

The Michael Brown Witness Report

Based on the testimonies of those
who confronted or inquired of Mike Brown regarding his
relationships with Sarah Monk and/or “Kim,”
as well as other corroborating witnesses.

May 9, 2025

On May 8, 2025, Mike Brown said in his first video since Firefly Investigators concluded that he engaged in *sexually abusive misconduct*, **“I’ve shared the truth with you. I want everything to come to light. ... I’ll give you my cell phone, laptop, everything ...”** In accordance with Mike’s wishes, the purpose of this document is to bring the truth to light.

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General Editors: Ron Cantor and Bob Gladstone

Acknowledgements: Thank you to everyone who participated and showed the courage to speak the truth. Thanks also to those who volunteered to edit, proofread and review over 130 pages—some with only 24 hours to work. There are no doubt typos that we did not find, but we did the best on short notice. This is not meant to be a work of art, but we believe it is essential to get witness testimonies to the public.

Disclaimer

The stories below belong to each witness. We are not investigators; we are merely witnesses ourselves. Each person is responsible for his or her own statements. The editors of this document cannot verify the facts claimed, and they have not been investigated. We have no reason to doubt them, and often, the witnesses brought evidence in the form of corroborating materials and documentation, such as text messages, legally recorded phone calls, and emails. When we make judgments, *these are our opinions*. We would invite a vigorous investigation into the claims stated. And Dr Brown is free to respond to the allegations.

We understand that some may look for reasons to sue us. That is a risk we are willing to take to protect victims, survivors, and the body of Christ at large. No believer can deny that God himself seems to be shaking the church at its core, and we are duty-bound as elders in the body to seek the truth on any allegations of sexual abuse, particularly if it is someone with whom we have been a friend and colleague for many years.

We have done our best to write in the fear of the Lord. We don't want to spread gossip, slander, or cause anyone pain unnecessarily. We have done our best to tell the truth here. Even when it seems facts bear out our claims, we have tried to present everything as our opinion—using phrases such as, “it appeared,” “it seems,” “in our opinion,” ... if we accidentally state something as fact where there is no evidence, we welcome that to be pointed out to us so we can fix it. Our commitment is to the truth, not conjecture and speculation.

We are not motivated by revenge. No one set out on a journey to hurt Dr. Michael Brown. Many of the people in this document reached out to him in love, pleading with him to do the right thing, only to be shut down, shamed, gaslit, or lied to. This has only become a public issue after 23 years of efforts. If Dr. Brown had responded in humility, this report might never have been necessary.

You may notice that some of the information is repeated. That is because the same information is connected to different stories. That will become clear as you read.

All stories and testimonies have been lightly edited for clarity. Where you see [name redacted], if it is a witness statement, be assured that we know the person's identity, but they did not want to be identified publicly.

This material contains descriptions of various details of abuse: physical, mental, spiritual, prophetic, sexual, and more. In addition, some links (marked accordingly) also include graphic content. Please exercise due care when reading this report if these descriptions will trigger you.

NOTE! We have included many editor notes that add context, connect the dots, and give insight. We strongly encourage you to read the footnotes as you read the text.

Report on Michael Brown

Introduction

This effort is being made by the witnesses who shared with Firefly investigators regarding the allegations against Dr. Michael Brown and others who feel that they have suffered spiritual abuse from either Dr Brown, Nancy Brown, or others connected with BRSM/FIRE. With one voice, we can say that we were shocked and saddened by the lack of information included in the Firefly report. We were encouraged that it did bring about the correct conclusion: Dr. Brown had two inappropriate sexual relationships in 2002, one that the report classified as abusive. We would say they were both abusive since both women were under the pastoral oversight of Dr. Brown. Given his role as a spiritual leader, the legal wording of what he committed should be *clergy sexual abuse* (CSA) or Clergy Sexual Misconduct (CSM)¹ which is now illegal in many states. Sexual abuse does not always mean intercourse. Many states, like Iowa, define any type of touching from clergy that is uninvited and unwelcome to be sexual abuse. For instance, if a male pastor suddenly, without warning, grabs the hand of a female under his spiritual oversight and holds it without her permission, it is CSA. So is touching her rear end for any reason. The state of Iowa says this type of behavior is illegal, not merely unethical.

“Any sexual conduct with an emotionally dependent patient or client, or emotionally dependent former patient or client for the purpose of arousing or satisfying the sexual desires of the counselor or therapist or the emotionally dependent patient or client, or emotionally dependent former patient or client, which includes but is not limited to the following:

“(a) Kissing.

¹ “Clergy sexual misconduct (CSM), also known as adult clergy sexual abuse (ACSA) is any sexualized behavior by a church leader/spiritual leader toward someone under his/her spiritual care, who by nature is in a position of less power and authority. CSM is an abuse of power and authority, not an “affair,” as it cannot be considered mutual consent due to the unequal power dynamics. When the leader forgoes his ethical obligation to maintain healthy boundaries between himself and those he is ministering to, the leader is misusing his power to violate the sacred trust and safety of the victim, committing a breach of fiduciary duty, and violating professional ethics, often resulting in a traumatic experience for the victim. In some US states, CSM is punishable by law. Learn more about how CSM happens.” See more at: <https://clergysexualmisconduct.com/definitions>.

“(b) Touching of the clothed or unclothed inner thigh, breast, groin, buttock, anus, pubes, or genitals.”²

Dr. David Pooler, one of the premier experts in clergy sexual abuse in America, agrees that any type of touching is sexual, and when it is committed by someone with spiritual authority over the victim, it constitutes abuse of power:

“Clergy Sexual Abuse happens when a person with religious authority uses their role, position, and power to sexually harass, exploit, or engage in sexual activity with a person in their care. This can include: sexualizing conversations (including telephone, social media or email), asking for or transmitting unwanted sexual images/text, touching or hugging people who do not want to be touched, pushing for sexual involvement, creating hostility when the person being targeted attempts to set boundaries, using sexual language and jokes, pressing or rubbing up against a person, or invading personal space. The sexual activity can include but is not limited to: touching sexual organs (over or under clothing), kissing, oral sex, masturbation, intercourse, or rape.”³

If an employer puts his hand on the shoulder or thigh of a female who works for him, a case for sexual harassment can be made. In other words, just the act of touching is considered a sexual act, even though it does not include intercourse.

The Firefly report was lacking in many other ways. It left out much testimony, and it doesn't appear that the investigator followed up on important leads. In addition, the Firefly report was chronologically confusing. It was very difficult to follow. What we have done is we have listed, to the best of our ability, everything in a very clear, chronological timeline, beginning with Dr. Brown's relationship with Kim and continuing with his relationship with Sarah, the attempted confrontations, the exposure that we have seen over the past several months and Dr Brown's public responses to that exposure.

We, along with thousands of others, were shocked that the Elder Accountability Team (EAT) decided to reject the two main conclusions from the Firefly report and soften the language. One prominent leader publicly said that they “exonerated” Mike Brown (Clearly, they did not. But that was his interpretation of the EAT report.)

“I stand by the process. I appreciate the investigators. I affirm the adjudicators who assessed their report. I stand by their decision to *basically exonerate the accused* and thus I still stand with Dr Michael Brown. For me the case is closed.”⁴

² Sexual Abuse,” Iowa Legislature, accessed May 4, 2025, 1-2, <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/709.15.pdf>. “Counselor or therapist” includes members of the clergy, 1.

³ David Pooler, in private text message to editors, May 10, 2025.

⁴ Jeffrey Seif, “In the Matter of Michael Brown, PhD,” Facebook, May 2, 2025, <https://www.facebook.com/jeffrey.seif.7/posts/pfbid0m9swQpSCWV32ghHVqpDpoqa7ePxthgfmP1GFo hPDv188Nq9R1u2SSkg1mXyWC6PD1>

For Sarah, the case is not closed—and it is not closed for us. The Firefly report says that Michael Brown committed sexually abusive misconduct and engaged in a 23-year cover-up.⁵ The EAT said it was merely “leadership misconduct.” Here is what the Firefly report concluded.

Based on gathered information and consistent accounts from multiple witnesses, it is evident that BROWN engaged in **an inappropriate relationship with IS #1, [Kim]** as well as an inappropriate relationship involving **sexually abusive misconduct with IS #2, Sarah**. IS #2 Sarah was nineteen years old when BROWN first took notice of her, leading her to believe God was placing her in a place of favor under BROWN. Within a year, at the age of twenty, these interactions escalated to physical touch.

It is believed that over the past 25 years, BROWN has deliberately deflected questions about allegations of sexual misconduct involving IS #1 and IS #2 Sarah. This pattern of deflection appears to be a calculated effort to evade accountability, suppress the allegations, and protect his ministry's reputation. By maintaining silence and avoiding direct answers, BROWN has seemingly sought to shield himself from scrutiny, potentially enabling these stories to remain hidden and preserving his position within the ministry.

Furthermore, they seem to have taken Dr. Brown's narrative as truth and quoted it to the exclusion of Sarah and Ray's testimony. The EAT report portrays Brown as “consistent” whenever he was confronted. In the pages below, you will see that is not the case.

For many months now, leaders have demanded that we wait for the investigation to be finished before we say anything out loud. However, when the investigation came, instead of relying on what was plainly stated, the EAT rejected and changed the most significant outcomes of the investigation. **We see this as a great miscarriage of justice, pushing survivors back into the shadows.**

When they decided to reject the investigator's opinion, in favor of their own, why did they not cite experts in the field of CSA to justify their switching of the language? As far as we know, no member of the EAT is an expert in CSA. If an expert (and the investigator is trauma-informed),⁶ comes to one conclusion, how can they challenge that with such weak reasoning? They should have backed up their claim with clear facts, due research, and an explicit explanation for how a Christian leader in his forties can touch a woman in her twenties as he did, without being sexual or abusive. One of the men in that group stated elsewhere that just the touching of Sarah's rear end was sexual harassment. By calling it sexual harassment, he was admitting that it was *sexual*. But somehow, the entire team concluded it was neither abusive nor sexual behavior. The fact that

⁵ Our interpretation of the second paragraph quoted above from the Firefly report uses language that reveals a cover-up.

⁶ “Trauma-informed care seeks to: Realize the widespread impact of trauma and understand paths for recovery; Recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma in patients, families, and staff; Integrate knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and actively avoid re-traumatization.” CSA causes severe trauma for victims.

“What is Trauma-Informed Care?” Trauma-Informed Care, accessed April 5, 2025, <https://www.traumainformedcare.chcs.org/what-is-trauma-informed-care>.

they did not consult an expert makes them *look like apologists* for Dr. Brown (which we are not claiming) rather than servants of the church.

We urge the EAT to bring in trauma-informed experts and reassess the Firefly report. We do not believe that the members of the EAT are part of a larger cover-up. We think that they simply erred by not getting an expert opinion. The LOF Board promised the public the “team will include at least one trauma informed counselor.” By not consulting experts, they came to an *uninformed* conclusion.

We sent this report to the LOF Board, encouraging them to make sure that the EAT had it at their disposal to assist them in coming to their final conclusion and releasing their report. It was our hope that we would not have to release this, but seeing that some members of the body of Christ have seen the EAT as exonerating Michael Brown, we have no choice but to release all the evidence and our conclusions—our first-hand testimonies and observations based on Dr. Michael Brown’s written confession, public statements, videos and texts, and the eyewitness accounts, recordings, and text messages of others. We will also rely on the Firefly report in producing this account.

An Omitted Testimony

The Firefly report was released on April 12. The public received it on April 18. The version released to the public says it is a *revised version*. We don’t know what revisions were made. We understand that it is proper to edit out mistakes, such as misspelling of names, and to make sure that every quote is attributed to the right person. We have not received an answer from the LOF board as to exactly what these changes were, but we’re told that the edited version came to them from Firefly, meaning that Firefly made the edits after discussions with the EAT. Of course, we would appreciate a bit more transparency here.

One issue that was quite alarming had to do with an accusation of seeing pornography on Dr Brown’s phone. IW #29 submitted his testimony to Firefly. They responded to him with the paragraph below, so he would know how his testimony would appear. Each person who would have testimony in the Firefly report received a similar email so they could go over their testimony and verify the facts. However, for some reason, IW #29’s testimony was not included in the version of the document that the public received. We don’t know who removed it, or when or why it was removed, but it is an eyewitness testimony in the first person. Here is the quote:

IW #29 was one of Brown’s employees. Between 2017–18, during one of Brown’s radio shows, IW #29 was asked to use Brown’s personal phone to locate a phone number from a text or email. While searching the phone, IW #29 accidentally opened the web browser, **which displayed adult pornography**. Shocked, IW #29 didn’t know what to do and returned the phone without mentioning what they had seen. (Emphasis added.)

The revised Firefly report says that there were no other incidents after 2002. We know that many men, particularly, struggle with pornography, and if this were an isolated incident, we would expect it to be dealt with privately between Dr Brown and his pastoral team. But this is an investigation into sexual sin; therefore, we were surprised that it did not appear in the revised Firefly report.

[Note: Michael Brown’s lawyer contacted Ron Cantor about two weeks ago and threatened to take legal action if we did not remove the words above. Dr Brown says that this never happened.]

But we do want to note Dr Brown's denial. However, we will not delete the quote, as it comes from the investigator. There's nothing illegal or unethical about that. And the witness is authentic. Three of us, Bob Gladstone, the investigator, and I, know the person's identity and can confirm that they did indeed work for the Line of Fire."

Working with the LOF Board

We tried very hard to build a trusting relationship with the Line of Fire board. On behalf of Sarah Monk and several of those who testified, Bob Gladstone, Ron Cantor, Keith Collins, and Mike Lubanovic—all once colleagues and friends of Mike Brown—reached out to the board to make sure it was safe for them to testify and that their testimonies would be handled with care. We were clear that we weren't coming as adversaries; like them, we simply wanted to know the truth. None of us had vendettas against Mike or Nancy Brown. Safety was an issue, as you will read later. As soon as Dr Brown found out that Sarah was the source of the story, his associates tried to silence her.

In January, we met with the LOF board and agreed to cooperate with the investigator. By all accounts, it was a cordial meeting. We did not get everything we asked for, but we felt that it would be right to cooperate with the investigation and encourage others in the BRSM/FIRE graduate, staff, and family community to do so as well. Bob and Ron have had off-and-on contact with Jonathan Bernis, LOF Chairman of the Board, throughout the process.

We want to acknowledge Jonathan Bernis for taking on a thankless job. A year ago, he received a liver transplant. Dr. Brown owes him a debt of gratitude for his sacrifice, as he still recovers. Jonathan knows that over these past few months, our relationships have been tested, but we want to commend him for being willing to do what few would be willing to do. We do not believe that Jonathan's goal was to exonerate Michael Brown, but to seek justice. While we have concerns with the EAT Report, we are not judging their motives. Our issue is not with them; we seek to address the behavior of Dr. Michael Brown and his alleged covering up of such behavior, and we seek justice for Sarah Monk St. Pierre and others who suffered from Mike and Nancy Brown's actions.

Here are some of the concerns that we expressed to the board.

1. We were very concerned that the group of elders who would receive the Firefly report and decide on the necessary action that Dr. Brown should take, whether that be discipline or exoneration, was *anonymous*. This point is moot as they have revealed their identities. We have shared with the EAT that we believe they erred in not having a trauma-informed expert on their team. We have appealed to them to revisit some of their conclusions with the addition of one or two trauma-informed experts.
2. The other issue of disagreement was **spiritual abuse**. What we have discovered in recent weeks is that many leaders in the body of Christ do not want to talk about spiritual abuse. Many say it is impossible to define spiritual abuse. When we explained in detail one of the stories that we feel demonstrates the spiritual abuse of Dr. Michael Brown (see "Elizabeth" below) to a former EAT member who left the team, his response was, "Oh, *that is* spiritual abuse." The stories we are referring to are not merely about harsh words

from a leader or some minor mistreatment. We are talking about testimonies of extreme control over people in situations in which Dr. Michael Brown had no authority. We are talking about allegations of speaking curses over people and seeking to control their lives. We are speaking of a pattern that, in our view, tells abused people not to seek justice through social media or the legal system but to trust leadership to do the right thing. We have seen cases other cases where church leadership felt they were better equipped to deal with criminal offenses than the authorities (Rom. 13:1–7). We will show you emails detailing where Brown told parents of abused minors to trust leadership and not go to social media or take legal action.

We wholeheartedly disagree that spiritual abuse is undefinable—as do a host of counselors and therapists who have had to pick up the pieces of the broken lives of those who were spiritually abused. The LOF board was concerned that if the scope included spiritual abuse, it would extend the length of the investigation and the cost. We were sympathetic to those considerations. We understood that LOF donors were probably not keen on donating to an investigation, which could be expensive. The funds would have to come from somewhere, so we agreed not to make it an issue. But none of these concessions mean that we will not outline what we believe is spiritual abuse in this report.

Why Are We Doing This?

Shortly after *The Roys Report* (TRR) article was published on December 2, 2024, Dr. Josh Peters made this statement to missionaries with FIRE International. The statement comes during a private meeting organized for Dr. Brown to address the allegations against him. Dr. Peters said, “This is between God and Dr. Brown *and no one else*” (emphasis added). We find such statements not merely unbiblical but part of a culture that turns abusers into victims and ignores the true victims. Is Dr. Peters aware that other people were involved? Sarah Monk? Kim? Furthermore, when one presents himself as “your voice for moral sanity,” he is asking to be held to a higher standard. The revelation of disgraced Bible teacher Bill Gothard’s indiscretions was compounded by the fact that the standards that he taught were extremely high. If he did not have a reputation for holiness, his very public fall would not have made the news as it did.

In the same way, there have been claims that Dr. Brown expelled students from school for lesser offenses than those for which he is accused. Students were allegedly dismissed for seeing R-rated movies (several alumni remember their friend being expelled for seeing *The Matrix*). However, eyewitnesses say that Dr. Brown played a video of Woodstock⁷ for students, which portrayed nudity. Londa Parker was told by a student upon returning from TheCall New England 2002 that Dr. Brown had several young women and a few men in his hotel room, where he was playing video footage from Woodstock. This has been confirmed by [name redacted], who was in the hotel room as well as two anonymous former students. [name redacted] said he was playing

⁷ Woodstock was a historic music festival, often described as a defining moment of the 1960s counterculture, that took place in August 1969. Featuring artists such as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and The Who, it drew hundreds of thousands of attendees. At Woodstock 1969, *open drug use—particularly marijuana and psychedelics—was widespread*, and the festival’s free-spirited atmosphere also *contributed to instances of public nudity* among some attendees.

stock footage from Woodstock, which included nudity. When you have a reputation of being very strict regarding morality, there's an expectation that you are living at least to the standard that you are setting for others.

Gregg Montella, a former student of BRSM and missionary of FIRE International, testified that during the period Brown was obsessed with the theme of revolution, he began to revisit the very music that one would assume he was against and exposed the students to video images that we believe would get most students kicked out of school if they had viewed them:

“And, yet, during this exact same time, Mike Brown was collecting albums and documentaries of the Woodstock festival. He was nonstop playing [Jimi] Hendrix and others in his office, often inviting me and other interns in to watch and listen to footage of the greats and not-so-greats.

“Brown was smiling, playing air drums, lip-syncing to the songs. He was reveling in it. I specifically remember him replaying over and over Jim Morrison's wild convulsions and fits on stage, noting the effect it had on the women. There were several clips in the documentaries of topless women and even brief shots of couples having sex in public.”⁸

Another participant of the private FI meeting said, “God is the ultimate judge.” That's a true statement. But he has commissioned his church to judge its leaders. Dr. Brown himself signed a statement a year ago saying that Mike Bickle should be banned from ministry forever. Was he wrong in making that judgment? Dr. Brown believes in the importance of church leadership making judgments regarding sin. He chaired a board that oversaw a judicial process regarding disgraced Evangelist Todd Bentley in 2019. Paul says, “What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside” (1 Cor. 5:12–13). This passage refers to the sexual sin of a member of the church of Corinth. There's testimony from former students that Dr. Brown has expelled people from school for sexual sin. Why is that judgment okay, but when a beloved leader has a moral failure, we say things like, “This is between God and that leader”? Actually, *leaders are held to a higher standard than those in the congregation or students. Leaders are called to set the example.* We have programmed the church to do the exact opposite—we hold leaders to a lower standard because we value their gifting above their character. We live in a culture that protects those at the top and often sacrifices those at the bottom—the exact opposite of Jesus (Matt. 18:6, John 13).

When one is the president of the Bible school or the main overseer of a church, he is accountable to that body. When he sins morally, it is the business of all who follow him. He has asked for those people to put their sacred trust in him. Furthermore, this matter is not merely between God and Dr. Brown *because it includes more than God and Dr. Brown.* This matter is also between Dr. Brown and Sarah Monk St. Pierre. It is between Dr. Brown and “Ray,” not to mention “Ray's” children. It is between Dr. Brown and the grads, staff, and faculty of BRSM/FIRE who faithfully followed him, assuming he was living according to the standard that he passionately preached⁹ and demanded from them.

⁸ Testimony of Gregg Montella.

⁹ Here is an example: Michael Brown, “The End (Acharyth) by Michael Brown,” SermonIndex.net, January 30, 2023, YouTube video, https://youtu.be/Z_SxxnqDtwQ?t=822.

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another (1 Cor 12:22-24).

Discipline Is Redemptive

Our purpose is not to punish Dr. Brown or bring humiliation upon his family. As previously mentioned, had this been properly dealt with 23 years ago, we would not be dealing with it today. However, as you will read in the pages that follow, Dr. Brown was confronted on many occasions regarding his relationship with Sarah Monk. And on a few occasions, he was confronted over allegations that he had an inappropriate relationship with “Kim,” a married mother in the community. Still, this process is meant to be redemptive.

We believe in restoration to Jesus and his body. However, we do not believe under any circumstances that a minister can commit a sexual act, whether physical or verbal with a member of the community he serves, and then *repent privately apart from his fellow elders*. Having long been associates of Dr. Brown and being very familiar with his message, we do not believe that he would tolerate the private repentance of a minister for sexual sin without disclosing it to his elders. He definitely would not excuse a student for such secrecy and duplicity.

The vast majority of evangelical and charismatic churches believe that sexual sins committed by leaders must be handled by the eldership because the sin changes the nature of the relationship between the leader and the congregation. A trust deficit is created. If people knew about Dr. Brown’s relationship with Kim, maybe they would have chosen to leave the community. If they knew about his relationship with a female staffer that crossed the line, it probably would have changed the minds of some of those working under Dr. Brown’s leadership, or whether parents would send their children to study under Dr. Brown. That is why these matters cannot be handled privately. Anybody who would ever go to FIRE Church or FIRE School or work for Dr. Brown deserved to know this information.

For people who are upset that this is coming to light 23 years after the fact, we, too, are upset. These issues should have been dealt with then, but from the very first attempt when two elders within the FIRE community sought to understand better the relationship between Dr. Brown and Sarah, Dr. Brown was evasive, according to their testimony below. You will read below there were nearly a dozen separate attempts that we know of to communicate with Dr. Brown and find out exactly what happened in these relationships, and it appears Dr. Brown told different stories to different groups. It is easy to deduce that he admitted to only what each person knew, and often changed the facts to make them less alarming. This is not only a story about sexual misconduct (as defined by Firefly); it’s a story about 23 years of lying and evading, all while presenting oneself as a shining example of righteousness, one who lives his life in humility, always seeking the opportunity to get low.

We will borrow from the Firefly report as necessary.

Timeline of confrontations:

1. Niels Prip and Keith Collins, 2002
2. Londa Parker, first attempt 2002
3. Katherine Barry Marialke, 2017
4. Gregg Montella, 2018
5. Kris Bennett and Keith Collins, 2020
6. Mike Lubanovic, 2023
7. Londa Sue Parker, second attempt, 2023
8. MR, February 2024
9. Robert Gladstone, September 2024
10. Ron Cantor, October 2024 (with two others as witnesses)
11. Roys Report Article written by Rebecca Hopkins, December 2, 2024
12. [Leaked audio](#) between Dr. Brown and Joel Richardson, February 2025

In none of these confrontations do we believe Dr. Brown was forthright about his relationships with Sarah and Kim. Kris Bennett says that when he confronted Dr. Brown in 2020 about his relationship with Kim, Dr. Brown said that “he could not remember much of the details.” However, just a few years later, Brown told Ron Cantor that he had a “sinful soul tie” with Kim. He did not explain precisely what he meant or what that entailed. In his confession video, he called it an “emotional tie.”

When Niels Prip and Keith Collins inquired regarding Dr. Brown’s relationship with Sarah after hearing disturbing reports from different members of the community, he claimed that their relationship was merely an innocent father-daughter relationship. He did not disclose details they did not know, such as smacking her on the rear end on more than one occasion. To be clear, such behavior in the workplace would be classified as sexual harassment had Sarah decided to take her case to the authorities. When Londa Parker met with him not long after that, she says Dr. Brown denied everything—he denied that he held Sarah’s hand and said to her, “Nothing happened between Sarah and me.” You can hear the testimony [in her own words](#).

When confronted explicitly with Sarah’s written allegations of inappropriate physical contact, Brown confessed to Kris Bennett in 2020 and Ron Cantor in 2024—at least partially. But to others who confronted him in between those dates, it appears he only admitted to what they knew. A tactic and strategy of offenders is to find out what the confronter knows and only admit to that and only if they have proof. Again, we are not investigators, but it appears that Dr. Brown may have adopted this strategy, whether consciously or subconsciously.

Dr. Brown had many opportunities to deal with this honestly before elders but chose not to. Ron Cantor writes,

“I wish it had never come to this. In late October, I laid out for Dr. Brown a path forward and told him that I would help him. He rejected that. He was convinced that the article would never be published, and this would not come to light. I just keep imagining how different things would be today if he had agreed. We would still be friends, and I would be celebrating with him that he had dealt with this issue with integrity, even if late. Yes, it would’ve been painful. But this has been painful for him and for all of us. We would be six months into a restoration process. In fact, it may have been over by now. It’s heartbreaking that he chose a different path.”

Dr. Brown told many others over the years, online and in preaching, that they should humble themselves before God. These are the words of Ray, written in his testimony below: “It is better to humble oneself when God grants the opportunity than to refuse time and again only to eventually suffer humiliation. *It did not have to be this way*” (emphasis added). Our hope and prayer is still for the full restoration of Dr. Brown to a place of right standing in the body of Christ.

Story of Ray and Kim

Below is the testimony of Ray, a trusted friend of Dr. Michael Brown in 2001, as posted on social media by Ron Cantor in December 2024, with light editing. Ron is the narrator.

“The last straw for me in deciding to speak up was Mike’s comments regarding the infamous nightstand notes (as reported in *The Roys Report* [TRR]).” When asked about the legal pad notes, Mike reportedly answered that “*she said something inappropriate* that surprised him, and he wrote it down” (emphasis added).

Clergy Sexual Abuse—Not A Soul Tie

Ray is not describing an “emotional tie.” He describes *clergy sexual abuse (CSA)*. The power differential between Dr. Brown, the leader of a church and international missions movement driven by his message of revolution and his powerful personality, and Kim, a housewife under his spiritual authority, *is massive*.

Ray’s words seem very fitting in light of Dr. Brown’s less-than-forthright video: “It is better to humble oneself when God grants the opportunity than to refuse time and again only to eventually suffer humiliation. It did not have to be this way.”

Ray and Kim were already close to Mike and Nancy Brown, but Mike began to embed himself into their family. This was so invasive and over the top that their family began to refer to Dr. Brown as Bob, from the title character in the movie *What About Bob*, where a patient lodges himself into the family of his psychologist. They thought his behavior was bizarre but harmless, confused about how a man so busy had time to be with them.

Ray shared the following in his own words:

“Emails remained open on the screen pretty much all day with my wife and I having easy access. Mike constantly sent out emails. But Kim was generally the one who would pause and read something while walking through the house. The messages or notes at that time were all ministry themes, Scripture comments, and visionary ideas about what God wanted Christians to do about this or that. My wife would sometimes fire back a quick reply and then return to her day. I found it exhausting and wanted my own space in my own head.

“I was getting really tired of so much of Mike’s imposing on a daily basis. I began expressing my uneasiness to my wife. Mike would call on the phone and talk to me, sharing some good news about a breakthrough in ministry, and then he would say, ‘Put Kim on. Let me tell her.’ It seemed harmless, but eventually, Dr. Brown began to call Kim directly. There was too much of Mike in our lives.

“When I expressed this concern to Kim, she was not very responsive and seemed to shrug it off. I finally told her either something was wrong or I was just going crazy. Soon after that, she came to me and said, ‘You’re not crazy.’ Then she began unburdening on me.

“She said that she wasn’t sure how it happened. She just wanted to be friends with everyone and did not desire anything else. *She tried to explain how he crossed the line in their phone conversations and somehow she followed* (emphasis added). She wasn’t sure why or how. Then, she wanted to quietly try to fix the situation by herself and put things back the way they should be. She knew the truth would bring down a minister, and she did not want to be known as the woman who had a part in that.¹⁰

“There was no fixing it, though. I do not know how Mike did it or when he became obsessed with her, nor how long he worked on her. I don’t understand the mechanism of his control. But I absolutely believe that he had the ability and the will to do it.

“It seems that once he led her to cross the line with their phone conversations, he thought it was time to push to another level. Kim told me that Mike repeatedly demanded she meet him alone someplace and she refused. Not only that, but he also demanded that she stop being intimate with me. Kim rejected this. She also shared that once while we were riding with him and his wife to a dinner, Mike reached back behind his driver’s seat and tried to feel her leg (emphasis added).

Ray had no way of knowing this because it was not in the article in TRR. But when I (Ron) initially interviewed Sarah over a month ago, she shared a similar story. They were in New York City, and Nancy was driving the car. Mike was in the passenger seat, and she was crammed in the back against the right-side door. “He put his right hand back behind the seat and grabbed my leg and tugged on my leg ... and I reached out and grabbed his hand,” said Sarah. She claims they held hands for some time while driving around New York City sightseeing. *To be clear, neither Sarah nor Ray knew the other’s story—which means each story lends credibility and legitimacy to the other.*

In addition, in the same way that Ray says Dr. Brown attempted to forbid Kim from being intimate with him, Dr. Brown was also very upset when Sarah began to sit with a male friend in services and eat lunch with him. Sarah told me that even though there was nothing romantic between them, Dr. Brown told her to stop sitting with him because it was giving people the wrong impression. She obeyed—that is, until she found the note in the nightstand and began to sit with him again. Dr. Brown was not happy about this and confronted her, at which time she confronted him about the nightstand note.

Ray continues,

“That was probably late January to early February 2002. After speaking with Kim, I drove alone to Mike’s office and confronted him, with his wife present, about what my wife had told me. Mike deflected, but Ray pressed in. Finally, *he fully admitted to it*, to everything—the erotic

¹⁰ Predatory ministers often hope that the victim would be too afraid, embarrassed, or even feel some sort of loyalty to the perpetrator so as not to expose them. Tammy Woods testified that she felt it was her sacred duty to take her secret regarding Mike Bickle to her grave. She now knows that Mike Bickle carefully led her to that conclusion. We are not claiming that Mike Brown is a predator—we are speaking of predatory behavior.

speech on the phone, asking her not to sleep with her husband, asking her to meet him privately somewhere, and touching her leg while driving (emphasis added).”

I asked Dr. Brown about this relationship nearly two months ago, and as he said in the video, he told me that he was the one who repented first and that because of his repentance, Kim repented. Yes, it is possible that before Ray arrived, Dr. Brown confessed. But if so, why not just admit that to Ray? Why did it take so long?

Ray told me that at the end of the meeting, Nancy finally spoke. She looked at Ray and asked, “What are you going to do?” In other words, “Are you going to go public?”—at least, that is how Ray took the words. Her question would seem to conflict with Dr. Brown’s claim that he wanted to tell his leadership team, school, and church. However, he had manipulated a married woman into an inappropriate relationship.¹¹ Based on the standards we were taught and the examples we witnessed at BRSM, one does not have the option to keep such a relationship silent. One must at least disclose it to eldership. Further, Dr. Brown never mentioned to Ray that he wanted to confess to everyone.

On the way home, Ray received a phone call from a member of Dr. Brown’s staff who had knowledge of the relationship. He asked Ray if the relationship between Kim and Dr. Brown had become physical. Ray said it had not. And that was all the staff member wanted to know, said Ray.

It should be noted that Ray only reluctantly came forward. He has nothing to gain and has returned to his quiet life. There is no financial motive, as previously noted. He only came forward because Dr. Brown appeared to blame his wife for the relationship in the [TRR article](#).

Sarah’s Story

Below is the testimony of Sarah as told to Ron Cantor in December 2024.¹² It has been lightly edited for clarity.

This may be lengthy, and I apologize from the start. I have been trying to process everything that is going on lately. I keep thinking about why Michael Brown won’t just admit to what he has done or publicly repent and bring healing to *so* many who have been hurt by his actions and words. Why is he hiding? Why such a vague statement? Why did he lie in his statement?

I know they are lies because I am ‘Sarah’.

My name back then was Sarah—*Sarah* Monk. I held this secret for two decades. I was ashamed and guilty, and I felt I was the one who should have stopped it long before anything more physical happened after *he* held my hand in a car with three other students watching. That was

¹¹ This is based on Dr. David Pooler’s research which says that “whenever you have a power differential, and there is absolutely a power differential between a pastor and a congregant, the person with more power is always the one responsible for maintaining boundaries.” David Pooler, “It’s Not an Affair. It’s Abuse,” Julie Roys, April 16, 2025, YouTube video, <https://youtu.be/Le0dxHMErkW?t=604>.

¹² The original letter includes a few words and phrases in all capitals. These have been changed to italics as per best practices and for improved readability.

the *only* time we held hands *publicly*. There were many times when the hand-holding took place privately. Yes, he lied about making a point about doing it publicly because I was like a daughter.¹³

One time, he was so brazen that with his wife driving and several people in the backseat, he reached with his right hand to grab my leg as I was sitting on the right-hand side of the backseat. We held hands for quite some time as we drove around New York City. There was a witness to this brazen behavior.¹⁴

I should have stopped it; I should have spoken out. I did not, so then the next physical touch was him touching my backside. Yes, *Dr. Michael L. Brown* put his hand on my butt!!

The one who condemned so many for a lustful eye, who screamed from the pulpit, *Repent of your sinful ways*. The one who taught us to live holier than the day before. The one who preached *revolution*. The one who said being alone with the opposite sex was a sin and would get you kicked out of school. Yes, *that* Dr. Michael L. Brown was alone in *his* office with someone from the opposite sex touching *my* butt as I would exit his office.

This didn't happen just once, and *never* happened publicly or in front of his wife, Nancy!! *Not once*. But it did happen privately. Still, I did nothing; I allowed it to happen. I kept the secret because I felt I had to because it was Michael Brown. Surely, he wouldn't be doing anything against his preaching or the Lord, I thought. I was not okay with what was happening, but I didn't stop it. I allowed it to happen. Many have told me that he groomed me and I was a victim. But still, I have felt guilty.

Then the kiss—not just one kiss or two, but many! Once again, he had someone of the opposite sex in his office *alone*! As I told him goodbye, he sat in his chair and leaned up for a kiss—on the lips, not the head, as he has told others. Yes, stupid me gave him one. I felt something was off when it happened. Why didn't I stop it? I do not know.

Once again, this *never* happened in front of Nancy or in the public eye. Everything happened in secret, when no one could see (except the first hand-holding). So yes, he lied about merely having 'poor judgment' in public because this happened in private. Doing it in public seems like

¹³ "Grooming is a form of manipulation during which the perpetrator slowly and methodically desensitizes the victim's natural reaction to abusive behavior. Due to the slow and intentional process, a victim, who is normally chosen for their high level of vulnerability, begins to consider inappropriate behavior as normal over a period of time. It is a series of calculated acts designed to control the victim's thinking and decision-making, subconsciously making the victim easier to abuse and silence." While both Mike and Nancy say Mike would never engage in grooming, what Sarah explains is a relationship, whereby physical touch was slowly increased overtime. If that is what happened, that is exactly what grooming is. It starts in a car with students around, then it happens alone. Ray claims that Mike increased his verbal contact with Kim over time. <https://clergysexualmisconduct.com/definitions>.

¹⁴ IW #17 from the Firefly report was with Sarah in the backseat and witnessed the handholding. She reports, "Sarah ended up sort of with her bum on the edge of the seat and her legs over, then sort of on the floor on top of people's feet. Anyway, at one point, she was in a super awkward position and hurting me, and I got really frustrated and tried to get her to move but she wouldn't. She was holding hands with Mike—with Nancy driving—with their hands down the outside edge of the car so no one could see."

it was meant to pave the way for him to do it privately. He was testing the boundaries. I was too young to understand that.

Many late nights, he and I would be chatting on instant messenger while he was at his office and I was home. He would ask me to meet him at the grocery store to go shopping. I would leave my house and meet him. By the time I got there, he would be done, waiting for me in the back of the parking lot. We would chat for a few minutes in his car, then say our goodbyes. Sometimes, it would be just a hug, a smack on the butt, or a kiss goodbye. I never actually helped him grocery shop! These late-night meetings happened a lot.

Sometimes, we would sit in his car—again, late at night. Once, FIRE elder and leader Keith Collins saw me and Mike in his car and became concerned. To be clear, any FIRE School of Ministry student sitting in the car of someone of the opposite sex late at night would be disciplined and probably kicked out of school. Mike was the president, and I was on his staff. Mike has admitted to this encounter because there are two witnesses, me and Keith. But there were many more times that he would call me to meet him late at night.

[About] the meeting he claimed happened between me, him, and Nancy, ... [he said this]: “And so Nancy and I met with her immediately in the spirit of Matthew 18, I apologized to her from the heart, we talked things through together, after which, to our knowledge, everything was good between us.”

Well, it *never* happened. The idea that he apologized to me in this meeting is a complete fabrication. The only meeting the three of us had about any inappropriate behavior was when I found the ‘confession’ he wrote about his relationship with Kim IS #2!¹⁵

I confronted him about this, and he asked me to meet with him and Nancy. It had nothing to do with his ‘foolish and irresponsible’ behavior toward me but with his sensual relationship with Kim IS #2, who I assumed was groomed as well.

Note: What I read ... was written in his handwriting. There is no reason for me to believe that the things he attributed to the other woman were actually said by her. I believe that she was a victim.

That is the only meeting ever to take place between us three!!!

Sarah testified that she was distraught by what she read. However, unlike Dr. Brown’s testimony, she did not confront him for some time. Sarah developed a platonic friendship with a young man named J. To emphasize, they were just friends. They would eat together and sit together at services. Mike called her in for a meeting and told her that she had to stop her relationship with J because it was giving people the wrong impression. Being innocent, she said, “OK, I don’t want to give people the wrong impression.” And she ended the relationship.

¹⁵ Editors’ Note (EN): From the Firefly report: “While house-sitting for BROWN in 2002, IS #2 Sarah discovered notes on a yellow legal pad inside BROWN’s nightstand that appeared to be a detail of an inappropriate relationship involving BROWN and IS #1. Its contents suggested fantasies about a sexual relationship between BROWN and IS #1.” EN: From *TRR*, December 2, 2024: “The letter basically stated that they were having a talking relationship and how they would dream about having sexual relations with each other and what they wanted to do with each other.”

However, after finding the piece of paper saying that Mike was involved in an erotic relationship with a married woman, she began to eat and sit with J again. Mike was upset and called her out, asking her why she was sitting with J again, and she said, “Because I found this—this handwritten piece of paper!”

This is where her testimony becomes deeply troubling and reveals what seems like spiritually abusive behavior.

And he and Nancy sat me down and told me they’re so glad I found it because I represent the student body, and I am being asked (by Mike) to forgive him for his indiscretion. I remember specifically, [they said], “You represent the student body, and that is why you found it. So we can ask forgiveness from you, representing the student body.”

She says they manipulated her to make it appear that she had some kind of representative authority to forgive Mike on behalf of the entire student body, and that way, they would never have to talk about it to anybody. This contradicts what Mike said about his relationship with Kim after it came to light. “*I, for my part, wanted to tell the whole world – the FIRE leaders, the students, everyone! I was asked to say nothing, and I said nothing*” (emphasis added).

Below is a screenshot of Sarah’s statement to Kris Bennett in 2020 regarding the same meeting.

the cheek. That was it. Kris I know for a fact he had another inappropriate relationship with a woman at Brownsville. This is about when I started realizing I had to leave. I did confront him and showed him the notes I found at his house while I was house sitting for him. He admitted it and I had a talk with him a Nancy. They said I was basically representing the entire student body and asked for forgiveness. I said ok and never spoke of it to ANYONE! there was nothing in the journal about a sexual affair, but more of them talking and fantasizing about it.

