



# STOP SEXUAL ABUSE IN OUR CHURCHES

By Debbie Vasquez

## 1. Speak Up

"I believe it is important that the SBC and other Religious Leaders start **Speaking up loudly and often** that, They will **NOT allow sexual abuse** to occur within God's houses and they are willing to do what is necessary to stop this sin from occurring in our churches."



### In the Headlines

- ◆ **Former Williston youth pastor admits to sexually exploiting teenager, avoids jail** Burlington Free Press, April 12, 2019, by Elizabeth Murray  
"The church's head pastor, Wes Pastor, declined comment on the case outside of the courtroom"



**This head pastor and/or any other pastor needs to speak up against abuse.**

- ◆ **"Under #caringwell scrutiny, Texas Baptist church slammed for response to abuse arrest"** Baptist News Global, Oct 17, 2019, by Bob Allen  
"The pastor's initial letter showed more sympathy for the alleged abuser than the supposed victim."



- ◆ **"Bold talk not enough to stop sex abuse, Greear says"** Baptist Press, June 12, 2019, by Diana Chandler  
"Bold resolutions and sweeping statements are not sufficient" to tackle the crisis of sex abuse



**Do NOT just speak words - insist that the SBC take steps necessary to stop these sex offenders from going from Church to Church and to help in other ways to stop this abuse.**

**How many victims before we act?**



It is time now **Speak UP** and **Be Heard** – **Take Action**



## In the Bible

I only know of one time that **Jesus became so angry** when these men were in "His **Father's House**" and as he put it turned it into a "**Den of Thieves**" he **whipped those men out of there**. **Mark 11:15–17** John 2: 14 – 16 **Matthew 21: 12–13** Now what would you think his response would be to see "**His Father's House**" turned into a place where **God's Children** are **Sexually Abused** and these abusers **are claiming** to be Men of God.

## 2. A Database

Creating a **DATABASE** of Ministers & others who have been in churches or seminaries & other religious places who are sex offenders & Churches who have knowledge of what they have done, however still support and keep these abusers in their Church or other religious organization.

Including

- those convicted,
- those confessing, and
- those against whom a "credible accusation" has been made (a report from duly elected church officials that sexual misconduct or sexual improprieties have occurred.) **This is especially important when the statute of limitation has run out and there is no criminal record.**

**Make sure that this DATABASE is made KNOWN & easy to FIND on the SBC Website.**



### But what about lawsuits?

Texas has done by going before Congress and get a law passed that protects them if they disclose the names of those who are listed as sex offenders. Other states could follow suit.



#### ◆ "TX reps OK bill for churches to report sex predators"

Baptist Press, by Diana Chandler, posted May 10, 2019



"The Texas Legislature unanimously passed a bill initiated by Southern Baptists to **provide civil immunity to churches** that disclose credible sex abuse allegations."

"The bill is written to protect charitable organizations, their volunteers and independent contractors from liability when disclosing credible allegations to prospective employers, even when no criminal charges have been filed against the accused."

#### ◆ "TX bill would shield churches that report sex abuse"

Baptist Press, by Diana Chandler, posted May 10, 2019

"Southern Baptist pastors and leaders have initiated a Texas bill to allow nonprofits including churches to disclose credible but unproven sexual abuse allegations with no fear of civil liability... The bill can strengthen churches and other charitable organizations in hindering repeat offenders, said pastor Ben Wright who helped initiate the bill."

The bill "help[s] churches and organizations know that if they pass on information that they believe to be true, that they have good reason to believe is true, it helps them know that they will be shielded from potential lawsuits."

**"Could become a concept for other states to consider."**

"According to Ministry Safe, an organization that helps churches and other ministries protect children from sexual abuse, as many as **90 percent of sex abuse offenders never have an encounter with law enforcement**, SBTC spokesperson Gary Ledbetter told BP."



## Why do we need a database?

### Background Checks Don't Work

- ◆ "Churches conducting more background checks, but sex offenders still slipping through cracks" Fox News, by Hollie McKay



**"Criminals are often very crafty and see churches as a SOFT TARGET."**

**"Basic background checks are not enough** to keep dangerous predators from taking positions as religious leaders"

- ◆ "Former Williston youth pastor admits to sexually exploiting teenager, avoids jail" Burlington Free Press, by Elizabeth Murray



**Due to this man's plea agreement he would NOT show up on anyone's list**

"McNeil's sentencing has been deferred for five years, during which time he will **be on probation**. If he avoids violating his probation and committing new crimes, the **conviction** will be **expunged** from his record and he will **not have to be registered as a sex offender**, according to the **plea agreement**."

"David Rogers, Senior Vice President of Marketing at Ministry Brands, also highlighted that **a loophole** they have encountered is **when an offender**, even for sex-related violations, **pleads down to a misdemeanor** and **can then skirt the basic background system**."

