
Question for the Exec Board

28 messages

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 12, 2021 at 4:23 PM

To: Jeff Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Travis Teri Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jason Lori Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Amy* Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>
Cc: Robert Kelli Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Hello my brothers,

After talking with Jeff and hearing conflicting opinions and concerns from others, and after hearing that Brother Gardner continues to communicate with and influence VBM leadership...

I had a personal question that I thought I'd ask you directly without emailing the whole VBM email ring.

"What is VBM leadership's current position and plans concerning Bro Gardner regarding his coming back and working with VBM?"

Thank you for your patience and taking the time to consider my question.

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 12, 2021 at 11:59 PM

To: Jeff Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Travis Teri Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jason Lori Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Amy* Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>
Cc: Robert Kelli Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Gentlemen,

My apologies if I came across in a way that I did not intend.

I spoke with Robert Canfield for 4 hours tonight at the church and realize now that my tone and intentions are not clear in my email or in the way that I expressed my question.

I think that it is great that people communicate with and encourage and try to help Bro Gardner. I hope and pray for his family and for healing and restoration with all of God's people.

I am not trying to take a side and am not pushing you all to take a side either. I'm simply confused and have a hard time understanding the situation everyone is going through.

I realize there is no simple or clear answer or path. I understand that there are many perspectives and different opinions and things to consider and that I am woefully inadequate, lacking in maturity, and probably a very frustrating person to work with.

I am sorry for causing more difficulty and am sincerely glad that you men are doing the best you can to do the best and right things.

I was asking for clarity and help in understanding. I want to push VBM 100% and am asking as a friend and younger and less mature brother if you are able to continue to be patient with me as I wait on the Lord and do my best to trust Him and His timing.

Thank you for your leadership, patience, and understanding

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 12, 2021, at 4:23 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello my brothers,

[Quoted text hidden]

Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 3:47 AM

To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Cc: Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Hey Brendon,

Our only official position regarding Bro. Gardner is what we stated in our last letter, "He is not in any contractual relationship or leadership role within Vision Baptist Missions." Though each missionary has the freedom to work out their own personal and ministry relationship with Bro. Gardner through counsel from their own church and pastor, there are no official or unofficial plans by the executive board to have him come back and work with VBM at this time.

As you know, on October 9, VBM was given a letter from Vision Baptist Church stating, "at this time we cannot recommend Austin Gardner for the ministry." Because of this assessment by Vision Baptist Church, it will take some time for Bro. Gardner to prove, as the letter from VBC puts it, "his repentance of sinful patterns in his leadership."

Also, as you know, on October 31, Bro. Gardner changed his membership to a new church, so, according to VBM's own policies, Bro. Gardner would either need to be restored by Vision Baptist or be "a member of an independent Baptist Church that is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of Vision Baptist Missions for at least two years" before he could become a missionary with VBM.

So, as you can see, it is very early days to be making any plans about Bro. Gardner working with VBM again. I would be surprised if he is looking to work with VBM again in an official capacity because he stated in his resignation that he is no longer associated with Vision Missions and will never seek to be again.

I think that all of us hope that eventually there will be reconciliation between him and Vision Baptist Church or at least clear evidence over a period of time that he has repented and changed of those things they found disqualified him from ministry. For something like that to happen, it will probably take quite a bit of time. If that does happen, then perhaps it could be possible for VBM to work with him in some way.

Of course, any decision to work with him officially or to have him begin teaching at the training center or something like that would need to be approved by the executive board of VBM who would want to consult with the pastoral advisory committee as well as the new board of directors that will be set up next year.

So, as far as the executive board of VBM is concerned, it is far too early to be making any plans for him to work at VBM or speculating on what might be done in the future. The main thing for all of us is to focus on is doing the work that Lord has for us and seeking to grow and become more Christlike. I hope that is helpful.

Also, just a quick disclaimer that this response to you is not an official response or statement from the executive board, but I think represents the main issues and thought of the executive board as a whole on this matter. The other guys can clarify anything that I have missed.