Let’s now return to Sarah’s testimony:

He has lied, and I lied for him for two decades, protecting him and his ministry. For that, *please forgive me*. For allowing a physical relationship to happen, *please forgive me*. For not speaking up before I moved, *please forgive me*. *Please forgive me* for all my wrong and sinful ways in this situation. I truly want healing to come from this—not just for me, but for *everyone* involved, all who have been hurt.

Michael Brown wrote in his official statement that was released along with the *TRR* article on December 2, 2024:

‘If it’s true that for 23 years [Sarah] has carried this pain and I am responsible for it, I am beyond mortified and would plead forgiveness and the opportunity to bring healing and restoration. Her wellbeing remains our priority.’

If my well-being had been your priority 23 years ago, you would’ve never laid a hand on me. You were thinking about yourself. Instead of hiding behind your creative wordsmithing, simply tell the truth.¹⁶

I am so thankful for Amber, Londa, Rachel, Katherine, Gregg, Kris, and Ron for standing by me through this. Without their support and guidance, I would not have said a word to *The Roys Report*. I learned just to ignore it, not think about it, and pretend it didn’t happen. It was easy to do back then because when I moved home, no one reached out to me, and I didn’t reach out to anyone. I wanted to forget everything from Pensacola. I did just that!

But there is a time for everything (Eccl. 3:1–8). Now is the time to speak out and help those who are hurting find the healing they need. I have read the heartbreaking stories that many of you posted.¹⁷ I am genuinely sorry for all the hurt and shame you all have felt for years. No one should be hurt the way you all were by *anyone*, especially a nationally known spiritual leader, holiness preacher, and revivalist. Your compassionate responses to ‘Erin’ have been life to me.¹⁸ Thank you.

Again, please *forgive* me for my role in the situation and the lies I told to cover it up.

Sarah

An Overheard Phone Call

Whenever there is a case of sexual abuse, one of the first things a victim is asked is, “Did you tell anyone then about the abuse?” Because Sarah felt a duty to protect Mike, a beloved public figure known around the world, and to keep this a secret, she did not disclose what happened for many

¹⁶ EN: Mike Brown had known *for four years that Sarah was hurting* and that she held him responsible for it. As you will see later, in 2020, Sarah sent a series of text messages to Kris Bennett that he presented to Mike Brown. In these text messages, among other things, Sarah says that she left the Lord after she left Brownsville. The text message implies that was the effect of Dr. Brown’s abuse on her life. Dr. Brown has told people that these text messages prove that nothing sexual or romantic happened, but as you will see, she presents a very clearly inappropriate physical relationship. In her words: “Nothing sexual happened, but it was not what a married man and a single female should ever have.” Sarah never says in this message that nothing romantic ever happened—just that it didn’t become a sexual relationship. However, any professional would affirm that kissing a younger woman you are not related to and touching her buttocks is sexual. What Sarah described in the 2020 text messages is an inappropriate relationship, even if it did not include the act of intercourse.

¹⁷ EN: This letter was originally posted in a private Facebook group for graduates and former faculty of BRSM/FIRE where many others shared stories of abuse.

¹⁸ Initially, Sarah originally used the name “Erin.” Later, she revealed her true identity.

years. This is very typical in cases of clergy sexual abuse.¹⁹ Sarah was twenty years old when this began. According to statistics, the average age at which a minor comes forward to speak of their abuse is fifty-two years old.²⁰ Sarah was not a minor, but she was in her teens when she began school at BRSM.

While she did not disclose these incidents to anybody in 2002, her sister IW #24 overheard her final phone call with Dr. Brown before she left Pensacola. In that phone call, she told Dr. Brown that she understood now to her: holding her hand, smacking her on the rear end, *kissing her on the lips*, and calling her to meet her late at night. She also rebuked him for his relationship with Kim. At the time, Sarah was one of only six people who knew about this relationship.

Below is the testimony of Sarah's sister, IW #24, that was given to Firefly.

"In mid-August to early September 2002, IW #24 observed a heated phone conversation between IS #2 Sarah and BROWN. During the call, Sarah confronted BROWN about his inappropriate actions, including unwanted kissing and touching her buttocks. Deeply disturbed and upset by what she had overheard, IW #24 felt compelled to act. She reached out to Sarah's parents, hoping to provide support and ensure Sarah's well-being. Witnessing Sarah's emotional turmoil as she began to shut down and discuss moving to Texas, IW #24 pleaded with her to stay. Despite her efforts, within two weeks of the conversation with BROWN, Sarah relocated to Texas."

While the Firefly report did not mention that Sarah brought up Mike Brown's relationship with Kim, this detail is in a letter to Sarah from her sister. Kim's real name is blocked over in red.

¹⁹ Dr. Philip Monroe is an expert in sexual abuse. He writes in an email to the authors: "Does a victim's statement change when telling about what happened to them? Yes, it often does. And for several reasons. Sometimes a person leaves out parts of the story because they don't want to share a particularly sensitive aspect. It may be particularly embarrassing. It may be they are unsure if they are partially at fault for some part of the story." In addition, a victim of abuse disclosing for the first time is like putting your foot in the water before you jump in. You want to check to see if it's safe.

²⁰ "Delayed Disclosure: March 2020," Child USA, accessed April 28, 2025, p. 3, <https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/2023/Minutes/Senate/Exhibits/230227JUSa3.pdf>

I'm thankful that you're getting help. It's very hard to think of things and process our life as it was, let alone what you went through because of Mike brown...

One thing I told the reporter when she called me was that you were so involved in the ministry, it was hard to even get to see you at all, you were so active and gone all the time. But after I overheard the conversation, you completely changed, packed up & were gone within days, and you've never been the same since.

I told her I did not know the extent of everything that happened, only what I heard on my side of the phone call, but that I knew whatever it was changed your life completely. And to my knowledge, you had not attended church since then....

I've also known about [REDACTED] all these years, I overheard that part of the conversation as well. I just never spoke of it because I assumed that was the part that broke your heart and devastated you....

This communication between Sarah and her sister, 23 years later, is heartbreaking. The letter portrays that she watched Sarah get sucked up in a community that took her away from her family, only to watch her run away, broken by the actions of the leader Dr. Michael Brown. Since Sarah is seen here confronting Mike about his relationship with Kim, it is hard to believe that it was merely an “emotional tie,” but that it was sexual in nature. Why else would Sarah’s sister assume “that was the part that broke your heart and devastated you”?

This type of corroboration is far more significant than someone’s journal entries. Anyone can fake a journal entry, particularly if they’re trying to cover up wrongdoing. Furthermore, how do we know that journal entries were not edited later? But an overheard phone call where the witness took the information to two other people, Sarah’s parents, who then confronted Dr. Brown, is far more compelling.

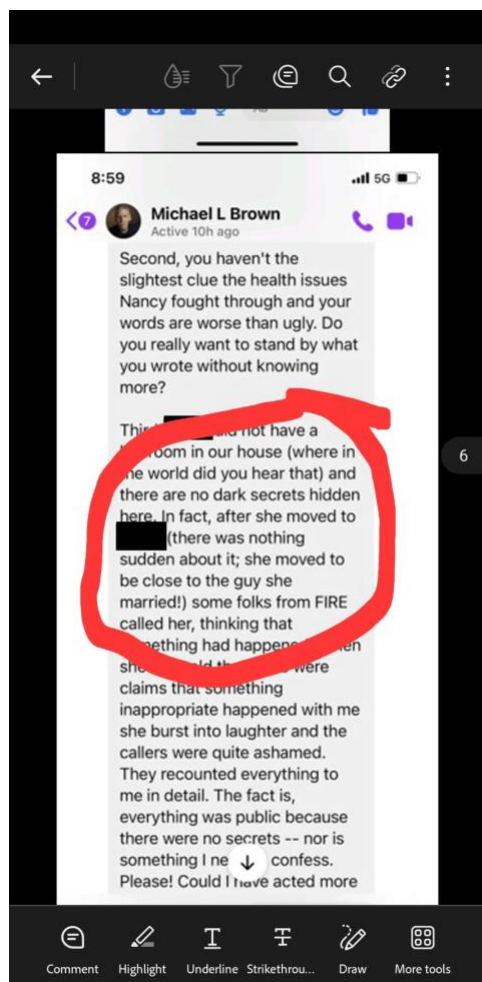
Kris Bennett confronted Dr. Brown after talking to Sarah in 2020. Kris says, *“I read her messages to him, which stated she felt betrayed and shameful.”* At the time of this writing, that was five years ago, and Dr. Brown did not contact her. It is hard to believe he is genuine today when he had five years to make matters right before this became a public issue.

Sarah Leaves Pensacola

Two weeks after the early September 2002 confrontation, which Sarah’s sister overheard, Sarah left Pensacola. She moved to Texas to start a new life. She was discouraged and broken. Sarah says she had no boyfriend waiting for her in Texas, but according to witnesses, Mike and Nancy Brown told people that Sarah ran away to Texas to be with her boyfriend.

Dr. Brown told Cantor, “She started talking about moving to Texas (where there was an unsaved guy that she knew).” Other witnesses reported that Dr. Brown told people she moved back to be with an unsaved guy and married him. In fact, she lived with her sister and then her grandparents to assist them after her grandfather’s hip replacement. She later met the man who became her

husband. She says it is absolutely false that she moved back to be with some “unsaved guy.” Below is a text that Dr. Brown sent to someone with false information regarding her future husband. The move was sudden, according to everyone who knew her, and she did not move to be close to her future husband, whom she did not know at the time. Dr Brown’s words below appeared to be knowingly false, and a narrative that was created to hide the fact that Sarah ran away from Pensacola, broken and in shame—to get away from Dr. Michael Brown.



Abuse

If we’re going to look at a biblical definition for abuse, since some are uncomfortable with psychological or legal definitions, we look to Jesus’ most terrifying words in Matthew 18—the *other Matthew 18 passage*. That is where Jesus speaks of little ones who were made to stumble. I don’t know what his tone was, but he seems deadly serious.

Once a leader decides that a well-deserved perk for how hard he serves God, is something that will result in receiving a dopamine hit or a serotonin boost (in the brain), is the defiling, emotional and sometimes physical violation of one of these little ones—a student, a congregant, a teen, a young mother—significant internal damage will come to his own soul. That’s why we

see so many repeat offenders. It gets easier to block out the conviction; the perpetrator feels less guilty.

This is why we are so adamant that those who seek to define this type of behavior include “abuse” in the definition. Jesus said, “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Matt 18:6). Daine Langberg asks, “Do you think abuse causes the abused to stumble? Indeed, it does. It often affects them for a lifetime” (p. 113).

We are best when we are biblical—if we can find biblical definitions to define the issues of our day. Jesus identified the effects of abuse as causing a little one to stumble. The *effects* of trauma, confusion, and even losing faith (stumbling) inform us if abuse occurred. If the offenders are often ministers and preachers, how will God mete out this judgment? Who would want to face Jesus, knowing that they abused one of his children, pushing them away from an intimate relationship with him? This might be why Paul tells Timothy to treat, “younger women as sisters,” not spiritual daughters, where it is far easier to manipulate them.

Our goals in defining abuse this way are to help bring justice and closure to the victims and to give mercy to the abusers before they face this judgment.

Confrontations Explained

The word *confrontation* is not accurate for every action taken to communicate with Dr. Brown regarding the allegations. Many of these efforts of communication were simply to find out what happened. *Confrontation* would describe some of the interactions, while others could be described as *inquiries*.

1. Niels Prip and Keith Collins

The first effort to find out the details of what happened between Dr. Brown and Sarah Monk was made by FIRE leaders Niels Prip and Keith Collins in November 2002. This would have occurred two months after Sarah departed. People were confused as to why this central person in the FIRE community, on staff with Dr. Brown and quite close with Dr. Brown, would suddenly disappear. In addition, rumors were spreading that something strange had happened between the two of them.

According to Niels Prip,

In 2002, Keith Collins and I, and one other leader, were set to have a meeting with Mike. It ended up being Keith and I who would meet with Mike to express concerns with him about his relationship with Sarah, a former staff member. There had been some questions about her sudden disappearance from FIRE and questions about reports that we were hearing from Kris Bennett and others about inappropriate contact between Mike and Sarah. We were not looking for these reports; people were just asking questions and sharing concerns, things they had seen. As the administrator of the school, I was hearing concerns from different staff members. I was a part of

both the ten-man leadership team and the five-man Op Team (operations team). Even one of the leader's wives had mentioned seeing something she said was inappropriate.

When we met with Mike, he told us that Sarah had had a bad home life and that he was just treating her like a daughter and nothing else. We brought up the incidents, and he acknowledged them and insisted nothing was inappropriate. In that meeting, he said nothing else happened. He hid the kissing, the butt slapping, and whatever else was going on with the married woman, Kim. It is important to note that this was all within the same time frame of FIRE in Pensacola, Sarah and the 'married' woman.

When I first came to BRSM in 1997, I told Mike about some personal battles that I was having. I told him this in confidence, problems he should never divulge to anyone else, personal issues. I was looking for help and encouragement, which he gave me at the time. At the end of the meeting with Mike, Keith accepted his answer and told Mike that he believed him, which I might have done also had Mike not exposed me in front of Keith. What I shared with Mike in confidence was twisted to defend himself in front of Keith. I confronted him in front of Keith and asked why he would do that. All he said was "I thought Keith knew about it." So I left the meeting feeling betrayed and having serious doubts about Mike's sincerity. I would never trust him again.

That night, I got a call from Mike and Nancy around ten, basically accusing me of trying to single-handedly bring down the ministry. The Browns were very upset that I did not come out of that meeting telling Mike that I believed him. I had seen some earmarks about this sort of thing before. I was told, "I don't see how you can continue to be part of this ministry." I did tell them I was planning on leaving anyway, so it didn't matter. I told them I would finish up some admin stuff and be done.²¹

Some leaders told my wife and me that this was the worst demonic attack that they had ever seen. The Browns were upset that I did not come forward immediately to say that I believed that Mike did nothing inappropriate. I did not do so until John Cava had contacted Sarah. Sarah had lied to John after Mike Brown called her to warn her that John Cava would be calling to ask about their relationship, which we did not know till recently. At that time, I did send an email to the team saying that I now believed that nothing happened between Mike and Sarah other than inappropriate showing of affection and that it had the appearance of evil. To that email, Mike responded to the team saying he would not use the word *inappropriate* because nothing inappropriate happened. Rather he insisted it may not have been wise to treat her like a daughter in front of everyone. He also stated that "I would hate for our official 'version of the story to say something inappropriate was done.'" He refused to say it was inappropriate.

²¹ EN: Niels claims he was fired from his position by Mike and Nancy only hours after he met with him over the issue with Sarah. Since he was planning on leaving the ministry in the coming months anyway, he did not make a big deal about it.

----- Original Message -----

From: Dr. Michael L. Brown

Sent: Saturday, December 07, 2002 10:16 PM

To: nrip@fire-school.org; mjcava@juno.com; joshtob@attglobal.net; rjgladstone@msn.com; collins_douglas@msn.com; savolk@msn.com

Cc: nancyie@earthlink.net

Subject: Further point on SM issue

Dear Niels and team,

I wanted to send out this one further note before my return home but am just now getting to it here in India. Since Niels sent his email to those involved, I felt it wise to clarify one point.

Niels, you wrote that you were convinced that nothing more happened between SM and me "other than inappropriate showing of affection." I certainly appreciate you saying that clearly and I understand your intent. However, it would have been better to say something like, "what appeared to some to be inappropriate showing of affection."

I take the time to write this because even the use of the word "inappropriate" can be misleading and, in point of fact, nothing "inappropriate" was done. Rather, it may not have been wise to treat her like a daughter in front of everyone, but certainly not inappropriate.

I do not write this as a criticism but rather as a clarification, since I would hate for our official "version" of the story to say that something inappropriate was done.

Blessings and grace,

Mike

EN: Sarah felt that Mike expected her to lie and even told her that John Cava was going to call her so she would be ready. If there were nothing to hide, why would she need a heads-up from Mike that John Cava was going to call her? Now she feels terrible. She believes she was duped. She felt that the burden of protecting Mike's ministry depended on her, keeping silent regarding the true nature of their relationship. Things like that should never happen. Sarah felt that Dr. Brown expected her to protect him. Also, if Mike has repented for this relationship, why is he calling up the woman that the Firefly report said he committed sexually abusive misconduct against? Dr Brown has warned people of the dangers of a soul tie and how you need to get as far away as possible from it. Is that not further inappropriate behavior?

Niels continues: "Again I will reiterate, this was going on with Sarah and the other woman during the same time period, probably the first year and a half of FIRE Pensacola."

Keith Collins shares:

I confronted Dr. Brown 23 years ago due to the fact that it was brought to my attention that he was seen holding Sarah's hand in a vehicle, as well as the fact that he was with her at Walmart alone, which was witnessed by Darla (Keith's wife) and me.

I along with another FIRE staff member [Niels Prip] went to Dr. Brown about these matters, and he emphatically told us that the relationship with Sarah was only of a paternal nature. He let us

know that there was nothing sexual in nature about their relationship and was thankful that we confronted him and let us know that he used poor judgment.

What Was Their Impetus?

Niels and Keith had heard from many different people that something was amiss in the relationship between Dr. Brown and Sara Monk. The primary person who came forward to express concern was a young man named Kris Bennett, who was in the car to witness Dr Brown holding Sarah's hand on the way back from a ministry trip.

2002 Ministry Trip

The following is from the Firefly report:

During a ministry trip to Mobile, Alabama, in either January or May of 2002, IW #2, Kris Bennett—then a young man in his early twenties—observed BROWN and IS #2, Sarah, sitting in the front of a vehicle. BROWN was driving, and Sarah was in the passenger seat. Kris noticed the two holding hands with their fingers interlocked. At one point, BROWN lifted their joined hands and, addressing the others in the vehicle, said something along the lines of, “I can do this because she’s like a daughter to me.”

Later, back at the school, Kris observed another interaction: **BROWN hugging Sarah [alone] in the office in a full, frontal embrace.** (Emphasis added)

Kris felt confused by what he had seen. Within a few weeks, he shared his concerns with IW #6, Niels Prip, specifically mentioning the hand-holding incident. Troubled by the report, Niels contacted IW #5, Keith Collins. Both men agreed that the behavior needed to be addressed, especially given BROWN's awareness of the school's strict behavioral guidelines and his own messages on revival and personal purity.

When they met with BROWN, he explained that his actions toward Sarah were entirely father-daughter, insisting there was nothing inappropriate. Not long after the meeting, Kris was called into BROWN's office. There, BROWN reprimanded him for how he had handled the situation, saying he should have come directly to him first, citing Matthew 18. BROWN warned that gossip and rumors could damage BROWN's ministry.

Kris accepted responsibility for not approaching BROWN first. He apologized, chose to believe the best, and moved on.²²

²² EN: We believe this is a weaponization of Scripture, using Matthew 18 to punish subordinates. Matthew 18 is the passage where believers are taught to attempt to settle disputes face-to-face. We do not believe that Matthew 18 is the proper way to deal with potential CSA for the very reason illustrated above. Dr. Brown rebukes Kris, calling him on a technicality rather than dealing with the far more serious issue of holding Sarah's hand and being seen in a full-frontal embrace. Secondly, the power differential between an internationally known revival leader and a student/staffer is significant. If peers to Dr. Brown felt intimidated when confronting him, how much more a young adult under Dr. Brown's authority? We believe that when it comes to accusations of sexual abuse, Kris did exactly the right thing as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:19, which speaks of elders receiving accusations. We should not expect accusations of CSA to go to the offender where he can intimidate and control the narrative but to bring those charges to fellow elders. We are certain that Dr. Brown's reprimand of Kris was spiritual abuse, and it was gaslighting for

Shortly afterward, however, Kris was called into another meeting—this time with IW #15, John Cava, the Director of Missions. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure Kris fully aligned with BROWN’s explanation: that the interaction with Sarah reflected a father-daughter relationship and nothing beyond that. CAVA suggested that such behavior might be understood differently depending on cultural context and downplayed its significance. Once again, Kris agreed and accepted that interpretation²³ (emphasis added).

2. Londa Parker

Londa Parker’s testimony follows or [listen to Londa tell her story](#).

In 2003, I answered an email from Michael Brown asking to meet with him and his wife concerning recent accusations of misconduct between him and a young female student, Sarah Monk St. Pierre. I took my mother with me so I wouldn’t have to go alone. We met in his office at FIRE School of Ministry.

He started the meeting by asking me what I knew or had heard about his relationship with Sarah. I told him I knew he had held her hand and had been walked in on, rubbing her back as she sat in his chair. Before I got the words out of my mouth, he emphatically stated, with a sweeping motion of his hands, that “*none of it had ever happened, none of it. It never happened.*”

As he was talking, I was slightly shaking my head. He asked me if I believed him, and I just said, “No, I’m sorry, I don’t.” He reminded me that I recently told him that since we left FIRE, the fruit of the Spirit had returned to my life. He then stated that the Bible says that ‘Love believes all things.’ And that because I didn’t believe him, I did not have love, therefore, I did not have the fruit of the Spirit. I looked at him and said, ‘Love doesn’t believe a lie.’ I regard this attempt as using the Bible manipulatively. And when you’re known for being a scholar and a theologian, how much more should you be careful about how you use the holy Scriptures?

Then his wife, Nancy, said that she had noticed my mom and I were affectionate with one another. She then asked us what if ten people came to her and said that my mom and I were lesbians. She was comparing a forty-something-year-old married man being affectionate with a twenty-year-old single woman with a mother being affectionate with her daughter.

him to suggest that going to leadership would lead to gossip and rumors. Kris was made to feel that his act of honesty and conscience was potential sin.

Cantor shares, “When I was in Bible school, I found an X-rated video in the back of an adult, married student’s car. Not knowing what to do, I turned to Dr. Brown. He did not tell me to follow Matthew 18 with this gentleman but told me to take the information to the school director. That was the right call. A nineteen-year-old student should not have to confront a forty-five-year-old man over sexual sin. The director dealt with it accordingly.”

²³ EN: This, too, is profoundly disconcerting. On whose behest did John Cava speak with Kris? No organization in the United States would accept this as normal: a high-profile, influential minister of the gospel holding hands for an extended period of time with a female who is more than half his age, on his staff, and under his spiritual authority. No culture in the US would accept the two in a private room in a full-frontal embrace. We would love to hear from John Cava, but he has told everyone who has reached out to him that he does not want to get involved.

I was told I was a gossip, even though I had not told anyone else about what I had suspected between him and Sarah. I was told I would bring his whole ministry down. I told them he would be the one to bring his ministry down. That pretty much ended our conversation.

3. Katherine Barry Marialke, 2017

In 2017, Katherine saw a “post [from Dr. Brown] about #MeToo. You can hear Katherine’s testimony [here](#). She reached out to Dr. Brown in a series of Facebook Messenger text messages. You can see them [all here](#).

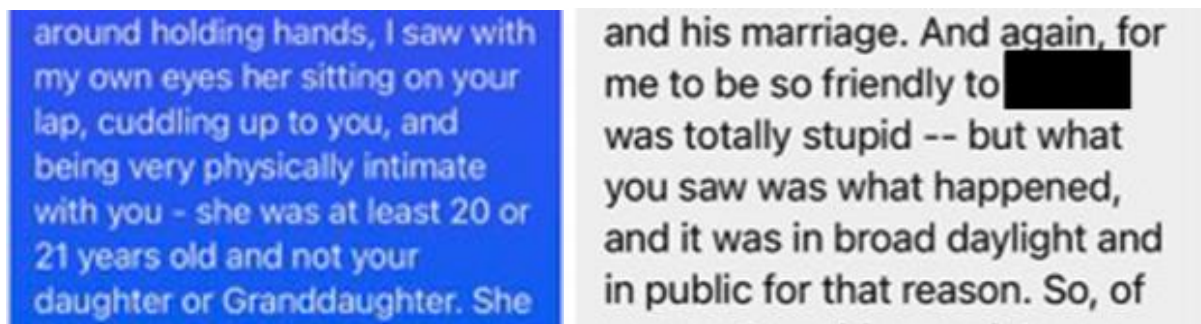
Katherine quoted part of Dr. Brown’s post: “So many women are coming forward, and saying, ‘Me Too! I’ve been abused as well.’ But where are the abusers coming forth and saying, ‘Me Too! I’m guilty of sin?’ We desperately need the Lord’s intervention in our nation today to heal these wounds and bring massive repentance.”

Katherine struggled reading that, knowing the story of Sarah Monk—at least in part. She repeated some of the allegations and said that she witnessed with her own eyes “her sitting on your lap, cuddling up to you, and being very physically intimate with you—she was at least 20 or 21 years old and not your daughter or granddaughter.” Katherine expressed confusion over the fact that her own mother had waited for Sarah at the airport in Pensacola to fly to Maryland for the Browns’ daughter’s wedding. She mentioned that Sarah didn’t show up, and Mike and Nancy had nothing to say about it. She ends by saying, “You are so vocal about calling out others’ issues when you should be prepared for people to call you out [on] yours as well ... take or leave what I wrote; I just wanted to let you know that myself and many others all know the dark secrets your own family hides behind, and it is hard to see you calling out so many others and addressing others’ sexual sins when you have never confessed your own.”

Dr. Brown responded as he had to many others that the allegations were overblown. He admitted to a lapse in judgment, but claimed nothing sexual happened. He repeated something that he had told many of us—that when people called Sarah to ask if there was an inappropriate relationship, she laughed. “When she was told that there were claims that something inappropriate happened with me, she burst into laughter, and the callers were quite ashamed.”

To this day, we have not been able to identify these *ashamed* callers. If they are out there, please make contact, but as far as we can tell, there is no known corroboration of his statement. We do know that Sarah felt pressure to lie for Dr. Brown, which she has confessed to. This claim that Sarah laughed at the allegations is not in the Firefly report. He repeated the same claim to others in an email in October 2024, but not, it appears, to the investigator.

Dr. Brown does admit to what Katherine accuses him of—Sarah sitting in his lap. Katherine’s text below has a blue background, and Dr. Brown’s text has a white background. “But what you saw [her sitting on his lap, cuddling up to him, and being very physically intimate with him] was what happened...” Is it proper for a single woman to be sitting in the lap of a married man as long as it’s in daylight? Again, you can read [everything in context here](#).



He then added, “I’m actually glad that you wrote to me so this can finally be put to rest, but PLEASE be more careful before launching these kinds of accusations, and my email to you is 100% confidential” (emphasis in original).

A Word About Privacy

Dr. Brown does a lot of the following in his communications on this subject: *He expects confidentiality*, which, if people honored, would give him the power to control the narrative. Ron Cantor testified that one reason some people got upset with him for posting Dr. Brown’s written confession from late October 2024 was because he exposed *a private conversation* (see below). But those people were unaware that this appears to be the routine, perhaps a tactic, used by Dr. Brown that you can see in many of his communications. In the voice text that was [posted on X by Joel Richardson](#), Dr. Brown begins by making it clear that the voice text is only for Joel: “*I’m just telling you this confidentially. This is not to be posted publicly*” (emphasis added). If you share it, you’re breaking a confidence. But not really.

For a confidence to be broken, *you have to agree to confidentiality*. Ron Cantor never agreed that the email conversation was private. Cantor says, “I intended to keep it private until Dr. Brown made his public statement—which was a direct contradiction of what he confessed to us and was a sin against Sarah and Ray and anyone who expected forthrightness.” Joel Richardson did not agree that Mike’s unsolicited voice text would remain private. Katherine did not agree that Dr. Brown’s response would be private. The anonymous pastor²⁴ who Dr. Brown reached out to via text below did not agree to Mike’s terms—“*And again, because we’re still trying to get the right people in place for the investigation, this is all private*” (emphasis added). Why? Why does it need to be private? There’s no lawsuit. There are no lawyers involved. Dr. Brown made a public statement, sent out a manipulative email comparing this [confrontation to an attack by Satan](#), and made a video explaining his “emotional tie” with the married woman.

Furthermore, in a private meeting that has been leaked by one of the participants, Dr. Brown repeatedly pressures Fire International missionaries not to talk about the meeting. “Please understand that this is just for you; it’s not for anybody else. ... Everything I’m saying I’m saying to you. I’m not saying it to anyone outside of this. To go post, ‘We had a meeting with Dr Brown and he shared this or that is to *break a confidence before God.*’” He stopped short of making

²⁴ Later in the document, you will see the text message that Dr Brown sent to him. We know the identity of this anonymous Pastor. He did not want his name in the document, but he gave us permission to use the text message.

them swear an oath that they will not disclose the details of the meeting—probably one reason someone recorded it, refusing to be manipulated (emphasis added).

4. Gregg Montella, 2018

Gregg Montella's testimony follows:

One day, I walked into Dr. Brown's office to ask him a question. He didn't hear me coming in. He was in his chair, and Sarah Monk was on his lap with her arms around him. He had an arm around her. It was beyond flirtatious and was very nearly sexual. It confused me, and I felt guilty for thinking this. Something must be wrong, perverse in *me* for my mind 'going there.' After all, to the pure all things are pure, and to the vile, all things are vile. *He* was pure, I was a healthy young man, so I must have been vile to even think it looked wrong. I spun around and walked out, pushing the sight out of my mind for many years.

While other ladies were sent home for the most modest hint of the female form, BRSM's strict dress code didn't seem to apply to Sarah. While she was working in and around Brown's office, a couple of my peers and I scratched our heads that the over-the-top dress codes didn't seem to apply to her. That's not to say she was dressed indecently; she was dressed fine!

Rather, her style was simply not up to snuff for the school's strict code. She looked feminine, healthy, and highly attractive ... It was rightly apparent she was a healthy young woman with female traits. Again, this was nothing scandalous in the normal world, but a style nonetheless that was not tolerated of other females on campus. How could she "get away" with what no one else could, especially directly under Nancy's watchful eye, *and* primarily working in and around Dr. Brown's office? This was one of many of Mike Brown's self-centered hypocrisies that began to surface.

Over a period of time in 2018, graduates who had been separated by time and space began to reunite on a new BRSM/FIRE Alumni page—many connecting for the first time and connecting the dots for the first time.

I watched as alumni shared stories, some humorous and many horrific, of varying levels of abuse of authority from ushers, to counselors, to professors, staff, and especially the Peters, and Mike and Nancy Brown.

Additionally, dozens, maybe more, of us were still curious about the many absurd rules at the school, the standards preached, and the disconnect between how the leaders lived and preached now, at that time, about twenty years after the fact.

So for some, it was playful curiosity; for others, the wounds inflicted were so deep that a simple answer would have done great good. And for others, aware of the more heinous activity, it was an opportunity to either clear the air or find vindication in knowing they weren't crazy as Brown & Co. had led many to believe.

As I saw this unfolding, I felt it was important for Mike Brown to have a chance to speak for himself—win, lose, or draw. I called and texted him directly and spoke with him at length over the phone at least twice. I told him his beloved alumni were talking, asking questions, trying to

connect dots, coming to some crazy conclusions... and I *begged* him to *please* do an Ask Me Anything Facebook Live private session on the Grads page, not available to the public.

Brown kept pressing me about what I knew or thought I knew. What were people saying? What would it be about? He said over and over, no way, that the best he was willing to do was accept written questions and prerecord a video responding to the questions *he chose to answer*. Brown refused to agree to answer every question.

I told him it would be so easy to just deal with it internally because otherwise, people would be talking more and connecting more dots (this had already happened to an astonishing degree), and the findings would spill into the public. He could spare himself a lot of pain by just opening up to us and speaking freely, privately with us.

He refused and said I wouldn't be happy if people knew 'every little thing' I may or may not have done in my life—which I took as a threat to expose not only past failures that he knew as my long-term mentor ... but also that he'd again publicly insinuate far worse things—things that never happened—exactly as he'd done about me in 2005. With that said, the conversations were over, and he said the live forum for Q&A with students wouldn't happen.

Other alumni, me included, began pressing him for a reason *why* he wouldn't just meet or speak with us in a live setting. His excuses ranged from him having an extensive speaking schedule for the next several months with not even an hour to spare for us to personal attacks against those pressing him the most.

Because of my past relationship and (I thought) friendship with Brown as his student, intern, and travel companion around the world, I kept encouraging him to just do it. Brown resorted to name-calling, insults, and direct threats to tell the world my so-called secrets, to which I encouraged him to please do. He did this in the private Facebook group before more than a thousand former students and faculty.

His personal attacks against me became so unhinged and unChristlike that the Grads Page Admins warned Mike Brown *twice* to tone it down and stop attacking me, or they'd have to remove and block him from the page. Let that sink in for a minute. These former twenty-year-olds were now forty-year-olds, and Mike could not control them like he did when they were kids. There was no school to kick them out of. He had no authority to discipline them. And it appeared to be driving him crazy that he no longer had control and they were actually standing up to him as adults.

He gave it one last go and then removed himself from the page, saving himself both the embarrassment of an expulsion *and* saving himself the possibility of being held accountable for his behavior over the past twenty years toward us as his students, missionaries, and alumni. (Emphasis is in the original.)

RW

RW chose to share, using only her initials:²⁵

During a chapel service at New Hope Church (where FIRE initially met), I took a back hallway to find the restroom. I saw Michael Brown *alone* with Sarah Monk. He was talking to her intently, face to face, quite close (no more than two feet away), and it looked very serious. I remember wondering if she was in trouble and why they would be alone together. I felt embarrassed and quietly left before I was seen. This was sometime in my second semester, 2001.

In 2018, my old roommate, [name redacted], made a Grads' Facebook page for FIRE/BRSM grads and former staff and faculty. Many grads had questions for former and current staff, such as why the school (FIRE) split from BRSM and questions about Sarah Monk. Michael Brown posted something about answering grads' questions, *and the comment section exploded*. Many wanted to know about the split, the heavy rules for morality and dress code placed upon the students. Gregg Montella specifically asked Dr. Brown something about Sarah Monk. He didn't say her last name, but when I read it, instantly, I *knew* it was *that* Sarah he was asking about. I specifically remember Michael Brown replying with something like, "*Gregg, I could air out all your dirty laundry right here in front of everyone.*" I remember the "dirty laundry" threat part very well. MB deleted that whole post.

Then, in another post (it's still on the page), students were asking if MB would do a live video chat town hall with the grads and answer questions. The post author and MB got into a huge argument regarding using a moderator: The grads thought it would be safe to use a moderator, but MB vehemently resisted the suggestion, saying if there was a need for a moderator, we could count him out. I believed then and still do now that he was afraid of not controlling the narrative. These two incidents were very close together, time-wise (maybe even the same day). *He kept telling people with questions to come privately to him.*²⁶

The same day as these posts, I received a private message from MB. Mind you, up until that point, he had spoken to me maybe twice in my life in person, and that was just pleasantries. Also notable is this: I was a page admin, but there were also two other admins whom he *knew personally*: [name redacted], a longtime friend, and [name redacted], who worked for FI and FIRE. But he chose to reach out to me.

I was nervous; I felt very intimidated. He was noticeably irritated in his tone, saying he didn't appreciate how he was being accused on the page, and if that kind of disrespectful rhetoric continued, he would leave. He said he was a very busy man, and he did not have time to deal

²⁵ EN: RW did not confront Dr. Brown, but her story belongs here because she was an admin and is still on the grad page. She was not only an eyewitness to issues regarding Dr. Brown and Sarah, but Dr. Brown reached out to her in the middle of the grad page controversy, seeking her help. Note: All emphasis in this section is in the original.

²⁶ EN: Manipulators use the tactic of meeting people alone to control the narrative. This way, they can tell different stories to different people or groups. Mike Bickle would use Matthew 18 to ensure that any would-be accuser would come alone. What could Dr. Brown be afraid of by having a town hall with his former students? Why not answer their questions live? How bad could the questions be? This seems to be a consistent pattern of isolation to control the narrative and makes it evident there is something to hide.

with accusations. The implication was, to me, I was to control the conversation as an admin and tamp it down, or he would leave.²⁷

I was very nervous. I felt incredibly pressured. I remember a pit in my stomach. But I also clearly saw he had avoided really answering real questions from our grads. I told him I would be sorry to see him leave, but I acknowledged his position, meaning, as a rule, I seek to value what anyone has to say. He then left the page. I took a screenshot of the conversation and sent it to either Gregg or [name redacted]. He never messaged me again. I have since deleted that account.

I believed then and still do now that he messaged me instead of the admins that he knew because he thought I could be intimidated.

Another story is not SA related but also notable: A grad shared on the page that after a run-in with Nancy Brown, he was told he would not graduate because his homeschool transcripts did not have a state seal. She said he would not receive a refund, and this was after over two years of paid, completed school. I was homeschooled, and my transcripts *did not* have a state seal. I graduated without an issue.” (See the story of Paul Engelman below.)

5. Kris Bennett and Keith Collins, 2020

For many years, Kris Bennett was deeply bothered by what he witnessed in the car in 2002: a minister of the gospel, holding hands with a young woman, as well as witnessing the private full-frontal embrace between a forty-six-year-old married man and his twenty-year-old assistant. The older he got, the more he understood, now as a husband and a father, that it was absolutely inappropriate. He came to believe he was gaslit when he was told by John Cava it was just cultural.

2020 Follow-Up and Confrontation Regarding Past Misconduct

From the Firefly report:

Fast forward to 2020. Kris Bennett, now in his forties and married for ten years, continued to be deeply troubled by the hand-holding incident he had witnessed in 2002. Reflecting on his own life and values, he realized he could never justify holding a young woman’s hand and claim it was acceptable under the guise of a father-daughter relationship. This reflection led him to believe that something had been intentionally concealed by BROWN back in 2002.

²⁷ EN: As students were trying to engage him in a public conversation, Dr. Brown, similar to the way he told Londa not to share anything that Kris Bennett told her (because Sarah would not want her to) now tells students that he cannot get into a public conversation because it might expose others: “Also, do you know how often a leader has to refrain from speaking about something so as *not* to embarrass others? ... And what if I know the truth about a situation, know that the reason someone crashed and burned was *because* they failed to hear godly counsel given to them; then they come with anger and bitterness and want to blame others? Do I publicly reveal the situation? Of course not ... I can’t get engage at length right now, but I’m as open a book as they come, *always* happy to engage when time allows and looking for forums where questions can be asked. That’s why I made myself available a few months ago to try to help the remnant of grads here who seemed to be really struggling. That offer remains.” The event never happened, but he continued to urge them to contact him privately.

As a result, IW #2, Kris Bennett, decided to contact IS #2, Sarah, directly to learn what had actually happened between her and BROWN. Sarah responded and was later interviewed by FIREFLY.

On April 30, 2020, Kris confronted BROWN with Sarah's allegations of inappropriate behavior. These included hand-holding, slapping her on the butt, and kissing her on the head or cheek. IW #5, Keith Collins, was present during this meeting.

According to Kris, BROWN admitted to crossing physical boundaries and did not deny the allegations. He acknowledged that the situation had been mishandled in 2002, and he agreed that Kris had not been obligated to follow Matthew 18 in raising concerns about the hand-holding incident.

“BROWN apologized, but *Kris stopped him, saying he believed the students needed to witness the conversation*. Kris stated that students would be shocked to learn that BROWN had crossed physical boundaries and that some might never have joined FIRE School of Ministry had they known the truth.

Kris asked Keith whether the leadership team had been aware of the butt-slapping and kissing on the cheek when they initially confronted BROWN in 2002. Keith confirmed they had not. Kris told BROWN that had leadership known the full extent of his actions at the time, the confrontation and outcome would have been very different. He emphasized that BROWN had denied leadership the chance to respond appropriately by willfully withholding key information.

Notably, during this 2020 meeting, BROWN never disclosed that he had kissed Sarah on the lips—an allegation Sarah later made. Only when Kris read about this in *The Roys Report* did he realize BROWN still had not fully disclosed the physical nature of his relationship with Sarah. Kris came to believe that BROWN apologized only for what he was directly confronted with, not for the full extent of what had occurred. There was no complete confession—only selective acknowledgment.²⁸

Kris then shifted the conversation to BROWN's relationship with Kim IS #1.