- ◆ "More Churches Are Checking the National Sex Offender Registry. Is It Helping?" Word & Way, by Yonat Shimron



"Federal law requires all 50 states to implement sex offender registries. But the law does not address **lower-level sex abuse convictions** and **state laws regarding sex abuse vary** from state to state... **That means some sex offenders can slip through the cracks...** a 2010 **South Carolina study** showed that **many sex offenders plead down their charges** to a nonsex crime **so they aren't included in the registry**."

"That, plus the **variability of state laws on sex abuse**, leads researchers to conclude that **screening people through databases such as the national sex offender registry or the state's criminal database won't guarantee a sex-abuse-free church environment**."

**Please understand that the SBC needs to create their own Database**  
**There are too many reasons offenders can get around other databases**

- ◆ "Save Yourselves", Nashville Scene, Elizabeth Ulrich



"It was roughly one year ago [2007] that 8,600 church representatives, men and women from around the country who bear the name "messengers," asked the executive committee to look into creating a denomination-wide database of "Southern Baptist ministers who have been credibly accused of, personally confessed to, or legally been convicted of sexual harassment or abuse."

"It was a sign. The people in the pews wanted officials of the Nashville-based convention to consider trumping polity and stepping in. **Despite their steadfast devotion to local autonomy**, even SBC ministers were willing to give a little in the name of protecting the vulnerable. They wanted help flushing out the wolves who infiltrated the flock — some of whom have **travelled from church to church with ease**."

"few abusers can be successfully tried and convicted because of the **statute of limitations**. ( This is true even when pastors have admitted to sexual misconduct. ) "

"FBI, that over 90 percent of active child molesters have never been convicted of anything," Brown says. "So the failure of the SBC to institute any other measure of accountability...allows a minister to remain in the pulpit" "At last week's SBC convention in Indianapolis [2008], Chapman proudly proclaimed that "one sexual predator in our midst is one too many" — again to rousing applause. It's a valiant claim, but hardly believable"

## Many Words, but the SBC takes NO ACTION to prevent sexual abuse

◆ **"Augie Boto, SBC leader who opposed abuse database, set to retire"** Baptist News Global, by Bob Allen



"**Boto** picked up the additional title of **general counsel** in 2004 and recently served 13 months as interim **president** after **Frank Page stepped down due to sexual misconduct in 2018**....In 2007-2008 **Boto led** the process of **responding to a motion** from the SBC annual meeting to **study the feasibility of a national database of clergy sex offenders**, a year after he told the advocacy group behind the proposal he was unwilling to work with them because of their adversarial tone... While proactive with churches perceived as outside the convention's mainstream on homosexuality, **Boto has maintained** over the years that the **SBC is largely powerless to police sexual abuse by clergy**, due to the doctrine of local-church autonomy."

**So the SBC was and still is active in removing churches where homosexuals were involved, however they claimed to be powerless when it came to a Sex Offender being a Minister in these Baptist Churches.**

On Jun 20, 2019 I e-mailed the SBC asking "Why churches are still allowed to have sexual predators as the leaders of their churches." In this e-mail, I was asked how the SBC kicked out Broadway Baptist Church for just **having a homosexual member** yet **failed to get rid of churches that have ministers who rape and abuse children**.

Augie Boto responded by saying: "As to your question, please reread **Section 6 of the 2008 report** on Sexual Abuse. The same process of disaffiliation used in Broadway instance **is available** in a case where a church could be shown to have sanctioned sexual abuse (or for that matter, for ANY reason.) There is no hierarchy of offenses."

◆ **"Responding to the Evil of Sexual Abuse,"** Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 2008



"**6. Amending the SBC governing documents ...** We do not support amending the Southern Baptist Convention's governing documents to add laundry lists of conduct deemed reprehensible in the Scriptures. The governing documents in their present form already permit messengers attending any annual meeting to move to withdraw fellowship from any affiliated church for any reason. **But in our opinion, declaring a church not to be in "friendly cooperation" with the Convention would certainly be justified in any specific case where a church intentionally employed a known sexual offender or knowingly placed one in a position of leadership** over children or other vulnerable participants in its ministries."

