



# *Faith Baptist Christian Academy*

PO Box 100 - Ludowici, GA 31316  
(912) 545-9136 Fax (912) 545-3157  
Dr. Terry D. Sellars, Pastor/Administrator

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**FROM:** Faith Baptist Christian Academy Administration

**TO:** Area News Affiliates

**RE:** Homeland Security Investigation

Many are aware that Faith Baptist Christian Academy of Ludowici has recently experienced an investigation by the U. S. Homeland Security Agency. We wish to express, first of all, our deep regret that such a situation has occurred. It has never been our desire to bring any undue attention or embarrassment to our ministry, our church, or our city. We would, however, like to set the record straight on a few items.

Faith Baptist Christian Academy's primary goal is to help the youth of Southeast Georgia, and any other youth we come in contact with. We strive to reach the heart of the individual, and establish a Christian environment in which that individual can learn. We have educated students from over 20 different countries. These students from all across the world contact us by email and/or phone.

On Wednesday, March 25, 2015, Homeland Security showed up on our premises here in Ludowici. This was a direct result of an interview of 4 students in Lake Wales, Florida who were mistreated by a school in or near Stockbridge, Georgia over 200 miles away from Ludowici. We are deeply saddened about those 4 students, and how they were treated; however, those students were not mistreated by the staff or church of Faith Baptist Church or Faith Baptist Christian Academy in Ludowici. After reviewing the property and facilities of FBCA, the Long County Fire Department found several fire code and safety violations. Once those violations were found, we had to remove the students from their dorm rooms. We have several dorm rooms on our campus. Some sleep 6-10, and other sleep 4-8, but none of them sleep 14, 16, or 20 as reports have alleged. Can we improve? Yes we can; however, we do not, and never have mistreated students.

Another misconception is that we charge students astronomical prices to come to our school here in Ludowici. We do not charge them the amount shown on the news. Many schools across America set goals for their tuition, but seldom are those goals met. Our international students here at Faith Baptist Christian Academy pay a reasonable tuition fee per month. This amount includes their food, boarding, and education.

After hearing the news that we had to remove the students from their current living arrangements, we had the students placed with families in our church in less than 24 hours. All of our students have valid student visas, and are still attending school, and participating in school activities. Our students are a part of our family here at Faith Baptist Christian Academy, and loved by those that come in contact with them. Do our students make mistakes? Yes they do. But they are still loved and cared for regardless.

Over the years some students have left our school, and most of them left for personal reasons. When something like this incident with Homeland Security happens, all those people who have left us come out to tell everything they can to put down the parties involved. You cannot be in operation for over 35 years and not have some critics. Please consider the following items:



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## **A Few Simple Facts:**

- All students were being fed on regular consistent basis and continue to be.
- All students were attending daily classes on our campus and were allowed back the very next day following the "raid."
- All students attended Sunday school, Sunday Morning & Sunday Night services, and Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting before and after the "raid."
- All students had access to staff and teacher assistance whenever needed.
- Bathroom facilities were available and adequate to meet the need of all students.
- We have been in complete and total cooperation with the Homeland Security Agency and local law enforcement.
- We have been in complete and total cooperation with the Department of Family and Children's Services.
- We have made mistakes, we are not perfect and we are repairing the problem areas regarding fire and safety issues.
- We plan to continue reaching these young people for Christ while providing them with a quality Christian education and an opportunity to use their athletic abilities in extra-curricular activities.

We are providing this written statement to acknowledge that Faith Baptist Christian Academy had several things wrong with our gymnasium facility but that we are meeting those problems head on with full force. Many people ask why we didn't take care of those problems before the "raid", as news media called it. We were attempting to do so before the incident and have continued making significant progress in fixing those problems since. Our gymnasium has been a voting precinct for Long County the last 2 years, and has been the main gymnasium for the Long County Recreation Department basketball league for the last 4-5 years and as recent as a month ago. Our facility has been a central hub for the community and will continue to be when these problems are repaired.

Faith Baptist Christian Academy is deeply saddened that anything of this magnitude would ever be attached to our ministry. We do not want to present an attitude of innocence or blame toward anyone else. This is our problem, and with the help of our church family, we will repair the necessary problems.

We want to thank the Long County Fire Department, the Long County Sheriff's Department, the City of Ludowici Police Department, and the local Department of Family and Children Services for helping our ministry in this time of need. Faith Baptist Christian Academy has the desire to help the youth of our community and the world, and will continue to help all those we come in contact with. Faith Baptist Christian Academy has been operating for over 35 years, and with the Lord's help, and the help of our local community, we hope to be here for another 35 years.