²⁸ EN: We have come to see this as a consistent pattern. In many cases, Dr. Brown would first ask the inquiring person what exactly he or she had heard before addressing the concerns. He did that with Londa Parker in 2002 (noted above). He did that with Ron Cantor in 2024: “But please tell me *exactly what you’ve heard*, and I’ll be glad to respond specifically” (email to Cantor, 10/10/24, emphasis added). He did that to Bob Gladstone in 2024: “Thanks for writing, and I’m glad to respond. Can you first tell me when and through whom you heard this?” (email dated 9/9/24). He did that with Gregg Montella when he was being requested by the grads to have a live conversation on the Grad page. In all of the situations, it appears that Dr. Brown only addressed concerns that were brought up and never confessed to the entirety of either relationship with Sarah or Kim. FIRE International missionaries were told in a closed meeting in early December that all these sins were dealt with entirely back in 2002, but as noted above, Kris Bennett testifies that Dr. Brown told him in 2020 that he understands they were not. Even in Dr. Brown’s video, which has now been taken down, he promises “transparency ... in the interest of full disclosure,” and then shares almost nothing other than admitting to an undefined “emotional tie” with Kim. There was no transparency and certainly no full disclosure. Dr. Brown’s initial responses have left several inquirers with the impression he wanted to keep his story reduced to their level of information, rather than actually tell them the full truth.

In response, BROWN recalled a phone call with Kim IS #1 while planning an outing involving Mike, Nancy, IS #1, and IW #1. During the call, he claimed Kim IS #1 made an inappropriate comment that left him “taken aback.” He said he documented the comment, and that this documentation was later discovered by IS #2, Sarah. However, when Kris pressed for details—what exactly was said, how many calls had occurred, and whether leadership had been informed—BROWN repeatedly said, “I don’t recall.”

Kris then asked what had happened to BROWN’s friendship with Kim IS #1 and why it ended. Again, BROWN claimed he could not remember. Kris turned to Keith and said, “If Keith and I had a falling out, I could tell you the reasons why. But you can’t remember anything?” BROWN affirmed his lack of recollection.²⁹

In text messages between Sarah and Kris, Sarah said that after confronting BROWN with the notes she found between him and Kim IS #1, BROWN and Nancy sat her down, told her she represented the student body, and apologized to her. Kris asked BROWN why this meeting happened, but BROWN said he did not recall sitting Sarah down or offering any such apology.³⁰

I can only respond privately, not publicly, but I 100% reject the details of her account (the kissing on the lips, most specifically), and her story changed dramatically from 4 1/2 years ago, when she shared everything with a grad and that account of hers mirrors mine. Nancy and I met with her, just as I said in my video and statement. Nancy has been furious

laughing about it. In April 2020, Kris Bennet reached out to Sarah and asked for more details, she shared them with Kris -- not the current version, which is radically different, but something much closer to the truth -- and he asked to meet with me, with Keith Collins. He asked me about things, I told the account was basically accurate (not totally, but very close), and I wept in his

At one point during the meeting, BROWN pushed back, questioning why Kris was asking these things, insisting that matters had already been resolved years earlier. Kris replied, “There are major questions because Sarah divulged new information.”

²⁹ EN: Dr. Brown is known for his memory. He memorized dozens of Bible verses per day for six months as a new believer. His ability to recall information is probably in the upper one percentile. We find it very hard to believe that he does not remember the details of this inappropriate relationship, particularly the one easily remembered by Ray eighteen years later. Furthermore, in the private meeting with FIRE missionaries, they are told in a letter from Nancy Brown exactly how Dr. Brown expressed his repentance. How do they remember those facts so precisely, but Dr. Brown could not remember the most basic details when Kris asked in 2020?

³⁰ EN: This contradicts what Dr. Brown has told two different people in text messages. In those messages, he says that his version of events “mirrors” Sarah’s version in the 2020 text messages given to Kris Bennett. Those messages describe Mike and Nancy Brown telling Sarah that she could forgive Mike on behalf of the entire student body and the issue would be resolved: We would like to ask Dr. Brown how her version today was “radically different” from 2020. The only difference we can find is that she fully disclosed the kissing on the lips in 2024, while in 2020, she did not disclose that. We refer again to Psychologist Phil Monroe, who said it is perfectly normal for victims coming forward for the first time to avoid sharing every detail. Even so, she shared almost every detail.

Kris grew increasingly frustrated by BROWN's vague, evasive answers. Toward the end of the meeting, BROWN asked if Kris was "satisfied." Kris responded, "No, because you don't remember anything."

Unsure of what to do next, Kris told both BROWN and Keith, "I wash my hands of it," and left any further steps up to them. He then left the meeting.³¹

6. Londa Parker, Second Attempt, 2023

Here, Londa Parker recounts her version of the second attempt:

In late 2023, the Mike Bickle story broke. I saw Mike Brown on a video speaking at IHOPKC, warning people not to talk about the situation, that there should be a third-party investigation, and not to talk about it on social media or anywhere else.

I was astounded that he could say that, because I now knew what I didn't know in 2002. I had been informed that not only were the stories about Sarah true, including much more than what I originally knew, but that he had also become involved at least emotionally in inappropriate phone conversations with a married woman. I sent him a message on Facebook stating such. I told him there should have been a third-party investigation into his conduct.

[[Text message conversation](#) here]

He replied by saying that Sarah had only been like a daughter to him and that he had used poor judgment in interacting with her by showing fatherly physical affection. When I reminded him that in 2002, he told me that *nothing happened*, he responded that he wished he could remember the meeting. We all know that Mike Brown has an incredible memory. It is certainly not conceivable that he did not remember a meeting that he called where he then fiercely denied any physical relationship with Sarah.

As far as [REDACTED] again, I'm deeply sorry for any pain I caused you or others, and your writing to me does help me realize how deeply you were hurt. I hate that! And I wish I remembered our conversation in detail as you did. Thanks for forgiving me for my hurtful words!



³¹ It is important to remember how that meeting ended because in a 15 minute phone call with MR in February 2003, Dr Brown represents Kris's washing of his hands of the incident, as being satisfied in making a commitment not to talk about it anymore. Kris was disgusted, not satisfied.

What struck me is that when I didn't have any real evidence other than what I witnessed with my own eyes, he denied everything—*aggressively*. However, now that Sarah was speaking and there was written evidence in her Facebook messages to Kris Bennett, he was apologizing.

He later sent me a voice text warning me with sweet and gentle language that Sarah would not want people to know what she shared with Kris and that she told Kris not to share it with others.

[\[Listen to voice text from Dr Brown\]](#)

He was only concerned about Sarah, he claimed. He sounded *off*, almost like he was reading a script. And he was nervous, at least that is what I felt. Once again, he sought to manipulate me by saying that Sarah would not want people to know about this, but he had not been in touch with Sarah, and it seemed that he was the one seeking to cover up the truth. Unfortunately, in that moment, I believed him until Sarah herself came out with the truth.”³²

7. Mike Lubanovic, 2024

In June or July of 2023, IW #20 Michael Lubanovic, who had known BROWN for twenty-six years as a student at FIRE SCHOOL and later as a staff member at FIRE SCHOOL and Church, heard rumors concerning BROWN. Deciding to address the matter directly, IW #20 Michael Lubanovic met with BROWN to discuss six specific questions regarding IS #2 Sarah and IS #1. Each question IW #20 Michael Lubanovic wrote is followed by BROWN'S response, according to IW #20 Michael Lubanovic's records. Any redactions or additional information is added in parentheses.

Question #1: Did you hold her hand in front of students?

BROWN: He responded that one time he grabbed her hand while on a school trip to make a point about something they were discussing, but it was not in a sensual way at all.

Question #2: Did you swat her on the rear end?

BROWN: He responded that he used the back of his hand to swat her lower back when she walked by, kind of in a joking way, again as if he were kidding around with her as like a daughter.

³² EN: Kris Bennett took copious notes of his meeting with Dr. Brown. He did tell Dr. Brown that Sarah did not want to pursue the matter anymore as she did not want her family involved, but it is not true that she told Kris not to share the texts. She knew he was meeting with Dr. Brown to confront him. Are we supposed to believe that Dr. Brown genuinely was looking out for her best interest? His December 2024 public statement read: “[I]f it's true that for 23 years she has carried this pain and I am responsible for it, I am beyond mortified and would plead forgiveness and the opportunity to bring healing and restoration. Her wellbeing remains our priority.” Why was he not “beyond mortified” after meeting with Kris? He had four years to “plead forgiveness” but made no effort to do so. Sadly, it seems more likely that he was trying to seal the leak and keep Sarah's true story from going any further. If Sarah's wellbeing was his concern, he would have reached out. Kris and Sarah's back-and-forth conversation is now public, and anyone can read those text messages.

Question #3: Were you alone at a grocery store with her?

BROWN: He stated that he did, and it was a horrible lapse in judgment but that he and Nancy treated her like a daughter, and he assured me that nothing sensual or sexual happened that time that they were alone.

Question #4: Did you kiss Sarah?

BROWN: He *stated that he had* kissed her on the head but that it was in no way sensual or sexual, but rather, like a father to a daughter (emphasis added).

Question #5: Please explain the notes that Sarah found in your house concerning (IS #1)

BROWN: He stated that he and Nancy were close with the (IS #1 and IW #1) for a season. He explained that IS #1 would email him from time to time. But at a certain point, she crossed the line with some comments via email, and it became obvious to him and Nancy Brown that these were inappropriate. So he took notes of those on a note pad because he and Nancy Brown planned to meet with her and her husband to address her misconduct. So essentially, he used the notes to confront her. He then told me that the two couples stopped hanging out after that and that nothing else happened. BROWN also mentioned during our meeting that he couldn't believe that [name redacted] would turn on him like he did and tell me about these situations. According to BROWN, when he and [name redacted] met, [name redacted] told him he would not tell anyone else. He also mentioned that several graduates from the school were offended with him, and they were spreading rumors about him, and he connected with them.

Question #6: Did he confess his “poor judgement” to any leaders back when all this took place?

BROWN: BROWN responded that he confessed to local and trans-local leaders and that he and Nancy Brown went through Restoring the Foundations to receive ministry due to the intensity of the season and his lapse in judgment with IS #2 Sarah. He also mentioned several times that he spent days weeping before the Lord in repentance, which struck me as a bit odd in light of the way he was downplaying the situation as a misunderstanding and a “lapse in judgment” concerning a girl that he and Nancy Brown treated like a daughter.

Before leaving, BROWN asked IW #20 Michael Lubanovic for forgiveness for his poor judgment and the bad example he had set, which IW #20 Michael Lubanovic granted.

8. MR, February 2024

In February 2023, a former FIRE Church member, MR, contacted Mike Brown about rumors he had heard regarding his relationship with Sarah Monk. Mike Brown asked him to call him on the phone so he could explain. His exact words were:

Thanks for reaching out. I really appreciate it! And *I'm sitting here with a big smile*, (emphasis added) since what you heard is incredibly far from the truth. I'll give you a call in a few minutes. VERY GLAD (emphasis in the original) to talk, and so glad you came to me.”

The investigator was provided with MR's emails to Mike Brown in February. We urged the investigator to contact MR and explain what Mike Brown told him in the phone call. We had no reason to assume that the investigator did not do this. But when we asked MR about his time

with the investigator, he had no idea what we were talking about. We don't know what happened or why he was not contacted, but we took it upon ourselves to gather the information. We had no idea that MR had a 15-minute phone call that was recorded. We believe that Dr Brown completely misled MR to believe a false narrative; one that would protect himself and his reputation.

Listen: 15-minute phone call between Michael Brown and MR.

In the phone call, which was recorded legally, Dr. Brown is not forthright. (The phone call was legally recorded in North Carolina, where there is a one-party consent law.)

Listed below are the more concerning issues with the phone call.

1. Dr. Brown says that they were *in a van* when the handholding incident took place, and many people saw it. Mike Brown even says that Rod Hall was driving. That would be quite impossible since both Sarah and Kris Bennett say that Mike was driving. According to Sarah and Kris, they were not in a van; they were in Mike Brown's Jeep.
2. Mike Brown says that he and Sarah were sitting together *in the back of the van*, which is not correct according to those in the SUV. Mike says to MR, "I *grabbed* her hand... so that's *the scandal*" [sarcastically, meaning there is no scandal], when in truth, according to eyewitnesses, he held her hand for some time. Sarah says it was more than ten minutes. Mike Brown admitted to Ron Cantor that it was at least several minutes. It was not what he explained to MR, merely *grabbing her hand* and announcing that she was like a daughter to him. Anyone listening to the recording would assume that he then let go of her hand, which did not happen according to a witness and Sarah herself. But no, that is not *the scandal*. As we read, the scandal was holding her hand, kissing her, smacking her rear end, constantly being alone with him in his office, sitting in his lap, and meeting late at night in a parked car. In other words—a real scandal. Mike is not honest about what he is being accused of; we assume that it is because MR doesn't have very much intel.
3. Mike Brown says that she was affectionate, and they would hug, *but it was always around other people*. However, Kris Bennett walked in on them in a full-frontal hug in private. Gregg Montella walked into his office, and she was sitting on his lap in private. Keith saw them alone at Walmart in a car. Katherine saw Sarah sitting on his lap alone in his office. Sarah herself has testified that she was often alone with him in his office, as has another former employee whose identity we know.
4. Dr. Brown said there were no texts or emails between them, but he failed to mention that they constantly passed each other notes (see below for a picture of a note from Dr. Brown to Sarah). She called him Dad, and he signed his notes, "Love, Dad." We have heard from other women who don't want to go on the record that they were in regular personal email conversations with Mike Brown, some of whom called him Dad.
5. Mike confesses to MR that it was stupid of him to have affection for her like he would for his own daughters, but fails to explain that his relationship with Sarah went far beyond what is a normal father-daughter relationship. He does not tell MR about all the other allegations. This fits the pattern of telling people only what they already know and

nothing more.

6. Mike Brown completely misrepresents Kris Bennett's text message conversation with Sarah. As he has misquoted the texts many times, he tells MR, "She told him nothing sexual or romantic ever happened." That is a massive mischaracterization of the conversation between Kris and Sarah. Sarah never said, "Nothing sexual *or romantic* ever happened." In fact, she is clear that their relationship crossed lines, "It was not what a married man and a single female should ever have."

The relationship we had at first I felt as a father/daughter. But that was not how it ended. Nothing sexual happened but it was not what a married man and single female should ever have. I left on

7. But in addition, Mike Brown portrays the conversation between Kris and Sarah as if *Sarah is correcting Kris*, making it clear that it was a platonic relationship. But those text messages reveal exactly what Kris suspected—that it was an inappropriate relationship. If Mike Brown's explanation to MR were accurate, then Kris would never have confronted Dr. Brown with those text messages. If all they did was confirm Dr. Brown's long-standing contention *that there was nothing sexual, romantic, or inappropriate*, why would Kris even bother with confronting him? But in fact, as we know, those text messages revealed a much darker story. (It is also interesting that Mike tells Londa Parker that Sarah would be horrified if those text messages were to get out and told her not to share them, but he has no problem misrepresenting those messages to MR.)
8. Mike Brown misrepresents his meeting with Kris Bennett and Keith Collins as far more cordial than it was. He does not tell MR exactly what Kris brought up but makes it appear that the only issue that Kris brought up was the hand-holding incident, when in fact, Kris brought up many more issues, including his relationship with Kim.
9. Mike Brown gives him the impression that he has lived a blameless life. "I tried to live a clean life for more than fifty years." This contradicts Mike's video, where he speaks of repenting bitterly in tears over his relationship with Kim (and it contradicts the now released Firefly report where Mike confesses to adultery of the heart with Kim).
10. Mike Brown represents Sarah as if he is still in touch with her as he tells MR that she did not want any of this to get out. How does Mike know that? He does not tell MR that Sarah told Kris a vastly different story from what she told FIRE leaders just after she left Pensacola. He does not show MR the text messages between Sarah and Kris, where she

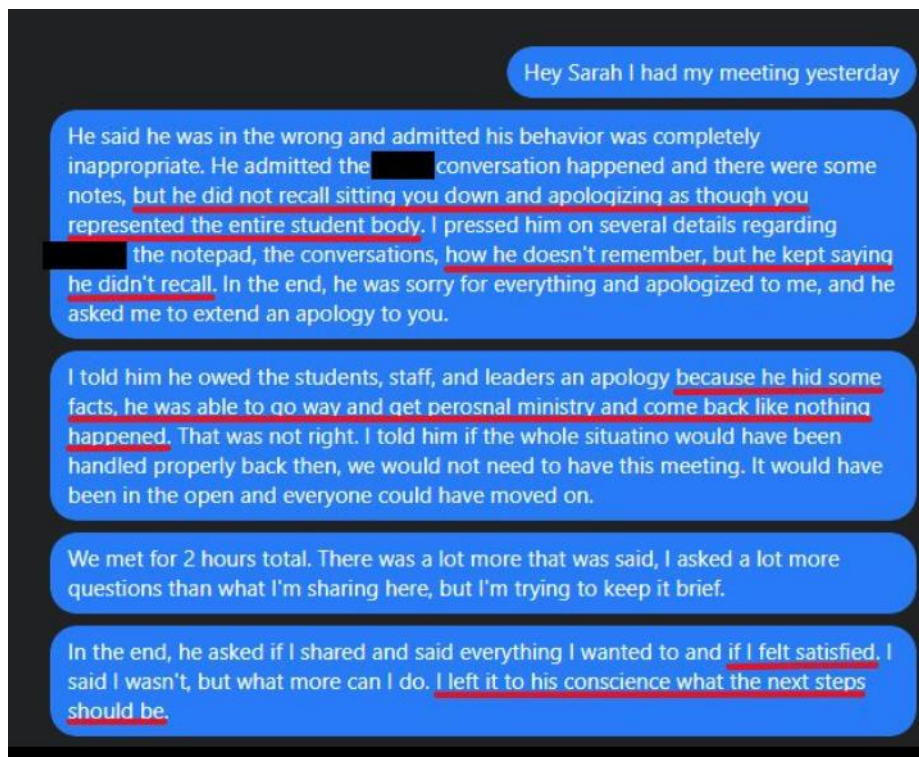
says she was lying at Mike Brown's behest. (We are not sure if Dr Brown had a copy of those text messages or not.) The person speaking to MR gives the impression that he is 100 percent transparent. It appears he is not.

Well about 2 mnts after I left Mr. Cava called and asked if we had an inappropriate relationship (or something along that lines) and I lied. I said no. Mike called me and let me know he would be calling and asking questions.
I had thought I needed to tell someone while I was there but it would of been my word against his. I didnt feel anyone would believe me. He covered everything up with [REDACTED] no one knew, so who would say he couldn't make them believe his word.

11. He portrays Kris as acting against Sarah's desires by talking to different leaders about this issue, when in fact, Sarah has the highest respect for Kris's action to bring her story to light.
12. He laughs at the idea that he had a harem, or that people had said that, but those were *his own wife's words* about the young women who would hang around him, according to a student/staffer. (To be clear, we do not take the reference to a "harem" literally, and we are sure that Nancy was joking. It was more an admission that Mike Brown had a group of young women who were around him a lot.) It should be mentioned that a tactic of those who are lying is to bring up something far more preposterous and unbelievable, such as the idea that this person had a harem of young girls hanging on him, because by disproving that—which is quite easy—it's connected with the other plausible allegation. If the first (ridiculous) allegation can be denied, so can the second allegation, even though it's accurate.
13. Mike Brown portrays his meeting with Kris as if it resolved matters. "[Kris] says, 'It ends here,' [and] walked out." But Kris was anything but satisfied. Here is a quote from what Kris told the investigator: "*Kris grew increasingly frustrated by BROWN's vague, evasive answers. Toward the end of the meeting, BROWN asked if Kris was 'satisfied.' Kris responded, 'No, because you don't remember anything.'*" But there is often a seed of truth in many lies. The Firefly report does say, "Unsure of what to do next, Kris told both BROWN and Keith, 'I wash my hands of it,' and left any further steps up to them. He then left the meeting." One could assume that Mike Brown portrayed Kris's words inaccurately for his own benefit.

EN: Mike tells MR that he can call Rod and Marion Hall, since Rob was "the driver." In emails Rob and Marion speak highly of Dr. Brown's integrity to MR, *but never mention or confirm that Rod was driving the van* during the hand-holding incident.

Furthermore, why involve Rod Hall, who has not been a part of this issue for 22 years? Why not just tell MR to call Sarah or Kris? Since Mike Brown represents Kris as being satisfied and Sarah as not wanting him to be involved, just point MR to them. Of course, such a move would reveal that Kris was far from satisfied and quite frustrated with Dr Brown's lack of forthrightness. Just read to Kris's description of his 2020 meeting with Mike Brown:



14. Mike Brown tells MR, “I have a weakness of wanting to shout out everything to the world.” Mike Brown portrayed himself as confessing things publicly *to a fault*. If this is true, why are there so many different versions coming from Mike Brown regarding what happened 23 years ago between him and Sarah, and him and Kim? If this is true, why did he make a video that was supposed to be transparent, revealing full disclosure, and then reveal basically nothing?

Three years before this conversation, Mike heard from Kris Bennett that his actions toward Sarah devastated her. She was once on fire for God, but after her relationship with Mike Brown, she left the Lord. Yet he can say to MR, “My conscience has been completely clear for many years.” Meanwhile, Sarah was still suffering. Abusive behavior damages the victim’s soul.³³

³³ Regarding the phone call and points 1 through 15, all emphasis is added.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 1:25 PM
To: Dr. Michael L. Brown - [REDACTED]
Subject: A concern

Hey Dr. Brown,

[REDACTED] here--recently, some information was brought to my attention about an incident that occurred during the Brownsville days. I spoke with [REDACTED] about it a few days ago, and he encouraged me to bring my concerns to you. You've been generous in our interactions over the years, and I know we're both men who care deeply about truth and trust that coming to you would be the best way to get clarity.

Given my history, time in ministry, and general network, a lot of people share information with me. Most of the time, there are no actions that I can take on their behalf since I usually have no standing in the issue and don't know the people involved. I always encourage others to take their issues directly to those in error or to their leaders.

A few weeks ago, a former FIRE student reached out to me about something they heard from another student. When they shared this information with me, it wasn't like those other situations where I didn't know the individual involved. It's a little different because I do know you and to the best of my knowledge, I have rapport with you.

This is the gist of what he told me:

During the Brownsville era in FL, you had an assistant. She, another ministry partner, and you were driving together in the same car. The other ministry partner was asleep in the back seat and you and the assistant were in the front. When the gentleman in the back seat woke up, he saw that you and your assistant were holding hands.

Another report was that you regularly purchased gifts for your assistant and there was a father/daughter type of relationship forming, that she admired you, and you reciprocated with gifts.

This person also shared that [REDACTED] and another leader were made aware of the incident and that they discussed this with you. I was told that you were adamant that this was not to be a public thing, that lines were crossed, and that nothing sexual happened. Given my history and experience with these types of issues, the story raised a couple of flags and I would like the opportunity to discuss some of my concerns with you directly.

Would you be open to a phone call? My number is [REDACTED]

From: Dr. Michael L. Brown
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 3:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: A concern

[REDACTED]

Thanks for reaching out. I really appreciate it! And I'm sitting here with a big smile, since what you heard is incredibly far from the truth. I'll give you a call in a few minutes. VERY GLAD to talk, and so glad you came to me.

Blessings,

Dr. Brown

9. Robert Gladstone, September 2024

Robert Gladstone's statement follows:

My statement asserts that Michael Brown hid his sins from his fellow local church leaders in 2001–2002. The implications of this alleged secrecy are significant. Based on biblical teaching, as well as common sense and decency, I believe this concealment was a form of deceit, which led to a pattern of deceit for years to come. In view of this pattern, I am convinced that Michael Brown (hereafter, MB) fails to meet the qualifications for leadership in the body of Christ based on 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

I was on the FIRE leadership team during the span of time when MB was showing inappropriate physical affection to Sarah Monk. However, I was unaware of the affections that I consider sensual until September 2024. I knew only that he once held Sarah's hand briefly during a car ride, and that he was seen once at a store with her alone. But Sarah and others have since testified that there was much more to the story. When I learned a few more of those details in early September 2024, I confronted MB by email. Since then, I became aware of more details as Sarah's story became public.

MB was also involved in a relationship with a married woman, 'Kim,' which he publicly called an emotional (not a physical) tie. In the Firefly report, he called it an "emotional affair" and "adultery of the heart." I knew nothing of this relationship until friends informed me about it in September 2024. Then in December 2024, 'Kim's' husband, 'Ray,' testified to the details of MB's interactions with his wife. What 'Ray' described was revolting. In light of Jesus' words in

Matt 5:27-28, ‘Ray’s’ description of MB’s communication with his wife was a severe breach of biblical ethics for a Christian leader—a *breach that merited a completely different and far more thorough response of disclosure and repentance than the one he attempted*.

It is important to understand the gravity of these two episodes in order to understand the gravity of the coverup, which I allege in this testimony. These sinful behaviors were extremely unsuitable for a leader in the church of Jesus Christ. This is both because of the sins themselves, but also because of their implications for one who should serve as an example in God’s house and the damage they caused to others. These include:

- Badly hurt people who carried Mike Brown’s behavior toward them for a long time.
- More people being hurt, who have heard the allegations for the first time in recent months. I can testify to this personally and on behalf of my family, as well as many who have come to me and my wife seeking comfort and help. We are living in a nightmare, unable to make sense of the disparity between MB’s public persona and his behavior toward others, how he kept his sins hidden from his church and leaders, and how he now blames others for rightly exposing him.
- An apparent abuse of power from the position of a local and high-profile Christian leader.
- Confusion within many people in the congregation who had seen MB in various physical situations with Sarah (e.g., holding hands, sitting close, walking with his arm around her, her sitting on his lap, giving her a shoulder massage).
- According to some people who confronted him, he responded in various ways, including obfuscation, deceit, manipulation, and shaming—apparently to steer them away from the truth—instead of honesty, confession, and full disclosure. I count myself among these people, per our email exchange late last year.
- An evident level of brokenness within MB himself as a leader that needed repentance and a lengthy time of restoration simply to be a healthy person and member of a church, let alone to be a leader with power over others, who continued in ministry virtually uninterrupted. Restoration to wholeness and to ministry are two separate issues and should not be achieved at the same time, if restoration to ministry should occur at all.

This list is a cluster of bad fruit that required MB to disclose everything to his fellow leaders and church. He considered us a team, and we were accountable to one another and the church. That means, when MB sinned against both Sarah and ‘Kim,’ since he was accountable to that team, he should have disclosed everything to that team. No leader who bears the bad fruit listed above should keep his sins private between him, his wife, and the few others he told.

Further, this list shows that MB was not qualified for leadership at the time. Re-entering ministry should not even have been considered after his behavior toward Sarah and ‘Kim.’ The first urgent concerns should have been Sarah, ‘Ray’s’ family, the church, and Mike and Nancy Brown as people and members of Christ’s body.

Because of Scripture’s call to submit to the local church and its leaders (1 Cor. 5:12; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 5:21; Heb. 13:17; Jas. 5:16), and based on common sense and decency, there was no way to fulfill these more urgent concerns, except for MB to begin his restoration by confessing and submitting to his church and fellow leaders.

But instead of going through that biblical and logical process, MB chose to keep his sins hidden from at least some of his leadership team. Instead of submitting to the counsel, guidance, and

restoration of his fellow local leaders, he confessed to a small circle of people who agreed not to disclose it to others. I do sympathize with those directly hurt and shamed by MB's behavior; I can understand their desire to conceal these matters. But that does not make it right. MB himself, and any other leader or counselor who knew about his sins, had a biblical responsibility to urge MB to disclose the situation to the local church leaders—or to do so themselves.

When I confronted MB in writing late last year [2024], he assured me that he had dealt with his sins in a way as ruthless and radical as one could imagine. But this cannot be the case. I can easily imagine a far more ruthless and radical way to deal with his sins—by following the biblical process of coming fully into the light with his fellow local leaders, and then facing the necessary consequences. Yet MB did not follow that process. His course was neither ruthless nor radical.

Also, MB did not take sufficient time away from ministry to get restored to God, his wife, and the church before returning to ministry. How do we know if a fallen man can bear good fruit as a leader if we do not know whether he can bear good fruit simply as a Christian over time, especially after showing a pattern of significantly unethical behavior that so acutely hurt people? Essentially, MB took no time off beyond, perhaps, a couple of weeks. And the real reason for his short time away was completely unknown to me and, I assume, to other leaders.

I have no doubt that MB went through a period of intense pain. He has just recently, after many years, publicly referred to his personal repentance to God and his wife, Nancy. I am sure that was agonizing and that he did make some things right. But no leader is above the church, in a category by himself, superior to the same requirements as all members of Christ's body. MB's fellow local leaders, as well as those from whom they would seek counsel, should have been the ones setting the course for restoration for all involved. It was not MB's decision, nor was it the sole decision of those he chose to tell.

Perhaps he was ashamed to come to all of us, which is understandable. But that is not a compelling reason to bypass biblical due process. Or perhaps he did not trust our ability to walk him through this situation. But that is no reason either, because he *did* trust us enough to lead, teach, preach, pastor, and sacrifice for the same ministry. MB clearly recognized our leadership support for all other aspects of the ministry, but apparently not for his accountability—at least not when it counted. If we were beneficial as leaders in the former, why not the latter? Otherwise, he should not have agreed to our being leaders with him at all.

There are no legitimate reasons for MB to have kept these very serious sins from us. Quite the contrary. On November 8, 2024, I wrote the following paragraph as part of a larger, final appeal for MB to repent:

“I also urge you to repent for hiding your sins from at least some of your leadership team and church. This omission dishonored the Lord's body. Therefore, it dishonored the Lord himself. You were obligated to come under the care and authority of your entire main leadership team. Seeking outside help was the responsibility of that group, not you. Instead, you and some other leaders seemed to agree to a process (perhaps including RTF counseling) that served you at the time. But whatever it was, it did not serve Sarah nor the church. You do not seem to realize just how serious and consequential this omission was.”

MB's secrecy also violated some inviolable spiritual dynamics related to the church as Christ's body. We were part of the same congregation, leadership team, and broader ministry work together. Scripture is clear that members of a congregation are organically connected (1 Cor. 12:26–27). MB's sins and alleged deceit affected us badly, even if we were not aware of it at the time: "Therefore, putting aside the lie, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, *because we are members of one another*" (Eph. 4:25, emphasis added).

Our entire leadership team and church were integral parts of MB's decision-making, either as beneficiaries or casualties. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. Sins have certain outcomes, trajectories toward a final consequence or end, which we cannot argue away. And those consequences will most certainly—biblically—include other people. In my view, based on Scripture, the sins and subsequent secrecy I describe in this testimony contaminated the rest of us without our knowledge. And I believe that set in motion an inescapable sequence of sowing and reaping that affected us in various ways, and is now coming to full fruition.

Common sense and decency also obligated MB to disclose everything to his team members. As co-workers in the same organization, we had a right to know about our leader's moral failures so we could make our own decisions for our families if we did not agree with his version of restoration. No matter MB's reasons for keeping all this from us, common sense and decency should have outranked those reasons. But he showed us neither. And as it stands, so painfully and sadly, his plan did not work anyway.

To be clear, in our email correspondence in September 2024, MB asked for my forgiveness personally, and I have forgiven him personally. But this is not just a matter of personal forgiveness. It is a matter of healing for the victims, MB's leadership qualifications, and the health of the larger body of Christ. MB hurt people who deserve full (not partial) confession, and his unbiblical process of restoration, however radical it seemed to him, set in motion an apparent pattern of lying and coverup that, in my opinion, should cast doubt on his qualifications to be in ministry at all. You can forgive the man who sets the house on fire, but you still have to deal with the fire.

MB stated a couple of reasons for choosing to withhold information from us. He stated to me in our email correspondence that, because there was nothing sexual or romantic or adulterous attached to his actions with Sarah, it seemed best to spare me the details. But there are problems with this decision.

MB's actions, though they did not cross certain physical lines, were, in my view, sensual by biblical standards (1 Tim. 5:1–2). Sarah testifies to MB's swatting her rear end, kissing her, and holding her close. Further, he himself admitted to me that his judgment was 'horrific' at the time. Yet he is the one who made the judgment, now contradicted by the investigator, that he was innocent of sensuality because Sarah was like a daughter to him, his relationship was not physically 'adulterous,' and he was under stress from the split. I do believe he was under great stress. We all were under stress. But Sarah was not his daughter, and MB's full spectrum of behavior toward her was hardly that of a father to a daughter. This is why he needed to confess more 'ruthlessly.' He admitted explicitly that he was incapable of making judgments about himself. Which certainly means he was not capable to make judgments for us. Yet he did both.

The Scripture passage cited above also negates his excuse of a father-daughter relationship. MB knew what the Bible teaches leaders about how they should relate to the young women in their

ministerial care. And it does not say to treat them ‘as daughters with lots of physical affection.’ It says: ‘Exhort the younger women *as sisters, with absolute purity*’ (emphasis added). I have heard him speak about that very issue, in very specific terms which he himself clearly did not follow. My question is this. If MB’s judgment, by his own admission, was so impaired that he touched Sarah in ways he never should have, why should we trust his judgment that he innocently acted as a ‘father’ toward his ‘daughter’? Do feelings trump biological or moral facts on other issues?

Despite his acknowledgment that his judgment was terribly clouded at the time, MB said he decided to withhold information from me because it ‘seemed best.’ I do not know exactly what he meant by that. But I do know that the one with self-admitted, ‘horrific’ judgment should not do what ‘seemed best’ for anyone. He was making monumental decisions on my (and others’) behalf that ‘spared’ me nothing. In my view, this selfish act stole some of the agency of my family and me, as well as the agency of others. I personally forgive MB for doing that. But his actions, and subsequent justifications, are not those of a qualified leader.

Here we are, 23 years later, inside a horrible nightmare caused solely by MB’s sins and secrecy—while he continues to blame others for bringing this back up without due process. He does not seem to realize the point of this whole matter: No one is bringing this situation back up because it never went away. It is not possible to sow the bad seeds of deceit and then reap the good fruit of restoration.

MB gave another reason for his withholding information in his official video statement, in particular reference to his ‘emotional tie’ with ‘Kim.’ He said that, though he was eager to share everything with his leadership team, school, and church, it was not his decision to make alone. Instead, both offended spouses agreed the matter should end quietly, since there was no adultery. This was to spare them further shame.

I can certainly understand a husband who wants to cover and protect his wife. But as noble and understandable as that motive is, there are still significant problems with this way of implementing that protection.

MB had an obligation first to conform to Scripture before his wife or anyone else (Luke 14:25–27), which, in this case, called him to the transparency already discussed in this statement. Further, ‘Ray’ said that MB was not contrite when he met with him and Nancy and that MB never mentioned a desire to tell his leaders and church.

Assuming the accuracy of ‘Ray’s’ testimony, which I do, MB’s pursuit of ‘Kim,’ his abuse of the power differential between them, the contemptible actions he requested of her, the pain he caused her family, and his leadership role in our church, all pushed the need for transparency beyond his own family. What about all the other families? Not only were these families mistreated through the original secrecy; they are now getting mistreated again by being blamed for dredging up the past.

Since the beginning, MB had other chances to come into the light and deal with these situations transparently. Various people have confronted him over the years. But during those confrontations, he lied or minimized his admissions, leaving out the most crucial details whenever convenient. These include in-person or email confrontations from Kris Bennett, Niels Prip, Keith Collins, Londa Parker, Katherine Marialke, Michael Lubanovic, Ron Cantor, me, and others.

According to those who confronted him, MB's responses during these confrontations included replies such as the following: he viewed Sarah as a daughter, he never touched Sarah in ways he later admitted, he only tapped Sarah on the 'lower back,' everything was thoroughly dealt with in the past, and 'Kim' was the one who initiated the inappropriate conversations with him.

In conclusion, it seems clear to me that MB's initial secrecy and omission of biblical due process were the beginning of an ongoing pattern of deceit and cover-up that he has yet to admit.

10. Ron Cantor, October 2024 (with two friends of Dr. Brown as witnesses)

In October 2024, Ron Cantor received a text message from a former BRSM student, informing him that Dr. Brown was under investigation by TRR regarding two inappropriate relationships with females in 2002. Below is Ron's testimony. [Ron's testimony is in light blue](#), the emails are in black, and [Mike Brown's responses to Ron's questions are in red](#). That email was included in the Firefly report, but everything was in black, making it confusing for readers.

After I received this email, I was stunned. For about three days, I walked around my apartment dazed. I did not know how to react or what to do with this information. Dr. Brown and I had enjoyed a deep friendship since 2008. We have known each other since the early 1980s. We had a falling out after the Brownsville split, but we reconciled in 2008. My wife and I joined him and his wife on a vacation in Alaska and had a great time. Other than a brief, two-week blip in 2019, we enjoyed a constant stream, a friendship, even from a distance.

I know some people think that I have a vendetta against Mike. All I can tell you is that I wake up every morning and pray through the Lord's Prayer, seeking to forgive anyone that may have hurt me. It's very important for me to live a grudge-free life. All of us experience hurts in this world from other humans. We have been forgiven much; thus, we must forgive much.

When Mike was attacked by a conservative messianic leader in Israel in 2018 who publicly called Mike a false prophet in an email list to hundreds of congregational elders in Israel, I defended Mike aggressively. Mike did not ask me to do this. I met with the accuser alone. I told the Bible school for which he worked that they needed to address his comments (which they did), and I went to the leadership of the email list. I deeply wanted to defend my friend Mike Brown. When he was in Israel last June, we spent the day together touring the south where much of the destruction happened on October 7, and then I treated him and his son-in-law, Ryan, to lunch. By all accounts, it was a wonderful day. The idea of getting even over the split has never entered my mind. There's nothing to get even over. I am very close with people who were on the other side of that split. One day, I may tell that story, but that day is not today.

Anyone who wants to make this issue about my relationship with Mike is ignoring the facts of the situation. As leaders, we are held to a higher standard from others, especially when it comes to marital faithfulness. If you read the emails below, you can see that the spirit between us was love. Yes, I wanted to find out the truth, but I was very gentle in the way I reached out to him.

I finally resolved that I had to contact Dr. Brown and inquire about the accusations. Below are a series of emails and responses. While I am simply going to copy and paste them here, the

investigator has the original emails, as do I, and so does Dr. Brown. I edited spelling mistakes and typos.

The following are emails and do not need quotations.

Hi Mike,

I have been dreading this email. There is no nice way to begin this.

A few days ago, a former student contacted me about allegations concerning you. I have been wrestling for days as to what to do with this information. A few days earlier, two others reached out to me with similar concerns, but I ignored them. I had written something on Twitter about last week's Esther Call and the way they dealt with the issue of clergy sexual abuse, and one of them wrote me: "What about Mike Brown?" I ignored it. It seemed weird, and I assumed it was probably from some bitter person. But then the former student contacted me and said that there were serious allegations of a sexual nature.

In short, it goes back to a former student (and maybe others, but it was unclear). The story was so disheartening and strange that I have not been able to concentrate for days. I go to bed thinking about it and wake up thinking about it. The person who told me said I was free to do what I wanted with the information—and my first thought was to call you. But I honestly can't imagine getting in the middle of something like this. And I couldn't imagine bringing this up to you. Even now, it's horribly uncomfortable.

One of the reasons it has taken me a few days to contact you is because I don't want to get into who contacted me—they all appear to be scared. Of course, I don't want to believe any of it, and that is what I told this student. I explained how absolutely crazy it was to think that you would be involved in anything like this. Even now, it just seems absolutely ludicrous. Honestly, when I read the email, I nearly fell out of my chair. I sat there, stunned for some time. And no evidence was presented to me.

The intensity of the IHOPKC situation, dealing with the leadership there, and simply overseeing the investigation has been exhausting. I simply don't have the bandwidth for anything else.

My policy is to take any accusation seriously. If they're accusations against me, Asher, Dan, etc., they have to be heard. In fact, we are in the process right now of making it safe for anyone to bring an accusation against any of us and to guarantee that they will be heard and not attacked. Whatever this is about, I would encourage you to deal with it openly and quickly. Don't attack the alleged victim but invite an investigation.

I often think about what I would do if I were falsely accused. On the one hand, a false accusation can destroy someone's life, family, and vocation. On the other hand, Jesus was falsely accused and didn't defend himself. It is not simple, and I really feel for you. My understanding from this student is that this is not going to go away and will eventually be public.

So that is it. I am really sorry.

Ron

I immediately followed it up with this:

Dear Mike,

To be super clear, the former student told me it would become public through *The Roys Report*. I have confirmed this. And I probably don't need to say this, but they have not contacted me about anything related to you nor have I shared anything with them. I did tell Julie how utterly stunned I am, and while we have had our differences over the years, I never in a million years would've imagined that any of this could be true, and I am still hoping it is not. They would not give me any information on their investigation (I tried). So the only thing I really know is what the student told me, which was a story about a former student having a strangely close relationship with you.