---

**ECCLESIASTES 5:5 says "It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it."**  
**The SBC for over two decades has made statements (vows) in regard to sexual abuse, yet they have never taken action to stop this abuse.**

**KEY QUESTION: I would like to KNOW that if they could do this back in 2008, why did they not do so to protect our churches from these ministers who are sex offenders. If this was written and approved in 2008, why in the 2019 meeting did they say they still have to wait another year & take another vote on this disaffiliation" that the SBC had already approved?!?**



◆ **"Church leaves Southern Baptist Convention after abuse allegation",**  
Houston Chronicle by Robert Downen



"[Debbie Vasquez's] attempts at **reform in 2008** were profiled in an ongoing Chronicle investigation, Abuse of Faith, that found **roughly 400 SBC church leaders** and volunteers have been credibly accused of sex crimes or misconduct in the last 20 years. **At least 250 of those cases came after 2008, when SBC leaders declined to implement some of the reforms Vasquez sought, [including a] database of abusive pastors that churches could check during hiring processes. The Chronicle found that the SBC's loose structure allowed dozens of predatory pastors to find jobs at new congregations, sometimes with tragic ends.**"



1 CORINTHIANS 5: 11-13 "But now I am writing you that you **must not associate** with anyone who calls himself a **brother but is sexually immoral** or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler, **With such a man do not even eat.** What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. **"Expel the wicked man from among you."**

*I believe that we all call ourselves brothers and sisters in Christ, then it makes **all of us responsible to Expel these sex offenders** out of God's Houses of Worship. How are we to do this as it has been PROVEN other databases and registries are not enough to do this and according to the Bible we are responsible. Having a Database on the SBC website that can be checked prior to hiring a minister, is the only way I can think of to do this. **Do you know a better way to protect our Children?***

EXODUS 21:29 "If, however, the bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, the bull must be stoned and the owner also must be put to death."

*Does this not mean that if we KNOW of a minister who is a sex offender and we do not WARN others then we are held as responsible as well for NOT warning others of this minister's past history of Abuse?*

ACTS 20:28 "**Pay careful attention** to yourselves and to **all the flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

JAMES 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and do deceive yourselves, **DO what it says.**"

Reported by the SBC Website on June 1, 2019

## **"On Local Church Autonomy And Accountability"**



"WHEREAS, Recent news stories make it painfully clear that some Southern Baptist churches have failed either to choose fitting persons to be set apart for ministerial leadership, to discipline ministers and other church members properly, or to **communicate from church to church the unfit condition of some ministers**, and that some church leaders have failed voluntarily to submit themselves to others for spiritual accountability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we **reject** the concept of local **church autonomy** as mere "self-rule," for Christian **authority may never be exercised apart from Christ's Lordship** and must be exercised only for God's glory as revealed in the Word interpreted by the congregation led by the Holy Spirit; and be it further"

"RESOLVED, That **we warn** those who would **misuse** local **church autonomy** as a **license for sin** that **God will judge both shepherds and the wolves** who **abuse the vulnerable sheep in the flock** (Ezekiel 34:1-24); and be it further"

"RESOLVED, That we as Southern Baptists hereby **repudiate** any who seek to use the cherished doctrine of **local church autonomy** as a **means of hiding the sins of ministers** and others in the church **who abuse, sexually** or otherwise, "the little ones" of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 18:6-10)."



Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in **sheep's clothing** but **inwardly are ravenous wolves.**"

Romans 14:12 "So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."

***I think all of us should do our very best to do as instructed by the Bible.  
All of us will have to give account to GOD.***



"Victim, church members outraged after former SBC pastor convicted of sex crimes returns to pulpit" Christian Post, by Leonardo Blair

"The Rev. Darrell Gilyard, a **registered sex offender** and protégé of former Southern Baptist Convention President **Paige Patterson**, is under fire for getting **back into the pulpit** after serving time in prison for molesting two teenage girls."

When **Patterson** first found out about Gilyard, he **protected him**, and because of this **Gilyard was allowed to abuse others for two decades**. If we'd had a Database, at least all of these other churches would have had the ability to check it and perhaps some of those abused could have been spared.

"For 14 years Gilyard served as pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, where "he fell from grace, " First Coast News reported. He was arrested in 2007 on charges of lewd and lascivious conduct, and in 2009 he **plead guilty** to two counts. He was sentenced and **the state designated him as a sex offender**.

Gilyard's case featured prominently in a Houston Chronicle investigation of sexual abuse in the SBC last summer which reported that he was mentored and **assisted by Patterson** amid **allegations of sexual misconduct** at churches in Texas and Oklahoma. A trove of documents and videotape showed Patterson personally investigated sexual misconduct allegations against Gilyard during his rise in the SBC. Patterson oversaw Gilyard's resignation from a Dallas-area church after Gilyard confessed to some of the allegations in 1991"

***Gilyard did NOT confess to all of what he had done as this was found out later.  
Most Sex Offenders are not likely to tell the whole truth of what they have done  
and why would they, when it could make it harder for them to find more victims.***

"In addition to the **molestation convictions he faced**, **Gilyard** also had to defend himself against **multiple civil suits**, including one, eventually settled, from a grieving widow who alleged that **she was raped and impregnated by him** during counseling sessions, **Florida and federal court records say**. "The **predator Pastor** who **abused me as a teen** is not only **still Pastoring** but I learned today he has been 'called' to another church here in our town. Called being his term, not God's call. **He has a string of victims, over 240 ...**," she alleged."

