

From: ANN MURPHY <eannmurphy@comcast.net>

Date: September 16, 2021 at 4:04:01 PM EDT

To: support@visionbaptist.com, Lee Parks [REDACTED]

Subject: allegations against Austin Gardner

To whom it may concern,

My name is Evelyn Ann Murphy. My name before I got married was Evelyn Ann Lee. I live in Cartersville, GA. I attended Liberty Baptist Church at 315 Grassdale Rd from 1980-1986. I also graduated from Cartersville Christian School in 1985.

I want to start by saying that I did not reach out when Becky Earnhart posted her video because it seemed that she was telling her story and was also trying to find more recent incidences of abuse from Austin Gardner. Even though I knew that everything Becky was saying was true, I did not understand the process of what was happening and did not think that I had anything to add due to the timing. It was after Austin Gardner responded that I felt that I now needed to make a statement because he did not tell the whole truth in his video.

Austin Gardner did use a paddle, rod, and belt for punishment.

Austin Gardner did start with twenty "licks" and it was never less than that. Austin Gardner did add more to the total if you moved or did not stand still and take your punishment.

Austin Gardner did give Becky 100 "licks" for holding a boy's hand under the pillow. It was actually supposed to be 200 but the boy took half her punishment on top of his own.

Austin Gardner was told that Becky had been touched and fondled by the song leader at our church and although Becky and myself were questioned time and time again about it - the song leader was not officially reported.

Becky did miss school because of her bruises and she did have to wear a housecoat to cover up her bruises.

We were supposed to make sure that every adult male around us always had their glass filled with water, tea, or whatever they were drinking or we would get in trouble and be punished.

I lived with Austin Gardner's parents from 1981-1985. They were instructed to spank and punish me the same way he punished Becky.

On 2 occasions I was punished at school by Austin Gardner. The first for arguing with a classmate and I was paddled on my bottom with a paddle. I was supposed to get 20 swats but I got 28 because I kept letting go of my ankles. On the second occasion, I was disrespectful to a teacher and held by the arm while being given 100 swats with a switch.



There were multiple conversations among the adults about how to spank children without leaving bruises and one of those ways was to use a rod across the bottom of the feet. I know at least one instance when this punishment was used on someone and they could not walk for several days.

I have first-hand knowledge of these things I have talked about because I was there and not only did I see them happen to Becky but I experienced some of them myself.

What can I say but I am sorry that I did not speak out sooner. There were many of us who came from broken homes and we were all fighting a lot of mental/spiritual/emotional and physical battles.

There are many children who are serving the Lord in spite of what Austin Gardner did to them. There are many more children who have turned away from the Lord because of what he did to them.

In closing, I would like to say that I am available at any time by phone at 678-431-0211. I am also willing to come to Vision Baptist Church and Vision Baptist Missions if needed.

Sincerely,

Ann Murphy