Again, I'm so sorry. I don't want to have this conversation with you. But whatever I'm going through, I'm sure it is far more difficult for you.

Always here to help. But, of course, whatever truth there needs to be acknowledged. That's what I would tell anyone, [including] myself.

Ron

Hey Ron,

So sorry to hear that you've been going through all this and that you don't know what's true or not. I did hear some crazy reports about six weeks ago with some *wildly false charges* about me that allegedly were about to come out in an alleged report from Julie, but they were *completely untrue*,³⁴ and I've not heard a word from Julie, with whom I've had frequent contact over the years (emphasis added).

As for a former student, nothing sexual or romantic ever took place on any level, and there was certainly nothing to create a national scandal, let alone related to clergy sexual abuse.

But please tell me exactly what you've heard, and I'll be glad to respond specifically (emphasis added).

And the Lord has my back. :)

Mike

Sunday, October 20, 2024, 4:47 p.m.

Hey Mike,

It is almost midnight here, and I'm going to bed. But I wanted to respond real quick. [The report] was very vague. Holding hands in a van with a student. Being seen in public holding hands with the same student. Her sitting on your lap. There was a very close relationship that seemed unhealthy.

³⁴ This is clearly a false statement. While Mike and Sarah/Ray disagree on some details to say the allegations are "wildly false" or "completely untrue," is proof that Dr Brown was not being forthright.

They alluded to other more serious issues but without details. But I was talking to the student, not any reporter. So, I have no idea what they plan to publish.

When I told Julie that I planned to contact you out of friendship and concern, she said they would never run a story without contacting the person. So I trust they will contact you. Hopefully soon.

Ron

Sunday, October 20, 2024, 5:06 p.m.

Hey Ron,

Yes, I know it's late there [in Israel], so you'll probably get this in the morning. And honestly, I don't expect anything to be published, because there's no public scandal, and the Lord has my back.

That being said, yes, absolutely, I'm happy to address what you've heard in detail to clarify what is true and what is false. Will you be free tomorrow morning around 10:30 a.m. my time? If not, let me know your windows, as my day is pretty tight with all our missionaries in town for our 25th anniversary FIRE International celebration.

Thanks also for your concerns about what I'm going through. I assure you, I'm good! When first I heard about some of the rumblings about five–six weeks ago, I was overcome with a spirit of fear, all full of lies from the enemy. This just helped me to press in more to the Lord, who also reminded me the truth is my friend, not my enemy.

Blessings and much love,

Mike

October 21, 2024, from Dr. Brown

BTW, it's possible I'll be available a little earlier so email me when you're up with your openings, and we'll talk. Love you!

Oct 21, 2024

Hey Mike, good morning. We have the [redacted] with us all day and [redacted]. And I am flying to the US tomorrow.

It might be better simply to wait until I land. The main issue that was causing me stress was that I knew about this, and I didn't know if you knew about it. Knowing that you are aware was important to me.

I'll let you know when I land.

Ron

October 21, 2024 from Dr. Brown

Sounds like a plan. And don't stress.

Hey Ron,

I hope your travels have gone smoothly! Give me a call when you so I can fill you in on things, and I'm really hoping that *The Roys Report* can be an ally, not an enemy. I'm scheduled to talk with Rebecca from their team (we've talked before a few times) tomorrow (Wednesday) morning at 11:00 a.m., but whenever you're up for a call, let me know. If I'm busy, I'll get back to you ASAP.

Love you, man!

Mike

October 22, 2024

Ok. I'm on my last flight. Should be in Richmond soon.

Talk to you tomorrow.

Ron

At this point, I arrived in the United States, and Mike and I had two phone calls, I believe. On October 24, 2024, Mike assured me that there was no story. He had spoken to the reporter from TRR and assured me that there was nothing that deserved being reported. This is coming from a man who just told the world on May 8, 2025. **"I've shared the truth with you. I want everything to come to light."** But in October 2024, he told me and others there was *nothing to report*.

He told me numerous times in writing and on the phone that God had his back in this situation and that the Lord had given him the Scripture Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you." (NIV) He also told me that there would be no article, and from the way he told me, I assumed he was speaking prophetically.

It would be good to hear from his board, because I was told that in the board meeting that took place on Friday, October 25, he did tell them that God showed him that there would be no article. But there was an article. Mike went from "God has my back" to "This is a trial to deepen my character for greater empowerment and service," as he recently expressed in an April 1, 2025, letter to supporters, where he included a copy of his autobiography.

It is also my understanding that in that board meeting, he did not fully confess. He entirely left out the accusations from Kim and Ray. His board would have to confirm or deny that. But I do know for a fact that one of the board members who had knowledge of the incident with Kim and

Ray contacted Mike shortly after the board meeting and pressed him that there was really no way not to share about the other story. Certainly, it would be included in TRR.

Mike called up all the board members and gave some version of the story with Ray and Kim. It should be noted that this took place on October 25, roughly six weeks after Mike was made aware that TRR was investigating him. If these are “some wildly false charges” as he said in his first email to me, why would you not contact your board immediately? Most of us in ministry, if we are falsely accused and know that we are being investigated, would run to our board of directors. But Dr. Brown waited six weeks.

At that point, Dr. Brown was expressing a desire for his friends with media presence to defend him. In one case, he sent an email to a close friend with a massive media footprint and made it seem like the two of them were in this fight together, making it clear that he expected his friend to use his platform to defend Mike against the allegations. I’ve seen that email.

“So to help me in the midst of a really hellish, demonic attack, do you still believe that, if this went public, with God’s help and grace, *we* could position ourselves against this *witch hunt* in a way that would garner tremendous support and help? And as a friend and major media man, are you still committed to helping me do this, in the event we have to?” (emphasis added)

On the evening of October 26, 2024, I sent this document to Dr. Brown and two mutual, trusted friends.

Dear Mike,

I am cc’ing this to [names redacted], as both are your friends and [redacted]. Let me make several statements. I’m writing this down because, honestly, it’s just too difficult to have a conversation about. It’s incredibly uncomfortable, and I’m not sure I could speak honestly over the phone. And right now, you need a friend willing to wound you (Proverbs 27:6)

What I’m going to share now is to help prepare you for what is about to come. I was told that the thing that brought this to a head was your sermon at IHOPKC. There is tremendous hurt and anger over what you shared. My understanding is that there are going to be accusations of spiritual abuse as well. It might be good to make a public apology for that sermon. If you want to talk about what was wrong with it, I’m happy to address that.

There was more that the student told me, but honestly, it was just too hard for me to bring it up. I’m your friend, but I’m also someone that looks up to you. Talking about this is not easy. I don’t want to hurt you. If you feel that I’m attacking you by what I write below, understand it’s not me . . . this is what people will say. I wish I could snap my fingers and make it all go away. But it’s not. You’re going to have to face it, and I think it’s important for you to understand that. I don’t see any way that you don’t deal with this publicly. Because you are amazing with words, you are going to be tempted to talk your way out of it. But that is not the way to go. Listening is going to be huge.

1. You need to prepare yourself for an article to come out. I think you might be in a little bit of denial. I don’t believe *The Roys Report* spends this much time investigating something and then not publish it. I’m 99 percent sure there is going to be an article. It is highly

unlikely that they're only focusing on the story with Sarah. Is that all Rebecca talked to you about?

2. What I was told by the former student last week was not only that an article would be coming out, but there were three primary sexual stories.
 - a. What you shared with me regarding Sarah.
 - b. That you had an affair with Kim
 - c. That you made sexual advances towards another woman who is coming forth.
3. I do have some concerns with what you shared with me regarding Sarah. When you say that you don't think this should be public, it shows me that you don't fully understand the relationship between a charismatic, beloved revival leader and a student. You're probably not in a reading mood right now, but Diane Langberg's *Redeeming Power* is an enlightening book on this subject. I would have questions if someone else told me the same story about other people. As I understand it,
 - A. You held hands for roughly 30 minutes with her while in a van.
 - B. You were seen at Walmart late one night together in an area of town where neither of you lived.
 - C. She was seen sitting on your lap.
 - D. She was seen giving you a massage (or vice versa).
 - E. On a few occasions, you patted her on her butt.
 - F. She referred to you as "Dad."
 - G. You kissed her on the neck or the cheek.

Here are the questions people will have. And again, I am so sorry for having to be so blunt.

1. Did you have romantic feelings for each other—and was the father-daughter relationship more of an unspoken cover for a romance—even if not physical? I'll give you an example. I was on a mission trip and there was an older fatherless teen with us. I developed a genuine concern for her, but seeing that she was attractive, I could not discern if it was genuine fatherly love or physical attraction (or a mixture). I decided it was a dangerous area, and that was the end of it. But I could see a scenario where I could've paid her a lot of attention under the guise of being "fatherly." Over time, it could have developed where we never acknowledged it was romantic, but it would've been. Does that describe what happened?
2. People will say, "It is not realistic that an adult male would hold hands with an adult female for more than just a few seconds without it being romantic."
3. How did the relationship end? Were you confronted? Did you one day wake up and realize it had become inappropriate? Did she come to you and say it was inappropriate? If you were confronted, did you immediately recognize that it was wrong? Did you defend yourself? I'm going to be honest: One of the stories I was told by the student was that you were confronted by three men (Keith Collins, [name redacted], and Niels Prip), and you berated them and forced them to get on their knees and apologize for even bringing it up.³⁵ The other thing I was told was that after the relationship ended, she suddenly disappeared—the connotation was that you and Nancy forced her to leave. (I am not saying I believe this. I'm simply saying I was told this. And the student may have their facts wrong.) If this is true—that you encouraged her to move on—it would be

³⁵ EN: It turned out to be false that they got on their knees.

considered abuse. You get to move on with your awesome ministry life, and she is banished. (Again, I'm bringing up every scenario.

4. Once you realized that you had been in an inappropriate relationship, at what level was this dealt with? Did you get counsel? Did you submit this to other leaders at FIRE? (Again, these are the questions that will be asked.)
5. No one used the term clergy sexual abuse twenty years ago. But people look at relationships between leaders and people under their authority quite differently today. Emotional, even non-sexual relationships between a pastor and someone in his congregation are considered scandalous today. Matt Chandler had to take a leave of absence for merely texting with a woman in his congregation, and it was not even slightly romantic. The problem is she was under your authority. And as I shared with you the other day, there was an unhealthy obsession with the faculty. All of the students are now twenty-five to thirty years older. Some of them are probably looking back on their time at BRSM/FIRE and feeling a little foolish at how they fawned over us.
6. I don't have any contact with Sarah (I don't even know her), but the way this is going to be framed is that you abused your authority as a bigger-than-life revival leader and developed a romantic relationship with a young woman who adored you.
7. Do you have any idea how Sarah felt in the years that followed? Based on everything I have learned in the past two years as I have been studying this issue of abuse, she may have needed counseling. She probably spent a lot of time wondering how she ended up in a romantic relationship with Dr. Brown. If she did get counseling, I can almost guarantee that her counselor explained to her that she was manipulated. She may feel that it messed her up or that it took away from her life. There's a lot more to this. She may feel like a victim of abuse, and as much as I hate to say it, most psychologists would agree that she was a victim.
8. I want to be clear: I have not spoken to Rebecca. And she has not contacted me. I have not in any way had any influence regarding this article. I did not know about this until last week. I have not had any communication with the student who reached out to me since last Friday, a week ago. I'm only sharing this because [board member, name redacted] heard a rumor that I was somehow involved. As I told him that is 100 percent false. I knew nothing about this until last week. [Another board member, name redacted] can verify that I called him up in shock last week.
9. Lastly, I think this is far more serious than you realize. I wish I could tell you what to do. This is most likely going to be public very soon. Honesty is still the best policy.

Mike, we are all here for you. We love you. And we want to help you do the right thing. I am not sure I know what that is at this time, but I just want to prepare you that this is going to be heavier than you realize—but we are here for you.

Below is Dr. Brown's response on the same day. I understand that he requests privacy, but I've come to see that that is a tactic to keep people from revealing what he has told him. I never agreed to privacy or confidentiality. As ministers, we know what we have signed up for, and we are all accountable for our actions. We do not have the right to privately confess things while publicly proclaiming a different story.

Ron,

I'm responding to you in writing here and *thank you* for the love and support. I'm not minimizing what could happen; I'm simply sure that God has my back and whatever Satan means for evil God will use for good.

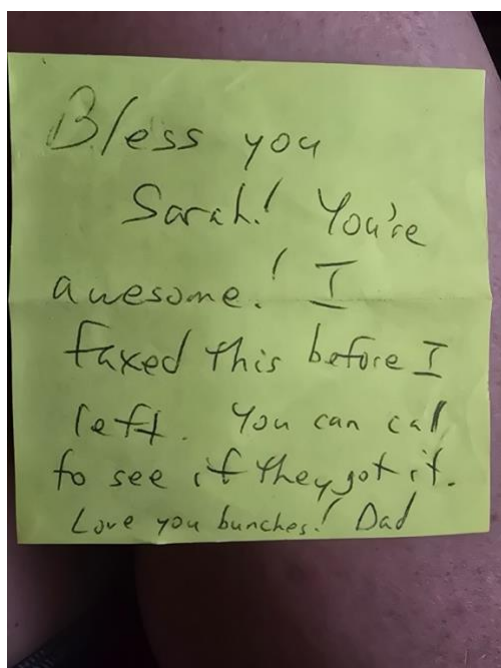
I have shared everything with the board and with a consulting attorney. To a person they believe they are standing with me, and some share my faith for the future. *God knows my heart and he is with me.* I know that for a fact. But let me respond to each point, below:

Everything I write here is in the strictest confidence, but once more, *thank you, thank you, thank you.* Let's face every worst-case scenario.

Here are the factual responses:

1. You held hands for roughly thirty minutes with her while in a van. *While sitting in a van with some grads coming back from a meeting where I preached, I said to them, "Sarah is like a daughter to me," and I took her hand in front of all them. It might have been a few minutes. Again, intentionally in front of everyone and the only time I ever held her hand (emphasis in original). Idiotic, yes. Innocent. Totally.*
2. You were seen at Walmart late one night together in an area of town where neither of you lived. *It was the Walmart nearest to our offices; sometimes, if she had a rough time at home, she would want to talk with me, so I intentionally told her I'd talk with her at a public place. I put my arm around her like I would a daughter—idiotically but intentionally in public.*
3. She was seen sitting on your lap. *Someone very hostile to me who has spread lies about me (I know this for a fact; some of the info Rebecca heard was from her and totally false) claims to have seen this—again, not hidden, according to her, but I have no recollection of that.*
4. She was seen giving you a massage or vice versa. *Never happened.*
5. On a few occasions, you patted her on her butt. *Yes, a backhanded swipe when she walked away, a few times.*
6. She referred to you as "Dad." *"Pops," not "Dad"—but this was totally common with students and faculty, to this day, decades later.³⁶*

³⁶ EN (Ron): I don't know why Mike would lie about this. That is his handwriting. He clearly signs it "Dad." I guess "Pops" would be a far less affectionate gesture. But according to Sarah, he told her to call him "Dad." And here is the evidence.



7. You kissed her on the neck or the cheek. On the top of the head, for sure. I don't recall ever kissing her on the cheek.

Re: Kim, I did not have an affair, but we developed a very unhealthy and sinful soul tie. I was not caught. Instead, I repented in agony of heart to Nancy, *she [Kim] then followed suit, because of my repentance*, with her husband (emphasis added). And because there had been no physical relationship, both spouses said that nothing more should be said. I, for my part, wanted to tell the whole world: the FIRE leaders, the students, everyone! I was asked to say nothing, and I said nothing. God is my witness as to the depth and thoroughness of my repentance. During this time—totally burnt out, emotionally wrecked after the split, under hellish financial pressure—I allowed this to happen and exercised such idiotic judgment with Sarah.³⁷

³⁷ EN (Ron): It should be noted that the tests and trials that we go through, are meant to make us stronger, not to be an excuse for defiling those under our authority. When the pressures of this life push us into moral failure, they are revealing that something is broken within us. When pressure is applied, who we really are comes out. That can be when we don't get a seat that we were expecting to on an airplane—how do we react to the person in the service industry? Or a server who gets our order wrong. Certainly, with Dr Brown was dealing with was far more significant—with the weight of a new school in a new church upon his shoulders. But this should have been a time for great excitement—one year into the new adventure. During the very time that these relationships are going on, Dr Brown is writing books on revolution. Could he not see the cognitive dissonance between his writings and his behavior?

Furthermore, the other members of the faculty who were also under incredible financial strain, did not find themselves dealing with the same temptations or giving into them. It's just not a worthy excuse.

As for getting counsel—yes!!! It changed my life totally and deeply to this day. Yes!!! I should have taken a sabbatical, for sure, but under the crazy circumstances with the weight of the whole ministry on my shoulders and my unhealthy, false sense of responsibility, I did not.

As for Sarah, there was *nothing* of any kind romantic or sexual between us (emphasis in the original). Zero! She wrote that to Kris Bennett in 2020 while detailing the other things.³⁸

Nancy and I had dinner with her so I could address my stupidity. Nancy then spent time ministering with her privately; then life went on as normal. She continued to take trips with Nancy and the grads and was like a daughter to us. About eight months later, she started talking about moving to Texas (where there was an unsaved guy that she knew), and she wasn't doing well spiritually.³⁹

That's when she told me that it was connected to the contact we had, and I sought to minister to her. Her mom and dad didn't want her to move; we all strongly discouraged her, but she did move, and as far as I knew, until 2020, everything was fine. She would email me pictures of her kids and ask for prayer when one of them was sick, and she stayed in occasional contact with me through 2015.⁴⁰

(That's the last email I could find.) In short, we did not have a relationship; there was idiotic but innocent physical contact between us (*initiated by her; totally innocent hugging, etc.*), and she moved to Texas about eight months after I got things right (emphasis added). Regarding Neils and Keith, when she left, there were rumors that we had had an affair, and Keith said he had seen me with her at Walmart. I told them the affair accusation was nonsense, but I was defensive (whoever said I made them get on their knees and repent, seriously??). So they appointed Sandy and Kathi Good to call her and investigate. She burst out laughing⁴¹ on the phone and was flabbergasted, repeating the same thing to me (I have this in my journal by date).⁴²

As for Rebecca, 90 percent of her questions were about Rebecca [he meant Sarah]; she was aware that someone (Kim?) had made some inappropriate statements to me, which *I had*

³⁸ EN (Ron): Actually, she wrote to Kris Bennett, "Nothing sexual happened, but it was not what a married man and a single female should ever have." She has never said that it was not romantic, but Mike repeats this line often. Anyone who reads the actual text messages can see that it was sensual and romantic.

³⁹ EN: Based on the timeline, as we understand it, it would be impossible for there to have been an eight-month period between the end of their physical relationship and Sarah leaving for Texas, which she did roughly two weeks after Labor Day in 2002. In order for there to be eight months in between, their relationship would have had to end by February 2002. Much of what was witnessed happened after February 2002.

⁴⁰ EN: Psychologists say that it is very common for those abused to stay in contact to some extent with their abusers, particularly when they are powerful people. Tammy Woods stayed in touch with Mike Bickle for forty years. Deborah Perkins stayed in touch with him for more than two decades. The fact that Sarah asked for prayer is not evidence of a normal relationship.

⁴¹ EN: I have confirmed that this is not true. Kathi did call Sarah *out of her own concern, not because she was tasked to*, and she said *Sarah did not laugh*, but was quote solemn.

⁴² EN: We are still waiting for any corroboration that Sarah ever burst out laughing at the notion that she and Mike had a relationship.

documented in case I was ever accused of starting something with her (emphasis added); Sarah found that in a drawer in our bedroom while housesitting for us and watching our dog, and she asked me about it. She mentioned it to Kris, and that's how Rebecca knew about it, I think. I told her what I told you here but said no more other than she is dead and buried, and I'm not saying anything to defame her. Then she proceeded to ask me about other, crazy questions involving other situations I might have known about—I know the source of two of the lies, for sure—and sent her detailed email refutations of the lies, which she appreciated. I gave her Keith's number as well to follow up, since he had confronted me and was part of the follow-up investigation and was in the meeting with Kris in 2020. He knows Sarah said in writing to Kris that there was nothing sexual or romantic between us. Her words.⁴³

As for you being involved, I would never in a *trillion years* think that you had a hand in bringing this to [Julie] Roys (emphasis in the original). Of course not!!!! As for Roys, Rebecca told me they did investigations many times without publishing anything. I said to her, "The purpose of a whistleblower is when the system fails, so if you conclude that everything is as I told you, why on earth would you think this is something to bring to the public eye, since it was dealt with before God and the people involved?" She said that it would only be if there was a cover up (although who appointed them to decide what should be public?) or if there had been a history of not dealing rightly with sin (which was why she asked me other unrelated questions) or if there had been some kind of abuse. That may be the claim, and certainly, we must be prepared for it; it would be a boldfaced lie.

As for IHOPKC, I apologized publicly months ago for comments about social media, but I can't find the links. That being said, please say more to me. You have my ear.

But if you listen to my message, I start off talking about walking with a limp and say that everything must come to light and only asked for time for the investigation to take place—who knew we'd be here today, still waiting!—and asked people to stop the online gossip until then, not recognizing what I was quenching in doing to. That's what I apologized for, also for taking a call from one of the former IHOP people one day who led an online anti-IHOP group, apologizing to him as well.

I deeply understand today's climate and what we're up against. Every leader I've spoken to about this—including an attorney with massive background in scandals, etc.—has said, "Mike, you repented twenty-four years ago and dealt with things properly. There is nothing to report publicly. This is the accuser of the brethren. We love you and are standing with you." Others have assured me that our work and ministry and legacy will not be tarnished.

With that in mind, the board's job is to expect and prepare for the worst. You, as a true, lifelong friend, just want to help. So again, *thank you* for pushing on all these issues (emphasis in the original). From the heart!

⁴³ EN (Ron): I was not aware of any follow up investigation. It is my understanding that once Mike shut down Keith and Niels and then confronted Londa, telling her that nothing happened, life went on. I do not believe there was an investigation but would be happy to hear if there was one.

Last point. There's another massive side to this and that is that the body needs to hear a message that you can repent, be forgiven, and be blessed. That God forgives and covers. I know it. And they hate the accuser of the brethren on the loose.

So, before God, since every word I wrote you here is true, since I was not caught in any sin but repented on my own and none of those involved felt I needed to "go public"—Ron, God as my witness, I never a physical relationship with another woman. There was nothing sexual or romantic between Sarah and me—why on earth should this be dragged before the public? Is that God's heart?

People might still do it; but it is the work of the accuser, not the Spirit, and what Satan means for evil, God will use for good.

I love you, Ron!

Mike

Below is my response. Remember, two other trusted friends of Dr. Brown were cc'd.

October 27, 2024

Hi Mike, it took me until now to finally slowly read everything below. Thank you for your detailed responses. And thank you for your invitation to continue asking questions because I need to in order to fully understand things. If at any point, you are uncomfortable, just tell me to stop, and I will. I just have two questions.

1. You wrote that Kim "had said some inappropriate things to me, which I had documented in case I was ever accused of starting something with her; Sarah found that in a drawer in our bedroom while housesitting for us and watching our dog and she asked me about it."

Do you still have that? If that exonerates you, are you able to share it with us? I am just following the logic—you documented it for exactly a day like today.

2. How did Sarah process this information? Were you concerned that she would share it with others? I know you said that the four of you decided it was best not to share it—you wanted to, but you honored their feelings—but how did Sarah deal with this knowledge? Was she asked not to talk about it? That is a massive secret for a young lady to carry around for twenty-plus years.

Thanks!

Ron

October 27, 2024 from Mike Brown:

Hi Ron,

Needless to say, this is all 100 percent in confidence with you, [redacted], and [redacted] (although they're quite familiar with everything I'm saying). Not a word can be shared outside (although I told Rebecca everything I've told you).⁴⁴

1. *No, I didn't think of saving that at all, plus it would just be my word* (emphasis added). In any case, she's deceased. We didn't commit adultery—to repeat, I have never had a physical relationship of any kind with any woman other than my wife from the day I got saved until today—and there's nothing more to say about it. The fact is that we had a wrong soul tie, that I repented, that all parties met, there was forgiveness, I made major lifestyle changes and got intensive counseling, and nothing even remotely repeated like that in my life. So there was one misstep, not adultery, in fifty-three years, which is nothing the rest of the world needs to know, unless repentance and forgiveness and righteous dealing with sin have no more meaning in God's kingdom.
2. Sarah asked me about it, *she felt bad for me* (emphasis added), we talked things through (it's all journaled), and I was careful to see how she was doing in the days that followed. As for asking her not to say anything, I don't think it dawned on me to do so. She really was like a daughter to us and very much on our side. *And the only thing the note would have done was make the other woman look bad, not me* (emphasis added).

That being said, I'm hoping you feel the need to know this because you want to be sure I'm ready for any question or accusation that will arise since you're obviously not a witness from that time. In that case, again, I appreciate the love and concern. Truly.

What I'm sure of—and every leader I've spoken to confirms this, including some very mature, streetwise leaders – is that it's the devil who wants to broadcast any of this to the world (in which case, *The Roys Report* would defeat its whole purpose by becoming a tool of Satan rather than God). And unless they had evidence of some kind of grooming or abuse (which is a lie from the pit without a trillionth-percent of truth that could be demonstrated on many levels, even with other testimonies), they would have zero reason to touch this. Rebecca confirmed this to me when we talked. And unless they decided to air a speculation of potential abuse that first arises twenty-four years after the fact and contradicts all previous documented testimony, which would be a tragic ethical violation in God's sight, airing unfounded speculation about an international leader, there's nothing to report.

I'm also sure of this, and with an absolutely clean conscience and assurance from God, I will see Isaiah 54:17 lived out. God really has my back. I know it (emphasis added).

(I realized upon rereading this that I never replied to the accusation about a third woman. I haven't the slightest clue who this could be, since I've never made a sexual advance at any woman in my life as a believer. I'd be laughing if it weren't so sick.)

⁴⁴ EN (Ron): This is quite strange. He is swearing us to secrecy but also saying that he's told all this information to *TRR* reporter Rebecca Hopkins, who not only is not sworn to secrecy but is getting ready to tell this entire story to whomever will read it.

One last note (then I'll be leaving for YWAM in Kona tomorrow at 6:45 a.m. and so will just leave this here): I listened again to my message at IHOPKC, and what I asked for repeatedly was for *both sides* (emphasis in original)—those defending Mike and those accusing Mike—to stop posting online and let the process unfold, which actually could have worked fine if the AG agreed to the law firm. It was *both sides* (emphasis in original) I was addressing, not just those with concerns and allegations. Again, what I didn't know and what I subsequently apologized for twice on the air was how many wounded people there were out there, and the internet was their place to meet and vent.

And you know I took time to preach against exalting people in the message too! 😊

Again, love you deeply, and we'll leave things here for now.

Blessings,

Mike

EN-Ron: At this point, I was convinced that Mike was involved in two inappropriate relationships with females. At what level? I really did not know at that time. But it was becoming very clear that they were not handled correctly. I did not know at the time that Ray would come forward and say that what Mike called, “a very unhealthy and sinful soul-tie” was a phone-sex relationship. I had also not met Sarah at that time and had not heard her testimony. However, it was clear to me that these issues were not handled correctly and that they were now going to jeopardize Mike's ministry unless he took the initiative to deal with them forthrightly before a group of elders with authority to discipline him and bring him through a restoration process. When I use the word *restoration*, I am always referring to restoration to Jesus. That is all we should be talking about. The issue of ministry should be dealt with later. But for many, ministry is an idol. You will see later that Mike threatens me that my involvement could threaten my future in ministry. I tell him that ministry is not an idol to me, and if that is what happens for following my conscience, then I will be at peace.

I then sent him this letter, cc'ing the two others as well. This is the nineteenth communication between us followed by his response.

Sunday Night, October 27, 2024

Dear Mike,

Thank you for being open and honest over these past few days. I have given almost no thought to anything else. This is probably my tenth attempt at writing this email. I know that you're in a very fragile state right now, which is understandable. I don't want to add to your pain, but I do want to speak reality to you.

Mike, I'm putting myself in your place. If I did exactly what you did, what you have confessed to us, would you accept the fact that I privately repented and then went on in ministry without confessing to my fellow leaders? Please meditate on that for a few minutes.

If I were to take your version of everything and ignore all my reservations, I would have to conclude that you mishandled these episodes. The proper way to have dealt with them would have been to confess them to your leadership team. I'm assuming at that time, that would've been Bob, Scott, John, and Josh. And maybe a few others. To hide this from them was to dishonor them and dishonor the very idea of apostolic team ministry. You cannot have inappropriate relationships with people under your spiritual authority who look to you as a hero and leader and then simply repent on your own. It must go to leadership. Had you done that back then, we probably would not be talking about this today. They were the ones who should've decided if there needed to be discipline, what that discipline should be, whether there should be public confession, and what type of restoration process you should have gone through.

Both of those relationships (with Sarah and Kim) today would be characterized as spiritual abuse. Again, I recommend reading *Redeeming Power* by Diane Langberg. I understand the body has a better understanding of both spiritual and clergy sexual abuse today than we did twenty-four years ago. But both women looked up to you and were under your spiritual authority.

I am quite sure that if Bob Gladstone had had an inappropriate texting relationship with someone at FIRE School or Church, you would have expected him to come to you and the leadership and confess. I suspect that if you found out years later that Josh Peters had had an inappropriate relationship with a student or a member of FIRE Church and dealt with it on his own, you would feel he handled it inappropriately and disrespected your leadership. This is the main issue here. Anyone can sin. Anyone can do something stupid. I am capable of doing whatever you did, even worse. But those of us who believe in team ministry know that you cannot simply repent on your own of something as serious as spiritual abuse or clergy sexual abuse. That is what Mike Bickle did, and we criticized him for it (understanding that what you did was nothing compared to what he did).

Furthermore, as I understand it, there were many witnesses to your inappropriate relationship with Sarah. To not address this publicly was to leave them confused: The students in the van, whoever saw you at Walmart, anybody who witnessed you touch her inappropriately. The fact that several people have brought this up over the years, which I had only learned in the previous week, shows that this was and still is a source of controversy and confusion among many people. And my understanding is that each day, more people are hearing about this. In other words, even if *The Roys Report* decides not to report on this, it is going to go viral over the next several weeks. People are talking about it. I know you see it as an unrighteous attack against you; I see it as the fruit of not dealing with it correctly in the first place.

I have a lot more to say regarding this, but it's going to be very painful, and honestly, I do not think you want to hear it. So far, with all your kindness, it is clear that you are simply defending yourself. So I will keep it to myself for now. *Unless you are willing to process this correctly, I don't see any reason for further conversation with me on this matter.* I would gladly help you process this. But if that is not what you are interested in, there is no reason even to respond to this. I want the best for you, but my position is clear and will not change. You will need to make amends with your former leadership, Sarah, and FIRE Church.

Processing this correctly begins with admitting to yourself that this is unresolved. You will need to go back to the former leaders and confess to them and ask forgiveness for not disclosing this. You will need to ask Sarah for forgiveness. In your letter, you said you addressed your "stupidity" (forgive me, I'm just quoting you), but did you actually repent to her? I don't know

who your current eldership team is to whom you are submitted, but they would need to take the lead in the correct process of restitution to all parties.

Lastly, I know you're on your way to Hawaii to minister. My advice to you would be to cancel all ministry until this is resolved. You are going to look very dishonest if it comes out that you were ministering, knowing that these unresolved issues were out there. At the very least, let the leadership know what is going on so they can make a decision [whether or not you should preach].

Again, if you're not ready to really do the hard work to make this right, there is no reason to respond.

With much love and deep concern,

Ron

Mike's response:

Dear Ron,

Let me prayerfully process what you have taken so much to write before responding further. (Plus, I just arrived at my hotel after sixteen hours of travel.) And again, I can't thank you enough for caring for me and wanting to help.

Just one thing: Let's focus on the Sarah situation, which is where [Julie] Roys has been focused in their questioning and investigation. *And it's the only situation—please trust me on this—that anyone could even try to construe as abusive. We'll not discuss the other at all* (emphasis added).

Again, let me prayerfully process your request and get some sleep before responding.

Blessings and love,

Mike

That was the last time I heard from Dr. Brown on the subject. He preached in Hawaii, and I was told that after he finished his ministry, he disclosed to leaders that he was being investigated. That's all I know about that.

Before we continue, I want you to hear the story of "April."

During my time in Atlanta, the pastor told everyone he wanted us to watch the movie *The Matrix*, which had just come out, because he felt like the movie had a spiritual meaning. I explained to him that BRSM does not allow us to watch the movie because it was rated R. He explained that we were not going to just watch an R-rated movie, but we would see the spiritual meaning in it. So, we watched it and then went back and discussed as a group the spiritual meanings we saw in the movie. Which, honestly, all made sense.

When I got back to Brownsville, I was called into Brown's office and was told that *I would no longer be a part of the school*. I asked why, and he said because he learned I watched *The Matrix*. When I tried to explain that we went because the pastor wanted us

to see the spiritual meaning in the movie, he said he didn't care because I knew I was not allowed to watch R-rated movies, he felt that I disobeyed, and therefore misrepresented the school by doing so. I asked *while crying*, if there was anything I could do, maybe be temporarily suspended. He said no; he made his decision, and that was it.

The problem with Mike's position, that he repented 23 years ago, is that there were no consequences. He kicked the student out of school, according to her testimony. But instead of submitting to his elders, he decided on his own discipline, or lack thereof. The elders were not able to bring discipline. He circumvented a process that he would've expected any other leader in FIRE to go through. Because of the standard of enforcing strict consequences on those who broke the rules, his only choices were to disclose or to resign from the ministry. He made allowances for himself that he would not have made for others. As you will read later, one staffer was threatened by Nancy Brown that if she did not stop going swing dancing with other staff members, she would be fired. Can you grasp that? During the same period that they would cover up what Mike did, they were still threatening students and staff members with punishment or expulsion over far lesser offenses... things that many would not even consider offenses.

Over the next week, I spoke with various board members, expressing my concern about Dr. Brown's posture. I was told by one of their senior board members that *if* there is an article they will launch a third-party investigation. My response was "*if* there's an article!" meaning there was already enough information out there to demand a third-party independent investigation.

We discussed the need to get in touch with Sarah and hear her story. I did not get the sense that any of them planned to do it, so I offered. The board member I was speaking to asked me to update them after I spoke with Sarah—if she was even willing. At this point, Dr. Brown did not know Sarah was involved. He was under the impression that people he would label people as bitter gossipers, disgruntled former employees who we're out to get him. (That's my paraphrase.) I held that piece of information back because I was concerned that if Mike knew she was the primary source for TRR, he would try to contact her—which, at that point, would be highly inappropriate. However, I told this board member that Sarah was the source of the information to TRR.

I got in touch with a third party who I knew had a relationship with Sarah. I did not know if she would want to talk to me as I represent the very type of person who hurt her: a typical leader in the charismatic world. But it turns out, she did want to talk. She told me later that she was terrified and did not know if she could trust me. But by the end of the conversation, she felt empowered because someone who was a recognized leader believed her.

I won't repeat her story here since it has already been told above. I wrote down her testimony, often stopping her so I could quote her verbatim. I asked lots of questions. And I came away with several pages that were horrifying. In my opinion, she suffered sexual abuse from Mike and spiritual abuse from both Mike and Nancy. The next day, I edited everything and sent it to the LOF board. They wrote back to me immediately and said they were stunned as I was. Here are a few of their comments—and understand, they were not merely reacting to Sarah's story; they were reacting to the differences between Mike's story and Sarah's story.

- Wow! I am sick to my stomach — this is horrible 🤢

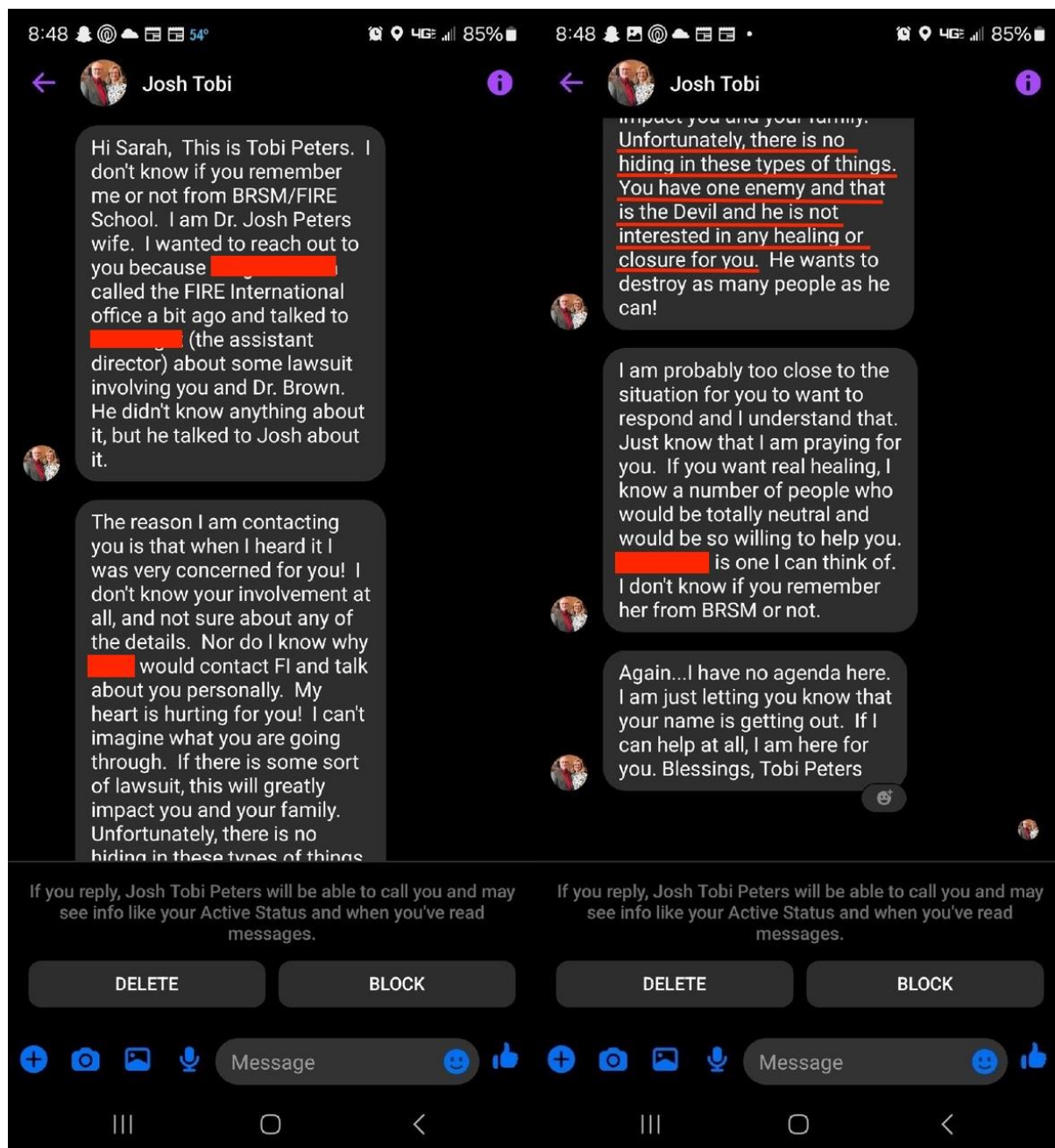
- My heart breaks for poor Sarah, that she had to carry this for twenty years—I can't imagine. And my heart breaks that this wasn't handled immediately and properly.
- I don't think I've ever had a harder time reading anything as my heart was racing the more I read. I'm stunned and shocked and without words.
- And it goes without saying that my desire for Sarah would be total freedom and peace in her life going forward.

In other words, the story she told was quite different than whatever Mike had disclosed to the board less than a week earlier. They planned to confront Mike with this information that Sunday and asked me to drive down from Richmond to be involved. By this point, my adrenaline and emotional capacity was gone so I declined. Little did I know that the coming days would bring even greater stress.

I understand that they confronted Dr. Brown, and he confessed to some things while denying others. They can share about that meeting.

That Monday, I became extremely concerned, realizing now that Mike knew that Sarah was the source. Would he or Nancy actually try to contact her? Would they get someone else to contact her? Maybe an investigator or lawyer? On Monday, November 4, 2024, I encouraged Sarah not to talk to anyone who called her regarding the subject. On Thursday, November 7, I told her that I would like to find her a pro bono lawyer if possible. In the meantime, I offered to represent her if anyone tried to contact her. I know very little about being an advocate, and I'm certainly not a lawyer. However, I was quite sure that an effort would be made to silence her, so I offered my services, and she gladly accepted.

