusions. How is that sufficient or thorough in any way?

Furthermore, at least on my zoom call, The mention of an investigation was for the purpose of being able to say that we did an investigation and thus protect our support and VBM's reputation. The fact that I *still* have not heard anyone call for us to commit to getting to the bottom of this, no matter what, is flabbergasting.

Not to have a name-clearing investigation, not to have a innocence-finding investigation or a witch hunt, but to seek out everything we can find out, from every side, about this situation and all of the other accusations and determine what merit they have.

And, I'm sorry, but the method of seeking for an investigator before committing to *doing* an investigation at all sounds awfully suspicious of attempting to find an investigator who we think will give a favorable investigation before announcing that "we are doing a independent investigation". I don't really know why we shouldn't get to pick our own investigators at all.

An honest, unbiased investigation is the only investigation that is actually credible, or will make us look and sound credible, for that matter.

Is it possible that these accusation could be true?

Is it possible that we might not know everything about the private life of Austin and/or the details of these situations?

Full disclosure, I called Johnathan Earnhardt today and asked him if anyone from vision had reached out to them at all in any way to hear more, ask more questions, get a more full picture of their side of the situation, or ask about any other accusations.

No.

I asked him about this previous investigation that everyone is depending upon. Was it serious and thorough? He laughed. He said that none of his witnesses were even ever contacted.

I have no idea what actually happened, but that gives me enough doubt to think we need another. Not to mention that it was an *internal* investigation with at least the temptation of wanting to prevent a scandal breaking out about their organization and leadership.

I asked for a more full picture from his perspective. Why has no one else?

And for the record, he is a pastor, and said that he has no desire to take down the church, a mission board, missionaries or any of that. He wants reconciliation and restoration. He wants Send to be acknowledged, admitted, and forsaken.

He mentioned that he has seven kids, I think, six of which love the Lord, but one of which, Abby, who is away from the Lord and extremely angry and hurt. She apparently has her own story they have just recently found out about which is what he says prompted the timing of this. She is the one who has been cussing and getting her friends to comment and post and be very malicious. He said he is trying as hard as he can to get her to stop, stop leaving bad reviews everywhere, etc. They don't want that to be happening.

But even an accusation from a terrible person is worth investigating. I am NOT saying we have to automatically believe every accusation. But we want to investigate and judge righteous judgment.

On Aug 5, 2021, at 6:24 PM, Jason Holt <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 8:25 PM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: vbm@visionemail.org

Philip,

I love you and everyone on here, and this is written in a friendly nice tone.

Seriously, thank you for your heart and commitment to truth, Biblical truth, and desire for transparency and integrity.

Thank you for your perspective and boldness to speak up when it would be easier to stay silent. I appreciate it and the sincere spirit it is given. I am sure others feel the same and I agree with where your heart is coming from.

Truth is good for us, and so is open communication.

I am sure that my voice counts for very little and I am a newbie compared to the older generation and came much later than the field directors.

I have had the privilege of being able to watch Jeff and Trent working through this major accusation these past few days.

I know many are not here in Georgia or a part of all the dozens of conversations happening throughout each day.

Thank you for everyone's concern and love for each other during this time.

I only respond to try to assure you that we are committed first and foremost to our Savior.

Your reasoning and points of concern are good for us to hear, and we have and are wrestling through them and even more so here around Vision Baptist Church and Mission.

I am a nobody

As a Christian and your brother, I thank you and everyone on here for your patience and understanding

Phil, I hear you and I assure you that your concerns are being heard and we are prayerfully trying our best not to drown in sorrow and discouragement and hurt from many people around the world from the moment we wake up to the laying of our heads on our pillows.

I love you and know this might be taken differently than intended

Thank you for caring for the truth. Thank you for caring for your Christian brothers and sisters on both sides of this time.

I would like everyone to know the truth, families to be reconciled, and all wounds to be healed

Thank you for your love, honesty, and friendship

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

[REDACTED]
www.bcwe.org

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

On Aug 5, 2021, at 8:44 PM, Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Jason Holt [REDACTED]
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 9:01 PM

I appreciate the effort of everyone. It is crisis mode for us all.

Also, I am not assuming the worst or attempting to convict. I am saying this needs to seriously be looked into without bias.

