



**A White Paper: An Open Book Approach**

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

When you hear the phrase, “She/he is like an open book,” it calls to mind someone who is transparent in their dealings. They expose every aspect of themselves and welcome people to come and see what they are all about, usually in the hope that others will come join what they are doing or at least be interested enough to care about it and ask questions.

Those who are courageous in their convictions, who wake up every day burning with fury, overwhelmed with sadness, and fighting to stand – those brave individuals and/or the organizations they represent are the hope of the future and the saving grace of the world. They invite collaboration, welcome scrutiny, they open themselves up to new ideas and approaches, and most of all they seek the help and support of others who also care. The most tried and true way to attain support is to fully disclose your intentions, your actions, and the results of those actions.

It is then the choice is given to others to either turn away or join you; to stand idly by, or to take action. It is the true source of power, and the true right of every human being to be given the right to know and the right to choose.

Both individuals and organizations that embrace ‘the open book’ approach are clear in their goals, convictions and purpose. They do not deviate from the path. It is this same approach that I live by, and that I seek in organizations and those I reach out to – for it is only by joining forces with others that we can stand together and combat the issue of abuse.

Without revealing all motives, agendas and actions, as well as the results of those actions– all that is left is are questions with no answers – an empty void – and a world without hope.

As such – any person in a humanitarian organization or line of work should be willing to be measured, scrutinized and held for examination. This is especially the case if the organization or person who lays claim to the statement that they are centered around helping those in need and accepts funding, praise or credit for doing so.

If helping others is their true purpose, these organizations and/or people would then be more than willing to collaborate, expose their practices for discussion, review alternatives as well as new and different approaches, and even admit that perhaps there is a way different than their own which may be a better path. The lines of communication would be entirely open to anyone who reached out with interest – and welcoming of those who wished to partner together.

Is there any individual or organization not made stronger by more people joining alongside them, amassing to work toward the same cause? And further, constantly working toward improving itself with an open mind and heart?

Clearly, the examples across time and history show that true progress is only made when one takes an open approach. Therefore, it is a duty of those in the business of saving others to engender this in all of their dealings. You cannot save anyone if you close your doors - your books - yourself - to others.

Over the past twenty-five years I have worked with many organizations and people, ranging from those in the business of making money to those in the business of saving lives. I have found the same truth applies, no matter where I point the lens, including toward myself. Both survival and success depend on an open approach.

Therefore it has been more than disheartening to me when I reach out to people and organizations, inviting them to work with me, offering my support, fully disclosing all of my actions and motives – and finding that on the other side of my outstretched hand is an apathetic person or organization. Or worse yet – one that tries valiantly to only expose certain aspects of itself, while hiding away the full truth; at times, even outright lying to me and to others.

For what purpose you may ask? A very good question, indeed.

To the many organizations and people all over the world who proclaim they bring justice and help to those in need – I ask a simple question: Do you need a podium or a television camera to constantly highlight only the parts you engineer specifically to show the world? Or do you toil away, exposing all you do for anyone to see, sharing the results of your actions, and staying open to anyone reaching out to question you or collaborate with you, and jump at the opportunity when that interest is offered?

In the field in which I work – abuse prevention and education - there are many allegedly dedicated to helping abused and underprivileged youth. The organizations that share their results openly quickly distinguish themselves by showing a direct line between their actual work and their results. They provide specific examples of people their programs have helped, and they also open their books financially by publishing an annual accounting. One great example is Families First of Palm Beach County in Florida [www.familiesfirstpbc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.main&](http://www.familiesfirstpbc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.main&), where you will find their annual report posted right on their website under the 'About Us' section. This report is complete with an outline of their programs, along with examples of real people that have been helped and a full financial accounting of their operations. There is even a section called "Volunteer" where they invite anyone interested to join their community team. This is a perfect example of the 'open book' approach.

My experience for years has proven that one can use the 'open book approach' as a barometer of the organization or individual's true purpose. I have found through firsthand experience the patent falsehood that exists when other organizations and people are closed in mind and approach – yet still lay claim to helping others. Attempts to contact them and engage in a dialogue/collaboration are ignored or shunned. They do not share the details of what they do with the monies they have, or that they solicit and receive to help others. They do not publish results of their work, nor do they invite others to partner with them. It is in fact, "all about them."

A proven example can be found in Mr. Jerry Sandusky in the United States and his Second Mile organization. He was 'connected' and held positions of great wealth and power as an assistant coach for his entire career, mostly at Pennsylvania State University under Joe Paterno (from 1969 to 1999). Mr. Sandusky also received tribute from President George H. W. Bush praised the group as a "shining example" of charity work in a 1990 letter, one of that president's much-promoted "Thousand points of light" encouragements to volunteer community organizations. His organization pledged to provide help for at-risk children and support for their parents. Instead he used his organization to abuse his power to abuse children. He toiled for years at hiding this fact, parading around cameras, media and the public with great proclamations of the work being done – never opening himself or his practices up to the light of scrutiny, while gladly reaping the praise for the work he was supposed to be doing. And worst of all, repeatedly raping children for his own sick and demented pleasure.

So I challenge everyone who is listening, reading these words, and simply breathing the air on this earth – are you asking questions about the people and organizations claiming to help others? Are you reaching out to them for yourself to see what kind of response you get? Are they in turn reaching out to anyone interested to share their plans, actions and results –welcoming any form of collaboration?

I have many specific examples to share from across the world where I have openly offered the full range of my intellectual and personal resources at no cost, with no strings attached, to educational, social and professional organizations in the self-identified business of saving/educating others. I have unyieldingly shared my life, my methods, my motives and actions, inviting suggestions, scrutiny from others as well as partnership with anyone interested.

What in the world would be a reason to turn down such an offer?

What reason, indeed?

The list unfortunately is growing of those who do turn it down, and some who now even claim to never have heard from me despite record of our contact.

Which begs a further question:

Why such a reaction to an offer that would only further one's stated purpose of *helping others*?

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*Footnote, dated June 5, 2013. Still after repeated and continued attempts to meet in person with Ms. Pavena Hongsakula, founder of the Pavena Foundation in Thailand, there has been no response. Below are pictures proving contact. The pictures were taken the day Pavena and I spoke over the phone. She expressed to the friends of mine she met with the offer that when I came to Thailand we could meet and discuss our work. The books she's holding are both autographed by myself and were presented on my behalf by Pimpat Thanaseelungkool and Ae Wandee.*



*Pictured above: Pic #1 and #2 (left-to-right) – Pimpat Thanaseelungkool, Pavena Hongsakula of the Pavena Foundation, and Ae Wandee. Pic #3 depicts a pen set engraved with the words “Pavena Hongsakula” on Pen 1 and “God Must Be Sleeping” on Pen 2 of the set as a gift to Pavena from Pimpat Thanaseelungkool. The two autographed books Pavena is happily holding for the picture were gifts by author, Gregg Tyler Milligan. The t-shirts worn by both Pim and Ae are self-explanatory.*

*The sole purpose of my conversation with Pavena over the phone, along with the visit depicted in the pictures above were to begin a collaboration between two individuals dedicated to saving the abused.*

**“I am still awaiting a response and hope for the best.” – Gregg Tyler Milligan**

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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/](http://godmustbesleeping.com/).