On November 12, Sarah received a series of unsolicited text messages from Tobi Peters, the wife of Dr. Josh Peters, the president of FIRE International, clearly designed to keep her silent. There never was a lawsuit (see below). I was told by a board member that Mike was involved in these messages at some level, but I have no proof beyond that. Screenshots of the text messages follow.



Sarah immediately sent these messages to me, and I was livid. Few things are more horrible than trying to silence a victim of sexual abuse. Since that time Sarah has renewed her faith, found love in the body of Jesus, and has become an advocate herself—she is a survivor! Josh and Tibi sought unwittingly to steal this from her in order to keep the truth of her abuse quiet and protect Michael Brown. I calmed myself down and I emailed both Josh and Tobi Peters:

Hi Tobi, Sarah just sent me the texts that you sent her. Just so you are aware, I am helping her navigate through this difficult time. It is a long story about how I got involved, and I will not bore you with the details.

She would prefer that you do not send her any more messages. Thank you.

That being said, it seemed that your text had the intention of encouraging her not to take action against Dr. Brown. You mentioned that it would be difficult for her, she could not hide, and that her enemy is not Dr. Brown, but Satan. Some might see such language as manipulative and leading. And without knowing any of the details, as you admit in the text, it felt inappropriate. I trust you did not mean it that way.

Sarah has no interest in a lawsuit against Dr. Brown or anyone else. Her goal is to see justice and accountability. I hope that you will help in ensuring that. When leaders cover up abuse in order to protect the abuser and his reputation, the kingdom does not win. If you have any more questions about the situation, since we have not spoken in over twenty years, please reach out to Bob Gladstone as he is very familiar with the situation. Thank you again. However, if you do have any questions for me, I am more than happy to answer them.

Ron Cantor

To this day, they have not responded to that email. They have not apologized to Sarah. They have not acknowledged the inappropriateness of sending such a message. Tobi seems to suggest that true healing cannot come from confronting your abuser. That is absurd. Confronting your abuser is a part of the healing process, particularly when you have been manipulated through silence and lying.

I was so annoyed at their lack of response that I emailed them again two days later, and my tone was much harsher. I was angry. I do not like victims of abuse to be gaslit, being told that their abuser is not the human who abused them but an invisible character named Satan. I won't include that email here, but I'm sure they showed it to Dr. Brown because only days later, Mike sent an email to the other members of the Tikkun Leadership, where I serve, to seek their assistance in keeping me quiet. That letter was over the top and full of lies and half-truths. In it, he refers to Sarah as a liar and presents himself as a victim. He threatens me and says that they need to get this right because 'lives are at stake.' He presents himself as a very important part of God's plan for revival and cultural reformation. And just like he would a month later in his official statement, he blames this on Satan and people like me and Sarah.

[I have been told that the Peters believe I have misrepresented Tobi. But they have my email address. I sent them two different emails. I am very happy to correspond with them. But they have only expressed this concern to others, not directly to me.]

Letter to Tikkun Leadership

Mike's letter is below, and my comments are in the footnotes. **Please read the footnotes because there are more than a few falsehoods in his assertions and accusations.** The subject of the email was:

Re: Do you men have authority over Ron? TIME SENSITIVE

My dearest brothers,

It is beyond shocking that I'm sending this email your way, but I feel that, before God and for the sake of righteousness, I have no choice. Dan is aware of the details and encouraged me to write.

In short, Ron has become my chief adversary, doing everything in his power to destroy me and my ministry based on the demonstrably false testimony of one witness from 23 years ago.⁴⁵

He has not just harassed and tried to bully our board to the point that they refuse to deal with him, in complete disgust (you can ask Jon Bernis and Scott Volk for their personal affirmation of this statement as board members), but he is now sending his slanderous accusations—I don't mean this hyperbolically; it is downright evil speech—against me to other leaders, including one of my close ministry colleagues of more than twenty-seven years (I have seen the emails first hand).⁴⁶

And I repeat, all this is based on the testimony of one witness, whose testimony changed dramatically over the years and whose story can be factually undermined.⁴⁷ That's why, as soon as the allegations came to my board (even before Ron's involvement), they immediately called

⁴⁵ EN (Ron): This entire statement is based on two things: 1) my interview with Sarah and 2) my response to Josh and Tobi. Anyone else I talked to was involved or was someone who contacted me because rumors were swirling about the situation. Somehow, after trying to help him process this correctly—which he rejected—he is now saying that I am doing everything in my power to destroy him. And God as my witness, I do not want to destroy Mike or his ministry and would love to see him finally deal with this issue correctly and receive the ministry he needs. My outreach to him has been redemptive, not punitive.

He also refers to Sarah as the “one witness from 23 years ago” without letting them know she was the victim. He makes it seem like she was lying.

⁴⁶ EN (Ron): Again, he is referring to my email to Josh and Tobi. However, *he fails to disclose that I was merely responding to their attempts at silencing Sarah*—not spreading rumors. Thus his assertion is misleading, and in my opinion, dishonest.

It just so happens that when I was confronted with this letter a few days later, I had a meeting scheduled with his board that had to be postponed because of the letter. So the idea that they were not talking to me is untrue. We rescheduled that meeting for the following evening. If they were not talking to me and were in “complete disgust,” they did a very good job of hiding it the next night. In truth, I read them the above portion, and they said it was not accurate. They explained that they were under tremendous stress, and I was sending them emails, expecting a response. They were also stressed out because Mike was constantly emailing them.

⁴⁷ To this day, he has not factually undermined Sarah's testimony as he promised in this letter. However, Sarah's sister overheard a phone call where she angrily confronted Mike Brown at the end of their relationship and she repeated the things that he did to her, including kissing on the lips. That is a fact. From the time Sarah began to tell the truth in 2020, she never changed her story but she added one detail—that Dr. Brown expected her to routinely kiss him on the lips at the end of the workday and after their late-night meetings when she left his car. He has never explained to anyone how her testimony has changed between 2020 and today, he just keeps repeating it as a talking point. (And if you want to understand why she left that one detail out, you have to understand that this is the first time in 18 years that she is telling the truth about their relationship. It's understandable that she might leave some things out until she knows it is safe. Survivors understand this.)

for a third-party investigation⁴⁸ (you know these are not cheap!) to exonerate me (I enthusiastically supported their decision), and I have asked for a lie detector test as well. Most importantly, God is my witness, and I trust your own spirits confirm that.

I began to be concerned in recent weeks with some of Ron's other public posts about other situations involving sexual abuse allegations, wondering if his position might undermine Tikkun's oversight of the Bickle investigation. But his current actions against me would almost certainly disqualify Tikkun (as long as Ron was part of Tikkun) from any possible neutral oversight role. That's my other fear and concern. In fact, two national leaders, quite independently, asked me when I told them of the current attack I was under, "Is Ron Cantor involved?"⁴⁹ His name is becoming very bad very quickly. (I was told his name even came up at Cindy Jacobs' national gathering of apostolic and prophetic leaders—not positively either.)⁵⁰

Some of my board members would have reached out to you on their own already but could not do this without wrongly meddling since they need to be neutral in ensuring that all the facts come to light.⁵¹

And I would have written earlier as well, but my posture has been to trust that God has my/our back (as per His promise to our team from Isaiah 54:17). But as I prayed tonight, and since the information that Ron is now spreading (along with his incredibly derogatory comments about me) could do irreparable damage to more than fifty years of my ministry work (barring divine intervention, for which we still fully trust), and since he has appointed himself the representative of the woman bearing false witness, giving her unbiblical counsel (encouraging her to pursue

⁴⁸ It is a lie that his board called for a third-party investigation after he reluctantly told them six weeks after he heard of the allegations or before I was involved. I was involved before he disclosed to his board, when I emailed him on October 20, 2024. I have the text message where a board member says *almost a week* after he disclosed to them that they would launch a third-party investigation *only if TRR published the article*. So no, they did not call for a third-party investigation when he disclosed to them on October 25, but only after they received Sarah's testimony from me. I'm not aware of Dr. Brown ever taking a lie detector test, but it would be worth asking.

This is from a board member on Thursday, November 1, a week after he disclosed to his board: "I can assure you, *if they do post accusations*, our board will commission a full and complete third-party investigation into this so all is brought into the light" (emphasis added).

⁴⁹ Of course, those national leaders, whoever they may be, who asked if I was involved should have been told, no, I was not involved and didn't know anything about it until the middle of October 2024. The student who sent me the allegations can testify how stunned I was when we spoke later that day. I knew nothing about this for 23 years. This seems to be manipulative language to intimidate my fellow leaders, into believing that my call for Mike to deal with this properly would torpedo the IHOPKC investigation. In fact, it had no effect on that investigation. What actually hurt the IHOPKC investigation was when they took Mike's advice and publicly disciplined me. This caused the entire advocacy and survivor communities to lose faith in Tikkun (but that story is for later).

⁵⁰ I corresponded with Cindy Jacobs by text, and she said, she merely inquired regarding my position in Tikkun—nothing disparaging.

⁵¹ This is not true, as his chairman of the board was regularly in touch with Dan Juster of Tikkun and me.

trying to “expose” me publicly rather than allow us to follow Matthew 5:23–26),⁵² and since this is all extremely time-sensitive (not to mention a living hell for me and my family for more than two months, as disgruntled grads try to sink my ministry—one of whom we kicked off the mission field years ago for serial womanizing—have spread lie after lie about me), I’m asking if you have the ability to order Ron to cease and desist immediately (as in *now*).⁵³

Of course, the moment you get involved, Ron will accuse me of being manipulative and walking in fear, etc., but I’ve simply come to the point where enough is enough. *Ron is doing detestable things* (as per Prov. 6:16–19), *and I need to raise my voice* (emphasis added).⁵⁴

I’m happy to do a group call with all of you on Sunday, but to be candid, I have been so worn down and attacked by this nonsense for many weeks, causing massive damage to Nancy and my family, let alone endless hours of the board’s time, I must give my energy to prayer and seeking God and can’t get into a protracted “proving” of my position. (I hesitate even to forward you some of Ron’s vile attacks; even seeing them, when other leaders forward them to me, makes me almost sick.⁵⁵) At USCAL this past week, Ben Juster had some good time with one of my forty-

⁵² This is another false accusation. You might know that I try to do this the right way by meeting with him privately, bringing witnesses and then going to the board. I appealed to him to submit this to a board of elders. I responded to Mike associates who tried to intimidate her. Mike had almost a dozen opportunities to deal with this privately. By rejecting the private forum, he is the one who chose the public one. Allegations of sexual abuse are not dealt with through Matthew 5:23–26 (privately), they are dealt with using 1 Timothy 5:19–20 (elders are immediately involved). As noted before, abusers want to keep the circle small. The very fact that Dr. Michael Brown expects a woman that he abused to come meet with him privately shows not only a lack of empathy, but no understanding of how terrified Sarah was of him. It seems he only wants Sarah to come to him, so he can keep it from becoming a public matter.

⁵³ Again, he is referring to *one email* to Josh and Tobi Peters where I told him that they should not be contacting Sarah, and yes, I was harsh in the second email, and I spoke about Dr. Brown. He fails to mention the gentle emails between us, which ended with me requesting him to do the very things that he ended up doing: taking a break from ministry and submitting this to a third-party investigation under qualified elders. Once again, he called Sarah a false witness. I could not have been self-appointed because I have no authority over Sarah. I told her that I was willing, and she immediately responded that she would be grateful if I would be a go-between between her and anyone from Mike’s camp. I knew that he or his colleagues would try to silence her, and I offered help. And since they did try to silence her within seventy-two hours, I am glad that I made that offer.

He says that this should be handled by Matt. 5:22–23. Mike fails to tell them that he has been confronted roughly ten different times over 23 years and has not yet dealt with this issue.

⁵⁴ To be clear, he has not even explained one “detestable thing” that I have done other than offer to represent Sarah and encourage her not to back down. From the Scripture reference, I assume he is saying that I’m causing dissension between brothers. The same Bible tells us to follow Matthew 18, which I did. The same Bible says Jesus did not come to bring peace but a sword. And everything will come to light. In other words, he is cherry-picking Scripture, which he knows is wrong. He knows that you must use Scripture to interpret Scripture.

⁵⁵ By all means, *please forward these “vile attacks.”* Other than the Josh and Tobi email, all other communication was between board members and me. So if there’s some other trove of information that I supposedly sent to the “other leader,” let’s see it. It doesn’t exist. By using the word *leaders* plural, is giving a false picture that I am spreading information far and wide. The only other leaders he could be referring to are his board members. I called on Dr Brown to produce any emails that were sent at that time

year+ Christian attorney friends (he is my personal attorney at this time, a member of USCAL, and very prophetic), so Ben is aware of what's happening as well (although I'm not sure to what extent Ron's name came up).

If the Lord bears witness to you with what I'm saying or if you already have information that causes concern, may He guide you to do what is right. *Many lives are at stake—and I fear that Ron's own soul and future ministry is at stake* (emphasis added). He has already made himself a stench in the nostrils of many, and I have prayed for him many times in these days. When I'm in the Father's presence, I am much more concerned for Ron than I am for myself.⁵⁶

As for my own testimony, shared with Dan in terms of the real facts, I will stake my life and ministry and reputation on the truthfulness of what I shared.

When Tikkun sided with Ron after the Brownsville split in 2000, I was disappointed, but that was clearly a judgment call that could go either way from the outside. John Kilpatrick is a dear friend today, and I can understand the position of both sides. That was only an issue for us in the moment. It is ancient, forgotten history now.⁵⁷

But this is not that. This is an outright, demonic, slanderous, unbiblical attack on me by one of your own, and we know that Satan would like nothing less than to sidetrack me, keep me out of the [promised] land, and hamstring my efforts for revival in the church and cultural reformation. I declare in Yeshua's name that that shall not come to pass!⁵⁸

that were not either to his board or to Josh Peters. These are false accusations from a man who was terrified that his past is catching up with him.

⁵⁶ The comment that *many lives are at stake* reveals of a high level self-importance. It is true that when leaders fall, the people they would have reached may not be reached. But we must have enough faith in God to enforce godly standards for leadership and believe that God can make up for what is lacking. Every time the church enforces standards on the gifted leader, it brings health to the church, but it also takes faith to hold that person accountable because of the value of their gift. Furthermore, the problem is not the people holding the leader accountable but the leader who sinned. Mike blames Sarah, but takes no blame upon himself in this. Based on testimony, he was the abuser, he was the one in power. It seems like Mike is saying that he is too important to God's kingdom to be accountable for what he did to Sarah and Kim. I'll just add that it would take quite bit of faith to believe that the author of that letter is more concerned for Ron Cantor that he is for Michael Brown.

The fact that he is saying he is concerned for my soul is reminiscent of when he told me when I would not follow him to start FIRE and be part of the split, that my staying at BRSM would bring my destruction. I'm not the only person that Mike has leveled such severe spiritually abusive pseudo-prophetic words at. While I do not take any of this lightly, I'm confident that my soul is protected by the grace of God—and not dependent on standing down against someone who I now see as an abuser.

⁵⁷ Dr. Brown did not talk to those men for roughly eight years after the split. That's how much of a *nothing burger* it was. It appears he is minimizing the deep pain that he experienced when they did not support him during the split (2000), to gain their support now. One would have to ask John Kilpatrick if he sees Mike as a "dear friend" today, but after chatting with Pastor Kilpatrick briefly in December 2024 (a month after this letter), I did not come away from that conversation believing that they were "dear friends."

⁵⁸ I am not a psychologist, but the person who writes this seems to saying that he cannot be held accountable for his sin, because he is too important to God's plan.

May the favor and grace of the Lord be on you. There are few brothers in the world with whom I feel a deeper and sweeter affinity, and I was deeply moved to see the endorsements of Paul and Asher to my autobiography, due out in March.⁵⁹

We remain united at the hip.

With love (and pain),

Mike

My own leadership urged me not to read the letter above, recognizing how absurd it was. Without even investigating, one of them referred to it as “barf.” A week later, I emailed Mike and implored him once again to humble himself and do the right thing. I went through the letter, word for word, and explained to him that it was lie after lie.

He wrote back to me, saying that he was not allowed to talk to me anymore, that his board had forbade him. He said he wanted the truth to come out.

November 25, 2024

Dear Mike,

Thank you for sharing this. I would love nothing more than for you to be correct here and for us to be restored in our relationship. But I don’t know what to make of the letter you sent. You don’t need to respond, and I understand that you are not supposed to. *It is just that the letter was over the top in every way and was simply not honest. That is not a matter of opinion but fact. I know what I’ve written and said, and that letter portrayed me dishonestly* (emphasis added). One of our leaders referred your letter as “barf.”

I forgive you. I love you. I genuinely care for you. But the letter was wrong.

Blessings,
Ron

Mike responded immediately.

The letter was wrong. I agree (emphasis added). I should have simply appealed to the Tikkun leaders to get involved in the process. I love you and genuinely care for you too. I have prayed for the love of God and the Spirit of truth to flood your soul. I pray the same for my own soul.

That was my last correspondence with Mike. And if the truth be known, I love him too. I care deeply for him. Putting this document together has not been easy. At times, I have felt like a horrible person, a traitor. But then I think about Sarah. I think about Kim. I think about the Barry

⁵⁹ The praise here seems to be manipulative speech to encourage him to act against me. But this same Mike Brown caused these men much stress and trouble in the late eighties and early nineties that in Tikkun we refer to those times negatively as, “The Mike Brown Years.” And as stated, he completely cut them off when they did not stand with him during the split.

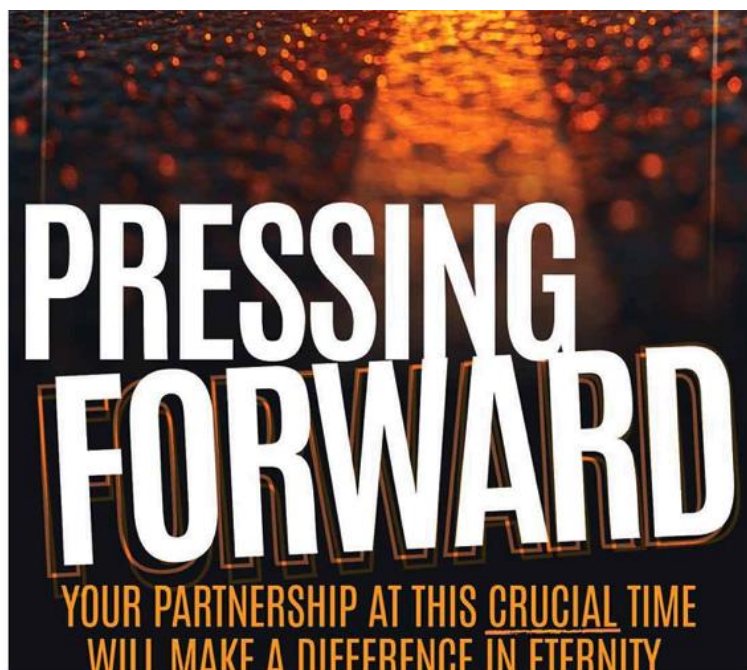
family. I think about Haiti. I think about all the credible testimonies of abuse and my own history with Mike. Yes, there has been much love.

End of Ron Cantor's words.

Mike Brown's Public Statement

A few weeks after that, the TRR article came out. It was a shock to the body of believers. Dr. Brown had given Rebecca Hopkins a statement that was to be released simultaneously with the article if it were ever published. In my opinion, the statement was mostly false. Again, this was my opinion. You will see the screenshot below. His public statement contradicted what he had told Ron Cantor and the two others who were on the email exchange in October 2024 and what he confessed to Kris Bennett and Keith Collins in 2020.

The day after the article came out, Dr. Brown sent a year-end fundraiser, saying the allegations against him and the victims' pursuit of justice were the plan of Satan to weaken and destroy him, but God was strengthening him and his team. Just imagine how Sarah felt reading that. Or Ray, who had still not come forward.



Yet there is also some urgent, serious news. As we've pushed forward, we've faced the fiercest, most intense, demonic attacks in our ministry's history (and perhaps in the half-century that Nancy and I have been together).

It has been insidious and ugly, an effort of Satan designed to weaken us, deplete our energy, drain our funds, and stop the work.

Without exaggeration, these trials have been intense.

But what Satan meant for harm, God is already turning for good.

The Lord has drawn us into His presence in a deeper and more wonderful way! His Spirit has strengthened us, and our resolve to bring grace, truth, and courage to faithful believers on the frontlines is stronger than ever.

Ron: If Dr. Brown had merely made a public statement that he understands the allegations and that a third-party investigation is underway, and then encouraged people to wait until the investigation was over, *I would not have said anything other than mimicking his own statement.* However, because I found his public statement to be in direct conflict with what he told me, and then this email came out comparing victims of abuse to Satan, I felt I had a responsibility to speak up. Proverbs 31:8 tells us to “speak up for those who don’t have a voice.” I posted on Facebook and Twitter that Mike had confessed to me and two others that he had committed much of what he was being accused of.

Statement from Ron Cantor Regarding Dr. Michael Brown

Note: This is a personal statement, not an official statement from Tikkun Global.

Six weeks ago, I received a staggering email from a former Brownsville Revival School of Ministry (BRSM) student, alerting me of very serious allegations against Dr. Michael Brown, regarding two incidents with females dating back to the early 2000s. They would be detailed in an upcoming article in *The Roys Report*. Dr. Brown and I have had our differences over the years, the most significant when he was released from BRSM and started FIRE School. But

mostly, we have enjoyed a deep friendship, and I never dreamed he would be accused of such things.

I emailed Dr. Brown from Israel regarding the allegations and asked if we could discuss them—I wanted to hear his side. He told me that these attacks were exaggerated, coming from people who held grudges. He was confident that once he explained things to the reporter from *The Roys Report*, they would agree there was no story. I was not so confident. Over the next several days, Dr. Brown and I had a back-and-forth email exchange, during which I gently and compassionately asked difficult questions.

At the end of this multi-day conversation, which included many pages of emails, I found his answers lacking and inconsistent with the idea of an innocent father-daughter relationship. I was also troubled by the lack of candor regarding the second incident with a married mother.

I urged him to take a break from ministry (or at least inform pastors about the allegations where he was speaking), repent to his former elders (for not disclosing it to them), and allow for a full investigation. He told me he would pray about it but never got back to me. He continued with his ministry trip, and I took that as my answer.

During the next week, I spoke to members of his board, and I asked one of them if they had been in touch with Sarah, one of the alleged victims. They had not. Through a third party, I contacted her the next day, and we spoke for eighty minutes. I found her narrative disturbing and heartbreaking. I wrote it down and sent it to Dr. Brown's board. They responded that they were "deeply grieved for Sarah and for all that she has gone through." They arranged to confront Dr. Brown with this new information. I was asked to attend but declined. It was after this meeting that they called for a third-party independent investigation. Dr. Brown himself called for an investigation and agreed to recuse himself.

Throughout this situation, I have stayed in contact with the Line of FIRE board. In discussions this week (I'm sure they also talked to others), they agreed to release the law firm they hired, seeing that they were not ideal for this type of case. They decided instead to hire a "trauma-informed" investigator with experience in clergy sexual abuse cases.

I was also told they plan to apologize for a fundraising email that went out the day after *The Roys Report* article dropped. In it, Dr. Brown compared the witnesses and victims coming forward to "an effort of Satan" to stop him. Such words are reckless and could discourage other witnesses and victims from coming forward—not only in this situation but also in others. I would also request his associates not to contact Sarah or other witnesses, as one already did in an obvious effort to silence her. Let the investigation take place unimpeded.

I want to be clear—Dr. Brown confessed to me in writing much more than what was written in his official statement. He confessed to holding Sarah's hand in public, kissing Sarah on her head, giving Sarah "a backhanded swipe" on her rear end "when she walked away, a few times," and meeting her late at night at Walmart where "I put my arm around her like I would a daughter—idiotically but intentionally in public." I hoped he would've been as transparent in his official statement. It is only because he wasn't that I feel compelled to share this here.

Sarah's testimony is far more severe, but I am not the investigator. Like others, I will sit down with this new investigator (I would not have worked with the original law firm) and share my emails. I encourage anyone with information to speak to the investigator—assuming it will be a

trauma-informed, non-lawyer investigator. Your other brothers and sisters who have come forth (and many others) will receive you warmly. You do not need to be afraid.

Lastly, I want to say to those who have come forth with pure consciences to share their stories that I applaud you! Before one chooses to become a whistleblower, one must count the cost. It takes great courage and personal sacrifice. Some of them may be wondering if they did the right thing. In my opinion, they did. Most of the time, these are people who don't want to be in the public eye. But this investigation would not have happened without their testimony. That is a fact. Most tried Matthew 18 and went to Dr. Brown privately but were rebuffed.

I want to specifically honor Sarah for having the courage to tell her story.

Ron Cantor

11. *The Roys Report* Article Written by Rebecca Hopkins, December 2, 2024

Rebecca Hopkins of the *TRR* also confronted Dr. Brown with allegations. He had an opportunity to come clean to her, but did not. [You can read the article here.](#)

Examination of Dr. Brown's December 2, 2024, Public Statement

Below is Dr. Brown's public statement, which was released with the publication of the *TRR* article of December 2. We believe this public statement was dishonest, and we will show that beneath each of his statements below.

Below is Mike Brown's official public statement. Our response will show that by any *objective standard*, his official public statement was dishonest and misleading. (Dr. Brown statement is in black, **and our responses are in red.**)

In recent weeks, very serious accusations have come to me and my board concerning events from 23 years ago.

Truth: Mike first heard that *The Roys Report* was investigating him *on September 13* and panicked (as he told many witnesses). He waited until *the end of October to tell his board*. Even when he did, he only told them about the issues with Sarah, leaving out the issue with "Kim"—"Ray's" wife. One of the board members who was aware of the issue with "Kim" implored him to call each board member back and inform them of the "Kim" relationship. Mike did not want to talk about "Kim" to anyone. Below is a text Dr. Brown sent to a pastor shortly after he made the video about "Kim." In his email to Ron Cantor and two others, he was very clear that he had no intentions of talking about the relationship with Kim to anyone. (See emails above.)

can't imagine as a very private person -- and I have the date we met and where we met -- September 13, when I first learned that people (and Roys) were gunning for me. I showed them the video with Nancy (by phone), then clearing every word with my board, then dc

Upon receiving the news, both Nancy and I were shocked and horrified by the mix of accusations, allegations, false statements, and mischaracterizations.

This cannot possibly be true since, by this time, Mike had been spoken to by many different people during the past two decades about his relationship with Sarah. There were at least ten different confrontations regarding his relationship with Sarah from 2002 to 2024. It's reasonable he was horrified he might be exposed, but the nature of the accusations could not have been a shock—since he has confessed to many of them.

That's why we wholeheartedly supported our board's *immediate decision* to launch a thorough third-party investigation (emphasis added).

When Mike disclosed this to his board, there was no plan to have a third-party investigation. One board member wrote me nearly a week after that board meeting on November 1, 2024: "I can assure you, *if they do post accusations*, our board will commission a full and complete third-party investigation into this so all is brought into the light (emphasis added)." See the screenshot below.



I can assure you if they do post accusations, our board will commission a full and complete, third party investigation into this so all is brought out into the light.

Mike's comment about an "immediate decision" is similar to the claim he made in the Tikkun letter, but it is not true. The board only called for a third-party investigation after they confronted Mike with Sarah's testimony, which had been provided to them earlier that week. They made no effort to contact her on their own. The initial plan from his board was to wait and see if the article would be published. Sadly, they had no plan to investigate the veracity of Mike's claims of innocence unless an article was published.

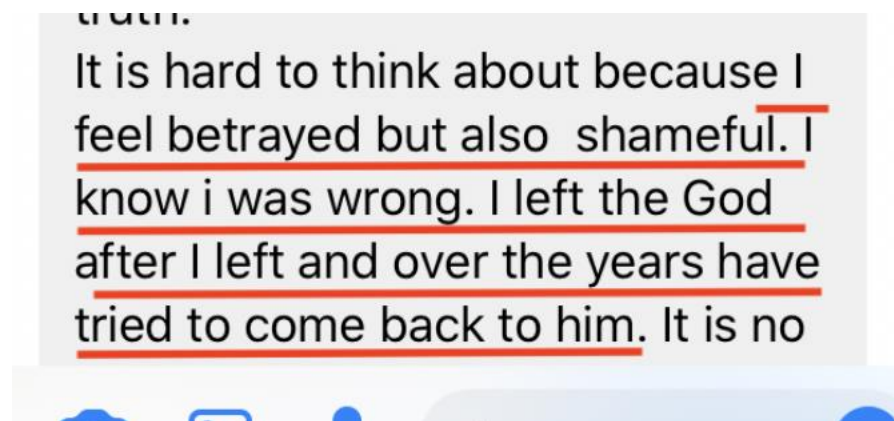
I can categorically state that in my fifty-three years in the Lord and more than fifty years with Nancy, I have never committed adultery or been sexually intimate with another woman nor do the charges allege that. Yet I must ask, in all humility and in the fear of the Lord, if an article in *The Roys Report* is the best way to address these allegations and accusations. Does this glorify the Lord, edify the body, bring healing and restoration, or advance the cause of truth?

Of course, the answer is no. No one thinks that "the best way" to adjudicate these issues is through an investigative journalist. But Dr. Brown leaves out the fact that he had ample opportunity to deal with these issues many times over many years as he was confronted at least ten times by different people and groups but did not deal with them before qualified elders. He only confessed later, after 2020, to some of the allegations because Sarah told her story to Kris Bennett. As you can hear in Londa Parker's testimony, he denied *everything* in 2002. The only reason that *TRR* published the allegations is that they were not previously dealt with—had they been, there would have been nothing to even talk about.

Nancy and I did have a relationship with the woman in question and considered her to be like a family member, and she conducted herself as one who viewed our relationship the same way. But she was not a family member, and aspects of my interaction with her, although totally nonsexual

in every way, reflected a definite lack of judgment on my part. Before she relocated to another state in August 2002, she informed me that our interaction months earlier had made her uncomfortable.

He and Nancy indeed had a relationship with Sarah, but what Nancy did not know is that Mike had an additional secret relationship with Sarah, which did not include Nancy. It manifested in secretly holding her hand, even once brazenly, while Nancy drove the car. Mike claims he only held her hand one time, and that was in the presence of many students. But it is in New York City that he reached his hand behind the passenger seat to secretly hold Sarah's hand while his wife drove. [Name redacted], confirmed from the Firefly report, was sitting next to Sarah and saw them holding hands. This conclusively proves that Mike has not been honest about his actions with Sarah.



And so Nancy and I met with her immediately in the spirit of Matthew 18, I apologized to her from the heart, we talked things through together, after which, to our knowledge, everything was good between us. In the years that followed, at least through 2015, she contacted me, sharing family updates, sending prayer requests, and checking in on Nancy and me. Naturally, we thought that everything was fine in every way. *How could we have known otherwise?* (emphasis added).

He actually did “know otherwise.” In 2020, Kris Bennett, with Keith Collins as a witness, met with Dr. Brown, showing him several texts from Sarah, one of which said: *“It is hard to think about [this] because I feel betrayed, but also shameful. I know I was wrong. I left God after I left Pensacola, and over the years, I’ve tried to come back to him ... it was hard at first, but I just learned not to think about it”* (emphasis added). He knew she was hurting and did nothing for four years.

Why would Mike and Nancy meet with her in the spirit of Matthew 18? That would suggest that they were confronting her as to witnesses, when in fact, she was the offended party? But Sarah says that meeting *never took place*, at least not in the way it is described above. She says the meeting happened *because she confronted Dr. Brown with the erotic messages she found in his nightstand that spoke of erotic fantasies between him and a married woman*. At this time, Nancy was brought in, and the three of them discussed it. Sarah says that Mike and Nancy said that

Sarah had the power to forgive Mike on behalf of the entire student body; thus it never had to be made public. This is in the text messages to Kris Bennett four years earlier. It should be noted that Dr. Brown told a pastor that he agrees with everything Sarah wrote to Kris in 2020. Mike told him, “[her 2020] account mirrors mine.” He tells a former student that Sarah’s account in 2020 was “basically accurate (not totally, but very close).” But he tells Tikkun leaders that Sarah shared demonstrably false testimony, and she dramatically changed her story. Which is it Dr Brown?

laughing about it. In April 2020, Kris Bennet reached out to Sarah and asked for more details, she shared them with Kris -- not the current version, which is radically different, but something much closer to the truth -- and he asked to meet with me, with Keith Collins. He asked me about things, I told the account was basically accurate (not totally, but very close), and I wept in his

I can only respond privately, not publicly, but I 100% reject the details of her account (the kissing on the lips, most specifically), and her story changed dramatically from 4 1/2 years ago, when she shared everything with a grad and that account of hers mirrors mine. Nancy and I met with her, just as I said in my video and statement -- Nancy has been furious to read these new accounts, not to mention going through a hell you

From her text to Kris

the cheek. That was it. Kris I know for a fact he had another inappropriate relationship with a woman at Brownsville. This is about when I started realizing I had to leave. I did confront him and showed him the notes I found at his house while I was house sitting for him. He admitted it and I had a talk with him a Nancy. They said I was basically representing the entire student body and asked for forgiveness. I said ok and never spoke of it to ANYONE! there was nothing in the journal about a sexual affair, but more of them talking and fantasizing about it.

When she would come drop by FIRE the way they acted when still after I asked him about it, didnt look good to me. I honestly dont believe it ended when he said it did.

As to allegations that I stifled those who questioned the nature of our relationship, it is because *they accused me of having an affair* (emphasis added). Of course I rebutted those ridiculous charges.

No one accused him of having an affair. (And Mike actually says that earlier in the document—“I can categorically state that in my fifty-three years in the Lord and more than fifty years with Nancy, I have never committed adultery or been sexually intimate with another woman, *nor do the charges allege that* [emphasis added].”) *They inquired as to the nature of his relationship with Sarah.* You can see in his testimony that they were merely inquiring about reports they heard about him and Sarah holding hands and other activities. They asked him about the nature of the relationship; there was no accusation. Niels writes:

“[We] *never accused him of adultery*—NEVER! [As to emphasis, italics were added with all caps in the original.] You have to remember, this really wasn’t a confrontation like everybody thinks; it was us going to him to share concerns about what we were hearing and what people were seeing because we thought it was inappropriate. Neither Keith nor I ever brought up adultery.”

In Londa Parker’s testimony, she never accused him of adultery. Neither did Kris, Katherine, Bob, or Ron. This *appears* to be fabricated to give him a reason for explaining why he stifled confrontations.

Over the years, no one approached me, asking my ministry or me to conduct a third-party investigation.

Londa Parker confronted him a second time (twenty-one years later) in 2023 after he preached at IHOPKC, telling him that he needed to have his own independent third-party investigation. She was shocked that in the midst of the Mike Bickle ordeal, he was presenting himself as someone above reproach, an example of morality, and qualified to speak into the accusations against Mike Bickle. She felt it was hypocritical and confronted him.

Not only is it in this text message from her, but he responds to that very point, saying that because there are no “charges of adultery,” he does not need a third-party investigation. Once again, he is not telling the truth. The text with the blue background below is from Londa. The text with the white background is Mike’s response.

Note: This is further proof that he was never accused of adultery. He is using the fact that he was never *accused* of adultery as a reason for him *not* to have a third-party investigation, while above, he says the only reason he rebuffed confrontations was because he was being *accused* of adultery. He was either lying then or now. That is objective. (Although, to be clear, many in the body of Christ would view an erotic phone relationship as adulterous.)

It’s so easy for someone like you, to call some nobody like me a gossip, or the accuser, I hope this gives you pause to think about the devastation your actions caused. There should have been a third party to investigate it.

Londa

One other note, for clarity: the reason for a third-party investigation is because of charges of adultery or criminal behavior, obviously none of which apply to me, thank God. But again, THANK YOU for reaching out personally. I mean that from the heart.

Mike Brown

The fact is that my actions toward her were certainly foolish and irresponsible—but neither sexual nor amorous in any way—and my highest priority as well as Nancy’s is to have the opportunity to meet together in a setting acceptable to her and bring healing where I can take full responsibility for the things which apparently hurt her so deeply, things which I thought we addressed 23 years ago. Unfortunately, when Nancy and I learned through *The Roys Report* that there was an offense toward me in this woman’s heart, we were not allowed to follow the mandate of Jesus in Matthew 5:23–26 but [were] only given the option of offering a response to an article that would be released online.

Absolutely nothing was stopping Mike and Nancy from reaching out to Sarah in 2020, except lack of motivation. By the time the article was being written, it would’ve been inappropriate for the abuser to contact the survivor. If he was truly innocent, why would he not contact her after 2020? Or maybe he did not want to face what Jim Hallor/Firefly referred to as “sexually abusive misconduct” (Firefly Report, p. 27).

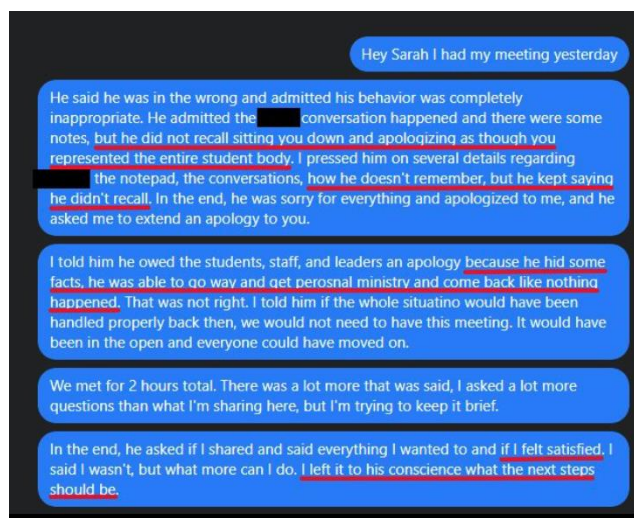
He did not find out from The Roys Report that Sarah had an offense against him. He found out from his board after they were presented in early November with Sarah’s testimony of her relationship with Mike. She spoke to Ron Cantor for eighty minutes in a phone call. Only when the board shared her testimony with Mike, did he understand Sarah was the source. This was more than a month before the TRR article came out and after he spoke with Rebecca Hopkins from TRR.

What happened to biblical process?

After ten private confrontations with various people and groups over 23 years, he’s complaining the lack of biblical process. He rejected the biblical process every time for 23 years, and now he’s upset that it’s being played out in public.

That being said, if it’s true that for 23 years she has carried this pain and I am responsible for it, I am beyond mortified and would plead forgiveness and the opportunity to bring healing and restoration. Her well-being remains our priority.

Once again, he knew she was hurting from 2020. Nothing is keeping him right now from writing her a letter and repenting. And nothing was keeping him from making matters right during the past four years. Read again Kris Bennett’s note to Sarah after the meeting. Mike is aware that she suffered after she left, “I feel betrayed (by Brown) but also shameful. I know I was wrong. I left God after I life [Fire] ...” wrote Sarah. Kris wrote to Sarah. Mike is very aware of Sarah’s pain from Kris. So his words, “if it’s true that for 23 years she has carried this pain,” rings hollow now that we know, he knew.



12. Joel Richardson, March 2025

Mike Brown sent a voice text to [Joel Richardson that Joel made public. \(Listen here.\)](#) Some have taken issue with Joel's response. But we deem Joel's aggressive confrontation, since we're speaking about father/daughter relationships, as fatherly protection—a normal response to abusive behavior. Joel felt that Dr. Brown was being disingenuous and manipulative in his attempts to keep Joel from speaking about the matter. Once again, it seems to us that Dr. Brown is using a tactic to try to control the narrative by demanding that his words not be shared publicly.

However, what is troubling in Dr. Brown's initial voice text is that he appears to see himself, even while being investigated for sexual sin, as an example to the body of Christ. He talks about "modeling" this in the best way. He talks about the importance of getting "low before the Lord." But what were his actions during this investigation?

What did he model as the best way? His accountability board rejected the Firefly report's clearly stated conclusions of sexually abusive misconduct and seeking to avoid accountability. *How is that modeling this the right way?*

After Joel responds aggressively, Mike tells him, "You actually don't have a clue of the reality of things." Mike says over and over again, "The truth will come out." Now that the investigation is over, the truth that was going to exonerate him never came out.

