

Dear friends,

I am very sorry to have to write to you today about our brother Albert Clark. We have recently received knowledge of allegations against him of CSA that date to over 40 years ago. In light of this evidence, we have reported what we know to the authorities in the region where it occurred, and we feel it is best for Albert to stop being active in the ministry. Albert is in agreement with this decision.

Albert has expressed that he is sorry for any harm it has caused, directly and indirectly. I appreciate his humility and his acceptance, and we recognize that it is possible that he has never done anything of this nature since that time. At the same time, we have decided that because he has been engaged in that kind of activity, it is better for him not to be in the work now.

Any kind of sexual activity with a child is wrong, according to the law in our country and more importantly, according to God. There are no exceptions to this, and an adult is always responsible for their conduct toward a child. These kind of actions can't be undone and they often leave psychological scars that last a lifetime. It's not that it can't be forgiven, but it seems that it is much better to address it and deal with it no matter how hard it is. We certainly feel for the victims, and want to be a support in the right way.

Especially if one of our workers has done something of this nature, we hope that everyone would feel free to tell us, and feel free report it to the local authorities. It is important for us to know because the workers are circulating in your homes regularly, and we want to do our part to ensure everyone's safety. We want to remind you also that if you know about someone who is currently a minor and has been or is being abused, you are legally responsible to report it to law enforcement.

I don't feel qualified to speak a lot about this subject of CSA, but we have learned through studying about it, and through talking with survivors and experienced professionals about it. We know that this is something that usually happens in secret, and it is very difficult to be open about it; for both the victim and the perpetrator. There is often a lot of shame and hurt associated with it. It often doesn't come to light until many years afterwards. We try to be understanding and empathetic, but really we know that we won't be able to truly enter into another person's difficult and traumatic experience. We're thankful that God understands and He wants to help us to find healing and comfort. We want to help too, and we are praying to know how to be an encouragement and help to those who are burdened by these heavy trials of life.

We believe and know that there is a path forward for every human being, that leads to life with God. No matter what we have done and no matter what has happened to us. That is the simple truth that we are devoting our life to share. We need help from Him to see that path; and we need humility, courage and self-denial to walk in it. We greatly appreciate those who help us to see the path forward, most of all Jesus who is the perfect example. There is no amount of confusion or deception that can hinder us from going forward in this way, as long as we stay close to him, and keep our eyes on him.

Your brother, Jonathan.