

MK Safety Net is grateful for the work of Rebecca Hopkins whose recent articles, linked below, have discussed MK abuse. Since those publications, she has come forward with her own story of trauma on the mission field. Although Rebecca was an adult when she was abused, MKSN is including her account in this timeline because it scripts the same way that allegations of abuse by MKs have been handled by mission agencies –including issues with the investigator, Theresa Sidebotham, who headed up the iHart investigations of six MK schools.

In her article, [Why I, an Investigative Journalist, Regret Telling My Survivor Story to an Investigative Attorney](#), Rebecca shares her own story of abuse at the hands of MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) leadership, which eventually included an investigation by Telios Law, Sidebotham’s law firm. Rebecca and her husband, along with dozens of other survivors, had requested a GRACE investigation into the abuses they had experienced but were instead told that Telios was the organization chosen. They were assured by the CFO of MAF that, “Telios Law prioritizes healing, reconciliation and truth in its investigations and is well equipped to work with you all.” Rebecca felt hopeful and encouraged that there had been a good outcome from an investigation Telios had conducted into historical abuse at the CAJ (Christian Academy of Japan), and she was also heartened by the fact that Theresa herself was familiar with mission culture, having been both an MK and a missionary in Indonesia.

Rebecca goes on to recount her involvement with the investigative process, the red flags she started to see, and the slow dismantling of her hope. She shares her unique perspective as an investigative journalist who was familiar with best practices and her eye-opening experiences when best practices were not followed. When the report finally came out, it “largely exonerated MAF of wrongdoing.” The 300-page document the whistleblower group had provided was largely ignored. Not all witnesses had been contacted, and the full report itself remained hidden from view of the survivors themselves, who received only a summary version. Rebecca ends her article by discussing other people and groups who have concerns with Telios Law, including MKs.

We would like to thank Rebecca for her bravery in sharing her own story and for also bringing to light the problems she uncovered with Telios Law and Teresa Sidebotham’s investigation and concluding report. Many of the things she found are the very same things our MK community has been saying for years. Before speaking out about her own experience, Rebecca was a champion for MKs, as is evidenced by these two pieces she wrote for *Christianity Today*.

[The Missionary Kids Are Not Alright](#)

[What Is a Missionary Kid Worth?](#)

You can follow Rebecca’s research and insights about whistleblowing here:

[The Whistleblower's Guide](#)