



A White Paper: *WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING*

**By Gregg Tyler Milligan, Author & Abuse Prevention Advocate
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<http://www.godmustbesleeping.com/>

Abuse is a worldwide social issue and I've often written about its many forms, including [abuse of power](#).

The purpose of my recent trip to Southeast Asia was simple:

Partner with abuse prevention, social welfare, justice and educational organizations to work together on a global approach toward abuse prevention, education and survivor support.

I offered my personal experiences along with academic research and an open mind and heart -- at no cost to anyone but myself - the trip was fully funded and paid for out of my own personal funds.

The faculty and staff of Thammasat University partnered with me and invited me to present at an all-day professional workshop on April 30th, 2013 that was centered on sharing my experiences and research with social work students along with academic and field professionals from law enforcement, health care, mental health, social work and human services areas. The event was made possible by the significant help of Khun Pimpat Thanaseelungkool who volunteered to assist because of her passionate support and dedication to abuse prevention. The event was a resounding success and the university kindly bestowed upon me a wonderful certificate of appreciation signed by Decha Sangkhawan, Dean, School of Social Work Administration, Thammasat University, and Anyamanie Buranakanon, President, Thailand Association of Social Workers.

In early May I traveled to Chiang Mai and met with Ben Svasti Thompson, British Honorary Consul to discuss my work and possible speaking opportunities in Chiang Mai. At this time, Mr. Svasti Thompson suggested multiple universities and organizations in a joint event format to maximize audience attendance. I agreed wholeheartedly and reinforced the point that all of my speaking engagements are provided at no cost. We ended the meeting positively and Mr. Svasti Thompson asked me to provide him with 3 possible dates for speaking events that worked within my schedule. Mr. Svasti Thompson asked for a month leeway to socialize plans for possible events with local organizations.

As in my time spent in the US, while in Thailand I continued my academic research by publishing White Papers to my website with my findings and recommendations around issues related to abuse, including the issue of child pornography. Related to that work, I also submitted an [alert] with specific facts of abuses I found during my research to organizations around the world that deal with the crime of abuse, from law enforcement organizations including the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the US and other social welfare and watch group organizations such as Human Rights Watch.

One of these organizations receiving the information was the Chiang Mai Community Church <http://cmcchurch.org/> which had a reporting form for allegations of abuse published to its website. The reason I specifically chose this organization in Chiang Mai is that it was one of the organizations that Mr. Svasti Thompson indicated was interested in hearing me speak. In addition, I researched the church website and found they were soliciting information about allegations of child abuse. I was encouraged by their website and mission - so I utilized the reporting form to share the same information I had shared with the other aforementioned organizations and law enforcement agencies related to the examples of abuse I encountered during my research in the U.S. as well as S.E. Asia.

I was alerted after submitting the reporting form to the Chiang Mai Community Church that I had offended the staff members of the church with my submission. It was explicitly communicated to me that I would no longer have any speaking opportunities in Northern Thailand; specifically Chiang Mai, due to my submission of this allegation report.

I must admit I was very confused by the turn of events – given that the mission of the church included protecting children, and my submission was an alert regarding children being harmed. No other organization or law enforcement agency I contacted took any offense to my alert. Quite the contrary - they welcomed my research and praised the fact that I brought this issue of abuse to their attention. As a matter of fact, the FBI U.S. has an entire division dedicated to seeking out and putting an end to child pornography and abuse. They too have an online submission form; however, unlike the Chiang Mai Community Church, the FBI welcomes any information and/or allegations regarding the abuse of children.

My immediate response to the information that I had offended the Chiang Mai Community Church was to reach out to them to clarify my intent - thinking that perhaps it was a misunderstanding. I did this even though I did not understand how any offense could have been taken by my submission. However I chose to take the high road and wrote a letter of apology to the following individuals of the Chiang Mai Community Church:

- Steve McGowan, Senior Pastor
- Rupert Abbott, Pastor
- Mike Riley, Youth Pastor
- Margaret Ukosakul, Administrator
- Juthrarat Powe, Admin Assistant
- Ben Svasti Thompson

After sending the clarification and letter of apology, I received no reply. My sincere attempts to reach these people for several months were ignored.

I was saddened and dismayed that the mission of the church did not seem to apply to my outreach. I chose to move on from the situation, and continue my normal advocacy work throughout the world, still confused and disheartened yet not allowing that to stop me from helping others.

Fast forward to present. I received information that not only was my apology rejected by all parties, but one of the church staff members went so far to communicate that I was not to be allowed to speak at {any} organization and/or university in Chiang Mai, in which she has control over, because in her opinion I am 'unstable and unhealthy'.

To say I am flabbergasted would be an understatement. For a community church organization that claims to protect children but then rejects a form submitted using its own reporting process, and then further claim that the person submitting the form is unstable and unhealthy - is not only groundless but abhorrent. It is apparent that these individuals have refused to become familiar with my work and dedication to the cause of preventing abuse, educating the public and supporting survivors.

This is more astounding when you consider they claim to have the same mission.

With that said, any individual that would chose to either make or accept such a baseless claim against a person's character without any proof, would be a fool.

Sadly the world is rife with the cruel and stupid. I wish nothing more than to collaborate globally and freely with those who honestly want to help others. The Chiang Mai Community Church and any organization that went along with this 'blacklist' demand are clearly not in the business of helping others.

A full investigation into this church would be more than warranted and I hope that those responsible are removed from being in a position to cause harm to others.

Gregg Tyler Milligan is an internationally-known author and child abuse prevention advocate. He has written two books, A Beautiful World, detailing his childhood and the horrific suffering Milligan endured at the hands of his mother and strangers. Milligan later completed the continuation to A Beautiful World, describing his next eleven years. Both books are published under the same volume, titled God Must be Sleeping. Milligan is a member of the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Speakers Bureau and continues to spread his message of hope.

In his words, "Please remember, the reason we are here is to save one another – Break the cycle." More information can be found at godmustbesleeping.com/.