***There is enough evidence here that I hope everyone can see why  
We Need our own Database***

#### For further reading:

- ◆ "Exclusive videos show confrontation of Baptist pastor accused of sexual misconduct" Houston Chronicle, Robert Downen, Aug. 22, 2019
- ◆ "Probation terms altered to permit sex offender pastor to minister to children" Baptist News Global, Bob Allen, April 25, 2014.
- ◆ "Florida church members split after 'registered sex offender' returns to preach" FOX 4, Caleb Parke, March 13, 2020
- ◆ "Church fires worship leader five years after sexual abuse confession " Baptist News Global, Bob Allen, March 6, 2019
- ◆ "SBC Recalls 'Year of Waking Up' Since Abuse Investigation" Christianity Today, David Roach, October 10, 2019

### 3. Do Background checks & Tell the **WHOLE** truth

When doing a background check, it's vital that we do a comprehensive search. The process **MUST** include checking Criminal Records as well as talking to **EVERY** place that this person has been employed at in the past.

**Churches need to tell the **WHOLE** truth about those in the ministry and NOT allow them to go from Church to Church.**

Think how you would feel, if **your child was sexually abused** at your church by a minister that the church hired and everyone trusted. **This would be very awful.** But What if you **find out** that **this same minister** had **done the same thing to another child at another Church**, but **they did not tell** the people in your church who was looking to hire a minister **the whole truth about this man** and that he had abused a child at their church.

**How would you feel** knowing that if that church had just told your church about this man, **your child could have been spared?!?** Also consider perhaps the people in your church who found and hired this man did not even bother to do a complete background check and a criminal check and, hopefully when available, the SBC Database kept on their website for you to look at to make sure the person that is hired was not listed and is likely safe and less likely to abuse someone in your church.



#### My Story



The Minister, who told me "**He was a man of God**" and **I could trust him**, started **molesting me** when **I was 14** and then **started Raping me** when I was **15 years old**. This minister raped me for years. He **got me pregnant when I was a teenager**. **This Man is still the head pastor of a Baptist Church!!!** and they knew his history. As it was in the paper and there was a lawsuit. My abuser was able to **become a Minister at 3 Churches** **None of whom even bothered** to do **any kind of Background and/or Criminal Check** on him.

This minister, my abuser, told me about these students in the High School and about these sexual acts and he claims **one of these young girls** was **in love with him** and **thought he was sexy**. **I have a tape recording of this man** and **wanted his church to hear it**, however I **was not allowed** to let them hear this tape. Do they even know that **they have put their own Children at risk**. It is **NOT the Childrens' fault** that no one bothered to do anything about this minister not even their own parents, how much damage has been caused because the **Church where he first started abusing me never told on him** and in fact helped him and **told me to be silent**.





Please be careful,  
This minister has  
a history of abuse.

## Do NOT let this happen at your Church

Do not allow your Children to be sexually abused, because **no one took the time** to call past churches, do a proper **background check**, and look at the **SBC Database** when it is made, to find out if **this person has a history of sexual abuse.**



### "Church fires worship leader five years after sexual abuse confession"

Baptist News Global, Bob Allen



A "staff member who had **admitted to molesting a young teenager** decades ago has been dismissed and instructed not to return to **Trinity Baptist Church** in Ashburn, Georgia. The BP story said the church fired the individual when he confessed in 2013 or 2014 to molesting a "young teen" but **later reinstated him as minister** of music because he had repented. "Church leaders came back to me and said, 'Rodney, the man says he's repented. **We're not his judge.** We've not seen anything to indicate any of this at our church,'" the denominational news service quoted Brown as saying."

## Would you feel your children are completely safe from this man if left alone with him?

### "Former Williston youth pastor admits to sexually exploiting teenager, avoids jail"

Burlington Free Press, Elizabeth Murray



"The church's head pastor, Wes Pastor, declined comment on the case outside of the courtroom"

He was put on Probation and "**the conviction will be Expunged** from his record and he will **NOT have to be registered as a sex offender**, according to the plea agreement.

**So what will happened if this same pastor who was silent before remains so?  
What if your church hires this man, how would you be able to do a proper background  
check on him? What if he repeats his behavior and abuses someone in your Church?  
How would you know?**

## It may also be of benefit to read all six parts of the Houston Chronicle "Abuse of Faith"



In the past 20 years, a disturbing number of Southern Baptists with formal church roles have engaged in sexual misconduct, a new investigation by the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News reveals. They were pastors. Deacons. Youth pastors. They left behind more than 700 victims. Read and hear the stories of those victims, and learn the depths of the crimes and misconduct of the church leaders they trusted.

## 4. Stop Silencing Victims

Stop making the policy in order for a victim to get money to help them get medical care that they have to sign a **"nondisclosure agreement"** I know several victims made to sign before they could receive care.