Travis

[Quoted text hidden]

Jason Holt <jasonandloriholt@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 6:10 AM

To: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Cc: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

I agree personally with Travis' reply.

Jason Holt
Missionary to Chile

On Dec 13, 2021, at 5:48 AM, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 6:32 AM

To: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Cc: Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Thank you, Travis

I really appreciate it. That was very helpful

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 13, 2021, at 3:48 AM, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 6:33 AM
To: Jason Holt <jasonandloriholt@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Thank you also, Jason

I appreciate you guys

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 13, 2021, at 6:10 AM, Jason Holt <jasonandloriholt@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree personally with Travis' reply.

[Quoted text hidden]

Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 6:52 AM
To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>
Cc: Jason Holt <jasonandloriholt@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

I have nothing to add to Travis's summary, in regards to our position. He clearly stated the facts. I will just make sure you understand my heart in the matter. I wish my personal thoughts and heart were not a factor in this but that is not a luxury I have any more.

For the sake of further clarity on the position of the church, even though I believe that the next steps of reconciliation between Bro Austin and VBC need to be taken by him and Chris we still have a responsibility to be "ready to reconcile," according to our bylaws and more importantly God's Word. By faith, I do not believe this is a matter of if we but when. I have full confidence the Spirit will draw us back together once more.

I do not want you or these other men to see my passivity as apathy. I do not want to fabricate a mend in the flesh or in my own strength. But just like a broken bone I believe when God heals this break it will be stronger than ever.

It is with love toward Bro Austin and with a clear conscience toward God we take the stand we have taken as a church but we do desire and fully believe we can and must have a role in his restoration in due season.

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 6:59 AM

To: Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Cc: Jason Holt <jasonandloriholt@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Thank you, Trent

I have been encouraged and exhorted and challenged by the leadership of you, Jeff, and Robert to believe in God's grace and power, desire restoration more strongly, and long for Christ-like and brotherly fellowship among all His people

I am waiting on and trusting in the Lord and believe He can and will do great things in and through us all

Thank you all for your help

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 13, 2021, at 6:52 AM, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 5:05 PM

To: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Cc: Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

After more prayer and after considering counsel,

This is the updated letter that I am sending out and not the draft that I had sent to the VBM email ring.

I just wanted you to know that I am not trying to destroy our mission board nor am I trying to destroy Bro Gardner. I love VBM and believe in its mission. I love Bro Gardner and pray for him and his family.

I believe personally that this is the right thing for us to do for our ministry partners and supporters and for those who follow our ministry with VBM.



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.bcwe.org

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

[Quoted text hidden]



End of year letter update.pdf

2077K

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 5:31 PM

To: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Cc: Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

FYI

This is coming down the pipe eventually

A pastor just told me about this:

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 16, 2021, at 5:05 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

After more prayer and after considering counsel,

This is the updated letter that I am sending out and not the draft that I had sent to the VBM email ring.

I just wanted you to know that I am not trying to destroy our mission board nor am I trying to destroy Bro Gardner. I love VBM and believe in its mission. I love Bro Gardner and pray for him and his family.

I believe personally that this is the right thing for us to do for our ministry partners and supporters and for those who follow our ministry with VBM.



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.bcwe.org
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 3:48 AM Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Brendon,

Our only official position regarding Bro. Gardner is what we stated in our last letter, "He is not in any contractual relationship or leadership role within Vision Baptist Missions." Though each missionary has the freedom to work out their own personal and ministry relationship with Bro. Gardner through counsel from their own church and pastor, there are no official or unofficial plans by the executive board to have him come back and work with VBM at this time.

As you know, on October 9, VBM was given a letter from Vision Baptist Church stating, "at this time we cannot recommend Austin Gardner for the ministry." Because of this assessment by Vision Baptist Church, it will take some time for Bro. Gardner to prove, as the letter from VBC puts it, "his repentance of sinful patterns in his leadership."

Also, as you know, on October 31, Bro. Gardner changed his membership to a new church, so, according to VBM's own policies, Bro. Gardner would either need to be restored by Vision Baptist or be "a member of an independent Baptist Church that is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of Vision Baptist Missions for at least two years" before he could become a missionary with VBM.