Mike Brown's post-repentance actions

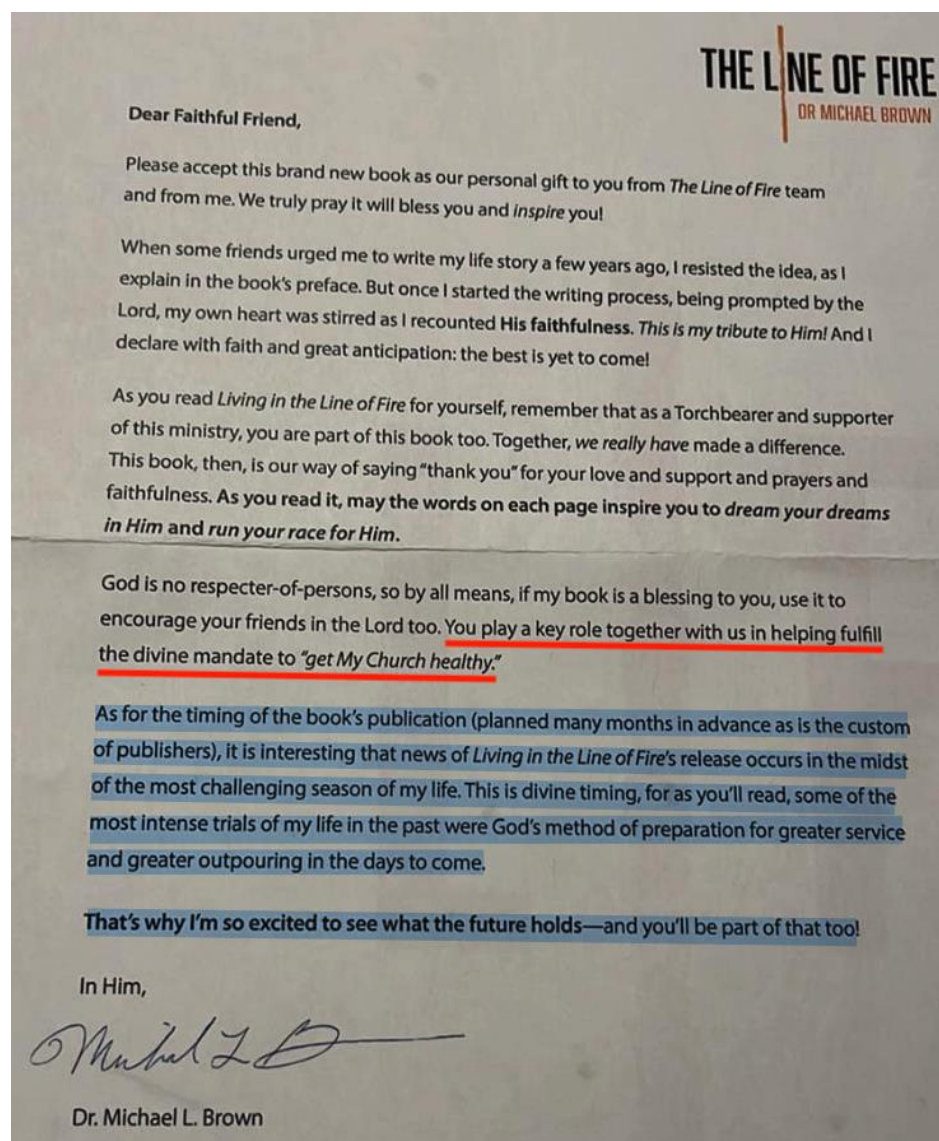
1. At the beginning of the new year, he spoke publicly about being on a sabbatical without saying why.
2. He talked excitedly about his soon-to-be-released autobiography.
3. He went to a pastor's conference in Texas, where the pastor led the fifteen hundred people gathered in giving Dr. Brown a [standing ovation](#) in light of the claim: "Dr. Brown,

we honor you. We celebrate you.”



4. In early March, his autobiography was released on schedule to coincide with his seventieth birthday. It did not enter the mind of the publisher that maybe the timing was not great, given the allegations of sexual sin and the fact that an investigation was ongoing. Several days later, the publisher pulled the book.
5. Dr. Brown then [began sending the book to his supporters](#). One of them contacted us and shared the letter that came with it. In the letter, Dr. Brown speaks of everything happening to him as “divine timing.” He compares the accusations of sexual sin, much of which he has confessed as legitimate, as a trial preparing him for greater empowerment and service. He claims his divine mandate to “get my church clean,” while he himself has come under great scrutiny. (Letter below)

These are not the actions of someone “getting low” and letting the process play out. These appear to be the actions of someone seeking to stay relevant and ensure that he keeps his supporters.



Five Lies to a Pastor

Dr. Brown reached out to several pastors and leaders (we have no idea how many) via voice text or text message, seeking to address their concerns. In this text message, Dr. Brown tells several objective lies. The one below was written shortly after Dr. Brown posted a confession video in early December 2024 about his relationship with Kim.

I can only respond privately, not publicly, but I 100% reject the details of her account (the kissing on the lips, most specifically), and her story changed dramatically from 4 1/2 years ago, when she shared everything with a grad and that account of hers mirrors mine. Nancy and I met with her, just as I said in my video and statement -- Nancy has been furious to read these new accounts, not to mention going through a hell you can't imagine as a very private person -- and I have the date we met and where we met, since I journal daily. I have wanted to do this video since September 13, when I first learned that people (and Roys) were gunning for me. I spent all of last week, while in India, working on the details of the video with Nancy (by phone), then clearing every word with my board, then doing a trial recording the day I came home (Monday) and the final yesterday. So, this was NOT a response to Sarah or to the latest accounts from others. This is what I've wanted to say for months now, with my board agreeing that the time was now right.

That being said, my actions back then were idiotic and inappropriate, responding to the constant, daughter-like affection of Sarah -- but NOT sexual. As for the idea of using power or grooming -- it is so foreign to me to be beyond repulsive. But remember, these days, everything is a matter of spiritual abuse and clergy abuse, and that's the satanic twist in all this. The good thing is that GOD KNOWS the truth. Thanks for reaching out! (And again, because we're still trying to get the right people in place for the investigation, this is all private.)

Lie #1: “[Sarah’s] story changed dramatically from 4 1/2 years ago when she shared everything with a grad.”

Truth #1: Sarah’s account of today fully matches her account of 2020, except for one detail. In the texts (the first time she shared the truth with anyone after eighteen years), she says Mike kissed her on the forehead and cheek. Abuse victims commonly leave out some of the more egregious details the first time they disclose, but Sarah only left out one—that in addition to kissing her on the forehead and cheek, Mike began to ask for a kiss on the lips at the end of each workday. According to Sarah, this included when she would get out of his car after meeting him late at night at Walmart. Other than that, her testimony is consistent.

In addition, in a letter to Tikkun leaders complaining about Ron Cantor in November, Dr. Brown referred to Sarah as a “demonstrably false ... witness ... whose testimony changed dramatically over the years.” Yet he now admits “*that account of hers mirrors mine*” (emphasis added).

As you will read below, Mike told apologist Mike Winger that someone had planted memories in Sarah’s mind. He wrote to Tikkun leaders about “how much others have gotten into her ears in recent years or to what extent her memories have changed.” In fact, there is no evidence of this

or how Dr. Brown would know this. It appears he just made it up. If he has a source, he is free to share it.

Lie #2: Sarah was the aggressor.

Truth #2: Here, he says that he merely responded to Sarah's affection. In fact, Sarah testified that she was surprised by Mike's affection for her when he grabbed her hand and held it for several minutes (between five and fifteen minutes) in a jeep with other students inside. Furthermore, when Mike touched her rear end, that was not her choice. (And when her parents found out about it, they went and directly confronted Mike in 2002.) When he (by his own admission) put his arm around her late at night (between ten and eleven) at Walmart, that was him. It is convenient to blame Sarah in a private email to a pastor who probably would not check the facts. And according to Sarah's testimony, as she shared with a friend, Mike was physical with her in "trying to kiss me on the lips and pulling me close when I was standing near him. Meaning, wrapping me around my waist area in an inappropriate manner" (March 24, 2024).

Lie #3: In the text, he says that his wife is furious at all these "new accounts" (again, there's only one new detail).

Truth #3: Actually, I [Ron] don't know which one is the truth, but in his statement, he spoke about how he and Nancy wanted to reach out to Sarah in the spirit of Matthew 5:23–26 (which talks about leaving your gift at the altar if someone is offended at you and making matters right). The exact words were, "[A]nd my highest priority as well as Nancy's is to have the opportunity to meet together in a setting acceptable to her and bring healing where I can take full responsibility for the things which apparently hurt her so deeply, things which I thought we addressed 23 years ago." Privately, he says that Nancy is furious at Sarah's allegations, but publicly, they say they want to show her love. So was he lying in his public statement, or is he lying here?

Lie #4: Nancy and I met with her, just as I said in my video and statement.

Truth #4: In those texts, which Mike says mirror his narrative, the only meeting between Mike, Nancy, and Sarah was after she found the erotic notes in his nightstand. After she confronted him, he brought in Nancy, and they told her that she could forgive Mike on behalf of the entire student body (which seems like an effort to keep her from telling anyone else about it—what she did not do for eighteen years). We would refer to this kind of pressure put on Sarah, especially given the content of what she read, as spiritual abuse. Sarah has maintained that there was no meeting where she said she was uncomfortable with her relationship with Mike, and Mike and Nancy had a good conversation with her.

Lie #5: "I wanted to make this video since September 13" when he found out *TRR* was investigating him.

Truth #5: Mike told Ron Cantor and two other leaders in writing when he was challenged to deal with these issues before a board of elders that they would not talk about his erotic relationship with "Kim." He was very clear in his emails to us that he had no intention of discussing that relationship. According to his board, he did not even disclose that relationship to them until he was forced to later that day. Initially, he left it out but had to call each board member later and disclose the relationship with "Kim."

He told Cantor, “And [Sarah’s situation] is the only situation—please trust me on this—that anyone could even try to construe as abusive. We’ll not discuss the [Kim situation] at all.” He tells the pastor he has been eager to make the video since September 13, but in October, he tells Cantor that they will not discuss it at all. Clearly, he is not being honest with the pastor. He had to make the video because the relationship had become public knowledge.

Why We Believe Sarah!

There’s no doubt that some of these issues are simply a matter of he said/she said. The question is, why do we believe Sarah is telling the truth and that Dr Brown is not? There are several reasons:

1. Dr Brown has everything to lose, and Sarah has nothing to gain. While she has become a powerful voice, giving encouragement to survivors all over the world, she did not set out with that as a goal. In truth, she was terrified. When she disclosed to Ron Cantor, someone whom she saw as *part of the system* that allowed her abuse to continue, it was with great hesitancy that she shared her story. She has no financial motive. She lives a quiet life as a married mother of three. Those of us who have walked with her these past six months can tell you that she’s been through hell. It has been a stressful roller coaster of emotions. Many times, she wished she had never come forward.

Dr. Brown, on the other hand, is fighting for his ministry and his life. He portrayed the people seeking justice as trying to destroy his ministry and his life.

Who has motive to lie? Dr Brown, not Sarah.

2. We have caught Dr Brown in many lies. *We have not caught Sarah in any lies.* Dr Brown told many people that Sarah said nothing sexual or romantic ever happened. But in truth, she simply said it was not sexual,⁶⁰ meaning they did not engage in intercourse. But her very next sentence that Dr Brown doesn’t quote was, “But, it was not what a married man and a single female should ever have,” revealing the romantic, inappropriate nature of their relationship. Dr Brown constantly adds the words “not romantic,” which were not in Sarah’s words to Kris Bennett. Furthermore, he was adamant that it was not inappropriate to his leaders in 2002, when, in fact, what Sarah describes in 2020 is absolutely inappropriate. Mike has told at least two people that he agrees mostly with Sarah’s

⁶⁰ Furthermore, it should be noted that Sarah was disclosing for the first time when she shared with Kris Bennett in 2020. Having the actions of Brown analyzed by health care professionals—which neither Sarah nor Dr Brown are—would be best to get their opinion on whether or not it was sexual. No, they did not engage in sexual intercourse, but legally, if a boss smacks his secretary on her rear end, we don’t call that harassment. **We call it sexual harassment.** Are they having sex? Of course not. But it is an erotic action involving a private area being touched by the boss without consent. Mike Brown did that. We believe that Dr. Brown’s actions towards Sarah were erotic in nature—kissing, holding hands, long hugs facing each other, for sitting in his lap, being allowed in his office alone with him regularly, meeting late at night alone in a car for chats, etc.

narrative from 2020. To one of them, he said that his narrative “mirrors” Sarah’s.

Mike even suggested to apologists Mike Winger (see below) that a therapist planted false memories in Sarah’s mind.

3. As has been documented, Dr Brown has given many different versions as to what happened between him and Sarah and between him and Kim. Often, it involves defaming their characters. When Dr. Brown finally shared about his relationship with Kim, it was very clear that it was a relationship between *the two of them*— “a very unhealthy and sinful soul tie.” But he has told many people that she was the aggressor, and he only wrote down what *she* said (or, in the case of Mike Lubanovic, what she wrote). But what Sarah found in the nightstand were fantasies from both Mike and Kim. He is referring to Sarah as giving “demonstrably false testimony,” who “changed dramatically” her story. When in truth, Sarah’s story has not changed at all since she shared with Kris Bennett in 2020 about the abusive relationship with Mike Brown. She only added, once she felt safe, that Mike expected her to kiss him on the lips. We challenge Dr. Brown to bring some facts along with his accusations.
4. Mike Brown gave words of repentance in December, but his actions revealed a man that was not taking this very seriously at all. At the new year, he made a podcast where he talked joyfully about his upcoming autobiography. In February, he went to Texas, where he received a standing ovation from 1500 pastors. In March, his much-touted autobiography was released (and then pulled by the publisher because people were outraged that a man being investigated for sexual sin would be celebrating his life in an autobiography), but then in April, Mike just sent copies out free of charge to his supporters with a letter telling them that he’s just going through a trial, and that God is preparing him for greater empowerment and service. He talked about his calling to get the church clean—while being investigated for sexual sin. His actions between December and April did not reveal a broken, repentant man, but someone quite unhealthy in our opinion. Jesus expects us to show actions that verify our repentance. John said, “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matt 3:8).
5. Studies show that false allegations are extremely rare. Between 92% and 98% of accusations of sexual abuse end up being true.⁶¹ If you think of every pastor or politician that has been accused of a sexual relationship, how many of those who denied it were actually telling the truth? Very few. Investigators can typically sniff out a false allegation rather quickly. Sometimes they come from people who have made false allegations before. Sometimes they come from known enemies. But if you just think of the leaders who have been accused of CSA over the past couple of years—can you think of any who were innocent? We imagine some were, but they don’t easily come to mind because the vast majority are guilty.

⁶¹ Katie Leithead, “False Reports – Percentage,” End Violence Against Women International, October 5, 2021, https://evawintl.org/best_practice_faqs/false-reports-percentage/

6. Dr Brown had ended an improper relationship, that we would call CSA, with Kim in February 2002—a relationship that he covered up for 23 years. Why should we take his word over his actions a few months later over Sarah Monk's?

Testimony from Apologist Mike Winger Regarding His Interaction with Dr. Brown in Late November 2024:

In November 2024, I attended the Evangelical Theological Society conference in San Diego. In one of the hallways there, I ran into Dr. Michael Brown. He asked if the two of us could carve out some time to sit down and talk together, apart from the crowd. I was surprised by the request. While I have talked with Michael a number of times here and there, he never asked to talk with me without giving some specific reason. I didn't know why he wanted to talk to me this time or wanted to set aside a significant and private amount of time to do so. (Understandably, people do tend to interrupt if they happen to recognize one of us).

So we scheduled a time to talk, and when we met again, we walked away from the hotel/conference center, landing on a bench in an open area that seemed far enough from the event to give us some privacy. I didn't realize till much later what the reason for the conversation probably was. I now see it as an attempt to do damage control ahead of the publicity that would arise from the story that *The Roys Report* was soon to release.

The first thing Michael did was ask me about a video I had recently done on the question of whether or not fallen pastors could be restored to ministry. He said he hadn't seen the video but wanted to know my basic opinion on the topic. At the time, I didn't know why he was asking me this. But I now see why this was relevant to the rest of the conversation.

The next thing he asked me was my opinion of *The Roys Report*. I told him that I thought they brought a net benefit to the kingdom because they were helping expose some people who needed to be exposed. I also affirmed that some of the reporting they did seemed like they had a personal agenda against particular leaders, but I wasn't sure about that because the reporters possibly had info I didn't have, which they were not at liberty to share yet. They further seemed to me to have a bent against more conservative ministers.

Then he told me that he had been investigated by *The Roys Report* over an indiscretion that happened sometime around twenty years ago. This is probably the part of the conversation that is the most relevant.⁶²

Michael led me to believe that this was an unjust investigation and that *The Roys Report* was digging for info that was properly dealt with long ago and which did not indicate a pattern of behavior on his part. He also led me to believe that he and his wife had long ago reconciled with the woman in question, only to be surprised that she was coming up with not only correct accusations about resolved issues but new and inaccurate accusations. *He told me that he heard she went to some kind of therapist or counselor who did memory recovery with her and that this*

⁶² EN: In the email to Niels Prip, Mike was adamant that there was no inappropriate behavior, just a misunderstanding.

was likely why she was now accusing him of things he didn't do (emphasis added). So my impression from Michael Brown was that the woman was sharing information about their past together which was simply not true and resulted from bad counseling practices from someone else, which fabricated memories and false accusations. I don't now recall the exact wording from Michael, whether he said that he knew she had done memory recovery work or that he just heard that she did. But it was clear to me that according to him, she was sharing fabricated information.

He also told me about how traumatizing this whole situation was for him. He lamented about how much power *The Roys Report* had to undermine years of his ministry with reporting that was either inaccurate or otherwise misleading about him. Michael told me that he was so distraught about this situation that he was on the ground, crying before the Lord over it. I did not know at the time that he had kissed her on the lips or some of the other details that have since come out.

The impression I got from what Michael Brown said was that this was merely an overstep of too much familial affection and had long ago been addressed with the parties involved with full resolution. Based on our talk, I was led to believe that the current investigation was ultimately fueled by distortions in the mind of the woman (who I now know is Sarah). He further led me to think that it turned out that the Roys investigation had too little to go on and that the article was not going to be published.

Michael also mentioned that he had some inappropriate written correspondence with another woman around that same time, but that this was also dealt with and repented of properly and with his wife's knowledge.⁶³

From what I could tell, all this was far in the past and never repeated. After this talk, Michael Brown asked me if it was okay for us to take a picture together. I took pictures with dozens of people at the ETS conference and had no problem taking one with him. However, I was surprised that he asked for the photo as he had never asked for one before even when he could have. That picture was put on social media, and I shared it, which didn't seem like a big deal. We have differences of beliefs on charismatic issues, and I am openly opposed to some leaders he is buddies with, but all that sort of disagreement is quite open and known from my public teaching, so I wasn't concerned about the photo.

⁶³ EN: This is different than saying that Kim alone said something inappropriate that he wrote down. Here, he admits that he had written "correspondence," which takes at least two people. Once again, this shows that Dr. Brown shares different stories with different people.



After that photo was put online, a friend contacted me. They knew about the situation with Sarah and even more information regarding Michael Brown. The friend warned me that Michael had been making the rounds, calling all kinds of people and doing damage control ahead of the article, which he knew was going to be released (against my own expectations after talking with him). Had I known the real story of what happened, I would never have been okay with even taking a photo together to be shared online. I now think I was being manipulated by Michael and callously used as a tool for his own reputational damage control. I confronted him about this over text message, and he assured me that wasn't the case, but I don't believe him.

I am now awaiting the public results of the investigation and want to see the truth openly dealt with. If it is not properly dealt with, then I will conduct my own investigation or aid others in theirs since I have, through Michael Brown's actions, been brought into this situation. I could add that information I have learned since then also shows that he was not straightforward with me about the nature of his relationship with the woman in the letters. I was shocked to discover that he told this woman to stop having sex with her husband! It all smacks of admitting to as little as possible in an effort to do damage control.

Since that time, I have spoken to some people who were involved in Michael's ministry many years ago when he was abusing his spiritual leadership role in the life of Sarah in order to cross moral lines with her as well as when he had sexual correspondence with another man's wife. These witnesses confirmed to me that matters were far worse than Michael led me to believe.

I'm also convinced that the information about false memories being planted in Sarah's mind was slander against her, further victimizing her after the fact, and that I was made a party to such victimizing and misled by it as a potential ally of Dr. Brown with a large online following. I consider his request to talk with me at the ETS conference a deliberate attempt to mislead me so that I could be a pawn in his own immoral damage control. If my account here is not shared publicly by the investigation that his ministry has done or shared by Ron Cantor and his team, then I will go public and share it on my own. I may do so anyways if it seems needful, although I would rather communicate my testimony as part of a larger investigation with multiple witnesses. That's the better way for the truth to be revealed. I've been told that I am the only person Michael led to think Sarah had fabricated memories, and I consider that a very serious issue.

Ryan Bruss—Mike Brown's son-in-law

In 2008, Ryan Bruss was fired from his position as president of the Bible school at Heartland Church in Dallas under now-deceased evangelist Steve Hill. Until recently, many were under the impression that Ryan had an emotional affair with a student. It turns out that it was far more severe; it was an actual physical affair, not just with a student but with the eighteen-year-old nanny of his children.

[Note: this issue is in the public domain as it was part of the article in the TRR first on Dr Brown in December.]

Ryan moved back to Charlotte, where he went through a brief restoration process and was then given a position as the administrator of the FIRE School of Ministry. It was never disclosed to students that Ryan had displayed predatory behavior. Ryan is also Dr. Brown's son-in-law, which makes the restoration period of several months, and his subsequent hiring by Fire School, where Dr Brown was the president, a bit of a conflict of interest. It also put him in close proximity with female students.

When Katherine Marialke brought this up to Dr. Brown in 2017 in a series of Facebook text messages, Brown said that Steve Hill himself supported Ryan's complete restoration to ministry.

Heartland, Ryan did exactly what Steve Hill asked him to do -- in fact, Steve met with every student in the school and all the staff and announced to them what happened and then told them how God was going to restore and use Ryan in the future -- and he really honored

According to multiple witnesses who were leaders at Heartland at the time, this did not occur. No one can corroborate Brown's story: that Steve Hill had told the students that God would restore and use Ryan in the future. By all accounts, the young lady's father was outraged (rightly so) and would not have stood for such an action. One leader who wishes to remain anonymous wrote, "But I know he was never brought before the students or leaders. He was immediately gone."

In fact, Steve Hill had only found out two months earlier, according to the same anonymous source, that [his own fifteen-year-old daughter](#) had been the victim of sexual abuse by a married adult male in their congregation. What was his response? Did he talk about how God was going to restore this man and use him in the future? No. He called the police immediately, and the man was arrested, even as he called out to his victim to destroy her phone because of the evidence.

In addition to the fact that we can't find any witnesses that Steve supported Ryan's restoration, it is unconscionable to believe that two months after going through that ordeal with his poor daughter, Steve would deal mercifully with someone who sexually abused a student. To be clear, fifteen is not eighteen. But it is too close of a gap and the situations are too similar to expect a radically different response from Steve.

According to witnesses, Steve felt betrayed and fired Ryan immediately, according to the person in charge at the time, "We removed him immediately."

In addition to the cover-up, this appears to be another lie that Dr. Brown has told for his own benefit. But typically, strong senior leaders like this have enablers. Dr. Josh Peters shared a very confusing email with *TRR*:

Hello Rebecca,

Dr. Michael Brown asked that I give an accurate timeline of what happened with Ryan Bruss, at that time, I was part of the senior FIRE School of Ministry leadership team.

Ryan Bruss stepped down from his ministry position in Texas the first week of July 2007 with full disclosure to that former ministry as well as to the FIRE leadership team, with deep repentance on his part. After this, he relocated to North Carolina with his family, got a secular job working at a grocery store, underwent intensive counseling, and walked in total accountability to his leaders. One year later, he was hired in an administrative position at FIRE School of Ministry with the full agreement of the school leadership team, and not at the behest of Dr. Brown. His service at FIRE was exemplary.

Blessings,

Dr. Josh Peters

1. Ryan Bruss did not step down from his ministry position in Texas; he was fired for the above-mentioned indiscretions.
2. According to Dr. Brown, his restoration was “many months,” not one year later.
3. According to Peter’s words below, even some in school leadership were not told that Ryan was involved in CSA with a student. We know of at least one FIRE leader who was never told that Ryan had more than an emotional affair with the student.
4. Dr. Peters is quoted in the article as saying, “It would not be our policy with anyone in that situation *to inform all the staff about a pastor [sic] marital failure*, nor do we see that as biblical” (emphasis added). What Peters fails to understand is that you cannot take someone who has sexually abused a student elsewhere and put them in a position of authority over students in another institution without disclosing the sexual misconduct at the second Bible school.
5. It appears that Dr. Brown prioritized the interests of his son-in-law over those of the FIRE School, its students, and their parents.
6. And if it was not at Dr. Brown’s behest, could they please tell us whose idea it was to hire Ryan? Peters only says that FIRE leadership agreed, but someone had to bring it to the table. Unless they can point to someone else, it would seem obvious that Brown brought his son-in-law to Charlotte to eventually work with the ministry.

The authors of this document take no joy in bringing out these facts regarding Ryan Bruss. But we don’t want to make the mistake that so many have made: letting feelings of affection for people they know keep potential predators in place, putting more people at risk.

[This alleged behavior below is also in the public domain, and there is a video link in the next paragraph. The editors have seen the text message evidence.]

It was reported recently that Ryan was fired from his last job last year. According to claims in a recent [video](#), Ryan Bruss preyed on someone under his authority at his last job. He allegedly sent a lewd picture of himself to her, and this was after carefully inviting her and her friend into the inner sanctum of the ministry. After the picture, which he quickly deleted, he confessed to her that he was fantasizing about her sexually. She turned these over to the ministry leaders, and Ryan was fired. Some of those who have prepared this document have also seen the text messages from the leadership of the ministry where the more recent abuse took place, confirming the sexual fantasy texts. The victim is not doing well. Clergy sexual abuse has a devastating impact on the victim.

Sadly, the leaders of the former ministry did not make this public. His current employer was informed of the reason for Ryan's termination on August 26, 2024. The new employer is also aware of how devastating the impact was on Ryan's victim. Yet they hired him. His current employer is also aware of the first case of CSA involving the student in Texas.

What is worse, the former ministry fired his victim not long after she reported the abuse. They told her to send in her computer and not return. Hopefully, one day, find the strength⁶⁴ to tell her story. For now, she remains anonymous. But for the purposes of this document, two of us know her identity and can testify that more than a year later, she is suffering greatly from this abuse.

Keith Lashbrook

[In light of Michael Brown's lawsuit threat, which we received from his lawyer, we have made some changes to clarify. Brown claims that he never knew Lashbrook was a Globe missionary and that he only requested that the adoptive mothers not take legal action against Globe for the time being. As we stated in the very beginning of this document, our goal is the truth. Changes in this edition are highlighted in yellow.]

While we will not take time to unpack everything that happened in the Haiti situation, we do want to show that Dr. Brown played a role in keeping matters quiet **based on the testimony of the adoptive mothers and Brown's emails**. Natalie Stump Lewis worked for Keith Lashbrook, an orphanage leader in Haiti. It became clear that Lashbrook and his brother-in-law Vance Cherry were sexually abusing orphans.

Lashbrook had started a ministry on the FIRE campus in 2007 or 2008, ministering to women who had troubled relationships with their fathers. Lashbrook's led a daddy-daughter ministry. It came out that he was abusing some of the young women to whom he was supposed to bring healing. **While Brown's lawyer claims, "Dr. Brown have any reason to believe Lashbrook had engaged in sexual misconduct," and "It should be emphasized again that none of the students alleged any sexual activity," the lawyer also refers us to Tom Barry's letter to the FBI, which clearly alleged sexual misconduct.**

⁶⁴ In a previous version of this document we had written, "have the courage," but we changed that to, "find the strength." The issue is not that the victim lacks courage, but the devastating result of the abuse has sapped her of the strength to move forward. Please pray for her.

“In 2008, Christy Scott said Lashbrook took female students out, sometimes all night. Scott said Lashbrook told her that he needed to ‘re-father’ her and required her complete trust. She said he sat close enough for their legs to touch and **tried to massage her feet.**

“‘He told me several times that if I didn’t let him go all the way through this process with me, that I would end up killing myself,’ she said.

“Scott said she reported Lashbrook’s behavior to Barry. Soon other students reported misconduct to FIRE, according to [a 2010 letter](#) Barry wrote to the FBI. Lashbrook invited female students to sleep in his and his deaf wife’s trailer, Barry wrote. **Lashbrook woke them up by kissing or massaging their feet.** In one instance, a woman ran away, but Lashbrook ‘physically forced her back into the trailer,’ Barry wrote.

“(I)t was clear that Keith consistently developed a pattern of emotional control over the most vulnerable female students,’ Barry wrote.”⁶⁵

[[read The Roys Report’s exposé on the Haiti affair](#)]

In addition, the lawyer says that Dr Brown gathered all the students together to tell them of the situation and that Lashbrook had been expelled. It’s reasonable to assume that you don’t have such a gathering if the allegations are not severe.

We accept Dr. Brown’s claim that he did not know Lashbrook was part of Globe, even if we are skeptical. However, in 2008, he met adoptive mother, Natalie Lewis, knowing she was working with Lashbrook. He failed to warn her of Lashbrook’s behavior at the FIRE, which ended in his being kicked off the campus and the students being warned.

“My 10-year BRSM reunion was the summer of 2008. I attended with my husband and four children. My son Benjamin, adopted from Haiti, was with us. I spoke to Brown at this reunion. **We discussed my role as a volunteer stateside adoption coordinator for the children being adopted from Keith’s orphanage in Haiti.** I told him how many children were being adopted. I told him about my children, still in the orphanage. **Not one time did Brown mention what Keith had done on the FIRE campus or that he had even been on the FIRE campus.** ... I had absolutely no idea Keith had this side to him. But Brown did. He did not tell me until July 2010.”⁶⁶

He finally did in a phone call *in July 2010*, only after some of the abuse was discovered, during which she urged him to tell Globe. Globe is the missions covering agency for Lashbrook’s Haiti ministry. **Michael Brown** finally called Globe in November 2010 to warn them regarding Keith. This was now two to three years after Lashbrook was exposed as a predator on the FIRE campus. Tom Barry, who confronted Lashbrook in 2008 along with Bob Gladstone, contacted Globe in July 2010, informing them of Lashbrook’s misconduct.

⁶⁵ Rebecca Hopkins, “Michael Brown Failed to Warn Missions Group of Known Predator, Resulting in Horrific Abuse, Parents and Victims Say,” The Roys Report, April 22, 2025, <https://julieroys.com/michael-brown-failed-warn-missions-group-known-predator-lashbrook-resulting-abuse-parents-victims-say/>

⁶⁶ Natalie Stump Lewis, in private correspondence with editors, May 14, 2025.

Six months later, Brown sent this email to Natalie.

Michael L Brown

Natalie -- I'll try to call later this week, and I'm looking forward to talking.

I am also continuing to speak to Globe on your behalf and I continue to ask them serious questions. I do need to say, however, that posts like your most recent one on Facebook (mentioning Keith by name in this context) and airing things out for the world to see, make it much more difficult for justice to really be done. Can we talk about this?

Dr. Brown

Feb 21, 2011 11:40pm

This seems to indicate a deep desire to make sure that the world did not find out. Why? Dr. Brown tells her that speaking out about Lashbrook's abuse will make it more difficult for justice to be carried out. In truth, it is quite the opposite. Covering up such matters, pressuring people to be silent, and manipulating them into believing that trusting others to do the right thing will bring a negative result. Insisting that the church deals with criminal issues is unscriptural (Rom. 13).

This email from a year earlier outlined Brown's plan to keep grads quiet who were working with the Lashbrook orphanage to adopt children from Haiti. They were told not to take legal action at the time, stay off social media, and trust the process—trust that Globe would do the right thing. If we have learned anything in the past several years, it is that when leaders say trust us to deal privately with accusations of sexual abuse, they often do not.

Russell Moore, who served as the former president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, wrote regarding those who were tasked with overseeing allegations of sexual abuse—the Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee:

“The conclusions of the report are so massive as to almost defy summation. It corroborates and details charges of deception, stonewalling, and intimidation of victims and those calling for reform. It includes written conversations among top Executive Committee staff and their lawyers that display the sort of inhumanity one could hardly have scripted for villains in a television crime drama. It documents callous cover-ups by some Southern Baptist Convention leaders and credible allegations of sexually predatory behavior by some leaders themselves.”⁶⁷

Diane Langberg, the leading voice on clergy sexual abuse explains the wrong thinking in the church today, “If word gets out that someone has committed fraud, abused children, or treated group members in nasty and ostracizing ways, then the reputation of Jesus will be marred, and

⁶⁷ Kate Shellnutt, “Southern Baptists Refused to Act on Abuse, Despite Secret List of Pastors,” Christianity Today, May 22, 2022, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2022/may/southern-baptist-abuse-investigation-sbc-ec-legal-survivors.html>.

we must prevent that.”⁶⁸ Jesus can handle taking care of his own reputation. He calls us to do the right thing.

The authorities told Natalie Lewis that involving Globe hurt their legal case. According to Lewis, by not contacting ICE first, Globe communicated with Lashbrook, and he was made aware of everything that was being reported. “Before ICE ever had a chance to go to the orphanage and interview staff and children, [name redacted] had already been on-site to get rid of any shred of evidence The ICE investigator told me that these investigations are not for a church ‘task force,’ *they are for law enforcement*. By following church biblical guidelines, we allowed all evidence to be tampered with” (emphasis added).

Brown wrote to Globe detailing how he would help them protect their institution. Mike claims he was hard on globe—it would be helpful if you would share those emails publicly.

I have encouraged the grads to:

1. Give Globe some more time, assuring them that the investigation is continuing and that actions are being taken, some of them potentially imminent, but being patient with the process is best.
2. Do not take legal action at this time.
3. Do not send out letters or make posts on social networking sites attacking Globe.
4. Believe that Globe is not trying to cover anything up or simply protect its own reputation or that of its missionaries.

Dr. Brown may have been referring only to civil action against Globe, but when dealing with the raping of children, the first thing an institution should do is call law enforcement. Waiting even five minutes is unconscionable. Romans 13 is clear that the state, not the church, deals with lawbreakers. Watch Natalie Stump Lewis’s full testimony [here](#). Brown, through his lawyer, in a letter to Ron Cantor, threatening Ron with legal action, claims that he only *temporarily* wanted them to refrain from taking legal action until after the authorities had concluded their investigation. In talking to two of the adoptive mothers with whom he was in contact, they stated that they felt that he did not want them to *ever* take legal action against Globe.

⁶⁸ Diane Langberg, *When the Church Harms God's People: Becoming Faith Communities That Resist Abuse, Pursue Truth, and Care for the Wounded*, 78, Kindle.

“We recall that our phone conversation with Brown in February 2011 left us feeling very angry because he insisted that Globe was doing the ‘right thing.’ **We felt that Brown did not want us to ever take legal action against Globe** because it is not how we handle things as Christians. Brown also expressed strongly that we should not discuss our private matter on social media.”⁶⁹

What is ironic about this is that Brown has threatened Cantor, one of the editors of this document with “all appropriate legal recourse against you,” and yet, according to the mothers, his argument for not taking legal action against globe was, “because it is not how we handle things as Christians.” Ron recalls when Dr Brown was plagiarized by a well-known celebrity preacher many years ago, the preacher became defensive and asked if Dr Brown was going to sue him. Dr Brown told him that he would never sue a brother in the Lord. It would appear that things may have changed. (We have confirmed that others who reported on this story have received similar threatening letters from Brown’s lawyer.)

Recently, one of the adoptive mothers of Haitian children through Globe and the Lashbrooks, [Milissa McGavin](#), was interviewed. When she told Globe President Doug Gehman—the recipient of the above letter from Dr. Brown—about the sexual abuse of children in the orphanage, she says that Doug responded, “I cannot stress enough to you how important it is that we keep this in the body of Christ. We don’t handle things the way that the world does. We need to go through the proper channels and deal with this in house.” Again, God has not commissioned his church to deal with criminal activity. This is an abuse of ecclesiastical authority. Gehman should have gone right to the federal authorities.

Furthermore, Dr. Brown took it upon himself to give Gehman advice on how to deal with the situation. We are not saying that Dr. Brown was actively seeking to cover up the CSA of children. We are saying that we don’t know why he thought it was his role to advise Globe in the best way forward. Dr. Brown does not work for the FBI or ICE, which is who should have been involved.

We are encouraging Globe to make clear to the grads and others involved:

- 1. We are aggressively working to clean up the Haiti orphanage situation on site, though that will take some time.**
- 2. We are aggressively working to warn adoptive families that there has been abuse and that their biological children could be in danger.**
- 3. We are dealing with some of our missionaries involved who, though they were not involved in any sexual abuse, are dealing with some personal issues and are on hold from all ministry and fundraising until full restoration can be achieved.**

⁶⁹ Natalie Stump Lewis and Milissa McGavin , in private message to general editors, May 14, 2025.

Again, we are talking about the forcible rape of children. How in the world could Gehman, Brown, Mike Collins, or Sandy Carter (the task force set up by Globe) possibly think that they were more equipped and authorized than the authorities to deal with these crimes against minors? Milissa also says she went to her pastor, Josh Lipscomb, and found no advocate.

That being said, Dr. Brown needs to give an account for point 3 in the previous screenshot. According to all accounts, Lashbrook and Vance Cherry were involved in sexual abuse with minors. It did not come out until later that Lashbrook was involved in the CSA, but *Dr. Brown knew about Keith Lashbrook's indiscretions that took place in 2007 at FIRE. Is he concerned that someone he did not report has abused people? Again, he met with Natalie in 2008 and she disclosed that she was working with Keith in the Orphanage (see above). Is he concerned about how that will reflect on him since he stayed quiet about Lashbrook? It is certainly plausible.*

We do know for a fact that Lashbrook and Cherry sexually abused children, a claim that is based on the testimony of Lewis, McGavin, different children who were victims, and Cherry's ex-wife, who left him after discovering what he was doing to children. Dr. Peters, [according to Erich and Kjersti Johnson](#), was aware of Lashbrook's indiscretions at FIRE and did not inform the missionaries working with him to adopt children.

Dr. Peters recently addressed this allegation:

“We knew about Keith Lashbrook being removed from FIRE. However, **we did not know about any issues with children at his orphanage** until the Johnsons came to us reporting that their adopted children had been abused and were too unruly to have in their home. I had no firsthand knowledge of the orphanage. The Johnson's [*sic*], along with several others, took a trip there in 2007. That is when they decided to adopt the children. Keith's departure from FIRE was very public. **His actions did not have anything to do with child abuse.** (emphasis added)”⁷⁰

We find this excuse to be ridiculous. Peters is saying that he understood that Lashbrook was removed from FIRE for inappropriate contact with female students, and we assume that he understood it was in the context of daddy/daughter relationships, as has been reported. Is that not enough info for Peters to warn someone not even to have dinner with the guy, much less work with him in an orphanage he is overseeing? It is not a far leap at all from inappropriate contact with younger female students to inappropriate contact with children. It is our opinion that he should have said something.

When Erich and Kjersti sought to get information to Lashbrook supporters about his activities, Dr. Brown, according to the couple, contacted them and told them that they needed to do a Matthew 18 process with Lashbrook. The man is being accused of raping children, and they are told by Dr. Brown to do a Matthew 18 process. “You guys need to back down. You need to do Matthew 18.” They explained to Dr. Brown that they had tried to contact Lashbrook and called Globe, and no one was doing anything. Dr. Brown responded, “You need to be above reproach, not post things on social media. You need to not take any legal action.” It is our opinion that they should have been doing all those things to expose Lashbrook and Cherry. **If this account is true,**

⁷⁰ Josh Peters, “Dispelling Erroneous Claims about Dr. Peters and Dr. Brown's involvement with Haiti,” accessed May 14, 2025, 1.

and we have no reason to doubt it, the case could be made that Dr Brown is *no longer above reproach* since he is taking legal action against several people discussing this story. How ironic.

Dr. Brown claims that he did not know that Lashbrook was working with Globe, something that other former faculty confirm. But he did not warn Natalie in 2008. We will never know what would've happened had he told her about Lashbrook's indiscretions, though not with minors, deeply disturbing, nonetheless—to the point that they kicked Lashbrook off the campus and out of the ministry. Brown's failure to report Keith Lashbrook to Natalie may have resulted in the sexual abuse of children.