**This is wrong – causing more trauma to victims**



◆ **"Lawsuit reveals details about Paige Patterson's 'break her down' meeting with woman alleging campus rape"** Baptist News Global, Bob Allen



In connection with that allegation of rape, Dr. Patterson sent an email (the contents of which were shared with the board on May 22) to the chief of campus security in which **Dr. Patterson discussed meeting with the student alone so that he could 'break her down' and that he preferred no officials be present.**"

"When her mother asked during the "break her down" meeting why someone with his history would be admitted as a student-employee and requested an apology, the lawsuit says, Patterson "lunged across the table, firmly pointed his finger in her face and threatened to 'unleash' lawyers on her if she dared question his leadership at SWBTS."

◆ **"Judge delays trial date for Jane Roe's case against Patterson and Southwestern Seminary"** Baptist News Global, Mark Wingfield



"On Sept. 2, Sean Jordan, U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Texas, issued an order to scuttle the trial planned for this month and **delay it indefinitely** due to what appears to be uncooperative witnesses"

"that certain key witnesses with potentially essential information have yet to be deposed, **including SWBTS Board of Trustee Chairman Kevin Ueckert,**" the judge explained... a **student at Southwestern - she was stalked, raped and repeatedly abused. Patterson's mishandling of this case** — he reportedly told other seminary officials he needed to "break her down" **to silence her** — led to Patterson's dismissal by seminary trustees in 2018. Patterson **also had been accused of mishandling sexual abuse claims at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary** in North Carolina, where he previously served as president."

**Note the SBC Resolution, On The Sexual Integrity Of Ministers, 2002**

**"RESOLVED,** That we urge **our seminaries** and other related educational institutions to make **ministerial integrity** a **major emphasis in the training of pastors, missionaries, educators, and other ministers;** and be it further "

**Patterson repeatedly helped sex offender and repeatedly went about silencing victims.**

The **SBC** was made **aware of this back in 2008** – I know because I told them and showed them and yet Patterson was **not fired until 2018** and even after that the **SBC still supported this man. How many victims could have been spared,** if Patterson had done what he was supposed to do, **call the police and let them investigate** when allegations of **sexual abuse** were reported to him.



**Go to the SBC website** <https://www.sbc.net> and do a search under Resolutions regarding Sexual abuse and see how long the SBC has KNOWN about this and what they put down as Resolutions. However, they did not follow these Resolutions and they seem to keep repeating the same things over and over again and NEVER taking any real Action to Stop Sexual Abuse in our Churches & Keep these sex abusers from going from Church to Church. WHY ???

**Please change this and take action!**





## My Story (in the news)



- ◆ **"Texas Suits Allege Baptist Clergy Misconduct Two Baptist ministers apologize after women bring forth accusations"**

Denton Record-Chronicle, By Donna Fielder



This was the First Article written about my Abuse – This reporter went to the **Court House** to **look up information on another case** involving another **Southern Baptist Church** in the **same county Denton, Texas** **and came across my case** by accident and **noticed how much alike they were** so she did some digging and then contacted me and **did this article about this other lady and myself**. It started when we were **both 14 seeking help** due to family problems. We both were then **raped when we turned 15** and both of these **Ministers were still the head Pastor of Southern Baptist Churches, even after these Churches knew what they had done**. *(Eventually one Minister Resigned & they gave him a Large "Love Offering" when he resigned - & **Blamed me** for him having to leave as this **article was combined**).*

The **other lady** was **forced to sign a confidentiality clause** in the settlement. She needed the money as she ended up in the Hospital due to this abuse. **I was told to be silent** because **if I told, it would hurt the Church** and **I did Not want to hurt the Church**. I kept silent until this minister indicated he was hurting someone else.

So they were able to **silence the both of us** and this caused harm to the both of us.

It makes you wonder when there are 2 cases in the same county that are so much alike, what are the odds of that happening and were there more just not reported.

I filed a **lawsuit as a last resort** to try to expose Amyx and to hopefully **let this girl** he told me about, **see that she can report**, even though **he told me I could not tell and probably told her the same thing, as indicated in the tape recording of him**. Also, I wanted her to see that if I can stand up to him so can she, however, I was forced to settle and did not make it into court as I did not have enough money to continue.



