



GRACE Independent Investigation Announcement

On January 10, 2013, GRACE begins a comprehensive independent investigation into any and all complaints related to sexual abuse disclosures made to representatives of Bob Jones University and Bob Jones Academy. First and foremost, please understand that GRACE is not a representative of Bob Jones University or Bob Jones Academy, but is working independently from all parties involved. This is a necessary and critical component of any credible third party investigation. Second, though the subject matter of this investigation may be very difficult and painful for many, GRACE respectfully requests every effort be made to read this announcement in its entirety.

GRACE was formed in 2004 by a group of widely respected experts from various disciplines, who have spent their lives advocating for the protection and safety of abuse survivors. GRACE believes it is critical that the Christian community understand the evils and complexities of sexual abuse and how it must be confronted at all cost. During the past eight years, GRACE has primarily focused on two areas related to abuse: prevention and response. GRACE works with churches and other Christian organizations on how to minimize opportunities for abuse to occur within their environments. We also train and equip the Christian community to understand the vital importance of responding to abuse disclosures in a manner that demonstrates knowledge of the issues, adherence to the law, and compassion to those involved.

In recent years, GRACE has worked with various Christian institutions and abuse survivors in addressing allegations regarding past abuse disclosures. Understandably, the survivors of such abuse oftentimes do not trust the institution to internally investigate and evaluate such claims. As a result, GRACE has been retained to act as a third party investigator and provide an open and objective analysis of the facts, along with recommendations.

A few months ago, GRACE was asked by Bob Jones University to investigate any and all complaints made to representatives of Bob Jones University or Bob Jones Academy related to sexual abuse. Bob Jones University/Academy indicated that the purpose of such an investigation is to identify any areas where either institution may have failed to adequately respond to sexual abuse disclosures, or may have conveyed inappropriate information regarding sexual abuse. The Bob Jones University/Academy leadership has communicated to GRACE that acknowledging and understanding any recognized failures will better equip both Bob Jones University and Bob Jones Academy to demonstrate authentic repentance to those who have been harmed, while also making the necessary institutional changes to insure that such is never repeated. In order for this process to achieve its purpose and maintain credibility, it is fundamental that GRACE work wholly independent from Bob Jones University/Academy and that the GRACE Final Report be published to the public in its entirety. GRACE agreed to conduct this investigation upon the assurances of

the Bob Jones University/Academy leadership of its commitment to such independence and its promise to fully cooperate with the GRACE investigative team.

Scope of Independent Investigation

The scope and purpose of this independent investigation is to address the responses of Bob Jones University and Bob Jones Academy to instances of [adult or child] sexual abuse disclosed or otherwise known to the institution or employees or other agents of the institution. GRACE will also investigate complaints of any inappropriate statements made by Bob Jones University/Academy representatives related to [adult or child] sexual abuse.

Although this investigation is focused on matters related to sexual abuse, GRACE recognizes that many sexual abuse victims are also physically and/or spiritually abused or neglected. Accordingly, GRACE will receive evidence as to all forms of alleged maltreatment inflicted upon sexual abuse victims.

For the purpose of this independent investigation, sexual abuse includes both child sexual abuse and adult sexual assault defined as follows:

Child sexual abuse is any sexual activity--verbal, visual or physical—upon a minor (a person 17 years of age or younger). The minor is considered unable to consent due to developmental immaturity and an inability to understand sexual behavior. Such activity may be perpetrated on the minor by an adult or another minor, or the minor may be required to perform any or all of the above.

Adult sexual assault is any type of sexual contact of an adult (a person 18 years of age or older) where consent is not freely given or obtained, and it is accomplished through pressure, force, intimidation, violence, coercion, manipulation, threat, deception, or abuse of authority. An adult who is mentally or physically incapacitated is not capable of giving consent.

Please note that the scope of this investigation includes any and all instances of [adult or child] sexual abuse disclosed or otherwise known to the institution, involving members of the Bob Jones University community as either victims or alleged perpetrators.

The Process

GRACE is not a governmental agency and therefore does not possess subpoena power to require the participation of witnesses. Thus, in order for this investigation to be thorough and comprehensive, GRACE must rely on the voluntary cooperation and assistance of any and all individuals who possess relevant information. We acknowledge and understand that some of you may be reluctant to come forward for various reasons. Please know that GRACE will work with each and every potential witness to make the process comfortable, informal, and confidential. Without the willingness of individuals to step forward and provide information to our team, it will be impossible to uncover the necessary truths that are so fundamental to the purposes of this investigation.

The GRACE Investigative Team, led by former prosecutor Charissa Sloan Dvorak, is seeking input from any individual with knowledge relevant to this investigation. If you or anyone you know has any information that you believe may be helpful to this independent investigation, GRACE asks that you complete [brief confidential survey](#). This confidential survey is one of the most critical components of this investigation, because it will provide the GRACE team with

some basic and necessary facts about the information you possess. The completed surveys will be used by the GRACE team in determining what further evidence must be examined. As of now, this confidential survey will be available online until **April 30, 2013**. Thus, completing the survey as soon as possible will greatly assist the GRACE team in pressing forward with the investigation. Lastly, please note that the identities of those who participate in this survey will be kept strictly confidential and will only be voluntarily accessible to the GRACE investigative team.

Although we anticipate that many will be able to help us in this process, we also realize that experiences are deeply personal and that some may not want to discuss or in any way re-visit these experiences. Please know that the GRACE team completely understands if some choose not to participate in the online survey or any other aspect of this investigation. Your physical and emotional well-being must come first.

There are a number of individuals who may have information relevant who may not be aware of this investigation. Please forward this announcement to anyone you know who may have helpful information but is not aware of this investigation. The GRACE team very much wants to establish contact with everyone who may information helpful to this investigation.

In closing, the GRACE team is very sensitive to the fact that this investigation may uncover very painful memories of deeply hurtful experiences. We are prayerful that this difficult but necessary process may be able to bring a new dawn of hope and healing for hurting souls, along with positive institutional changes for both Bob Jones University and Bob Jones Academy.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please direct any investigation questions and inquiries to grace.bobjones@netgrace.org.

Boz Tchividjian, J.D.
Executive Director, GRACE

[Go to online confidential survey](#)

Updates to this investigation will be available on the GRACE website at [Bob Jones University Investigation](#).