Brown's lawyer informed us that Brown shared with the entire student body about Lashbrook's actions. "He immediately announced this to the entire student body after his leadership team severed ties with the missionary." This actually makes it worse! It was public knowledge in the FIRE community, so why not tell Natalie that the guy she is working for has done abusive things to young women? Lashbrook's indiscretions were not with minors, but they were in the context of a daddy/daughter relationship.⁷¹ How could Brown not be alarmed that this man was now in charge of many children?

Any ministry that knows of one of their former students or employees who has committed sexual abuse should do their reasonable due diligence in making sure any future employers know of the offender's behavior. Sexual abuse damages the soul. Keith Lashbrook is to blame. But others played a role. McGavin had to give her child up to the state of Florida because the child was so dysfunctional, as one of the more abused children from Lashbrook's orphanage. He should never have been there to abuse them.

Much of the information from this section was taken mostly from YouTube interviews with three mothers who had adopted children through the Lashbrooks:

<https://youtu.be/LcEmXfghZLE>

<https://youtu.be/5pWR-MFQ1gA>

<https://youtu.be/3o2tao3NKR8>

In the recent Roys report article Dr Brown gives a statement where he says that he was actually a whistleblower and an advocate for the mothers. The mothers vehemently disagree with such an offensive statement. Natalie Lewis addresses his statement, which she believes is a lie, in a recent interview. The video is queued up to her words on the idea that Dr Brown was her advocate. <https://youtu.be/52KCeOUQPAA?t=997>. Kjersti Johnson made a statement on Facebook addressing the idea that Dr Brown was a whistleblower in the Haiti situation. In part, it reads,

"Dr Brown was never a 'whistleblower' or an 'advocate.' Fire had already kept silent about the allegations regarding Keith Lashbrook's inappropriate behavior with teams in NC. They knew we were adopting from the orphanage run by Keith. They knew the

⁷¹ Dr. Josh Peters called referred to the actions as, "inappropriate contact between Keith Lashbrook and some female students." To be honest, it has been difficult to ascertain exactly what Lashbrook did on the FIRE campus, but it was enough to get him kicked out of the ministry and booted off the campus. It was severe enough that Dr Brown had to make a public announcement to the student body.

sexual misconduct allegations against him, and did not think it was their place to inform us, their grads and current [Fire International] missionaries, of the allegations, and therefore relevant risks to the kids in our families. ...

“For Dr Brown to claim that he was a ‘whistleblower’ is laughable. A more accurate statement would be that he appointed himself referee and confiscated *our* whistles. For him to say that he continued to give us ‘spiritual and moral support in the months that followed’ is offensive. That communication was the last time we heard from Dr Brown. Ever.”

Rick Joyner and Todd Bentley, 2013

In 2013, Mike Brown was made aware that Todd Bentley fell into sexual sin again. These allegations were taken with the help of Dr. Brown to Rick Joyner. Rick Joyner sat Bentley down for six months and then released him to minister again. That so-called restoration process was not made public. Todd Bentley, by that time, had committed repeated sexual sins and should have been disqualified from ministry. While we don’t know if Michael Brown was involved in the restoration process, he knew about it and did not make any efforts to inform the public about Bentley’s actions. Bentley would go on to abuse again: abusing interns, defiling people in private online chats, among other far more severe allegations. Had Dr. Brown told the public in 2013 that he knew about Bentley’s continued sexual sin, even if Joyner continued to restore him to public ministry, at least the public would’ve had the information they needed to choose whether or not to trust Bentley.

In 2019, Dr. Brown oversaw a team, including an investigator, put together to evaluate Todd Bentley and review a new slew of allegations, which included an investigator. Dr. Brown did not publicly disclose (as far as we know—the 2013 restoration remained private at that time) that he was involved in the 2013 secret restoration.

Another minister received a report that Joyner, Brown, and Bentley agreed that the 2013 allegations and private restoration would not be included in the investigation. It makes sense that they would not want the public to know about the secret restoration. It would make all of them look bad, worse than bad—it would reveal that they willingly withheld knowledge of Bentley’s immorality. This minister confronted Dr Brown in an email, which we have in our possession, asking if there was an agreement to leave out the 2013 restoration, and Dr. Brown denied that that was the case and responded that the 2013 restoration would be looked at by the judicial review board. Brown wrote:

“Todd 100 percent confesses to and acknowledges every detail of the texts from 2013, so the question for the panel is not, ‘Was he guilty of this?’ He was, and there’s no dispute of that. The question [is]: Was his restoration handled properly? Was the public properly informed (to the extent they should be informed)?”

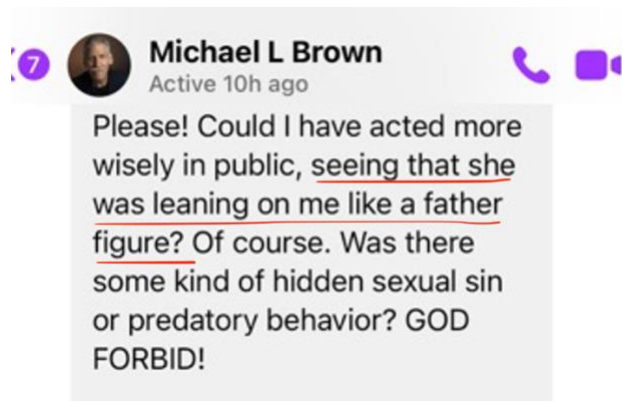
Yes, the question for the panel should have been, “Was his restoration handled properly? Was the public properly informed (to the extent that they should be informed)?” Biblically, there is no question; the public should have been informed. Paul tells Timothy that elders who continue in

sin should be rebuked publicly (1 Tim. 5:20). It is a fact that *the public was not informed*. A predator was released after six months of counseling, despite his history of abusive sexual sin—and the people to whom he would minister would never know that he fell again. But fortunately, Dr. Brown says that the judicial panel that he is overseeing will address this issue of whether it was handled correctly in 2013. But as [you can all read in the panel's report](#), nothing about 2013 is even mentioned. So maybe there was an agreement between Brown, Joyner, and Bentley not to bring it up. The fact remains that Michael Brown knew that Todd Bentley was continuing to live in sexual sin in 2013 and did not alert the public. Neither did Rick Joyner, for that matter.

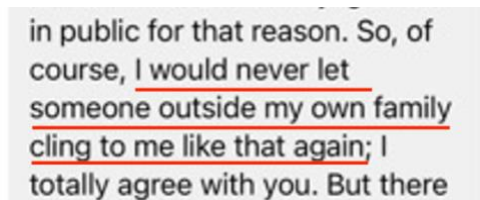
Mike Blames Sarah:

Earlier, we documented that Dr. Brown sought to blame Kim for his misconduct, often claiming that she was the one who said something inappropriate to him. Likewise, he claims that in his physical contact with Sarah, he was merely responding to her affection for him. Here are just a few examples.

1. In 2018 to Katherine Barry Marialke



In the same chain:



2. There are two real problems with that last statement. The accusations had nothing to do with Sarah clinging to him. Rather, the allegations related to his actions: kissing *her*, smacking *her* butt, and holding *her* hand. No one has come forward to say that they saw her pursuing him affectionately, but this is the picture Dr. Brown has given to others. Secondly, certainly, and forgive the candor, we do not believe this is normal family behavior. Kissing on the lips and touching a daughter's rear end is not behavior that fathers engage in with their daughters. And while Dr. Brown has denied kissing on the lips, he has confessed to slapping her rear end.

3. In 2024 to an anonymous influential pastor

That being said, my actions back then were idiotic and inappropriate, responding to the constant, daughter-like affection of Sarah -- but NOT sexual. As for the idea of using

4. In 2024, in an email to Ron Cantor and two others, Dr. Brown said this: “In short, we did not have a relationship; there was idiotic but innocent physical contact between us (*initiated by her totally innocent hugging, etc.*), and she moved to Texas about eight months after I got things right” (emphasis added).

However, in 2020, Sarah sent this in response to Kris’s question. And as a reminder, Dr. Brown has said that this version mirrors his own.

ask, but you don't have to get into it if you don't want to. Did you guys have other inappropriate contact besides the hands? I'm trying to process and understand but If it's too much for you to talk about, I fully understand.

He did. I never did. He would hit my butt as I would walk by but that was it. He would kiss the top of my head at first then it would be the cheek. That was it. Kris I know

Blaming Kim

Dr. Michael Brown repeatedly blamed Kim as follows:

1. In an email to Ron Cantor and two others.

“And the only thing the note would have done was make the other woman look bad, not me.”

2. To Kris Bennett from the *TRR* article by Rebecca Hopkins:

“Bennett told *TRR* Brown explained the note Sarah found in his nightstand about the other woman, who was a friend. Brown reportedly claimed that she had said something inappropriate that caught him off guard, so he wrote it down.” (from the first *TRR* article)

3. To reporter Rebecca Hopkins, Mike tells Cantor he said:

“[Rebecca] was aware that someone (Kim?) had said some inappropriate things to me, which I had documented in case I was ever accused of starting something with her. Sarah found that

[documentation] in a drawer in our bedroom while housesitting for us and watching our dog, and she asked me about it.”

4. And maybe the most egregious case was what he told Mike Lubanovic—which, if her family was the litigious type, they could sue for defamation of character.

He stated that he and Nancy were close with the (IS #1 and IW #1) for a season. He explained that IS #1 would email him from time to time. But at a certain point, she crossed the line with some comments via email, and it became obvious to him and Nancy Brown that these were inappropriate. So he took notes of those on a note pad because he and Nancy Brown planned to meet with her and her husband to address her misconduct. So essentially, he used the notes to confront her.

Sarah says the notes contains the fantasies of both Mike and Kim about each other. It would appear that all four of these are lies that were told by Dr Brown to avoid accountability. This is what Brown told to Firefly:

On February 20, 2025, BROWN was interviewed by Firefly at the FIRE SCHOOL, 6509 Hudspeth Road, Harrisburg, NC. During this interview, BROWN admitted to what he called an “**emotional affair**” during the second half of 2001 with IS #1 via phone calls, texts, and emails. BROWN stated they “both said some sinful things to each other and that it was the most despicable thing he had ever done.” BROWN also noted that “there was never a physical, sexual relationship of any sort between us, but I don’t minimize the ugliness of my sinful emotional attachment. In the words of Jesus, it was certainly adultery of the heart.”

According to the husband, the emotional affair included erotic speech being sent and spoken back-and-forth. Adultery of the heart should not be taken in the Matthew 5:27–28 understanding of merely lusting after someone. This was far more than that. Many of us believe that having a phone sex relationship is adultery, not emotional adultery. It is unfaithfulness to your spouse, and it should be treated as such.

The Elder Accountability Team (EAT) Report

We respect and honor those who have taken the risk to give their time and reputations in seeking to make recommendations for Dr Brown in light of the Firefly report. However, we believe that grave mistakes took place that softened the language of the investigator. As was stated at the beginning of this document, we were all told to wait for the investigation and then when the investigation came, they rejected it.

1. We understand that Firefly’s use of the term “sexually abusive misconduct” is not actually a term that is used often, and the EAT looked for a more common term to describe Mike’s behavior. However, in Sarah’s case, turning that into “leadership misconduct” was a miscarriage of justice to Sarah. Mike Brown did not merely abuse his leadership—he abused a person, which scarred her soul for decades. Taking the word “abuse” out of the definition takes Sarah’s pain out of consideration. From our personal conversations with members of the EAT, we have no doubt of their love and concern for Sarah, which is why we are imploring them to take a second look.

Furthermore, when someone smacks an employee on the butt, we don't call that "harassment." We call it "*sexual harassment*." No, they did not have intimate relations, but we understand that touching a private area of a female's body by a boss is *sexual in nature*. Therefore, what took place was clearly sexual abuse. Dr Brown had what many have described as a cult-like following in the early days of FIRE. The students revered him, as did many of the families who attended FIRE church. The power differential between Sarah Monk and Mike Brown was massive. She was nineteen years old when she got to know him. Therefore, we must add the word "clergy" to the definition. In other words, what happened to Sarah was "clergy sexual abuse," not merely "leadership misconduct." To be frank, if Mike Brown had been the janitor at Fire, the relationship would never have taken place. It was only because of his high standing in the eyes of both Sarah and Kim that the abuse happened. **With respect, we urge the EAT to revisit this issue.**

2. We are not saying that they did this on purpose, but the EAT quoted Mike Brown almost exclusively in their report. We have already shown in this document that Mike Brown has lied repeatedly or twisted the truth regarding his relationships with Sarah Monk and Kim. They presented Dr. Brown in a light that does not exist; they assumed that his statements were true.

3. They said that he was forthcoming with Ray and Kim, but Kim was not even there when Ray confronted him. And according to Ray, Mike was not forthcoming and had to continue to press until Mike finally confessed. The report doesn't address the fact that Mike also confessed, according to Ray, to pressuring Kim to meet him somewhere and urging her not to sleep with her husband.

4. They quote Mike and Nancy's assertion that they met with Sarah so he could apologize and merely say that Sarah says the meeting never took place. But they don't quote Sarah when she explained what really did take place in that meeting: they pressured her to forgive Mike on behalf of the student body for his indiscretions with Kim. That is spiritual abuse! The report massively favored Mike's narrative.

5. Their report says that "Dr Brown publicly confessed his failures and repented" in December 2024. But the vast majority of people who saw that video mocked it for its promise of transparency and revelation of almost nothing. Moreover, the fruit of repentance was lacking as he went on to promote his life story, receive a standing ovation from other leaders, telling pastors behind the scenes that the truth would come out and exonerate him, and then ultimately allow his book to be published—a celebration of his life. We would say that those are not the fruits of repentance.

6. The report says Dr Brown followed due process as he understood it in 2002, referring to him confessing and repenting to his wife and the other couple. Of course, Dr Brown, being a part of team ministry, understood, as did all the elders, that you cannot deal with sexual sin apart from your elders. It is wrong to say that since they did not commit adultery, they did not need to disclose it. They did commit adultery. It just wasn't in a bed.

Nevertheless, we would ask, how effective was that repentance? Dr Brown told Cantor and the two others, "I made major lifestyle changes and got intensive counseling, and nothing even

remotely repeated like that in my life.” But in point of fact, within three months, he was holding Sarah Monk’s hand in front of three other students (not a van-full as he claimed). His relationship with Kim ended in February 2002, and he began acting out physically with Sarah in May 2002. **Within three months of this life transformation, he began what we believe was a grooming relationship with Sarah that increased to private handholding, intimate, touching, long hugs, meeting late at night, privately in a car, and yes, kissing on the lips.** Had Sarah not ended this relationship, God only knows where Dr Brown planned to take it.

Furthermore, if Dr Brown had genuinely repented and received life-changing counseling for his relationship with Kim in early 2002, **why in July 2002—six months later— did he have the handwritten notes between him and the wife of another man about their erotic fantasies with each other in his nightstand?** Why would you keep that? (And those notes are the only reason we know a relationship ever existed.) Therefore, we maintain that whatever sorrow Dr Brown went through in February, it was not *godly sorrow onto repentance*.

8. We don’t know how the elder accountability team could maintain that when Mike was questioned by those who heard about one or both of the relationships, he “seemed to answer their questions *consistently*.” We have shown you in this document that he has been anything but consistent in the way he addressed those who inquired. The only thing that was *consistent* was his avoidance of the truth. He often sought to find out what they knew before answering. To some, he said nothing at all happened. To others, it was foolish judgment. Frequently, he blamed Kim. Sometimes he blamed Sarah for her affection towards him. Finally, he admitted in October that he did have “a sinful soul tie” with Kim, only to soften the language for his public video to an “emotional tie.” He confessed to many of the actions with Sarah to Cantor and two others, only to release a public statement six weeks later where he pretended to be shocked by the allegations. But in 2023, he told MR that his relationship with Sarah was completely innocent and told the story about being in the back of the van, when in fact, he was driving his own car. When Kris Bennett confronted him in 2020, he simply repeated that he could not recall. He has been all over the map in his answers.

So, once again, we would appeal to the EAT to revisit their conclusions and examine all the evidence, not just what was in the Firefly report.

Stories of Spiritual Abuse by Dr. Brown, FIRE, and BRSM⁷²

Testimony of Tom and Carolyn Barry

We have known Mike and Nancy Brown since the fall of 1977. We became very close to them, and as Mike and Nancy moved around over the next few decades, we maintained a consistent friendship. We would get together socially, and our kids grew up knowing the Browns as good friends and respected spiritual leaders. Mike and Tom served on the elder board of the church on

⁷² Stories have been lightly edited for clarity.

Long Island that we both attended. Carolyn and Nancy maintained a close friendship as well, and Carolyn would, along with other female friends, visit Nancy when Mike traveled.

Dr. Michael Brown founded the Brownsville Revival School of Ministry, a ministry school with a strong focus on foreign missions. In December 1997, we drove our daughter down to attend the school in Pensacola, Florida. Mike and Nancy invited us to relocate from New York to Pensacola. We moved our family down, and Tom and all our children graduated from FIRE School of Ministry. Tom later became a teacher at the Bible school.

Several years later, one of our daughters, a former missionary, was going through a very life-altering, painful divorce while a young mother of small children.

At that time, we were both working at the FIRE School of Ministry and did so for a number of years. We were completely committed to the ministry vision of the school. We were in charge of pastoral care and loved working with the students. We also enjoyed a great relationship with all the staff and faculty.

Faced with this major crisis, we reached out to our friends, Mike and Nancy Brown, to let them know what happened with our daughter and the painful events that led up to it. They were the first people that we contacted because of the close friendship that we believed we had with them. What we encountered was a complete lack of understanding or support. This shocked both of us. Mike took a very active role and believed that he had complete authority to direct everyone in every aspect of the situation. He shouted at us over the phone, demanding that we withdraw our support from our daughter, claiming that he was her “spiritual father.” This was beyond delusional. He never inquired about our daughter’s well-being. It was obvious that this was not a concern for him.

From this point, Mike actively sought to destroy the friendships and church relationships that our daughter had. He called some of her closest friends and told them that they needed to cut her off, that they shared in her so-called sin if they continued to be friends with her. Her pastor in Nashville had been completely supportive of her when he heard about her situation. Dr. Brown used his influence and turned this pastor against her. She was a vulnerable mother of three whose world had just been shattered. But she was now the focus of a sustained attack by her “spiritual father.”

As parents, we continued supporting her. Because of this, Mike went on a rampage against us. After numerous aggressive communications from Mike did not work, he set up a meeting of the faculty, after instructing each member to come up with grievances against Tom. Although every faculty member but one complied, nothing of any substance was presented. Carolyn wept uncontrollably during the meeting.

The misuse of Mike’s authority and the unhealthy submission of the faculty was obvious to us. That evening, we realized that we needed to end our relationship with the school. This was clear [spiritual] abuse on the part of Mike Brown. We submitted our resignations the next day. Following this, a number of faculty members apologized and expressed regret for their participation in the meeting.

Mike Brown did come to Tom and apologize a number of years later. Although we personally forgive Mike and Nancy, we could never again join with them on any level of ministry, and we would strongly discourage anyone else from doing so. His tendency toward self-promotion and

control has been consistent throughout the years. He has split numerous churches and destroyed many relationships. He has to win in every situation.

Sincerely,

Tom and Carolyn Barry

“Elizabeth”

My plea is that Michael Brown be removed from ministry before he is responsible for damaging anyone else’s faith and lives by his abuse of power. Plain and simple. His behavior has *not* been one of humility, ownership, or sorrow over the incredible trauma and damage he has inflicted on *many*, many people while promoting Christ publicly (emphasis in original). Let’s stop trying to keep this man in ministry. There should be no more chances for him to harm others.

I have lifelong damage from what Mike Brown did to me without cause. Simply for not doing what he wanted. Those closest to him enabled him. In my situation, they knew *exactly* what he was doing (emphasis in original). They obeyed his orders and reached out to people in my life to convince them to withdraw their friendship and emotional support from me at the weakest, most vulnerable time in my life.

In 2008, Mike went on a rampage to try to DESTROY my reputation.

Mike proactively did this when he *knew* (because I had expressed the depth of my anguish in an email to him) that I was struggling to the point of feeling suicidal at that time because of some incredible betrayal I had experienced in my personal life (emphasis in the original). I reached out to someone who I considered a spiritual father whom I had known since birth. Who officiated my wedding. Whose wife was in the room when my first son was born. Who, at some points, I admired more than just about anyone in the world.

I bore my soul in that email during a crucial, pivotal time when I had discovered horrific personal betrayals. I reached out to him during the worst crisis of my life. His response? He tried to destroy me. I will never comprehend his motivation.

It honestly makes no sense. He screamed at my parents and blindsided them. He then stirred his staff up to speak ill of my loyal, loving parents who served his ministry for years, even without pay. All because they were supporting me. He punished my father for standing with his daughter in a biblically grounded divorce, for anyone who still likes to keep score of those matters.

Mike never, ever replied to my heartbreaking email. He never called, texted, or reached out directly to me. He never asked how I was doing, how my heart was, how my small children were. However, he found the time to locate the phone numbers of three of my dearest friends and called them and told them *God would curse them* for standing by my side (emphasis in the original). Hysterical, they called me. They said he was screaming at them. They can still recall the trauma of even having to listen to his unhinged rage, all trying to convince my friends to turn their backs on me.

And then, my church was called. The church was initially a safe haven for my young children and me during this crisis. After whatever he (allegedly) told them about me, they withdrew their support and didn't want to get involved.

When people on the old BRSM forum expressed their love and sympathy when I asked for prayer for what I was going through, he jumped on that thread and said that I was in sin. (emphasis added). Furthermore, he blatantly lied and said that he was involved in the communications and the back-and-forth of our situation. (I had never talked to him after I sent that email a month or so earlier), and then he locked the thread so nobody else could comment after his statement (emphasis in the original).

I finally called him, begging him to leave me alone and stop trying to cut my support system off at the knees. I could not believe what was happening, but I had more pressing matters to deal with at that time, so I tried to ignore him for as long as possible.

I called him (again, he never reached out), and he picked up the phone. I pleaded with him to stop getting involved. To please, please, *please* leave my family and friends alone and just stay out of it (emphasis is in the original). He screamed at me (I'd NEVER heard him like this before) and said, "*You watch, [name redacted]! GOD WILL CURSE YOU and your boys if you get divorced!*" (Emphasis is added, but capitalization is in the original). My children were ages three, five, and seven at the time.

He did not let up after that phone call. He continued to try to destroy my reputation. He temporarily turned people against me who later came and ask me for forgiveness, which I generously offered, understanding the power of Mike's position and how we all regarded him.

I am a strong woman. I have gone through deep waters, waters so deep that I did not think I would survive. Because of my children, because of the healing in our lives, including with their dad, and because it isn't anyone else's business, I will not share about my first marriage here. But I came out on the other side. I'm very proud of myself for that.

But, in the last ten years, I have had to seek intense therapy from professionals and have been gently and lovingly led by my old pastor, Dan Scott, in the deep healing my life has needed. I've been diagnosed with PTSD more than once. And do you know what trauma seems to have the most hold on my life and body? The trauma from Mike Brown. Do you know why? Because he has positioned himself as an ambassador for Christ by being in public Christian ministry. He held a powerful position to do damage, a more powerful position than anyone else that hurt me during that time. I never viewed him as God. I admired him, but I didn't think he was perfect.

However, I did trust that his position would have required him to act in love and not hate during that critical time. *So many* grads are no longer able to enter a church because their bodies do not feel safe because of what Mike Brown has done (emphasis in original). Not sexual. But spiritually abusive behavior like what he did to me. Things that the FIRE and BRSM leadership and staff have done while hiding behind public ministry. And many of them have never taken accountability for any of their actions.

Mike is *not* repentant (emphasis in original). He is regularly posting messages on his YouTube channel, sometimes daily. His board has clearly not required him to stop doing that. He still has meetings scheduled. His board doesn't think this is a big enough deal to require him to cancel all future ministry for the time being, at the very least. They have not asked to hear from the many

of us (like me) out there who have catastrophic stories of abuse. They don't want to know, but some already do know because they were there for much of it. They saw it. But Mike got away with it, so everyone carried on.

Mike is *not* repentant (emphasis in original). Would a repentant leader continue to post online? To create media content? To try to spin the narrative through a manipulative video that was neither transparent nor portrayed full disclosure despite promising to do so. Would a repentant leader go to a pastor's conference and willingly receive a standing ovation? Would a repentant leader in the middle of being investigated for sexual sin gleefully release his autobiography? Even when it was pulled by the publisher, would he continue to send free copies to his supporters, hoping that it would inspire them, all while being investigated for sexual sin? That is not repentance.

We are the collateral damage of those missteps (emphasis in original). And our pain is raw right now. For many of us, our beliefs in Jesus have been severely shaken, some even lost. Hopefully, only temporarily. This is why Jesus spoke almost violently about the Pharisees. He knew the imbalance of power church leaders had, both then and now. He knew that he would be reflected based on their lives. I am very angry at Mike Brown.

I'm not bitter, though. Because I have hope that if enough people quit worrying about dancing around the irrelevant micro-managers calling on people to be careful not to get bitter, gossip, etc., and the brave ones actually speak their truth, maybe, *just maybe*, Mike will stop pushing people to the brink, stop bullying people and abusing Scripture while doing it, and most importantly, maybe he will no longer cause any more of Jesus's sheep to lose their faith in their loving Shepherd (emphasis in the original).

I believe the Shepherd is out to protect his sheep from the wolves right now. For His name's sake. Matthew 18:6 says, "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

We were the "little ones" compared to Mike Brown. We were the vulnerable, impressionable, eager-to-please, sincere, full-of-faith followers of Jesus that found ourselves under the Christian ministry leadership of Mike Brown. He had a serious responsibility before God to us. Please never forget that when reading people's accounts of the pain he has caused their lives.

Missy Cava

I was Nancy's assistant in the Admissions Department for several years beginning in the summer of 2001. At a certain point while on staff, a couple of us singles went to the American Legion, listened to Big Band music and learned 1940's style swing dancing with other non-staff single friends. It was not against the rules in our staff handbook, yet when Nancy found out, she called me into a meeting where she threatened to fire me if I didn't stop swing dancing. She specifically asked me if I thought it was sin. I told her that I was an adult supporting myself, so of course I would stop swing dancing rather than lose my job, but no, I did not think it was a sin. She told me, "If you can't see that this is a sin, then I feel sorry for you." It was a heavy condemnation that hurt me deeply.

I found out later this was during the time when, by her own admission in her letter to FI missionaries and her now public letter, she insisted that Mike cover up his emotional (and, as per “Ray,” his attempted physical) affair with “Kim.” This was also during the time when Mike was allegedly initiating inappropriate interactions with Sarah Monk.

This would’ve sometime in 2002, between the beginning of the year and late summer. It is shocking to me to find out later that Nancy was going to fire me from my job as a single person enjoying a normal, non-sinful social life with other single people, while around the same time she was acting as an accomplice to the coverup for her husband’s emotional affair.

As a wife, I have deep compassion for the pain and sorrow I have no doubt she would have felt at such a deep betrayal on her husband’s part. It would be a normal human impulse to want to keep it a secret and never speak of it to anyone, but all of us under her and her husband’s leadership had given our lives to a much higher standard and she was the chief enforcer of those high standards in the lives of hundreds of students & staff.

I was struck by her attempt to explain her husband’s behavior in speaking of an extremely difficult time when he was under pressure “spiritually, emotionally, and financially.” *We were all suffering tremendously.* **My own father had cut me out of his life solely because I chose to follow Dr. Brown and the revolution after the split.** It took a very long time for our relationship to reconcile. Under the Browns’ leadership, the school would go on to withhold pay from staff for months on end, with no other way to support ourselves while Dr. Brown continued to write and sell books, preach, and speak where honorariums were provided. Our staff Christmas parties are held at their *mansion*, while I was barely able to pay for the most basic utilities.

I was shocked when I read Nancy’s question: “*What do we do with that kind of repentance? Smite the person, punish them, humiliate them, or abandon them?*” **This was her actual approach to many deeply repentant students who cried out for mercy in the FIRE offices.** They were met with punishment, humiliation, and abandonment. IF they were allowed to re-enter a relationship with the school, there was prolonged and ongoing submission to pastoral accountability in which they were regularly required to give account for their current status in regard to the sin from which they repented.

The double standard here should be clear. Repentance to an authority figure and submission to oversight and accountability were Nancy’s stated and enacted expectations for all students and staff ... **except Michael Brown.** According to her letter, her personally seeing him writhe on the floor was all the repentance and accountability he needed.

- No repentance to accountable authority needed.
- No on-going pastoral oversight needed.
- No altered course of action, prohibition or season of removal while a track record is re-established.
- He was the only exception.

I praise God for her newly found revelations of His graciousness, His mercy, and His heart to freely pardon the sinner. Yet those revelations do not sanction the way any of Mike Brown’s sins were hidden. Hopefully, her newfound revelations can serve as a guide to deep and public repentance for her own administration of punishment, humiliation, and abandonment.

Paul Engelman

I started at FIRE in 2001, part of a class that would later be known as the “Holy Remnant.” We were the class that no one seemed to know what to do with. I lived with and cared for my grandfather while attending the school. Because of my living arrangements, I was granted permission to have mixed-sex bonfires and get-togethers on the property. I got to know several pastoral care people like Kris and Mary because they checked in on what was happening at these get-togethers.

In the spring of 2003—after two years of schooling and excited to graduate—I was called into Nancy Brown’s office to be told that because I was homeschooled and didn’t have a state seal on my diploma, I was not going to graduate from the school that fall. I was shocked and asked why it took two years for this to come to light. I was told that they were just behind on processing the paperwork. I asked if I would be reimbursed for two years of tuition they took and was rebuked for even suggesting such a thing. I left the meeting stunned and confused.

My parents and I contacted HSLDA (a homeschool legal association). They basically stated that the school could make up these arbitrary rules because they took no government money but then told us that many states didn’t have state seals on their diplomas. They felt I had been singled out, and I still don’t know why. I have since talked to [name redacted], Mrs. Brown’s assistant at the time, and she said the state seal was never an issue with any other students. This has been confirmed by other homeschool students who were graduates. Her assistant also has told me they were not two years behind, and my paperwork would have been filed away. She has no idea why Mrs. Brown would have dug it up to create this issue for me.

At this point, I emailed Mrs. Brown a letter that HSLDA had prepared that pointed out how arbitrary this rule was. Her response was heated and unloving. She was very upset that I got lawyers involved. She then stated that for all she knew, I got my diploma while just sitting around, doing nothing. When I sent the response to HSLDA, they strongly suggested that I let them move forward on a case of fraud and failure to deliver services paid for, among other issues. They also put FIRE on the “not-homeschool-friendly list.” The two lawyers I dealt with were shocked that a Bible school would be so combative toward homeschoolers, especially since many of our staff homeschooled their children.

Around this time, the spring trimester ended, and the school moved to North Carolina. For some reason, I felt led to move to North Carolina with this situation still unresolved. My parents thought I was crazy, but I went anyway.

When I registered for school in North Carolina, I was pulled into to Mrs. Brown’s office, and she told me in no uncertain terms that I would not be allowed to continue, and I could try to sue them. She wasn’t going to change her mind. I told her if she wanted a fight, she would get a fight. She told me I could get a GED, and she would consider letting me stay. I told her I had a legal diploma, and I would not get a GED. I told her I would attend the classes, and she said I could audit them. I contacted HSLDA and told them to start the paperwork. They wanted to sue the school for \$250,000, which I knew would cause its closure.

After talking with a couple of faculty members (Mr. Cava and Dr. Gladstone), I could see they had no idea about what was happening between me and Mrs. Brown. I then wrote a letter with HSLDA explaining what was going on and stating what the next steps would be. We sent the letter to all of the leadership team. Over the next week, Dr. Gladstone and Mr. Alt came to me, concerned about the possible legal action. I told them all it wasn't my heart to do it, but I felt it would be the right and just action. By the end of the week, I had been told that Dr. and Mrs. Brown wanted to meet with me.

I met with them late one evening. They were both upset. I was rebuked strongly for “going around them” and sending letters to the faculty (emphasis added).⁷³

All of the religious buzz words were used—unsubmissive, unbiblical, Jezebel, etc. I felt intimidated and scared, to be honest. Dr. Brown towered over me in a larger chair as I sat in Nancy's office. *He told me to never talk to any faculty outside of classes, that they would allow me to graduate, but only because he felt his hands were tied by me and my threat of legal action. I was told to not even try applying for third year; they would never ordain me, and I wasn't welcome in the church family.* I was to graduate and disappear. *I was also to never speak about this to anyone, or I would be 'causing division in the body.'* I was told to stop the lawsuit for the sake of the FIRE body and that I shouldn't stop the revolution because of my selfish desire to graduate. (All emphasis was added in this paragraph).

I contacted HSLDA and told them to stop the lawsuit because they reluctantly decided to allow me to graduate. I could graduate, and at least with FIRE now on the 'not homeschool-friendly list,' maybe no one else would have to go through what happened to me.

In fall 2003, I graduated, got married, and left FIRE. I was publicly blessed and prayed over at my graduation, while secretly kicked to the curb. Defeated, broken, and sad, I moved back to Alabama (emphasis added).

In 2010, I saw Dr. Gladstone at a meeting in Canada. We spoke before the meeting, and I was surprised when he asked me what had happened to the lawsuit and why I left the school so quickly after graduation. I told him a bit of this story, and he was shocked. He repented on behalf of the school to me and was so kind to me that it moved my very cold heart. It was the beginning of a very long healing journey.

Several years later, I felt as part of that healing journey, I sent a letter to Dr. and Mrs. Brown as well as a small offering. I repented for my part in the unkind words used in the communications. I had hoped it would start a dialogue of repentance between us. *Unfortunately, I never heard anything from him and only knew he got my letter because they cashed the check* (emphasis added). Several years later, I heard that Dr. Brown was speaking three hours away. So I gave it one last go at a man-to-man talk. At the end of the meeting, I approached him and asked if he remembered me. He said yes and said something about me being part of the holy remnant, then asked if I wanted a picture. I was a bit confused and said, “Sure.” I asked if he got my letter, and he looked confused, then said he had to get going. With that, I went home, heartbroken that the reconciliation I had hoped for would never happen.

⁷³ EN: This is a pattern that we have seen throughout this document. Don't ever share with anyone else because it might create gossip.]

Stephanie

Stephanie was a FIRE International associate. Before she went to England to serve under FIRE, she had a dream in which she was with another missionary Janet (not real name) and in the dream, Janet was standing as if bound on her back but was actually free when Stephanie checked and wanted to release her and some clergy attacked and chased her and Janet at the end. This is a very brief summary of a very detailed dream and does not do the dream justice.

Stephanie then moved to England and worked in a ministry where Janet worked as well. Stephanie suffered from those who were the team leaders, who eventually excommunicated her for sharing some concerns. John Cava got involved and urged her to stay as part of the FIRE team. She was rebuked for sharing her concerns. She says that these concerns should have been shared with Dr. Peters by fellow missionaries when they left the field.

After some time, Stephanie realized that somebody had been using her credit card. It turned out that Janet had used it to buy an overseas ticket to another country. Before she realized it was Janet, she reported it to the credit card company, and the police opened an investigation. Not long after that, Janet confessed to the crime. Stephanie shares in her own words...

“I left to celebrate Easter with my family, and on Easter Monday (a holiday in Germany), I received an email from Tobi Peters that it was Janet and *that I had to stop the investigation* (emphasis added). I had time to confer with my family, and between my parents and one of my brothers (who is an attorney), they firmly encouraged me to stick to the truth. My brother even went so far as to say that even if I get slaughtered like a lamb, I could not deviate from the truth, as a crime had been committed.

“One day, *Dr. Peters called and told me it was my duty to call the police and tell them that it had all been ‘sorted,’* that I should have used Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians principles. I said that I had brought it to my leaders two years prior, since Janet was not taking my advice on her spending, and that they had decided not to do anything about it. *He also said those practices mentioned were not about crimes committed but about issues among the brethren, not against the law. He also said that we had to keep this quiet because of the people Janet was ministering to.*”

This is a lesser version of the same mentality leaders often have when ministers are caught in sin. They do not tell the people as 1 Timothy 5:20 commands (for elders) but feel that exposing the sin would be detrimental to the ministry and those being ministered to. We have to have enough faith in God to believe that if we follow the steps in his Word, he will protect His ministry.

Janet contacted Stephanie from overseas and asked her for forgiveness. Stephanie forgave her, but by then, the police and the credit card company were also involved. Janet admitted that the crime needed to come to light and that Stephanie should not hinder the authorities. Janet understood that the Lord wanted her to deal with this forthrightly so she could be free.

“And then, Dr. Brown called me at work. *I was so glad he did;* I thought that of course, Dr. Brown would understand! After all, *he was like a dad.* My boss kindly gave me his office to have this conversation, and I was shaken to the core: *Dr. Brown also quoted the Scriptures and told me that I had to go to the police and tell them that it was all a mistake, that nothing had happened.* I

told him that this was impossible since they had been investigating for about four weeks by now. I may have said that Janet herself told me to keep going for her freedom's sake!

Dr. Brown told her that she “had to think of the people Janet had been ministering to, the drug addicts, the prostitutes, what would that show them? I told him that they needed to know that we are human beings, that Janet made mistakes, that we all make mistakes. But that we have a God who kindly and mercifully restores us, forgives us, and helps us up again. *Dr. Brown was not happy. My world came crashing down—Dr. Brown wanted me to lie, to not stand up for righteousness, and withhold restoration from my sister!*”

Stephanie suffered trauma after this. She was terrified to run into anybody from BRSM/FIRE. After she refused to honor the requests of Dr. Peters and Dr. Brown, she was excommunicated from her church but not before they rebuked her for her lack of character. Stephanie said, “For months, I could not keep down any food. I also simply could not read the Bible anymore.” Stephanie physically lost her voice for several months and still has a feeling of being strangled when she speaks about it now.

Sarah Schmitz Cohen

Editor's Note: Sarah's testimony only indirectly implicates Dr Brown. But we felt her story was valuable in understanding the culture that Dr Brown allowed to exist under his leadership through extensive spiritual abuse under the guise of deliverance ministry. This is one of the more heartbreaking stories.

In 2000 at BRSM in “The Orange” (the orange-colored sanctuary where our classes were held), I was often the student walking out of the deliverance room behind the sanctuary platform, humiliated and shamed, eyes swollen from sobbing for long periods of time, the student they had labeled as bound up with demonic strongholds so strong “it will probably take years to get free.” Each time, I wished I could just leave and go back to my dorm because I was so worn out—physically, from crying, and in my spirit, my heart really broken. But I didn't have the choice to leave—not if I wanted to remain as a student.

After I had just weathered an exhausting three-hour deliverance session, I was now expected to go straight from that (with no break or time to regain my composure) into the Orange. Student worship followed by an afternoon of classes had already begun. Over and over again, I buried my chin in my chest, ducking around the seemingly happy and freer-than-me students already worshipping and dancing. I found a place in a back corner, hoping no one noticed me. Sometimes the humiliation was far worse when I had to go straight up to the platform to help *lead* worship on my cello with the worship team immediately after intense deliverance (emphasis added). I tried to look down and away from the crowd of students before me as I played. I figured I must be the only one in the room who felt more bound up than I ever felt before I came to BRSM.

And much like I ducked into a dark corner at the back of the Orange after being put through those deliverance sessions, I have ducked and dodged telling this story for the last twenty-five years because of the continued humiliation I suffered—humiliation because *they* told me I should be humiliated—that I was to blame (emphasis in original). The abuses I suffered were at the hands of Bill Sudduth, who led the deliverance ministry at BRSM, and his wife, Janet (Pastoral

Care staff). Like Dr. Brown did with certain students, Bill and Janet picked me as their favorite, calling me their “spiritual daughter”—a guise used to manipulate and control me.

I enrolled in BRSM as a twenty-one-year-old in the fall of 1999 and graduated in the first graduating class at FIRE in the spring of 2001. My name was Sarah Schmitz at the time, and I played the cello in the Orange and at Brownsville AG Church on Bill Ancira’s worship team. Early in my first semester in 1999, I was casually sharing with a friend of mine about some mild depression I’d struggled with off and on since high school, nothing too paralyzing. I still had led a fulfilling life, growing in my faith in Jesus. Without asking my permission, my well-meaning friend (who I didn’t know had just joined the student deliverance team) went to Pastoral Care on my behalf and mentioned to Janet Sudduth that I could use their help. I received a message that *I had to go see Janet in Pastoral Care, which I did*. Janet spent a long time digging into my background and asking me about my emotional problems and asking probing personal questions about my childhood and upbringing. Again, looking back, *I know* I did not have any strange or particularly heavy or unusual emotional baggage!