## More Examples from the News



- ◆ **"The church cannot speak against sex trafficking until it admits its own abuse problems, author says"**

Baptist News Global, by Jeff Brumley



- ◆ **"The Christian Peacemaker Who Left a Trail of Trauma"**

Christianity Today, By Daniel Silliman



- ◆ **"Caring well? Expert berates Southern Baptists for ignoring sexual abuse"** Baptist News Global, By Bob Allen



- ◆ **"FRIDAY ROUNDUP: Why we're paying so much attention to the SBC — again"**

Mark Wingfield, FROM THE EDITOR Fri, Oct 1, 2021



# 5. Ban Known Predators from Ministry

## Known Sex Offenders Not allowed as Ministers

At the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting in Nashville, Messengers adopted the following resolution:

### On Abuse And **Pastoral Qualifications**

Date: June 21, 2021

**"WHEREAS**, Scripture says that **pastors, elders, and overseers are to be "above reproach"** (1 Timothy 3:2) and "blameless" (Titus 1:6); and WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith & Message says that pastors should be "qualified by Scripture"; and"

**"WHEREAS**, Sexual abuse is an action repugnant to the teachings of Scripture and reprehensible even to those who are not believers; now, therefore, be it"

**"RESOLVED**, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Nashville, TN, June 15-16, 2021, believe that **any person in a position of trust or authority who has committed sexual abuse is permanently disqualified from holding the office of pastor**; and be it finally"

**"RESOLVED**, That we recommend that all of our affiliated churches apply this standard to all positions of church leadership."

## This is a good step. But it must be practiced.

If nothing changes about the culture of the SBC, and ministers are allowed to continue in ministry, this resolution is just words.



**1 Tim 3:2 "Now the overseer must be above reproach"**

**Titus 1:7 "Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless"**

**Acts 20:28 " Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."**

See also: 1 Cor 5:11-13; 2 Cor 4:1-2; 1 Thess 5:22; 2 Tim 2:15; Acts 20:35; Heb 12:16; Titus 1:7; John 16:33; 1 Cor 15:58; Acts 18:9; Ecc 5:5; James 1:22; Phil 4: 6-7; James 2:26; John 10:11-13; Ecc 12:13-14; Luke 6:22; Matt 12:36-37; 1 John 4:1-3; Matt 28:18-20; Matt 18:20; Matt 7:15-20; Prov 1:7; 2 Tim 2:15; 2 Pet 1:1-21; Rom 14:12; Eph 5:5; 1 Cor 9:12-18



## 6. Train future ministers about sexual abuse

Remind SBC seminaries to **train future ministers** about the **problem of Sexual Abuse** in our Churches, the **Means of Prevention** and **how to Respond to Victims** who come forward to report sexual abuse.

Southern Baptist Convention  
On The Sexual Integrity Of Ministers  
St. Louis, MO – 2002

**RESOLVED**, "That we urge our **seminaries** and other related educational institutions to make **ministerial integrity a major emphasis in the training of pastors**, missionaries, educators, and other ministers;..."

*(Unfortunately, this did NOT happen. I contacted all of these seminaries back in 2008 and was told only one was actually doing this and I made the SBC aware of this personally – Also look at the behavior of Paige Patterson who was the President of 2 of these SBC Seminaries)*



Southern Baptist Convention  
On Protecting Children From Abuse.  
San Antonio, TX – 2007



Southern Baptist Convention  
On Abuse  
Dallas, TX - 2018



Southern Baptist Convention  
On The Evil Of Sexual Abuse  
Birmingham, AL - 2019



**WHEREAS**, "God detests all forms of sexual abuse and calls His people to **defend abuse victims** (Psalm 82:4), to stand for justice (Psalm 82:3; Proverbs 31:8–9), and to **deliver victims of sexual abuse** from the hands of **their oppressors** (Proverbs 6:17; 24:10–12); and"

**WHEREAS**, "As a community of believers, we deplore each and every instance of sexual abuse and apologize and ask forgiveness for **failing to cultivate a culture of protection** for those in **Southern Baptist churches** and **institutions** who **have been sexually abused**; and"

**WHEREAS**, "**We condemn any abuse of power** by **any leader** who has ever **sought to protect the perpetrators** of **sexual abuse** or **silence** and marginalize the **victims of sexual abuse**; and"

Note that **Paige Patterson**, was the **President of 2 SBC Seminaries**, and he did **Protect Perpetrators** of Sexual abuse, such as in the case of Darrell Gilyard and repeatedly Patterson tried to **silence victims**. Patterson was **finally fired in 2018** because of these things. The **SBC was aware** of Patterson **from at least 2008** as I sent the SBC documents and spoke to them about him, yet it **took 10 years to fire him** for this.

