

**STATEMENT OF FINDINGS OF CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN JAPAN
INVESTIGATION
Personal and Confidential**

Regarding Allegations of Child Abuse

TO: SEND INTERNATIONAL
DATE: May 30, 2021
FROM: CAJ Investigation Review Panel
RE: Investigation into allegations by MK students (MK4, MK12, MK13, MK14) against AO1 of physical and emotional child abuse and investigation of allegations by MK students (MK6 – age 18 but the grooming process began when he was a minor, MK8 and MK15) against AO2 of sexual and physical abuse. Also noted is MK8 provided limited testimony against AO2 of sexual abuse regarding MK9 and MK10.

Description of Initial Report

The (FECG/SEND) investigation, including of Christian Academy in Japan, was commissioned in response to an allegation made by a (SEND) missionary kid (MK) that the person had been beaten excessively by a dorm mother when attending the CAJ. Rather than just investigating this allegation, SEND commissioned an investigation of the Far Eastern Gospel Crusade (FEGC), including CAJ school and staff, covering a period of 1958 to 1970.

Investigative Teams

For historical abuse investigations, SEND has set up a separate process, utilizing an Independent Investigative Team with a Leader and investigators from outside SEND and strict confidentiality requirements to protect witnesses. The investigative team interviewed alleged victims/survivors (V/S), attempted to contact alleged offenders (AO), and produced an extensive report by December 31, 2020.

Description and Scope of Investigation

The SEND Investigative Team worked from both documents and interviews. The Team collected and reviewed extensive records. They reviewed hundreds of pages in documents—school records, committee notes and personnel records. The Team made over 22 contacts with MKs, MK parents and school staff and leadership teams. The Team conducted eight witness interviews, with as many MKs as could be reached and were willing. The AO's could not be interviewed. AO1 is deceased and AO2 is 95 years old and in poor health. In the case of AOs, lack of an interview did not exclude them from the findings. The team also made leadership culpability findings for those determined to have had knowledge of abuse activity. All findings were made by a preponderance of the evidence, sometimes explained as “more likely than not” true.

Difficulties of historical investigation

Because of the length of time that elapsed, some individual allegations were unable to be definitively established. But investigators were able to draw conclusions about the (CAJ) mission culture of the past through the cumulative information from the testimonies received. Therefore, everyone's testimony, whether or not fully established, contributes to the whole picture of the culture and the safety of children now and in the future.

SEND Mission's Standards of Conduct

The events alleged covered a span from 1958 to 1970. The vast majority of the allegations were from the 1950's until early 1970s. SEND Mission did not have child safety policies or abuse definitions at that time. Instead, the investigative teams considered scriptural standards, and what would have been considered abusive behavior or boundary violations at the time of the alleged incidents. Those interviewed were able to give insight about the standards of the day.

Recommendations Panel Make-up and Purpose

The Recommendations Panel consists of Coordinator, Lead investigator and four other members. The Coordinator is present to provide training on the process and facilitate discussion. The lead investigator is present to provide further information as requested and will not be engaged in decision making.

Panel members may not have any position of bias against SEND or significant doctrinal differences.

The Panel, meeting for deliberations will:

1. Come to a consensus on where certain actions/behaviors fit the definitions;
2. Choose recommendations for SEND based on available options;
3. Address administrative outcomes regarding adult-to-child abuse; regarding leaders negligent in protecting children; and ways to address child-on-child behavior.

The recommendations are drafted and reviewed for clarity and compliance with all applicable standards.

Statement of Findings

The emotional state as described by students by the threats of paddling, belittling, negative comments and threats of damnation seems more likely than not since the conduct as described appeared punitive. Additionally, the physical and sexual abuse described by students seems more likely than not since the conduct described appeared punitive.

Conclusions by Review Committee:

AO1 could not be interviewed as she had passed away in 2002. The initial allegations against AO1 (female dormitory supervisor) involved the physical and emotional abuse of young female

students in the CAJ dormitory. It was alleged that AO1 spanked or beat these students with a bare hand or rubber hose for punishment, inflicting physical and emotional pain.

Reports of physical and emotional abuse by AO1 involved forcefully spanking young female students with her hand or with a rubber garden hose. These reports were obtained from at least four former students (MK4, MK12, MK13 and MK14). Unsubstantiated accounts of AO1 using a garden hose while administering corporal punishment were also identified. The Review Committee concluded the physical and emotional abuse allegations against AO1 were corroborated by the documented and testimonial preponderance of evidence as more likely than not to have occurred to these MKs.

Reports of sexual abuse by AO2 involved grooming, inappropriate touching, and masturbating with a teen male student. The reports were obtained from at least three former students, listed as MK6, MK8, and MK15. In addition, MK7 corroborated information revealed from MK6, and MK8 provided information regarding MK9 and MK10. The Review Committee concluded sexual and physical abuse allegations against AO2 were corroborated by the documented and testimonial preponderance of evidence as more likely than no to have occurred to these MKs.

There were multiple allegations of abuse involving AO1 and AO2. Firsthand accounts of the abuse were obtained from interviews with former students and faculty at CAJ. Details of the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse experiences that occurred at or near the campus of CAJ came from the accounts. The fact that much of the testimony appeared to be credible and reliable, is a major factor in determining that the abuse was more than likely than not to have occurred.

The culpable leaders (FM1, FM2, and the Personnel Director) became aware of the abuse and did not share that information with other leaders for action and took limited action themselves that continued to put children at risk. The Review Committee concluded three leaders were culpable in the abuse that occurred since they became aware of the activities of AO2 that could have been investigated and corroborated by the documented and testimonial preponderance of evidence, but they failed to take appropriate action to acknowledge the abuse allegation and take the necessary steps to safeguard children in the future.

Patricia A. Hendrix
Coordinator
Independent Review Panel