So, as you can see, it is very early days to be making any plans about Bro. Gardner working with VBM again. I would be surprised if he is looking to work with VBM again in an official capacity because he stated in his resignation that he is no longer associated with Vision Missions and will never seek to be again.

I think that all of us hope that eventually there will be reconciliation between him and Vision Baptist Church or at least clear evidence over a period of time that he has repented and changed of those things they found disqualified him from ministry. For something like that to happen, it will probably take quite a bit of time. If that does happen, then perhaps it could be possible for VBM to work with him in some way.

Of course, any decision to work with him officially or to have him begin teaching at the training center or something like that would need to be approved by the executive board of VBM who would want to consult with the pastoral advisory committee as well as the new board of directors that will be set up next year.

So, as far as the executive board of VBM is concerned, it is far too early to be making any plans for him to work at VBM or speculating on what might be done in the future. The main thing for all of us is to focus on is doing the work that Lord has for us and seeking to grow and become more Christlike. I hope that is helpful.

Also, just a quick disclaimer that this response to you is not an official response or statement from the executive board, but I think

represents the main issues and thought of the executive board as a whole on this matter. The other guys can clarify anything that I have missed.

Travis

On Dec 12, 2021, at 9:23 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello my brothers,

After talking with Jeff and hearing conflicting opinions and concerns from others, and after hearing that Brother Gardner continues to communicate with and influence VBM leadership...

I had a personal question that I thought I'd ask you directly without emailing the whole VBM email ring.

"What is VBM leadership's current position and plans concerning Bro Gardner regarding his coming back and working with VBM?"

Thank you for your patience and taking the time to consider my question.

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

2 attachments



image.png
168K



End of year letter update.pdf
2077K

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 5:33 PM

To: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Cc: Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

And he has at least one other person helping research names on properties also

Wants to do his due diligence to decide if his church should continue supporting VBM because he wants nothing to do with anything with Bro Gardner attached to it

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 16, 2021, at 5:31 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

FYI

[Quoted text hidden]

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 16, 2021, at 5:05 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

After more prayer and after considering counsel,

This is the updated letter that I am sending out and not the draft that I had sent to the VBM email ring.

I just wanted you to know that I am not trying to destroy our mission board nor am I trying to destroy Bro Gardner. I love VBM and believe in its mission. I love Bro Gardner and pray for him and his family.

I believe personally that this is the right thing for us to do for our ministry partners and supporters and for those who follow our ministry with VBM.



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.bcwe.org

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 3:48 AM Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Brendon,

Our only official position regarding Bro. Gardner is what we stated in our last letter, "He is not in any contractual relationship or leadership role within Vision Baptist Missions." Though each missionary has the freedom to work out their own personal and ministry relationship with Bro. Gardner through counsel from their own church and pastor, there are no official or unofficial plans by the executive board to have him come back and work with VBM at this time.

As you know, on October 9, VBM was given a letter from Vision Baptist Church stating, "at this time we cannot recommend Austin Gardner for the ministry." Because of this assessment by Vision Baptist Church, it will take some time for Bro. Gardner to prove, as the letter from VBC puts it, "his repentance of sinful patterns in his leadership."

Also, as you know, on October 31, Bro. Gardner changed his membership to a new church, so, according to VBM's own policies, Bro. Gardner would either need to be restored by Vision Baptist or be "a member of an independent Baptist Church that is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of Vision Baptist Missions for at least two years" before he could become a missionary with VBM.

So, as you can see, it is very early days to be making any plans about Bro. Gardner working with VBM again. I would be surprised if he is looking to work with VBM again in an official capacity because he stated in his resignation that he is no longer associated with Vision Missions and will never seek to be again.

I think that all of us hope that eventually there will be reconciliation between him and Vision Baptist Church or at least clear evidence over a period of time that he has repented and changed of those things they found disqualified him from ministry. For something like that to happen, it will probably take quite a bit of time. If that does happen, then perhaps it could be

possible for VBM to work with him in some way.