Speaking of assumptions, what I find bothersome is that everyone seems to assume innocence as a default posture toward the situation, which is understandable, but NOT *insist* that this innocence be verified through additional investigation.

We are not assuming. We haven't heard new allegations. These allegations were already known and investigated by a group of pastors from multiple churches in 2004.

There is room to discuss an additional investigation. That's what we are doing today. No one has said, "No Phil, we are not going to investigate." We are saying, "there's a lot going on in the first 48 hrs and we are considering an additional investigation.

Another thing that bothers me is that there was not even a *discussion* of an independent investigation until after our zoom calls this morning. The initial email thread included, almost exclusively, seeming *verdicts* from everyone that this is a lie, there is no merit, and he is innocent *with no hint of doing further investigation*, just conclusions. How is that sufficient or thorough in any way?

In the last 48 hours, we have not received new allegations. Thus, it was natural to conclude that he is still innocent as was concluded in 2004.

Furthermore, at least on my zoom call, The mention of an investigation was for the purpose of being able to say that we did an investigation and thus protect our support and VBM's reputation. The fact that I *still* have not heard anyone call for us to commit to getting to the bottom of this, no matter what, is flabbergasting.

Again, no new charges were made and no new witnesses were identified. The alleged victim states there are no witnesses. She states everything was done in private.

Not to have a name-clearing investigation, not to have a innocence-finding investigation or a witch hunt, but to seek out everything we can find out, from every side, about this situation and all of the other accusations and determine what merit they have.

And, I'm sorry, but the method of seeking for an investigator before committing to *doing* an investigation at all sounds awfully suspicious of attempting to find an investigator who we think will give a favorable investigation before announcing that "we are doing a independent investigation". I don't really know why we shouldn't get to pick our own investigators at all.

We haven't had a board meeting to vote on the plan. One of the directors was in bed because of his time zone. I told you that we discussed it and everyone was in favor. Maybe I should have waited until the plan was finalized. Also, we don't have investigators on container or in our rolodex. Obviously there must be a process to find a number to call. This was what I was referring to. I only mentioned the initial search process to let you know we were forming a plan, although we had not met since this morning at 7:00 AM to have an official meeting.

An honest, unbiased investigation is the only investigation that is actually credible, or will make us look and sound credible, for that matter.

Is it possible that these accusation could be true?

We stated in our meetings today that none of us can say categorically that she has lied about everything because none of us were present in any of the alleged moments of abuse.

Is it possible that we might not know everything about the private life of Austin and/or the details of these situations?

Of course. No one assumes to know the details of anyone's private life.

Full disclosure, I called Johnathan Earnhardt today and asked him if anyone from vision had reached out to them at all in any way to hear more, ask more questions, get a more full picture of their side of the situation, or ask about any other accusations.

No.

I asked him about this previous investigation that everyone is depending upon. Was it serious and thorough? He laughed. He said that none of his witnesses were even ever contacted.

We have spoken to Dean Hamby, and we are requesting documentation. This takes time.

I have no idea what actually happened, but that gives me enough doubt to think we need another. Not to mention that it was an *internal* investigation with at least the temptation of wanting to prevent a scandal breaking out about their organization and leadership.

I asked for a more full picture from his perspective. Why has no one else?

In one fell swoop, Pastor Earnhardt and his family/team published an edited and produced documentary-style story and pushed it to

the masses. In the first 48 hours, Pastor Earnhardt has not spoken to us directly. Pastor Earnhardt has not requested to speak to Pastor Trent. Representatives from his church have not requested to speak with our church leadership or deacons. But Pastor Earnhardt has allowed a page to be created to hold a public attack on another preacher of the gospel. He is allowing a social media firm to use “cheeky” and sarcastic comments on their Twitter page as they taunt us and make threats about what is coming. Multiple family members (not just the one daughter) are harassing David, Katie, Chris, Andria, Joy, and others with grotesque comments and attacks. They are filled with insults, taunts, threats, and cursing. I can share them if you would like. I find zero evidence that Pastor Earnhardt has a desire to reconcile. He has a team working together to spam all of us, our supporters, and even our churches on the field. Pastor Earnhardt has not reached out to request a meeting with any new sin allegations. His group is threatening with sarcasm and taunts saying they will not stop until they destroy us. They have attacked and mocked many publicly and privately.