**WHEREAS**, "The **autonomy of the local church is compatible** with the **protection of innocents** and **should not be used by any church or organization as a reason not to take appropriate actions to protect the people** it serves, including (but not limited to) the decision of an organization to **remove from fellowship any church that fails to protect the vulnerable**; and"

**WHEREAS**, "We affirm that perpetrators of sexual abuse can be forgiven because of the work of Jesus Christ to redeem and reconcile sinners to God through faith and repentance, and that **true repentance for perpetrating sexual abuse requires an acceptance of the consequences** of sin, both in the context of the **civil government** and the context of the church; and"

**WHEREAS**, "We affirm that **survivors of sexual abuse may by the grace of God forgive their abuser**, but that such forgiveness should not be interpreted to mean that a victim must have an ongoing relationship with their abuser in order to be in right fellowship with God or their church, nor be regarded as a substitute for justice for the crime of sexual abuse; and"

**No One has the right to tell a victim that they must forgive their Rapist – This is between them and God. In time some will forgive, but it is not your place to tell them to do this**

**RESOLVED**, "That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, **condemn all forms of sexual abuse** and repudiate with a unified voice **all sexually abusive behavior** as **unquestionably sinful** and under the just condemnation of our Holy God; and be it further"

**RESOLVED**, "That we call on ourselves and our network of congregations and institutions to create a culture where **victims** can not only share about their abuse **with the assurance of protection**, but also receive care while church leaders fulfill their obligation to implement policies and **practices that protect against** and confront **any form of abuse** in the future;

**RESOLVED**, "That we call on **all persons perpetrating and enabling sexual abuse** to repent and to confess their sin to Jesus Christ and to church authorities, and **to confess their crimes to civil authorities**; and be it further"

**RESOLVED**, "That we implore all persons to act decisively on matters of abuse, to **immediately report allegations of sexual abuse** to **civil authorities** according to the laws of their state, to **intervene on behalf of the abused**, to do everything possible to **ensure their safety**, and to exercise appropriate church discipline upon abusers

**RESOLVED**, "That we urge churches and their leaders to develop partnerships within their communities to serve the abused, **calling on government officials to strengthen laws that maintain justice and protections for the vulnerable in our society.**"

## 7. Change the SBC Bylaws

in ways designed to **"DISAFFILIATE"** from the Convention churches failing to adequately Protect their members – this should include **Hiring or Keeping a Sex Offender on staff**

**Also, keep the SBC Website up to date.**

The reason this Disfellowship is important, is so those churches **names would be REMOVED from the list** at churches.sbc.net where Churches are listed and people go to look for a NEW Church when they Move.

**Otherwise, the SBC is actually sending families to churches with sex offenders.**

Even with the new bylaws in place, churches remain affiliated and remain on the SBC website. When people go there to "Find a Church More than 50,000 churches and congregations, committed to taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every town, every city, every state, and every nation." Included in that list are churches with sex offenders on staff and who remain affiliated with the SBC,

**SBC leaders were made aware of this in 2011 as I wrote them and explained it to them and asked them to remove a church with a sex offender.** I have these E-Mails and would be happy to share them. There are E-Mails sent in 2011 between Myself and Stephen Wilson, Augie Boto & SBC President Frank Page Listing Churches that have Sex Offenders in Ministry. *(Please note that Augie Boto recently retired and was at the SBC during all of this. He should have warned them of this, or maybe he did and they did not care, I do not know, but we need to know & act accordingly to STOP Sending People to those Churches)*

**If you list his church then people who look at your site  
and trust you will therefore trust that church**

**If they go to a church where they keep such a man,  
then in turn, you are putting other young girls at risk**

In this e-mail, I was asked how the SBC kicked out Broadway Baptist Church for just having a homosexual member yet **failed to get rid of Churches that have Ministers who Rape and Abuse Children.**

**Augie Boto responded by saying:** "As to your question, please reread Section 6 of the 2008 report on Sexual Abuse. The same **process of Disaffiliation** used in Broadway instance **is Available in a Case where a church could be shown to have sanctioned Sexual Abuse** (or for that matter, for ANY reason.) There is no hierarchy of offenses."

The following is what this SBC officer Augie Boto told me to read:

**"Responding to the Evil of Sexual Abuse"**

**Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 2008**

**6. Amending the SBC governing documents in ways designed to "disaffiliate" from the Convention churches failing to adequately protect their members**

"in our opinion, **declaring a church not to be in "friendly cooperation" with the Convention would certainly be justified in any specific case where a church intentionally employed a known sexual offender or knowingly placed one in a position of leadership over children or other participants in its ministries.**"

**Mr. Boto told me there had been a policy for disaffiliating churches because of sexual abuse Baptist since 2008.** So I wonder why if this was written and **approved in 2008, why in the 2019** meeting they **said they still have to wait another year** and **take another vote** on this **"Disaffiliation"** that the **SBC had already approved?"**

**Please explain why has the SBC NOT "Disaffiliated"  
with all these known churches already!?!**



## In the News

**"Sex abuse study 'to own our error,' Greear says" Baptist Press, by Tom Strode**

***"He is not calling for the churches to be disfellowshipped at this time," Greear said.  
He also said he was speaking as the SBC president.***





◆ **"Southern Baptists affirm stances on sex abuse, racism"** Baptist Press, by BP Staff