Of course, any decision to work with him officially or to have him begin teaching at the training center or something like that would need to be approved by the executive board of VBM who would want to consult with the pastoral advisory committee as well as the new board of directors that will be set up next year.

So, as far as the executive board of VBM is concerned, it is far too early to be making any plans for him to work at VBM or speculating on what might be done in the future. The main thing for all of us is to focus on is doing the work that Lord has for us and seeking to grow and become more Christlike. I hope that is helpful.

Also, just a quick disclaimer that this response to you is not an official response or statement from the executive board, but I think represents the main issues and thought of the executive board as a whole on this matter. The other guys can clarify anything that I have missed.

Travis

On Dec 12, 2021, at 9:23 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello my brothers,

After talking with Jeff and hearing conflicting opinions and concerns from others, and after hearing that Brother Gardner continues to communicate with and influence VBM leadership...

I had a personal question that I thought I'd ask you directly without emailing the whole VBM email ring.

"What is VBM leadership's current position and plans concerning Bro Gardner regarding his coming back and working with VBM?"

Thank you for your patience and taking the time to consider my question.

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

2 attachments

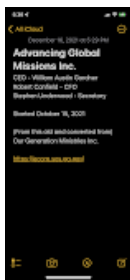


image.png
168K



End of year letter update.pdf
2077K

Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>
To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 6:20 PM

Cc: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Trenton Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Brendon

I love you.

I am supported by Steve Moss.

But I am going to call him and advise him to drop me. Thank you for informing me.

On personal note just wondering.

Why does it seem like you are worried about what Steve Moss thinks?

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

<image.png>

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 16, 2021, at 5:05 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

After more prayer and after considering counsel,

This is the updated letter that I am sending out and not the draft that I had sent to the VBM email ring.

I just wanted you to know that I am not trying to destroy our mission board nor am I trying to destroy Bro Gardner. I love VBM and believe in its mission. I love Bro Gardner and pray for him and his family.

I believe personally that this is the right thing for us to do for our ministry partners and supporters and for those who follow our ministry with VBM.



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.bcwe.org

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 3:48 AM Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Brendon,

Our only official position regarding Bro. Gardner is what we stated in our last letter, "He is not in any contractual relationship or leadership role within Vision Baptist Missions." Though each missionary has the freedom to work out their own personal and ministry relationship with Bro. Gardner through counsel from their own church and pastor, there are no official or unofficial plans by the executive board to have him come back and work with VBM at this time.

As you know, on October 9, VBM was given a letter from Vision Baptist Church stating, "at this time we cannot recommend Austin Gardner for the ministry." Because of this assessment by Vision Baptist Church, it will take some time for Bro. Gardner to prove, as the letter from VBC puts it, "his repentance of sinful patterns in his leadership."

Also, as you know, on October 31, Bro. Gardner changed his membership to a new church, so, according to VBM's own policies, Bro. Gardner would either need to be restored by Vision Baptist or be "a member of an

independent Baptist Church that is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of Vision Baptist Missions for at least two years" before he could become a missionary with VBM.

So, as you can see, it is very early days to be making any plans about Bro. Gardner working with VBM again. I would be surprised if he is looking to work with VBM again in an official capacity because he stated in his resignation that he is no longer associated with Vision Missions and will never seek to be again.

I think that all of us hope that eventually there will be reconciliation between him and Vision Baptist Church or at least clear evidence over a period of time that he has repented and changed of those things they found disqualified him from ministry. For something like that to happen, it will probably take quite a bit of time. If that does happen, then perhaps it could be possible for VBM to work with him in some way.

Of course, any decision to work with him officially or to have him begin teaching at the training center or something like that would need to be approved by the executive board of VBM who would want to consult with the pastoral advisory committee as well as the new board of directors that will be set up next year.

So, as far as the executive board of VBM is concerned, it is far too early to be making any plans for him to work at VBM or speculating on what might be done in the future. The main thing for all of us is to focus on is doing the work that Lord has for us and seeking to grow and become more Christlike. I hope that is helpful.