We are abhorred at their conduct.

Of course we would openly welcome a Christian conversation with the goal of seeking restoration. Mat. 18, Gal. 6

And for the record, he is a pastor, and said that he has no desire to take down the church, a mission board, missionaries or any of that. He wants reconciliation and restoration. He wants Send to be acknowledged, admitted, and forsaken.

He mentioned that he has seven kids, I think, six of which love the Lord, but one of which, Abby, who is away from the Lord and extremely angry and hurt. She apparently has her own story they have just recently found out about which is what he says prompted the timing of this. She is the one who has been cussing and getting her friends to comment and post and be very malicious. He said he is trying as hard as he can to get her to stop, stop leaving bad reviews everywhere, etc. They don't want that to be happening.

But even an accusation from a terrible person is worth investigating. I am NOT saying we have to automatically believe every accusation. But we want to investigate and judge righteous judgment.

Rhonda Gibby stated today that we moved way too fast today. She wanted us to wait to release our statement and our plans. She suggested for us to not be in a hurry. Yet Austin Gardner insisted on resigning today. Multiple pastors threaten to withhold support until a statement was released. Now you say you are “flabbergasted” that the plan isn't better developed within the first

48 hrs. I'm sorry to not meet your expectations. We should have followed Rhonda's advice and not spoken to any of you or released a statement until we had time to develop a better plan among the group of directors that are scattered across multiple continents.

If you are going to assume what our intentions are, maybe you should assume the best. Maybe you should assume that in our private conversations we, the directors, decided that truth trumps loyalty and we won't cover up anything – because that's what happened.

All the directors have now responded and we have agreed to start an independent, external investigation. This is what I alluded to earlier today when I said the conversation for an additional investigation was being discussed and was being met with overwhelming approval among the board members.

Remember we are not against each other. We are together. You and I are actually members of the same local body. Please be patient and show grace as we both seek to glorify Christ in this situation.



Jason Holt

Chile Church Planter // Latin America Director for VBM



[Redacted email address]



@JasonHolt



/MissionaryJasonHolt



ConnectChile.org

[Quoted text hidden]

Stephen Underwood <[Redacted]>

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 9:08 PM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: vbm@visionemail.org

I'll admit that my anger toward them, love for Jefe, and personal bias has kept me from considering these things you mentioned. It takes genuine integrity to point out these truthful points of consideration.

I do not want to be a blind follower of a man, as we are all capable of these sins. I often fail at this within our team. I bought into our unofficial mantra that we are more than a board, we're a family. So I will always see any of us as completely innocent, and any accusations are without merit. I'm probably wrong for that. But it would be no different than if it were my dad, brother, or sons being accused.

My gut reaction was that they were not after restoration, they were out for blood. Which put me in not only defense for Bro Austin, but offense to want to hurt them in return. I didn't even consider reaching out to Jonathan because I saw him as an enemy. That is not right on my part, and I'm sorry.

I would like to be honest and say that I'm for an investigation in order to prove his innocence, so I'm still very biased. I do stand on the premise that we are all innocent until proven guilty, and the burden of proof of guilt rests upon the accusers. This was one of the issues I had during the majority of the protests last year, was that guilty verdicts, and sentencings were cast in the court of public opinion long before law enforcement could do an investigation. We were all blindsided by this, as we woke up and saw websites, Facebook posts, videos, and twitter accounts making these claims before most of us had our coffee.

All that to say that I know I didn't think clearly, logically, nor cared about seeking the truth. May this help me moving forward.

I appreciate your stand Phil and the reminder that the truth is most important.

Stephen Underwood
Acts 20:24
Argentinamissions.net

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Tolson <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 9:39 PM

Phil,

I hear you and see your heart.

Your assessment of the VBM Asia Zoom call is not fair. I concluded that an investigation was for the purpose of (1) finding the truth whatever it may be; (2) and for the integrity of the board being able to say that we did an investigation.

Everyone was able to express their opinions on the situation and ask questions, but my overarching emphasis and repeated many times was truth above everything. My wife even gave testimony what we prayed as a couple. Everyone on the call can attest to that. I took everyone's opinions about an investigation to the board.

