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Subject: Final Update

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To our dear, dear ASIJ friends,

Our first thoughts are to tell each and every one of you thank you. Thank you so much for bearing with us during this incredibly scary time. Thank you even more for supporting us and sending words of encouragement. Many of you wrote several times throughout this time and held us up. Many of you called and gave us words of support that we weren't sure we would ever hear. You held us up with your words and prayers and for this we are so, so thankful.

Our sad and painful saga has now come to an end. We have accomplished what we set out to do. In some ways the end is very tragic, in other ways it is very complete and satisfying. Please bear with us one more time as we recount what has occurred over the past 6 to 8 months.

During the summer months of 2003, we (Michele and Janet) found out about our former teacher, Jack Moyer's, activity in Tokyo. He was working with schools all over Japan, providing educational programs to children grades 5-11. Because we both had been subjected to sexual abuse in some fashion or another by Jack, and because we were now strong enough to face the numerous "beasts" that were out there, we decided to tackle the job that should have been taken care of years before. That job being,

to make sure no other child was subjected to his abuse. It wasn't until we became aware of his ongoing work with children that we decided to take action. If we had ignored this information and allowed him to continue his work with children, knowing his history, we would have been as guilty as him.

We both were very clear about our goals. Our 1st goal was to make sure children (including his own) were safe from him. 2nd, to give his other victims information and support. 3rd, to make sure that ASIJ implemented policy to protect present and future children from abuse and 4th, to make sure ASIJ was a place we could return to without having to face our past abuse over and over again.

During this time we were able to accomplish these goals. In November we confronted Jack with a letter. This letter opened the doors to his personal confession of sexually abusing at least 17 girls during his tenure at ASIJ, the youngest known a nine year old. We continued to pursue the safety of children who were involved in his programs all over Japan. We made sure that his wife was fully aware of his proclivities thus hoping for his own 7 year old daughter's safety. We also were able to connect with other girls who had been sexually abused by Jack and by doing so provided a network of support to each other throughout this horribly stressful time.

We were in ongoing communication with the school's new administration and received compassion, support and a desire from them to work with us. ASIJ's administration has taken new steps to ensure that the school's policies are firm enough to protect children from being victimized and also to make sure that ASIJ is the safest place a student can learn and still be educated about Japan's lands and her people. They have also removed anything from the school and/or website that extolled Jack for his accomplishments and successes. We are so thankful that this new administration was the first willing to stand up and do the right thing even though at times the process was extremely difficult.

In addition, the Tokyo English Life Line "TELL" counseling agency provided us with an avenue for local advice and support. We are also thankful for Jennifer Bleak, with TELL, as she walked us through some difficult decisions. ASIJ and TELL deserve our support both verbally and financially.

As most of you know, Jack chose to end his life in January. Although this was a tragic end to a sad and tragic life, we are able to rest in peace knowing that we did the right thing by confronting him and by making him accountable for the pain and suffering he caused so many people. Hopefully, our actions finally saved another young child from being hurt.

(NOTE FROM JANET: I wanted to share with you all the reason it has taken so long for us to respond after the tragic suicide of Jack. Four days after his death my mother went into the hospital for basic surgery. Because of her age and failing health she struggled for a week and a half in the ICU. My dad, brothers and sisters all came and we said our farewells to our Mother on January 23rd. Her funeral was on January 27th and I finally returned home on the 28th. This has been an incredibly difficult time. Your support through emails and calls have encouraged me more than you will ever know. I'd love to stay in touch with each one of you. I also know that I could not have persevered without God holding me up and keeping my feet from sinking. My only hope comes from Him.)

(NOTE FROM MICHELE: One of the most difficult realizations I made during the course of our research was that the entire Miyake program was designed solely to give Jack access to his young charges. His outgoing personality, his friendliness, his likeability, his "scientific" shield: all of it was part of a grander plan than any of us could imagine. Kind of like a priest... The truth was, he was a tormented suicidal man: a lonely, isolated tragic figure to the end. But, being honest about that wouldn't get him the kind of access to children he needed. If you have children, or work with them, don't doubt for a moment that a determined pedophile will spend years honing their craft, covering their tracks and charming the pants off (forgive the expression) anyone who might support or provide the kind of access they need to kids. They become professionals at it. They become incredibly proficient at determining what children they can intimidate, and how. We still hear the occasional recounting of Jack's past behavior that today would immediately raise a red flag...but back then this behavior was ignored. Thank god the "good old days" are just that.)

We have both learned a lot about pedophilia. We have also learned a lot about ourselves, about love, about friendship, and about the truth. We have made some wonderful new friends in our search, and our hope is that we will continue to be your good friends. We are proud to know you. Please stay in touch with us. We love you all, and could never have done this without you.

Your friends,

Michele Connor and Janet Simmons

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