

**Author**

**Message**

**Whynot**

**Post subject:** Explanations from Sanford

**Posted:** Thu Apr 24, 2014 9:29 am

WHYNOT IS A MOUTHPIECE FOR NTM

offline

These documents were received this week by members of NTM USA.

**Joined:** Thu Apr 24, 2014 8:07 am

**Posts:** 6

Letter to members of NTM USA

04/21/2014

Dear Members of NTM USA,

THIS, 4 YEARS AFTER YOU KNEW PLENTY BUT YOU'D STALLED FOR TACTICAL REASONS BECAUSE THERE WERE 3 JANE DOE LAWSUITS IN PROGRESS...

As NTM USA nears the release of the results of another field

investigation of child abuse allegations, we want to share

with you information about how NTM USA is approaching

this important issue. Additionally, in recent days the

outcome of an individual investigation has caused tension

and confusion among some. Both of these investigations

have affirmed much of what was known regarding the

incidents and some additional facts of which NTM was

unaware. I would like to, in this correspondence, review

what brought us to this point.



Commitment

Let me first restate, NTM USA is committed to the safety of children. We know that the Lord cares for his children, and we seek to be like Him.

In these investigations, the goals were to remove any abusers who might still be serving with NTM USA, to allow victims to have an avenue to tell their story, to offer a means for counseling for any victims who desired that, and to learn from the process to make our organization as safe as possible for all children. Those goals have not changed.

We believe that it honors God to honestly acknowledge sin by proceeding with investigations, seeking truth, admitting what happened, and dealing with any abusers. NTM USA

will assist the authorities in any way possible in the prosecution of abusers. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST MISLEADING STATEMENTS REPEATED BY NTM EXECUTIVES OVER THE YEARS. THEY POINT TO THE INABILITY TO PROSECUTE TO PRETEND THEY HAVE DONE EVERYTHING US Historical Child Protection "POSSIBLE" TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM ABUSERS NTM QUIETLY DISMISSED. THAT IS A COMPLETELY DIS-HONEST EXCUSE DESIGNED TO AVOID CORPORATE EMBARRASSMENT.

In the 20th century, most psychological and law enforcement professionals believed that child abuse was not a common occurrence. As was later discovered, this was not true. Significant child abuse of various types existed in all public and religious organizations. As media attention has demonstrated, no organization is exempt, including NTM USA.

NTM USA started to realize in the 1990s that the problem of child abuse needed to be better understood and more completely addressed. Like other organizations, NTM USA was on a learning curve. As our awareness increased, we developed extensive guidelines and policies. The early efforts were stepping-stones to the development of our policies today.

By 2003, NTM USA had developed a comprehensive training program for members, associates, teachers, and children.

In the intervening ten years, we have continued to develop and improve our child protection program.

IN 2002 NTM LAWYER SCOTT ROSS HAD "INHERITED 80-90 CHILD ABUSE CASES" THAT NTM HAD BEEN COVERING UP!!

The combination of training for our members and a general heightened awareness of the subject of abuse has significantly reduced the opportunity for abuse to occur, which always results in fewer incidents. Our goal is to prevent abuse from ever happening within NTM USA. While statistics about child abuse tell us it is not possible to prevent abuse entirely, we continue to strive to keep children safe.

### Transitions in Educational Options

Methods of educating our children overseas have changed dramatically in the last decade. We are currently operating

three schools overseas. During this school year, 2013-2014, with 547 children of NTM USA missionaries overseas, 16 children, or 3%, are boarding. 60% are being homeschooled. The remainder of the students attend a traditional day school, meaning they live with their parents and attend school during the day.

### Guiding Principles for Investigations

Governmental agencies are the only ones that can conduct formal investigations leading to arrests and prosecution.

Any definitive statement that a person is “guilty” must come out of a court of law. Thus, independent investigations commissioned by NTM USA are limited by definition, and are “reviews” which can result in employee disciplinary actions by the organization, but carry no legal weight.