Also, for clarification, you must have misunderstood, but an independent investigation was always a consideration and was discussed before the zoom call, my first response to the board of directors after watching the video in a text message. On Wednesday at 7:59 AM I said "*I think we do an investigation*" to the directors.

The tone of the email you sent makes it sound like you think we aren't doing a good job or have suspicious motives. I apologize for our failings in this. But as Jason mentioned, before any of the zoom calls, we decided that truth trumps loyalty and we won't cover up anything.

I told you the board didn't have an official position on the investigation because of all the moving parts and the amount of time that had passed, and other things we were dealing with. We are working on this 24/7 behind the scenes. After getting the final word, the board can now officially announce we are moving forward with an independent investigation.

If you have other ideas, like contacting Pastor Earnhardt, then please share them with us instead of accusing us of not doing it. From the beginning, we have welcomed input and had said no questions are off-limits.

I hope this helps clear things up.

Mark
[Quoted text hidden]

John Walz <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 10:06 PM

Directors,

I think Philip has thought of things, ie calling Jonathan, that I wouldn't have thought to do.

I am biased for Jefe but that in itself compromises me from partial judgement.

Philip has shown he is able to ask some questions, perhaps you could consider inviting Philip to sit with you on the council as you continue to discuss these things.

I think his objectiveness would be beneficial to everyone.

I am for Jefe.

I will help pay for the investigation costs, or help in any way.

John

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Tolson <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 11:32 PM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thank you for your willingness to help in any way, John.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Coffey <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 12:59 AM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: vbm@visionemail.org

Just for the record, Bro Austin asked to meet with the Earnhardt's and that meeting was denied. Bro Austin requested to speak with Becky and that communication was denied. Bro Austin wasn't even allowed to be in the meeting when Jonathan met with the board to present the accusations to them in person. Lawyers were consulted. I was involved from the beginning and we tried to make sure we did everything correctly.

Macedonia's board was not biased toward Bro Austin. The Earnhardt's were part of the same board. They had no desire to protect one over the other. There were pastors on the board who didn't even like Bro Austin who sided with him after they were presented with both sides. The board was sympathetic toward the Earnhardt's but could not in good conscience side with them.

There was never a cover up. There was never any fear of facing anyone to answer any questions. There was never an attempt to keep this secret from anyone else.

I've already let it be known, but will do so again. If anyone has any questions, concerns, or doubts please feel free to contact me. There wasn't anyone more involved in this situation from the beginning on our team than me.

I have no problem being involved in another investigation other than knowing how much this hurt the Gardners the first time they had to go through all of this. I also have no doubt of the outcome. No matter how you look at the situation it is still his word against hers with no witnesses. That's not going to go change no matter how many investigations we have.

The parts that caused Becky's original accusations to fall apart was the details she gave where there were witnesses. For example if I'm remembering this correctly, "the Gardner family would all sit on the bed and watch tv together but they said I wasn't allowed to because I wasn't one of their biological kids." The only problem is that they didn't have a tv in their bedroom.

Remember this, she's already stated she's been molested by 4 other men who weren't Bro Austin. I knew that information from the Earnhardt's before any accusations. Between dreams and mixing up stories in her head, it could be very possible that she got this stories and faces mixed up in her head if she isn't flat out lying. I didn't have a messed up child hood and I still don't remember things properly from from when I was 13 or 14. This is one of the reasons the Gardners wanted to talk to Becky. They believed this could have been worked out at the very beginning if they were just given the chance to talk to her. Jonathan never allowed that.

Their family picture with them all together hung on the Gardner wall. All the Earnhardt kids called them grandmamma and granddaddy. Becky called Bro Austin and Mrs Betty mom and dad. They raised support to work with them in Peru. These things aren't portrayed in the video for a reason. Understand this wasn't a small deal with the Gardners. This was a very crushing experience and not one that wasn't taken lightly. In no way did the Gardners want to end this relationship.

There were also a multiple of lies and misrepresentation in the video that showed their efforts where to smear instead of present the truth. Showing truth was never their intent.

But understand this, we believe we took all the proper steps that could be taken and followed in 2004. There is no way we would have left Peru to start a church in the Atlanta area if we had fear that this issue wasn't confronted and settled properly.