I’d grown up in a Christian home with wonderful Christians all around me; I’d been a very successful student, athlete, and musician and had already done two years of full-time ministry around the world before coming to BRSM—I say all that to emphasis that, at worst, I’d struggled with some mild depression like so many do, probably mostly attributed to the fact that I am a hard-core perfectionist. So that first day, I answered Janet’s questions as best I could, and she told me I needed to go through deliverance, which they began right away. I had no previous experience with deliverance ministries and didn’t even know what Janet was talking about.

That was the beginning of what I now know was severe spiritual and physical abuse. My first deliverance session happened in the small room behind the Orange sanctuary platform. Initially, I was prescribed a rigorous deliverance schedule which continued for a while—***three hours each morning, right up until student worship started, three days a week—a total of nine hours of deliverance a week on top of a full student class load I was taking***. In addition, I was meeting with Janet at least once a week to go through inner healing where she got me to talk about the most intimate details of my past and relationships, ***sometimes telling me to close my eyes and wait for pictures to come to mind of events that supposedly happened to me that I had never even known about. She would then attach significance to those so-called unknown memories, convincing me they had created certain emotional, mental, or spiritual baggage in my life.***

I continued going through deliverance very regularly over the course of the following year at the sole discretion of Bill Sudduth (although I cannot recall how long the schedule of nine hours a week continued). Each time, I was seated in a chair in the middle of the room. Bill always was in charge and led it every time. I was surrounded by a deliverance team of four–six students to assist and pray for me. Deep down, I was always incredibly embarrassed by their presence because they were my peers. I sat with them in class, and I didn’t want them knowing my junk. Bill sat in a chair directly in front of me facing me, so close our knees were often touching. Sometimes he’d be so close that he was in my face. At times, it got aggressive so that his knee would be up in my crotch. He always had another man behind me.

Throughout the many months this went on, ***Bill would instruct me to VOLUNTARILY express (act out or physically release) anything I was feeling as I had the urge—he even said that if I***

needed to fart, burp, or yawn, it was important to release it as those were ways the spirits would manifest themselves, ultimately leading to my freedom (emphasis in italics added; capitalization in original). Bill told me not to hesitate—he said if I felt like swinging a punch, I should do it; if I had certain words come to mind, I should say them; if I felt like yelling something out, I should yell it to express anything demonic that had bound me. I struggled mentally and emotionally with this so much because I figured, if I really had a demonic stronghold, wouldn't it manifest itself *involuntarily* through me? (emphasis in original). (By the way, it is important to note that nothing involuntary *ever* manifested itself through me in any of those sessions [emphasis in original].) I was very hesitant to act out anything because it felt so wrong, even when I was feeling a lot of emotion. I usually just sobbed really hard through it all. Why? Because I was so confused and hurt by what they were putting me through!

With Bill's face sometimes only a foot or so from mine, he would speak to a demon of anger, fear, rage, sadness, antichrist, etc., going through long lists of demonic possibilities he was actually reading off sheets of paper he was holding. So often, I felt confused because the spirits he was praying against had nothing to do with how I felt or what I could relate to in my struggles. In many of my sessions, Bill had me speak and renounce in incredibly specific detail all the Masonic Lodge's curses and demonic names Masons speak over themselves. It disturbed me to even be forced to say them.

I told Bill early on I didn't know of any Masons in my family, but he said it was necessary because he assumed everyone has at least a distant family member who was a Mason. Bill always had a very angry look in his eyes when he would face me and speak to spirits. Once the deliverance sessions started, I do not recall Bill (or anyone in the room) addressing me—Sarah—directly. Bill was only ever addressing demons that he claimed he could supposedly see when staring into my eyes.

After the sessions, he would sometimes tell me he wasn't angry at *me*, but it didn't feel that way in the moment (emphasis in original). Each time Bill started to speak to a spirit of anger, rage, aggression, etc., a man behind me would preemptively hold my arms behind my back so I couldn't move. Bill would instruct the man to do this at the first signs of tension in my face or body after he named the spirit(s), *even though I had not acted out in aggression* (emphasis in original). Meanwhile, in that moment, the man would grab me; Bill would tell the spirits to "rise up," claiming he could see them. I would eventually tug and pull with my arms, but only after the man had pinned them behind my back—because what was happening to me was making me angry.

I was also doing my best to follow the instructions of this spiritual leader in front of me. One poignant moment is seared in my memory: In the midst of a physically rough deliverance session, I said to God in the agony of my spirit, "God, I didn't know *you* were like this!!" (emphasis in original). Something in my spirit tragically snapped that day as my picture of God was becoming warped. I felt in that moment as if God had betrayed me, that I had somehow been misguided throughout my youth to see Father God as gentle and compassionate. I felt like I had been punched in the gut with a new reality of God as *incredibly harsh*, requiring me to fight hard for my freedom (emphasis in original).

Shortly after I met them, Bill and Janet told me God had put them in my life as my “spiritual father and mother” and that I needed to trust them and submit to whatever they told me to do because that would be how I would ultimately find freedom.

The culture at BRSM was such that the leaders often referred to themselves as “spiritual mothers and fathers,” singling out certain students as favored above the rest. Bill and Janet spent a lot of time with me outside school hours, treating me as their favorite. They invited me to their home to spend the night; Janet would hold me like a mother when I was upset, sometimes kissing me on the head and calling me “my baby,” explaining that she thought of me as her “daughter.” After classes, they often invited me to get in their car and go out to eat dinner alone with them.

Once, Bill insisted I bring him my car keys because he did not want me to leave campus due to something trivial. I hesitantly obeyed, thinking, Can he really do that? Bill and Janet waited almost a year into our relationship before they chose to tell me I was “in sin” because I was playing orchestral secular music as a cellist with the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, a job I had held for the past year. Music has always been a very personal and special passion of mine, after growing up with my father having a long-time career with the Boston Symphony. They said I should quit my job with the orchestra as an important next step in my journey toward freedom. Believing them but so upset, I asked Bill Ancira (whose worship team I was on) about it. He said that was ridiculous and told me not to listen to them. I hesitantly took his advice and stayed with the Pensacola Symphony but wondered for a long period of time if I was in sin because I was a member of that orchestra.

I also felt guilty because I had not done what I was told. Like others felt toward Dr. Brown, I liked Bill and Janet’s special attention at the time. It felt wonderful amidst my misery to be loved and cared for like that, but really, they had crippled me, brainwashed me into thinking I was nothing without them, that I was just a basket case full of demonic strongholds that required their special attention. Bill and Janet had given a new demonic definition to just about every aspect of my personality and identity, even aspects of myself I formerly had believed were good. I remember so vividly when Bill told me I had some very deep-rooted demonic strongholds from which it would “probably take years to get free.” He said not to worry and promised they would walk with me through it, no matter how long it took.

But something went terribly wrong one day mid-year 2000 not long after Bill said that to me, causing them to abruptly abandon me. I went to Pastoral Care looking for Janet because, really, I was feeling emotional that day and just needed a hug and a short conversation of encouragement. Janet was gone, and instead, Bill Sudduth and Craig Fischer, another Pastoral Care staff member who worked closely in deliverance with Bill, met me in the hallway. (Craig Fischer had just graduated as a BRSM student in December 1999.) They asked me how I was doing. When I admitted I was struggling, they said they’d “deal with it.”

Without asking my permission, they told me to come into a nearby room, and they closed the door—I was alone with these two men in a room in Pastoral Care with no windows and the door closed. Bill and Craig immediately started to do impromptu deliverance, speaking specifically to “spirits of rage and anger” (the opposite emotions from what I felt when I came in there). Craig pinned my arms behind my back (even though I hadn’t shown aggression toward them) while Bill angrily got in my face, speaking to spirits. Bill acted extra angry that day as he got right up

in my face while Craig leaned against the wall, holding my arms together from behind. Something in me snapped, and I finally had enough!!!

I pulled and tugged as hard as I could, trying to get free, but was unable to. I started saying quietly but angrily, “Let me go!” but they would not. They completely ignored me and continued their deliverance techniques. I then began to say, “Let me go!” louder and louder until I was yelling and pulling to get free with all my might. I was desperately thinking I just wanted to run away from them out of that building. I fought Craig’s hold on me but could not get free, and Bill kept his eyes locked on mine, now shouting at spirits.

This went on violently until they finally wore out and stopped, right about the same time Sue Mead (Pastoral Care staff) and another woman came to the door because of the loud commotion. I was sobbing and exhausted, after fighting as hard as adrenaline would allow me. Bill, Craig, and the women left me to go back to my dorm alone. As I walked back to the dorm, I noticed the material on my button-up shirt had ripped between my breasts about four inches along the seam from the tussle. In this violent wrestling match, a man had used his strength against my will to completely overpower me. Why didn’t they let me go when I told them to? I kept thinking. Why didn’t they assume that was *me* speaking? (emphasis in original).

After spending an hour or so regaining my composure and thinking through what happened, I decided to walk back to Pastoral Care where I found Craig Fischer sitting in his office. I calmly asked him to think through how he and Bill had handled that situation with me. I prefaced my statements by saying that I had no intention of going after them legally because of my relationship with them, but I cautioned him that they needed to be careful how they handled those situations in the future because others might make it a legal matter. I then pointed out that they had not asked me if I wanted them to try deliverance on me in that moment. I told Craig that it was *me* yelling, “Let me go!” over and over, yet they had only thought of it as a demon (emphasis in original). I told him about the rip in my shirt from the tussle and warned Craig in the kindest way possible that this scenario didn’t look good since I was a female student. My true motivation in going to Craig was to warn him *out of consideration for them!* (emphasis in original). After all, they had groomed me to think that I needed their help to be free, and I felt totally dependent on them. Craig didn’t say much in response but had a disturbed expression. Because he wasn’t saying anything more, I went back to the dorm.

Within another hour or two, our dorm RA came to me and told me they wanted me to come back to Pastoral Care. When I arrived, I was escorted into the conference room full of all the Pastoral Care leadership—about ten people or so. I did not know many of them personally. Dr. Brown was not present, even though he was the president of BRSM at that time. I instantly knew I was in trouble. My heart was in my throat as no one was smiling. Bill, Janet, and Craig were there. They told me to sit. Sue Mead (Pastoral Care staff) took charge and said someone needed to bring a tape recorder.

When she said that, I realized this was about my warning of potential legal liability. I know now *they were scared*, but at the time I was just a young student intimidated by all these adults about to confront me, and *I was terrified*. I had no close personal relationship with Sue Mead, and she had only spoken with me a few times before that. She was irate, leading the conversation, angrily stating that she was told I said it was “just me” who had yelled and let myself get out of control

like that. She said how completely out of line and inappropriate my behavior was for a school of ministry student, if indeed that was “just me” getting that upset. ***She told me they were considering kicking me out of school for my bad behavior and would take a little time to consider it.*** I didn’t say much in response; I was just so scared at the thought of possibly being kicked out that I did not think I should say much.

Bill and Janet took me to their home to spend that night. It was all so surreal as I thought through the strong possibility that they would kick me out of school. I had been an exemplary student while there and even my whole life. I felt like my life was imploding. Janet came out to comfort me as she heard me crying on their couch that night. I certainly was not in a frame of mind to be at all upset with them. Instead, I felt very guilty because everyone in Pastoral Care seemed to agree that I had behaved very badly.

Within the next day or two, Pastoral Care told me they had decided to let me stay on as a student, provided they end their Pastoral Care relationship with me immediately, which put an immediate end to all the deliverance sessions and counseling I had been receiving. Bill and Janet also cut off their relationship with me immediately. In retrospect, I should have been relieved to be free of that, but that wasn’t how I saw it at the time. I was a broken mess, and I felt very abandoned. From then on, I would often be in the same rooms with Bill, Janet, or the other Pastoral Care leadership, but they avoided getting too close to me or talking to me.

In early December 2000, I chose to attend a second Cleansing Stream retreat in hopes that group deliverance sessions would give me the clarity I desperately needed concerning my experiences with deliverance without having to be the victim in the chair. At that time, I was doing my best to ignore my feelings of abandonment and rejection, the warped conviction I held that I was strangely different and more troubled than most, and a disturbing belief growing in me that God did not seem to be all-powerful over my enemies as I had grown up believing and maybe that He would never be able to set me free. God’s power seemed very small to me in contrast to the fixation I held that the demonic had supposedly overwhelmed so many areas of my soul.

At that time, I *was* trying to ignore all these raging feelings and still focus on pursuing God (emphasis in original). I was determined not to be beaten by it and still graduate from BRSM well. Much to my dismay, the very people who had hurt me were the greeters at the door, which I had not anticipated—I was suddenly face-to-face with Bill, Janet, and Sue Mead. Their greeting was the first time they had spoken to me since the falling out, and I went to my seat feeling deeply hurt all over again. I had planned to attend that C.S. retreat more as an onlooker in control of how I chose to participate. We had been instructed to wait in a long line for prayer about anger. When I got to the front of the line, I was directed to go to Sue Mead. Sue looked me straight in the eye and said, “If you have an offense against me, we need to talk it out and take care of it now.” Although scared, I admitted I was really hurt by being cut off by Pastoral Care. Sue told me I should come to her office to talk about it in the following days. Sue then looked me in the eyes and told “a spirit of anger” to “rise up” in me, calling Bill over to help her. My heart pounded in disbelief that they were trying that same tactic again, now in front of everyone—I had not come for that! I stifled all the emotions I was feeling, too scared and humiliated to let any expression show this time. Then Sue started speaking to “a spirit of control,” saying that was preventing me from showing my anger. I did not even flinch, and

eventually Bill and Sue gave up since I was not “manifesting,” as they called it. I left the retreat devastated and emotionally raw again, wishing I had not come.

The next week, Sue Mead did call me to her office to talk alone. She admitted vaguely that certain situations with me had not been handled appropriately and apologized for that (although she did not specify which situations). She then applauded me for having a strong enough faith to stick it out there when others would have just left the school. However, Sue did not offer me any further help or follow up even though I had shared with her how burned and hurt I was from it all.

I left her office that day feeling like I had only gotten a pat on the back from her for being strong despite their mistakes—she did not say she would be calling anyone to account for their ill treatment of me. It was just a private conversation between me and Sue. More importantly, I *never* got any apology from Bill Sudduth or Craig Fischer (emphasis in original). I was ignored by them, and they were allowed to continue in the same fashion with deliverance even after the school split, which I have verified. A few weeks after that Cleansing Stream retreat, the split occurred. I chose to go to FIRE to further sever ties with Pastoral Care at BRSM.

At the beginning of the first semester of FIRE in 2001, I approached Dr. Brown to talk to him alone after he had spoken to the student body. As I wrote in my journal entry that day, I thanked him for the many times he had walked by me with my cello on the platform and squeezed my shoulder or smiled at me in passing. **Dr. Brown’s response shocked me—he said each time he had done that it had been very heartfelt as he knew I needed the encouragement during the whole mess with Pastoral Care. I told him that I had no idea he even knew about that situation. Dr. Brown admitted that although he had not known all the details, he had been involved in the decision with Pastoral Care to allow me to stay at school.** He did not elaborate on why he made that choice, and we said nothing more about it that day. I journaled that “I was embarrassed yet touched that despite knowing about my ugly situation, he [Dr. B.] had still treated me with the love he did.” That was the mindset of shame and condemnation I held at that time. I had been made to feel like I was a recipient of unmerited grace from them. Looking back on it now, I wonder why Dr. Brown, as the president, never chose to talk to me directly about my falling out with Pastoral Care when it happened.

In my final semester at FIRE, I got to know Tobi Peters, and eventually I shared what had happened to me at BRSM with her and Dr. Peters. Tobi met with me casually as a friend many times and let me talk about it. She and Dr. Peters agreed I had been mistreated by Pastoral Care and were very disturbed to hear how deliverance had been handled with me (especially since Dr. Peters had been doing the deliverance ministry at BRSM before Bill Sudduth).

I have not stayed in contact with Tobi Peters since then, but she was a friend to me back then. Shortly before I graduated in the spring of 2001, it was suggested to Dr. Brown that he should meet with me to hear my whole story of what I was put through at BRSM. I remember that meeting vividly. **He led me alone into the tiny former movie projection room at the back of the sanctuary (previously a movie theater) at New Dimensions,** pulled up a chair, sat close facing me, and let me tell him what happened at BRSM with the deliverance teams and Pastoral Care. **Over the years it has always bothered me when I remember how Dr. Brown chose to**

take me into that tiny enclosed room to meet rather than sitting down together out in the sanctuary (I do not recall anyone else being present in either room that day).

I thought it was strange: **Dr. Brown and I were totally alone in that small room.** He was sitting so close to me, listening to my story with a smirk of amazement on his face. He said he was shocked that I did not just leave the school when they threatened to kick me out. I explained that I am not a quitter, and I did not want the situation to get the better of me. In that conversation, Dr. Brown did not mention his involvement in the decision to let me stay at school, as he had admitted to me several months before.

He apologized to me for not properly overseeing what was happening in Pastoral Care with the deliverance ministry while he was President of BRSM. Dr. Brown did not offer to help me further or follow up with me. He did not express any intent to confront on my behalf those who had hurt me (who he had been overseeing). It began and ended as nothing more than a private conversation between me and Dr. Brown. I left, keenly aware that the damage was already done. I was spiritually shipwrecked, and the perpetrators of my abuse were not confronted. Instead, they were allowed to continue wielding the same damaging tactics against others.

I graduated from FIRE, a broken mess with a very warped view of God. I continued as a musician in Pensacola and was backslidden for several years until God used a few special friends to help me find my way back to trust Jesus again. Maybe I needed some inner healing from some emotional wounds when I first came to BRSM like most people probably do. But I am convinced now that I didn't need deliverance.

Some of you reading this have probably had personal victories through deliverance ministry, and I'm happy for you. God is our Deliverer, and I acknowledge that most certainly, demonic strongholds or demonic possession can take hold of some people and require authentic Holy Spirit-guided deliverance that comes from Jesus's name alone. But that name is all-powerful and does not require abuse and long ordeals to get the job done when Jesus's servants are submitted to Him.

I share this to bring to light that other leaders under Dr. Brown's authority were also wielding the same spirit of manipulation and control as Dr. Brown over students like me. I bring this story into the light now because I feel I must be free from the shame I have associated with it and because I believe many of you may be out there who are still very wounded from their false ideologies and deliverance techniques. I hope my story will give you courage to find your voice and get the help you need.

Elizabeth L.

I had shared a post on Facebook on a grad page for my ministry school. The woman whom I shared my story with had a prolonged difficult time with our deliverance ministry. She asked me to tell you my story.

In 1998, when I was approximately eighteen years old, I had sought out deliverance ministry at BRSM as I was struggling with depression. I don't remember the exact day. But I had been

encouraged by another student that the deliverance ministry could be very helpful in dealing with psychological and emotional issues, especially for those of us from families with a lot of dark history.

I believe I had an appointment for the deliverance session. I don't remember where or the adult man's name, but I was led through deliverance prayers. An adult man and another male BRSM student were praying over me. *After the deliverance prayers, the adult man told me that I had some sort of sex demon* (emphasis added). He said he knew this because of shadows he could see on my face. He told me this while the male BRSM student continued to pray quietly.

I was led to believe that I might need more prayer for this sex demon. I honestly can't remember. But I remember being very embarrassed and ashamed. I didn't grow up in a Christian house, and I could go on about why this was so painful and sounded true to me, and why I didn't disbelieve I had a sex demon. At the same time, I pushed it all away and tried not to think about the encounter. I was forever embarrassed when I saw the male BRSM student around campus.

I am happy to answer any questions, but I honestly don't remember many details. I think I've worked every day to forget that experience. As such, I never shared this experience.

Milissa McGavin

I was part of the second class that went to BRSM and then later followed leadership to FIRE. Before that I was part of Brownsville Assembly of God even before "revival." I don't know where I should start because there is a lot. *Between deliverance sessions that seemed endless, and the weekly accountability sessions with Nancy Brown and Tobi Peters*, I felt like whatever I had known of God was way off, and therefore I was way off (emphasis added).⁷⁴

I submitted as well as I could, and it was not enough. My reputation was ruined, and I was treated like I was a sinner who chose not to be free from a demonic stronghold. At the time, I did not realize that what I was experiencing was abusive—I just wanted God, and if they said I needed to get rid of all of my childhood treasures, heirlooms, journals, etc., because they had demonic strongholds attached to them, then I did. Now, it breaks my heart so much.

I've been in therapy for eight years for PTSD, and my therapist believes that most of my trauma comes from spiritual abuse from FIRE Church and the BRSM/FIRE School.

Part of the Lashbrook Saga

I adopted children from Haiti. When my children came home, they began to open up to me about horrific sexual and physical abuse. My son also told me that his parents were not dead as I had been told (with elaborate detail) but that they were both alive—the circumstances surrounding my daughter and son being put up for adoption are sketchy.

I drank the Kool-Aid. I truly believe that I was a victim of a cult culture.

⁷⁴ EN: It seems that the Pastoral Care department that was doing deliverance was destroying the person's understanding of God and turning Him into something wholly unbiblical. This was also the testimony of Sarah Schmitz.

When I discovered what my Haitian children shared with me, I did go to legal authorities, and I went to Globe International and spoke with Doug Gehman, who advised me that I should not pursue legal action. He told me that the church handles matters like this in-house, according to Scripture. I knew that was not right, and yet I was still under the thumb of that cult mentality. As I said, I still chose to go to the legal authorities.

I reached out to Michael Brown (or he reached out to me; I don't recall which off the top of my head). Michael Brown chose to involve himself directly in interacting with Doug. Michael Brown told me and the rest of the parents who were going through this to stand down. You will see that in the attachments. I have so much information that I can share with you. I know the scope of your investigation is limited to Michael Brown, but I am telling you, his reach is far stretching, and many more are involved in this.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or for clarification. Thank you for what you are doing. Justice must come.

The ICE investigator assigned to investigate what happened to my children told Natalie (another parent) within the last month that the biggest hinderance that stymied our case from moving forward was that we involved Globe and the church. He said it should have only ever been reported to legal authorities. I didn't know that. Natalie didn't know that. We were taught to go through proper channels for accountability. We believed our spiritual leaders and did what they said. We only learned later that they were wrong and that it would hurt our case.

The task force team at Globe International took the information that we parents shared with them and went into Haiti and began to remove children whom my children identified as having been abused. Globe made Haitian staff sign paperwork. Michael Brown has a strong influence on Globe, and he inserted himself throughout the "task force" investigation.

Note: Sandy Carter (one of the task team members) shared with Natalie and me that she was chosen for the team because while she and her ex-husband were working in Nicaragua, she caught her ex raping a nine-year-old child. She had a young daughter at the time and still chose to stay with him for nearly a year, trying to work things out. When I asked her if she ever reported the rape to authorities, she said no as if she couldn't believe I asked. She said that he had repented. We were immersed in this mindset and culture.⁷⁵

Michael Brown had no right to tell us parents not to seek legal action for our children.

The church and school had no right to force me into endless deliverance sessions. If I reacted in any way, they believed it was a demonic manifestation, and they would do whatever they felt was appropriate to ensure the demon did not have control. For example, I could not sit at times, I was not allowed to avert my eyes, if I attempted to leave, it was considered a demon trying to escape their authority—and I believed they were gatekeepers of truth that I somehow was not privy to. If I crossed my arms or legs, I was resisting the demons from leaving, so at times, my legs were forced flat in a sitting position or my arms restrained to keep me from crossing them.

⁷⁵ EN: Sadly, many churches feel they have the right to disobey Romans 13 and handle crimes within the church. It happens constantly where pedophiles are given second and third chances by leaders in the church because they don't want to ruin the life of the pedophile. If only they had the same concern for the victims.

Since this was supposedly an issue for me, I was forced into accountability sessions with Nancy Brown, even though I was already going through accountability sessions with Tobi.

Michael Brown seemed to start warming up to me the following semester as he would walk alongside me and wrap his arm around me, pulling me close to his side. That was unusual because the school had a strict policy that there was to be no appearance of impropriety (emphasis added).⁷⁶

Of course, it wasn't improper if Michael Brown was acting improperly. I had an incredible feeling of favor.

It is also important to note that I was homeless apart from my dormitory while attending BRSM—so there was no way that I was going to interrupt having a stable place to live and eat. Even if, for some reason, I had the epiphany that what I was experiencing was wrong, saying anything about it would have caused me to be kicked out, which would have meant that my basic human needs of shelter and food were not met. We were not permitted to correct or question authority.

Michael Brown got up in front of the class in the Orange (the largest classroom and sanctuary) and rebuked the whole class, saying that a student had come forward and confessed to having sex with a student in our class. I knew exactly who he was referring to because I knew that this student was trying to get ahead of what he did.⁷⁷

Michael Brown talked from the pulpit about what sort of panties the ladies should wear. He said if we chose to wear thong panties, then it was a sign of what was hidden in our hearts. In other words, we were intentionally trying to cause our brothers to stumble. At one point, he even rebuked the ladies for wearing perfume, stating that we were trying to lure our brothers into sin.

Amber Sykes

My name is Amber Sykes. I graduated from Fire School of Ministry, worked as an Administrative Assistant for the LOF, and served on the pastoral team for Fire Church while my husband was the worship leader.

In no way, do I feel bitter or vengeful towards Dr. Brown or any other leaders that my story involves. In fact I love them so deeply that I walked in silence for seven plus years thinking that silence was honoring the Lord and men and women of God. Even in moments of devastating pain, I continued to walk in relationship with many leaders and people in the “Fire” community. That alone was very difficult because what happened to us was not public knowledge, even to 95% of the people in our support system, even our closest friends. In fact, we were asked not to speak about it, and if anyone asked us, we were encouraged to send them to key leaders. To this

⁷⁶ EN: As previously noted, Sarah was told by Dr. Brown to stop sitting with her friend J. because it was giving the wrong impression, despite the fact that they were both adults and both single.

⁷⁷ This student raped my friend [name redacted], and she didn't know what to do with the information. She knew that if she went to leadership about what had happened, they would not believe her because they would say that she should have never put herself in the position to be sexually assaulted. But she was kicked out of school without compassion or therapy.

day, many congregants and leaders alike still do not know the truth of what happened to us and how the truth was hidden and concealed.

It has been very difficult unraveling how or if I should speak up on these things. Battling if speaking is “gossip” or even betrayal of what I say will hurt the people I love so dearly. I did indeed speak with Jim Holler and shared my story, even though I knew it would probably not be allowed within the scope of the investigation. I was shocked when another employee’s experience that was favorable in honoring Dr. Brown did fit into the investigation, and I am so grateful my friend did not experience any pain or trauma. However, if there was room for her positive experience that was, in my opinion, outside of the scope of the investigation, there should be room for mine as well.

I did not feel safe around Dr. Brown. I will share some experiences and feelings I had while working for him (which is not easy for me to share, and I have battled much shame and guilt around these feelings, but I chose to be vulnerable). The first memory I have of entering Dr. Brown’s office was to drop off some papers that needed his signature. He was sitting at his desk. I immediately felt my heart start pounding, and for no reason that I could visibly explain, I felt trapped, like I wanted to get out of there and never return. In fact, from that day forward, I decided that I never wanted to be in a room alone with Dr. Brown ever again.

There was nothing notable that should have caused my body to be unsafe, but it did. So, every time from that encounter on, if I had things to drop off to Dr. Brown, which I did at least once a week, sometimes more, I would evaluate when he would be not in the building, or when he was on live in the radio room, and I would choose those times. However, even though I knew most likely I wouldn’t encounter him, I would still, if no one was at the main desk, jog into his office and run out and back down the hallway, and if someone was close by, I would speed walk in and out. Most of my life, when I had this feeling, it proved that I was truly not safe. I beat myself up inside for having that feeling of being unsafe around Dr. Brown and judged myself a lot. However, I still continued from the moment my feet entered the hallway until I left his side of the building, every time I experienced those feelings in my body again.

Dr. Brown and I hardly ever had encounters in my office in the first half of my employment—maybe a hand wave as he walked by to visit another office. However, that changed after we were unexpectedly dismissed from Fire Church, while the facts behind that dismissal were concealed. I will try to explain more about that below. For this section, I will not be speaking to what Dr. Brown’s intentions were, because I do not know. However, I will be sharing how I felt and how it affected me.

Dr. Brown’s encounters with me changed, and I wanted to run every time. After I told someone what happened to us, either at the hands of his decision or with his approval, and that I knew it was not being shared with others truthfully and that something was off and I knew it (those were shared with other leaders not directly with him personally), Dr. Brown started coming to my office frequently and at a more increased rate. I remember him stopping by to chat more and more frequently, mostly in the doorway, and at times he would sit. The conversations were very “normal,” too normal, in my opinion, in light of what had just occurred with us being let go and **telling everyone it was our desire to leave**—which it wasn’t. I remember thinking many times, “Why are you here? I wish you would leave.” I felt trapped. I even stopped pressing to speak to other leaders about what was happening to us because he acted like he had zero clue that we were hurting or mistreated.

He acted so innocent that I concluded he must not even know anything about it (although I know now that was not true). Even at that conclusion, no matter how much I tried to convince my body I was safe in his presence—after all, he is our leader, a man of God, everyone else here respects him, and I trust them—my body never felt safe! I would stoop down, acting like I was picking up paper when he would come by to try to avoid contact, but he would typically see me. **So, I started as a grown woman who was in ministry, HIDING under my desk from Dr Brown.** When I heard his voice in the main office area I would quickly shut off all my lights, shut my laptop, rush under my desk and pull my chair in to make it look like I wasn't there... and wait... wait for him to leave, sometimes three minutes, sometimes 15; it just depended what he would need to do or get in the other offices. I would wait until it felt safe. I hated that I did that, and that I couldn't convince myself that I could be safe in his presence.

The whole time, I accused myself of being broken or in unforgiveness or bitterness, but I wasn't. I was hurt, yes, but I still loved everyone and honored them. In fact, I even confessed and sought out counsel with another employee who worked as a counselor. I told him I was hiding under my desk from Dr. Brown and asked what I should do. He told me in short, I needed to either leave or stop hiding. I don't remember him asking me why I didn't feel safe, or that being reported further.

I did, over time, mention it briefly to other leaders in my life, and I don't remember anyone asking why I didn't feel safe. The assumption was basically the same. I thought I needed more forgiveness and healing. You know I really thought that was it too... until recently... I'll sum it up this way: there were five leader teams at least that were a part of our Apostolic Team that were all involved in the happenings of our lives that either approved or eventually allowed what occurred with our dismissal, by not preventing or correcting it, and one other couple that also knew what was happening, all whom either stopped by my office and I never felt unsafe in their presence.

One other thing that stood out to me is that every time my husband Reggie wanted to go back to visit the offices once I stopped working there, I never wanted to because I didn't want to run into Dr. Brown. The other leaders were fine, but I still felt unsafe around Dr. Brown. I invited the other leaders even to events in our lives. When I did go into the office, I never sought out to visit Dr Brown, and I did other leaders. Even then, the distinction between feeling safe around the others and not him or the other times I would hide or avoid him, I don't know how I didn't see the red flags or accept what my body was trying to communicate. It is still sad to me that I did not trust my own inner warnings then. But I do now.

Recommendations

We are not in a position of authority over Michael Brown, so we address this to those who do have authority in his life. The issue of whether or not Dr. Brown should be in public preaching ministry will ultimately be decided by the Body of Christ. In his first public appearance since being reinstated, he spoke on the Eric Metaxas show on TBN (possibly pre-recorded). Judging from the comments section on YouTube, it was not widely received. Dr. Brown's opening comments reveal a deep level of cognitive dissonance when you compare his actions to his words:

“What do you do when you see evil? ... What do you do when you see injustice? ... You do something. You speak. You act. You shine the light.”

We saw injustice. We spoke. We acted. We shined the light. But Dr. Brown bobbed and weaved, gaslit, made up different stories for different people, and sometimes outright lied. Some people say that the cover-up is worse than the crime. We will not say that, because we know that Sarah, Ray, and their families are hurting. We do not want to minimize the effects of their trauma. However, the 23-year effort to keep his actions from coming to light seems like pathological behavior—contrary to the standards for any believer, much less someone who regularly speaks of himself as a “elder and father in the body.” And it was not adequately taken into account in the EAT Report.

What is lacking from anything we have heard from Mike so far, is an understanding of the traumatic effects of his behavior on the soul of Sarah Monk St. Pierre.

“The word **trauma means *wound***, so a trauma is a wound to the mind, the heart, and the soul. Sometimes it's a wound to the body as well. But it is a wound to the *whole person*, and it happens when suffering overwhelms what we would consider normal human coping.”⁷⁸

There seems to be a lack of empathy. Dr. Brown has offered words for his own repentance, but what about how his actions hurt Sarah and Ray? His weak attempts fall short of facing the reality of Sarah's delayed response due to trauma. His actions during the past several months, which we will not repeat here, revealed a *fighting* spirit, not a *broken* spirit. Appearing again on the Internet to talk about the need for Christians to fight for their rights (with Metaxas), while ignoring the traumatic elephant in the room, only underscores that Dr. Brown seems far more focused on preserving his place in Christian media than doing the real work of repentance, confession, and making amends.

While the EAT report seemed to minimize Dr. Brown's actions, here are a few things that, to our knowledge, he has never denied:

- He pressured Kim not to sleep with her husband.
- He had an erotic text, email, and phone relationship with Kim.
- In the midst of these conversations, he pressured her to meet him privately.

⁷⁸ Diane Langberg, “Encouraging People to Open Up After Trauma,” *CareLeader.org*, December 14, 2016, <https://careleader.org/encouraging-people-open-trauma>. Emphasis added.

- He reached behind his seat in the car when the two couples went out for dinner, to feel her leg.
- He did something similar with Sarah while his wife was driving around New York City and staff members were in the backseat.
- He met Sarah privately late at night and put his arm around her (possibly inside the store).
- He sat alone with her in a car in a Walmart parking lot late at night.
- He took her hand and held it in front of several students, announcing that he could do that because she was like a spiritual daughter to him. He did this without consent.
- She sat in his lap according to two witnesses.
- She was often alone with him in his office.
- He made physical contact with her backside—what she says were smacks on her rear end on a regular basis.
- He and Nancy asked Sarah to forgive Mike’s indiscretions with Kim on behalf of the entire student body, giving her the idea that there was some kind of representative forgiveness taking place. (Why did they not simply tell her that Mike had already repented months ago, and these sins are under the blood, as he is telling us now?)

The only thing that Mike vehemently denies (that we know of) is that he kissed Sarah on the lips. While most of us do not believe him because of his history of lying regarding these relationships, even if he is telling the truth, he is clearly guilty of sexual misconduct for the actions listed above—for using his status as a powerful revival leader and prophetic voice to gain ungodly access to these two women.

We hear reports daily of Dr. Brown calling up pastors or asking to call them up to share his side. So no, of course he is not healthy enough to be back in ministry. Dr. Brown needs to be in therapy. We are not psychologists, but based on things he has written, there are delusions of grandeur regarding his calling and importance. In his letter to the Tikkun leadership, he said that *lives would be at stake* if these allegations became public. He believed that those who were seeking to hold him accountable were deceived agents of Satan, trying to destroy his life and ministry. In our view, there is severe tension between Dr. Brown’s perception of his own importance and his lack of self-awareness regarding the pain he has caused, his changing stories, and the implications of so many former friends, students, and ministry followers calling for his repentance. This makes us wonder if a qualified professional might diagnose him with narcissistic personality disorder, “a mental health condition characterized by a pervasive pattern of grandiosity, need for admiration, and lack of empathy, beginning in early adulthood.”⁷⁹

Dr. Brown claimed that God told him there would be no article. He said that God repeatedly told him, “I have your back,” and gave him the passage Isaiah 54:17, “No weapon formed against you shall prosper.” He had a deep conviction that God was not going to allow any of this to become public. But it did, revealing that whatever voices he heard were not coming from the Holy Spirit.

⁷⁹ “What Is Narcissistic Personality Disorder?” *American Psychiatric Association*, January 30, 2024, <https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/what-is-narcissistic-personality-disorder>

We do not make the following claim lightly. But how could a person being investigated for CSA publish an autobiography, celebrating his life in ministry during the investigation?⁸⁰ Dr. Brown has framed this confrontation in various ways: as persecution against him—a “witch hunt,”⁸¹ as a trial that God is using in his life, and the actions of those who are trying to destroy him—instead of accurately seeing it as God’s gracious act of exposure of his sins because he failed to follow due process, and is now giving him the opportunity to make things right. We are genuinely concerned for him. This is not the man that we thought we knew.

What are our recommendations?

We are certain that Dr. Brown needs therapy from a qualified psychologist. He needs help in understanding the damage and traumatic effects of CSA. Once he arrives at that point, he must repent and make amends. We believe it was inappropriate for the EAT to suggest an in-person meeting between Dr. Brown and the two survivors. Once Dr. Brown is in a healthy place, those representing him can reach out to those representing the survivors, and they can ask the survivors if they would like to proceed in any type of reconciliation, whether by phone, in writing, or in person. That is their choice to make.

Some make the mistake of conflating forgiveness with being willing to meet with someone that you still consider to be a danger. We can testify that Sarah has forgiven Dr. Brown’s sins against her. But there is another step in forgiveness. As believers in Jesus, we must forgive the offender even if he does not understand his offense or explicitly repent for what he has actually done. However, the next step of forgiveness can only come after Dr. Brown fully comprehends and repents for the destructive nature of his actions.

The beautiful part of Sarah’s story is that, through confronting the abuser whose actions pushed her away from the faith, she has come back to the Savior whom she knew so long ago. The act of addressing one’s abuser is not evil, nor is it rooted in revenge. It is dealing with truth. When a survivor denies that she was abused, her healing process is stymied. Sarah came out from the shadows and confronted a very powerful and beloved preacher and teacher. She was scared; she did not know if she would be believed. What she found was that those who knew her many years ago at BRSM/FIRE would believe her, embrace her, and love her.

Dr. Brown’s elder accountability team is free to recommend whatever they feel is best for him. But this story is not about him—it is about Sarah Monk St. Pierre, *a survivor, advocate, and overcomer!*

Update: May 9, 2025

In this section, we did not plan to take a position on Mike Brown’s fitness for ministry, but rather, we wanted to allow the Body of Christ to decide whether they choose to continue to follow him. However, in Dr. Brown’s latest video, he again shows no evidence of repentance (other than apologizing for being a “source of pain or confusion”). He doesn’t tell his viewers

⁸⁰ Even if that was the publisher’s decision, he could’ve encouraged them to wait. In the end, they paused the publication because of the public backlash.

⁸¹ Letter to Tikkun Leaders, November 16, 2024.

what the investigator concluded—that he committed sexual sin and evaded responsibility. Mike continued to spread the *lie* that when the allegations surfaced, his board *immediately* called for a third-party independent investigation, and he enthusiastically agreed (texts messages prove this false).

People watching the video could easily assume that he cooperated, not because he was guilty, but because it was the right thing to do, despite *not being guilty*. It was, in our opinion, an incredibly deceptive PR stunt to make it appear that Dr Brown willingly stepped away from ministry for the good of the kingdom and then was exonerated. There’s no mention of his “inappropriate relationship” with Kim, or his “sexually abusive misconduct”⁸² with Sarah—not even “leadership misconduct.” He also doesn’t mention that when Ron Cantor, in the presence of two others, suggested the exact same thing—take a brief break for ministry and allow for an investigation—he resisted. Not only did he resist, he was adamant that the issue of Kim would not be discussed. Now he’s telling the whole world in his video that he said, **“I want everything to come to light. ... I'll give you my cell phone, laptop, everything ...”**

Coupling that with Pastor Landon Schott and Mercy Culture Church’s showering him with confetti like a champion, we must take an unambiguous stand. (Mike even “liked” these photos, further demonstrating a lack of humility, having no idea how painful these pictures are to victims and survivors.) In his video, he’s very concerned that people might divide over him. [which is ironic because I, Ron, just (May 14, 2025) received a letter from his lawyer, threatening me with a lawsuit] There is certainly one way to keep us from dividing over whether or not Mike Brown should be in ministry—*step aside, Mike*.

Mike Brown is presently—and perhaps permanently—unfit for any position of church or ministry leadership. Neither should he be teaching at any level at this time. That is our position.

We therefore call on fellow leaders to insist that he step down from all leadership roles.

Ron Cantor
Bob Gladstone
Keith Collins
Mike Lubanovic

⁸² Jim Holler, “Investigation into the Allegations of Sexually Abusive Misconduct Involving Michael Brown,” Firefly Independent Sexual Abuse Investigations, April 18, 2025, https://mock-askdrbrown.cdn.prismic.io/mock-askdrbrown/aAKvSuvxEdbNPPAi_FireflyReport.pdf.