Also, just a quick disclaimer that this response to you is not an official response or statement from the executive board, but I think represents the main issues and thought of the executive board as a whole on this matter. The other guys can clarify anything that I have missed.

Travis

On Dec 12, 2021, at 9:23 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello my brothers,

After talking with Jeff and hearing conflicting opinions and concerns from others, and after hearing that Brother Gardner continues to communicate with and influence VBM leadership...

I had a personal question that I thought I'd ask you directly without emailing the whole VBM email ring.

"What is VBM leadership's current position and plans concerning Bro Gardner regarding his coming back and working with VBM?"

Thank you for your patience and taking the time to consider my question.

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

<End of year letter update.pdf>

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 8:28 PM
To: Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Trenton Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

I'm not worried about what he thinks because I believe he is just trying to do his due diligence as a pastor

I was just passing on information I thought you might want to be aware of. Not my place to interpret or make suggestions/decisions or talk about implications.

If you guys already knew, then please ignore this

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung

| **Brendon Wung**



Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 16, 2021, at 6:20 PM, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com> wrote:

Brendon

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 9:18 PM

To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Cc: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

I am not sure this sentence in your letter is accurate... *"Based upon the results from Vision Baptist Church's special committee, Austin..."*

I don't think that is the official opposition that we put anywhere. (If so, please reference me to it.) So you are inferring that as the only reason. Things are much more complicated than that.

Also, if you send this letter you should send it on your personal letterhead and not make a new letterhead to make it look like it is coming from VBM with you as the official representative. This part seems very deceiving.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 9:32 PM

To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Cc: Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Who is the screenshot from?

I talked to Steve Moss when I was still in Taiwan about everything. We probably had a 1-2 hour conversation. I listened to what he had to say but was very stern at the same time. I disagreed or pushed back on much of what was said.

He will check to see if Austin's Name is on anything. We already know this. Nothing new. He told us he would be doing this.

He followed Philip's accusations pretty easily. He isn't an independent Baptist and doesn't like IFB because of cover-ups and good ole boy club that he experienced in the past etc.

He supports a lot of our guys out of his business. I would be very sad to lose him.

But I already told him we were doing right and said my peace. He can choose to believe it or believe his own narrative.

Our goal isn't to protect our reputation but to live out our character. If we are doing that, we can sleep at night with a good conscience before our Creator.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 16, 2021, at 5:05 PM, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 10:07 PM

To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Cc: Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

*official position

Typo

On Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 9:18 PM Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com> wrote:

I am not sure this sentence in your letter is accurate... *"Based upon the results from Vision Baptist Church's special committee, Austin..."*

I don't think that is the *official opposition that we put anywhere. (If so, please reference me to it.) So you are inferring that as the only reason. Things are much more complicated than that.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 1:15 AM

To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Cc: Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Hey Brendon,

I didn't mean to ignore you. I've had the Clower family here and haven't been on email much.

I don't plan to stop talking or working with Jefe on a personal level. He's like a dad to me and that relationship won't stop even when it's hard.

I know that it will be very difficult for Vbm until his and Trent's relationship is mended or at least on the mend.

I believe we are all waiting to see how that works out and hoping and praying for the best.

My kids preparing for the ministry definitely want him in their lives as well.

Mark

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 1:31 AM

To: Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>

Cc: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

I would agree with Mark on all his points. Him not being with VBM had nothing to do with the special committee. He resigned on his own when the accusation first came out to shield the board. Him changing churches doesn't have anything to do with VBM.

[Quoted text hidden]

Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 1:41 AM

To: Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>

Cc: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

I did not think I would have anything to contribute to this conversation. But there are two areas I think I should respond to for the sake of clarity.

1. I spoke to Steve Moss today. Brendon asked me if Bro Austin had been removed as CEO. I told him yes. I believed it happened in July. When I realized I was wrong I called Steve to communicate to him that I had misunderstood and a deacon forgot to finish paperwork.