Just because new guys weren't present when the original investigation was done doesn't mean there wasn't an investigation. And just because the Earnhardt's didn't get the outcome they wanted doesn't mean the investigation that was done, was a bad one.

You would also be surprised to know the events that lead up to the accusations as well, especially with the accusations that have come out about Jonathan during that time in Tacna, Peru. I'm sure it will all come out in the

coming days.

I was trying to wait until the official records from Macedonia came back before sharing this but with the sentiments shared I thought it would be helpful to go ahead and say something now.

Here to serve,
Mark Coffey
Psalm 16:11

On Aug 6, 2021, at 6:32 AM, Mark Tolson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Jonathan Anderson <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 2:36 AM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: vbm@visionemail.org

Well, now that you brought my name into it, I need to respond. Jk.

In all honesty I do believe that things have happened so very quick and I get it... in one way we all feel like this is affecting us in a personal way. I will say, now more than ever, we must follow the Spirit of God as leaders and as a team.

God does not reward false accusations on either side and He is judging the situation as we speak.

I am praying and asking God for wisdom and I have watched both videos that have come out now... English and Spanish.

I do agree with Jason and others when they say that the family does not want to talk about things. They want to ruin a family and they are angry.

Not sure that the daughter could be so angry and yet the parents be completely Spirit filled and and it's hard to believe that they have released this video as a result of God guiding them to do so. This is a woman who supposedly has gotten "help."

The video portrays her as a woman that is still deeply hurt and bitter. Her daughters are bitter. Is this whole thing truly Spirit led.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It's hard to believe that this woman did not tell her husband for years and yet has scares from it...

These things come up with the person you are sleeping with every night. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I know that there are others on this team with experiences and you have had to work through hard stuff. Bitterness is never the answer.

What I see from this other family is nothing more than bitterness and anger 40 years later and at the end of the day it's one lady accusing another man and trying to destroy rather it be his life or family and those around him.

Let's be clear, you don't go about it this way and say that God is guiding you.

If this woman is lying, she has caused so much hurt and has abused the love that the Gardner family gave her as she lived in their house.

I don't doubt she has lived a hard life with leaving her house at 12 years old..

Maybe she is not the only one that has been put through hell on earth... her actions and those of her family have caused much hurt to many others and they do not seem to care about that. Bitterness does that to people.

May this 2nd investigation not keep us from showing compassion to the family that has sacrificed so very much to make each of us a success. At this point I do not have any reason to wonder if the Gardner family has sacrificed greatly in order to see this ministry where it is today. They have loved selflessly and we know that.

Let's be Spirit led and ask God to give us the wisdom that only comes from heaven. Keep your heart with all diligence my brothers. Let's not let the devil win and I know that we have God fearing men on this team.

It's 2:17am here and I just wanted to share my heart. Please take it that way. Love you guys!

I can say with all my heart that I want the TRUTH to prevail. After all... that is what we preach from the pulpit. Truth! And truth is what truly changes lives and heals the hurt. Not lies from the evil one. That produces bitterness, anger and hate.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Jonathan Anderson
Missionary Serving in Mexico

PO Box 442
Alpharetta, GA. 30009
Mobile [REDACTED]
www.ProjectWinMexico.com

Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]>
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 1:50 PM

I am glad an investigation is finally committed to. I feel like it should be done by a firm that both parties can agree to.

Unfortunately it is less than satisfying because this commitment came only after a lot of force by this thread, and no doubt countless pastors calling in to demand the same.

The whole initial thread, and official statement reeked of minimizing, downplaying, and whitewashing. And that exposes how not-serious this is being taken.

Even now, new posts on the VBM fb page are as if nothing of consequence has happened and we are carrying on, bc no problems here any more! "Training missionaries for the future!" This deserves at least a moment of silence and consideration.

'Accidentally' deleting internal communication history and channels (which follows previous patterns), is also extremely suspicious when your desire is to be completely transparent and seek the truth above all else.

This whole thing reads as corporate-speak, internal damage control.

I am not "flabbergasted that the plan isn't better developed in the first 48 hours."
What i actually said was:

The fact that I *still* have not heard anyone call for us to commit to getting to the bottom of this, no matter what, is flabbergasting.