THIS IS ANOTHER INSTANCE WHERE NTM PLAYS FAST AND LOOSE BY APPLYING AN OVERLY NARROW INTERPRETATION OF LAW TO ACT AS A LIABILITY SHIELD. OTHER CASE LAW EXISTS WHICH THEY IGNORE.

However, the independent investigators commissioned by NTM USA are instructed to follow standard investigative protocol that includes searching for facts and evaluating all testimony critically. In order to conduct a thorough and unbiased investigation, the investigators should assume neither guilt nor innocence, weigh everything they hear and in all cases look for corroborating evidence.

ESPECIALLY IF INVESTIGATIONS IMPLICATE NTM LEADERSHIP

NTM USA has the obligation to all parties to depend on an unbiased investigation to seek the truth. This can be difficult for all involved. If someone has been wounded, it can be very painful to undergo an impartial investigation that does not assume the truth of the testimony given. NTM

USA has assistance available for MKs. ANOTHER TRUE STATEMENT, BUT THE MK'S REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE DUE TO THE GROUND RULES SET BY NTM. THE RESULT IS A SEVERE SQUELCHING OF VOICES. PRECISELY FOLLOWING How an Investigation is Handled NTM'S STANDARD PRACTICE. SAY ONE THING FOR GOOD "PR", KNOWING IT WILL RESULT IN A BENEFIT FOR NTM.

Civil authorities are notified when NTM USA receives an allegation of abuse. We take immediate steps to assure the safety of the child. If the authorities decide to investigate, NTM USA defers its investigation until they are finished. If

they do not, **NTM USA commissions an investigation whenever there is reasonable suspicion of abuse.**

NTM "COMMISSIONING INVESTIGATIONS" THEY SECRETLY CONTROL IS A LEGAL TACTIC THAT HAS DESTROYED THE LIVES OF MANY 100'S OF NTM MK'S. SICK.

Those accused of abuse are put on administrative leave/restricted assignment in the USA during the investigation. **Because of HR policies, NTM USA does not make broad notifications,** but the Sending Church is notified of the change. Putting a person on administrative leave is neither a disciplinary action nor an assumption of guilt. Instead, it is intended to protect all parties.

**When an investigation is launched, the investigative team reviews files and records for facts and contacts potential victims and witnesses for testimonies and interviews.**

**The factual findings are evaluated and recommendations are given to NTM USA. The Executive Board is responsible for final decisions regarding the recommendations.**

NTM LEARNED FROM THE 2010 G.R.A.C.E. REPORT TO "NEVER" LOSE CONTROL OF THE INFORMATION FLOW. 'TRUTH' IS SECONDARY.

Independent investigators do not give NTM USA the names of the individual survivors without their permission. **NTM USA senior leadership stands ready to talk to survivors and hear their experience.**

NTM ABUSE SURVIVORS HAVE POSTED OVER AND OVER THAT THEY WANT "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING" TO DO WITH THE MEN AT E360 WHO "KNOWINGLY" BETRAYED THEM WHILE "PROTECTING GOD'S WORK".  
Investigative Progress


Allegations of historical child abuse present special problems for investigations. Law enforcement typically will not deal with historical allegations. In cases more than a few years old, they have difficulty gathering sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution. This is very disappointing for victims to hear.

**In 2008, the NTM USA child protection team began to consider a comprehensive mission-wide review of historical child abuse. About the same time, a group of MKs came forward to tell their experiences, which reconfirmed our decision to move forward with a mission-wide review.**

2008 IS FACTUAL. NOW, BOTH BRIAN COOMBS AND CEO LARRY BROWN CLAIM THAT "IN 2009 'TWO' WOMEN CAME FORWARD" THAT IS AN OUTRIGHT LIE! TO EASILY VERIFY THE LIE, LOOK AT PAGES 5-7 OF THE HIGHLY MISLEADING JUNE 2020 "E360 AND CHILD SAFETY" PUBLICATION

NTM INITIATED G.R.A.C.E. ONLY "AFTER" THE FANDAEAGLES BLOG SCARED YOU TO DEATH THAT THEY'D GO PUBLIC! ANOTHER NTM "LIE BY OMISSION"!