He asked me if Bro Austin's name was on other organizational paperwork. I told him not to my knowledge. I told him not on vbm or VBC. I did tell him that OGM was a nonprofit that was never a church ministry that belongs to Bro Austin. He asked if any of our current leadership were on that board. I told him I believed we were all removed. That was my understanding about the plan. I did not mean to mislead him or lead him. He said he would "keep investigating". I guess he did.

2. I do not believe this last statement by Mark Coffey properly represents the standstill we are having in regards to having a working relationship with Bro Austin and Chris. "I know that it will be very difficult for Vbm until his and Trent's relationship is mended or at least on the mend." My personal feelings are not what is causing the separation.

Due to Bro Austin's continual criticism of the leadership of the church and vbm through the restoration process we did not believe he was ready/qualified to go back into his preaching and counseling ministry. On two occasions he has admitted that he was speaking ill of the process. In addition he was not willing to meet with us to discuss his attempts to help those he had hurt find forgiveness. He may have taken adequate steps but his unwillingness to respond to invitations to meet did not allow us the opportunity to hear from him.

As Bro Austin said in one of his blogs. Forgiveness and reconciliation are different. You can give forgiveness in the moment but trust is required to work towards meaningful reconciliation. Chris Gardner broke the trust we had in him in two significant ways during this process. I pray that Bro Austin and Chris will take ownership of these transgressions and take the initiative to address them with our church.

I firmly believe that expecting him to do what is right is best for him, the church, and cause of Christ. It is still our position he should address the issues before resuming public ministry.

I understand that is not Mark and Roberts position. We both are doing what we believe is right. I am not looking to continue to defend our decision but do not believe it appropriate or correct to imply it is my personal decision and not the churches by the means of men whom Bro Austin appointed as deacons over the life of our church.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>
To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 1:48 AM

I just wrote to you personally on this response.

I'm getting the feeling that you want us all to stand against Bro. Austin and just tell everyone we never want to work with him again.

Is that how you feel?

Is that what you want?

Am I interpreting that incorrectly?

I'm not interested in partnering with any church who doesn't ever want to see my mentor restored to full ministry.

I don't believe that is even close to a biblical response even if I did agree with how everything was handled with Bro. Austin.

I can't understand any position that is willing to mark anyone off forever who isn't biblically disqualified.

Bro. Austin would not do that to me and I hope I will never do that to him. I don't think Jesus would do that to either one of us either.

I'm not in favor of giving into any social media cancel culture or public opinion because they almost always anti-biblical.

In my opinion, the devil wants us divided and when we vote for division we are allowing him to win and playing right into his hand.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>
To: Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>
Cc: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 7:40 AM

I am glad Mark agrees with me on all my points but I don't necessarily agree with him and all his points below. ;-) I do think it had something to do with it but it wasn't the only thing to do with it and hopefully, Brendon, you can see from the email chain that there are a myriad of reasons and we might each come from a different angle but we come to the same conclusion concerning VBM's current situation.

Brendon I believe you were trying to boil everything down and give a single reason or a bullet point of reasons, but that is not what we have chosen to do as a board, so anything you put in the letter as a reason is your personal opinion and it should be stated as such. If you ask each of us our personal opinion, you will get different answers, thus our official position as the executive board is what was stated in our last public letter. It would be very sad if I had to send out a letter following your letter for clarification because you sent misinformation. (No worries, I have no current plans for this, but I'm trying to get you to think.)

I do find it troubling that you seem intent on updating your supporters about another yet not including the changes taking place in your ministry and ministry roles. Maybe you included it somewhere I did not see. But should we send out a letter saying you have been removed from other responsibilities and each of us directors give our personal take on why that happened? Your role at VBM/BCWE has changed drastically according to your own opinion. I am not trying to be facetious here, but I am trying for you to look through the lens of treating others as you want to be treated.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure it is factually correct, on your own personal letterhead so it can't be mistaken or be seen as deceiving, and make sure it's done with the grace and love that you want others to treat you with to the glory of God.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>
To: Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>
Cc: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 7:43 AM

Thanks for clarifying Trent. Love y'all, standing with you all.