It is the attitude and approach of not immediately and fully pursuing a full investigation. That should take 2 seconds to decide upon. THAT is what I find extremely disturbing.

I do not buy the narrative that this is an extremely complicated thing to decide on, provided that you care about getting to the truth.

Why would I not assume that the private conversation was not heading toward looking into this? Because every bit of internal and external communication and discussion was calling this an obvious lie and pledging to stand with him, and nothing of what we should do to look into this more.

Seeking truth is not the same as seeking to hurt or destroy anyone.

Someone telling their own personal story is not gossip, regardless of how you feel about it.

Someone who shares a story that you don't like or that makes you uncomfortable does not qualify them as being bitter.

Confronting a friend with truth in love is not a betrayal of that friendship.

Seeking justice and standing up for those without a voice does not mean you are unforgiving.

Demanding that spiritual leaders be held to a high account is not unloving, but is actually biblical and right.

I am not going to address everything said here point by point, but I disagree with how this has been handled, and am extremely disappointed with leadership.

On Aug 5, 2021, at 9:02 PM, Jason Holt [REDACTED] > wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Jason Holt <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: Vbm <vbm@visionemail.org>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 1:58 PM

Lord willing, more information will be released later today. It is being prepared.

There are multiple moving parts that are being managed. Thank you for your patience.



Jason Holt

Chile Church Planter // Latin America Director for VBM



[REDACTED]



@JasonHolt



/MissionaryJasonHolt



ConnectChile.org

[Quoted text hidden]

Trent Cornwell <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 2:21 PM

I sincerely believe the deacons and I are taking steps that are in accordance to knowing and loving the Gospel.

Within 24 hours of learning the news I met with them on Zoom. Andrew Pearson suggested reaching out to the Earnhardt's to learn of there were steps we could take as a church to help victims. Also we wanted to know if there were incidents during the life of Vision we should be aware.

The next morning I asked a lawyer, David Gibbs III, what steps we should take to do this. He recommended that I have Rhonda Gibby to reach out to her. I thought this would be helpful and was confident she would be glad to help.

By that afternoon I learned that Andrew has already spoke to Jonathan Earnhardt and was informed that they did not know of any cases that happened at Vision. Andrew expressed his desire to help however needed. He shared this with the deacons in a meeting in my office. I thanked him for doing this on our behalf.

Last night I read a public statement that will be posted online this evening. The deacons and I informed the church we would stay until they had no more questions. We answered to the best of our ability.

You may say this was pressured by you but I did not communicate with you prior to that first meeting with deacons. I will be very willing to admit you championed this idea.

My conscience is clear of the steps taken thus far and the steps we have taken to get to them.

I have not been writing much here. My focus is on the health of the church. But I wanted all those reading to know my response to the words of my brother, Philip.

We want His name exalted.

Trent

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Tolson <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 2:40 PM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: vbm@visionemail.org

Thank you for your steady and wise leadership through this Trent.

I know you are listening to many voices and praying through what each step should be.

I am in this with you to getting to the bottom of this, no matter what.

Praying for you.

[Quoted text hidden]

Jens Looney <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 2:41 PM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: "vbm@visionemail.org" <vbm@visionemail.org>

It sounds to me like the first thing done on this side was to reach out to that side and see how we could help. (Which is what The Church/Christians in general should do first)

The second thing was to take care of Jefe's resignation and informing the missionaries and the church of everything that is currently going on.

The next thing we are going to do is get an investigation going into both that which was already known, and that which will be revealed.

As a "bystander" watching/reading, it sounds like all three of those steps were discussed in the first 24 hrs, before the directors informed the missionaries.

Am I following this correctly?

Is my timeline out of order Trent?

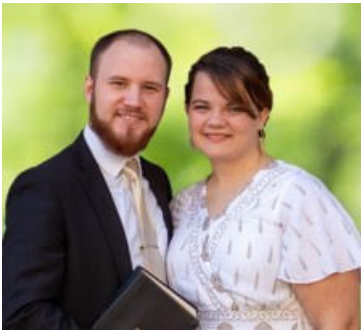
Is there a step I missed?