We initiated the investigation of our school in Senegal. This led to more MKs telling their experiences and a greater awareness in the organization. NTM USA leadership recognized that the depth of injury to victims was significant, and this further strengthened our commitment to the investigative process. Throughout the organization, we have a deep sadness about the past and a desire to see every possible measure taken to ensure that the present and future is different. THE BIRTH OF THE IHART DECEPTION!!



NTM USA is continuing the independent investigations through an independent historical abuse review process.

This process has been utilized by Pat Hendrix who is leading the IHART team. The investigators in that process are all trained and experienced, and come from a variety of professional backgrounds in law enforcement, security, and education.

### Release of Information

When abuse has been confirmed, some question why the reports are not released more broadly and publicly. Many believe that full details should be released either within NTM USA or outside, or both.

An investigation commissioned by NTM USA is not a law enforcement investigation. A confirmed finding of child abuse gives NTM USA the right only to impose disciplinary proceedings, such as dismissing the offender. Under religious law principles, NTM USA may share more than a secular employer would be permitted to share, such as giving an overview of the disciplinary action within the field or to entities with spiritual accountability, such as a Sending Church. NTM HAS FAILED MISERABLY IN "THIS DUTY TO PROTECT". THIS STANCE BY NTM IS HOTLY CONTESTED AS BEING LESS THAN ACCURATE. NTM USA does not have the right to make the story public on the internet, or to give great detail even within the organization. The different evidentiary standards for a non-governmental investigation do not permit us to make public NUMEROUS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN PRO-ACTIVE TO ALERT THE PUBLIC OF CREDIBLE ACCUSATIONS IN ORDER TO PROTECT INNOCENTS

our conclusions about an accused.

## Application of Disciplinary Policies

Some of you have had questions about how we have applied our policies to recent investigative cases and the terms we use in our policies. Your questions were valid and deserve an answer and prompted us to conduct a much needed review.

## Upcoming Report

It is important for us to say that portions from the upcoming results from the East Brazil investigation will not reflect the alignment of policies and clarification of terms that were recently completed. The terms and the policies upon which the East Brazil Master Report were processed weeks ago, reflect the differences that existed in our policies at the time. NTM USA's commitment to not interfere in the writing of the Master Report means that the clarifications we now have will not be reflected in some of the documents being released. However, we are confident that the final administrative outcomes are in line with our goals and direction.

## Conclusion

NTM USA is deeply saddened by the wounds that some MKs have experienced, and is committed to continuing to address child protection. NTM USA seeks to carry out its goals of removing offenders, protecting children, and offering assistance to victims. ON NTM'S TERMS "ONLY"

When this entire process started we acknowledged the likelihood that decisions might later need to be changed. Despite setbacks, we will continue to push ahead. Thank you for your prayers as we endeavor to follow the path we believe the Lord is showing us, neither denying the past nor abandoning the future. We seek to follow the Lord, one BRIAN... THIS IS 2023. EXACTLY HOW HARD ARE YOU "PUSHING"?



step at a time.

**Brian Shortmeier**  
**General Secretary / CAO**  
**NTM USA Executive Board**

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Application of Disciplinary Policies  
04/21/2014

**Joined:** Thu Apr 24, 2014 8:07 am  
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Some of you have had questions about how we have applied our policies to recent investigative cases and the terms we use in our policies. Your questions prompted us to conduct a much needed review. We discovered that there is an inconsistency between some of the policies and we found others that needed updating. We believe that the inconsistencies came about as a result of the many changes in personnel due to resignation, moving, and ministry reassignment which are typical in mission type work. With the changes came a failure of job duties to be completely passed on from one person to the next and thus a failure to keep our policies coordinated between departments. What we have learned helps us to improve our system and strive to keep our policies in alignment.

There was an inconsistency in the use of terms including resignation, dismissal, and termination. The issue of whether or not someone would ever be eligible for reinstatement was unclear.

For example, regarding sexual abuse, in the NTM USA Policy Manual there are references to members being asked to resign, be dismissed, and be terminated but in the Child Protection Manual it only refers to members being dismissed.