I don't know if you met Steve Moss before, but if you need clarification there from my conversation with him as well, feel free to reach out to me.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>
To: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 18, 2021 at 9:31 AM

Cc: Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Brendon, we hear your concerns and ideas. They are welcomed.

Please don't misunderstand our talking through the issues and giving feedback to mean we believe that you are just stirring things up, you need to be quiet, you are bothering us, or you just need to shut up and do what you are told. None of this is our meaning or attitude.

We are talking through the complicated issues, trying to explain how we came to the conclusions we did, provide clarity and try to help you make the best decisions, not control you.

I know email is hard, which is why I have called you as well.

Love you and we are all growing in grace.

On Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 4:28 PM Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com> wrote:

Alright, Mark T

I hear what you are saying

Thank you, gentlemen, for your patience

I'm sorry for unintentionally stirring things up

May the Lord guide you gentlemen in leadership

I will be quiet and hope everything works itself out

I pray and hope the Lord helps me to mature and be more like Christ

I will continue praying for you and will trust the Lord to work things out

I will try not bother the executive board of directors again

I'll go mobilize some missionaries and do what I'm told

Thank you for your time and may God bless you all

Here to serve,
Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung
Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions
808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com
www.visionmissions.com
PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 17, 2021, at 7:41 AM, Mark <inhisjoyfultservice@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 18, 2021 at 11:05 AM

To: Mark <inhisjoyfultservice@gmail.com>

Cc: Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

No worries, Mark

I really am sorry for adding any extra stress on you all.

I realize it's complicated, hard to separate the emotions and distinguish the personal from the organizational, the good from the bad, and you all have a lot on your plates and minds and hearts

I believe the Lord is the only who can work this all out

Love you guys all

Praying for you guys and your families

Here to serve,

Brendon Wung



Brendon Wung

Missions Mobilizer, Vision Baptist Missions

808-640-4232 | brendon@visionmissions.com

www.visionmissions.com

PO Box 442 Alpharetta, GA 30009 | Baptist Center for World Evangelism

Sent from my mobile device. Please forgive brevity and any typos

On Dec 18, 2021, at 9:32 AM, Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 18, 2021 at 12:32 PM

To: Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>

Cc: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Further clarification upon my clarification. :)

I misread Mark Coffey's statement to mean my personal struggles with a relationship with Bro. Austin caused our current division. This is not what he meant nor what he said. Yes, it is true that a restored personal relationship with Bro. Austin will aid in the mending of the relationship between him and our church.

Please pray for me in this regard. I would love for Bro Austin to take initiative to reconcile with the church before resuming a personal relationship with him. It seems to be the least complicated and best. However, if that does not become the case I need to take steps to reconnect with him with hopes it would lead to reconciliation with him and the church.

Brothers, we need to keep loving one another enough to tell each other when and how we disagree. I have been helped by those who sincerely love me and tell me the areas they disagree with. We do not need to live and minister in echo chambers. Let's commit to never pulling away from each other during times of disagreement. We are better together.

[Quoted text hidden]

Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 18, 2021 at 12:36 PM

To: Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Cc: Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

Amén

Yours for Africa
Robert Canfield

On Dec 18, 2021, at 12:32 PM, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 18, 2021 at 1:01 PM

To: Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Cc: Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>, Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>

I'm glad you're my pastor.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark <inhisjoyfulservice@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 19, 2021 at 7:30 AM

To: Mark Coffey <missionarycoffey@gmail.com>

Cc: Brendon Wung <brendon.wung@gmail.com>, Jason Holt <holt@biblicalmissions.com>, Jeffrey Bush <jeffmindybush@gmail.com>, Mark Natasha Tolson <markwtolson@gmail.com>, Robert Canfield <robertcanfield@gmail.com>, Travis Snode <tsnode@gmail.com>, Trent Cornwell <trentcornwell@gmail.com>

Me too.

Amen.

[Quoted text hidden]