With love in our hearts,

In service to the King,

Jens & Regina Looney

Missionaries to Indonesia



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 3:43 PM

Philip,

I will publicly apologize to everyone on this VBM email ring

I am sorry for posting the two pics on VBM Facebook page

I was asked if I wanted to close 24 email ring and I said, "Yes," thinking that right now we should keep everything with VBM ring only and not even a full minute later (I'm talking literal seconds) I said actually don't do that because we need it for announcements and it wouldn't be a good idea and was probably me being reactionary.

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

[REDACTED]
www.bcwe.org

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

On Aug 6, 2021, at 3:22 PM, Trent Cornwell <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Tolson <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org
To: vbm@visionemail.org

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 3:50 PM

Thank you for more suggestions again, Phil.

I am going to address a few of your accusations:

- I am guessing you are referring to-- 'Accidentally' deleting internal communication--as me deleting the VBM Marco Polo. If so, there was no accident; I deleted the Marco Polo because we are removing Jefe from everything VBM (as mentioned in the Zoom call). Once he was removed, all his videos were still there, I didn't feel like deleting all videos, so I just deleted the group, which means you have to remove people. I sent the email out to the email ring telling people why they got a notification they were removed. I was trying to be transparent.

- Emails and things are being hacked. We are trying to get stuff under control.

There was a purpose to the official statement, although we would change things looking back. We can't do that, so we are going forward. I know that you are making emotional responses because you care about the truth, many people

do that here on the email ring, but I can assure you we are taking this seriously. It might be frustrating because you can't see all the 24/7 work that is taking place behind the scenes, but it doesn't mean that it isn't being done. I believe that God has placed us, directors, here for such a time as this, and we are trying to fulfill our roles to the glory of God.

- I already showed that there was an attitude and approach of immediately and fully pursuing an investigation. But yes, we decided to wait and pray before we decided on it (and then we dealt with a resignation from the president of our board). I am sorry if you disagree with that.

We demand that spiritual leaders be held to a high account and believe it is biblical and right.

- As Jason mentioned, there are lots of moving parts behind the scenes. Things that we can't share. Not because we aren't transparent, but because they are "developing" and or we are waiting on more information, or they are private. When something is available to share, we have tried to be faithful and share. We want the truth. We want reconciliation.

- Trent and the deacons are working to find the truth. Jeff and the directors are working to find the truth. We are trying to collaborate between the two. God has given us a duty to be men of integrity, and he has given us the responsibility to deal with this situation and find the truth in it. Again, I am sorry you are extremely disappointed with leadership, but I am so proud of the stand they have made to honor God, seek truth over loyalty, and not retreat from a tough situation. Honestly, if it weren't for the grace of God, none of us would be standing because it has been a rough and sleepless few days.

I love you.

And I love each of the families we have on here.

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 3:54 PM

Reply-To: vbm@visionemail.org

To: vbm@visionemail.org

Philip,

If the VBM email thread(s) you are referring to was the only information our missionaries had to go on, then yes we appeared to not be taking it as seriously as the situation deserves...

I give you my personal word, for whatever it is worth to you and the people on here, this is one of the most serious things in my life and the lives of those you are disappointed in

You have every right to feel disappointed and understandably so seeing as the leadership is having 24/7 discussions with so many people and barely spending time with their families

We are trying to love God.

We are trying to seek truth.

We are trying to do what is right.

We do care about you and about all our brothers and sisters not just in VBM but around the whole world.

We hate sin and love hurting people.

Please, I beg you as a brother in Christ

Hearts are breaking not because we are loyal to one man

People are crying because this is the hardest thing in the world to handle correctly and biblically and we want to do what's right

If you want to shoot at someone, please attack me

But please try to be a bit more patient and gracious

There are others who say nothing on here but only weep in silence. I see them every day the last few days

We are trying with everything in our power to do what's right

I'm sorry for disappointing you and for all the hurt I have and am causing you

Here to serve,

Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

www.bcwe.org

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

On Aug 6, 2021, at 2:50 PM, Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]>
To: Andrew Pearson <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 6:16 PM

Kinda have to start from the bottom, since that is the initial message I sent to start this thread.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Philip Bassham <[REDACTED]>
Date: August 6, 2021 at 1:50:41 PM CDT
To: vbm@visionemail.org
Subject: Re: [VBM] Investigate

[Quoted text hidden]