"Southern Baptists strengthened their stances against sexual abuse and racism during the opening day of their June 11-12 SBC annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala... Messengers cast their votes — raising booklets that contained their printed ballots — for amendments to the SBC constitution to **specifically state that sexual abuse** and discrimination based on ethnicity **are grounds for a church to be deemed as "not in friendly cooperation" with the convention.**

Messengers likewise voted to **amend the SBC's bylaws to repurpose the SBC's Credentials Committee into a standing committee to make inquiries and recommendations for action regarding instances of sexual abuse,"**

**An amendment to the sex abuse wording was proposed by Ryan Hutchinson**, a messenger from Open Door Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., who proposed replacing **"Does not act in a manner inconsistent with the Convention's beliefs regarding sexual abuse"** with **"Does not condone or dismiss or leave unaddressed sexual abuse within their church.** EC chairman Mike Stone **spoke in opposition to the amendment.** Hutchison's amendment failed to draw a majority of messengers' raised ballots."

***Why would anyone object to this change of wording?***

**The SBC is once again trying to water down this issue of Sexual Abuse of our Children and others in our Churches. Why would they do that?**

◆ **"As Southern Baptists take action on sexual abuse, some question whether it's enough"** Washington Post, By Sarah Pulliam Bailey



"Individual churches are **autonomous**, so **'Disfellowship,'** or removal from the convention ranks, is the primary internal enforcement mechanism. The convention's constitution **already allows for severing ties** with churches that **have female pastors**, and this week's vote is the **First Step** toward **including the mishandling of Sexual Abuse complaints. Southern Baptists will have to vote again next year to finalize the amendment."**

"Woodson, a flight attendant based in Colorado Springs, has called on Steve Bradley, the longtime senior pastor of Stone Bridge Church who she says **mishandled her abuse allegations**, to resign. (Bradley did not respond to interview requests Wednesday.)"

**"Really?" she said of Southern Baptist leaders. "Are you doing all you can do?"**

◆ **"Report: How Southern Baptists Failed to Care About Abuse"**  
Christianity Today, By Kate Shellnut



"The messengers are slated to vote on a proposed amendment to specifically name **mishandling sexual abuse as grounds for disfellowshipping a church** and **may task a new committee to handle claims of misconduct by SBC churches.**"

◆ **"SBC Recalls 'Year of Waking Up' Since Abuse Investigation"**  
Christianity Today, By David Roach



"Combating abuse was a central focus when the SBC convened last summer in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition to adopting a resolution titled **"On The Evil Of Sexual Abuse,"** the convention amended its governing documents to strengthen its stand against abuse. SBC messengers in Birmingham also gave the **first of two** required approvals to **amend the SBC constitution to state explicitly that mishandling sexual abuse is grounds for a church to be disfellowshipped from the convention."** **(The convention already has the power to disfellowship a church for any reason.)**

## 8. Report All Instances of Sexual Abuse

Continue to remind Churches, Seminaries & other Religious body to **Supply Open and Widespread Reporting of Instances of Sexual Abuse**, including the Names and Locations of the Perpetrators and Churches involved. They need to Relay this Information to the **SBC** so they can be **posted on a Database** and to **Remove** them from **their other list of SBC affiliated churches**, so to **AVOID** sending people to Churches where there is a **Sex Offender** on staff or as a volunteer.

I am starting this section out with the previous President of two of the SBC Seminaries, who not only **did NOT** follow the **directions** from the **Resolutions from 2002**, but did just the opposite. The SBC was aware of this man's behavior when I communicated with them about him in **2008** and this man was **NOT fired until 2018**. Paige Patterson was known for helping sex offenders and trying to silence victims, including me.

◆ **SBC Seminary President Labels Clergy Sex-Abuse Victims' Group 'Evil-Doers'**  
Good Faith Media, By Bob Allen



**The article quotes E-Mails between Myself and Paige Patterson that started in January of 2008**

"In a message dated 1/13/2008 12:23 PM Central Standard Time, Patterson writes:

**Debbie,**

Never do I respond to anonymous communications. I make an exception and risk it this one time because I can tell that you have been hurt. But I will not do so again, so next time, if you wish a response, you will have to say who you are. For the record, I have been forced by circumstances to spend much too much of my ministry forcing ministers, including my own brother-in-law to leave the ministry because of misbehavior unbecoming to anyone but particularly for a minister of the Gospel. In the case of **Darrell Gilyard, I refused to accuse him**, or **anyone else, then or now, until I knew beyond reasonable doubt that they were guilty.**

Debbie, **what more did you want me to do?** Would you feel better if I shot him? **I am not a detective, a judge, a jury or an executioner.** But **I did then and since, and always all I could do."**

***(Patterson said he was NOT a Judge, yet he was Judging – read on...)***

**"SNAP** [<https://www.snapnetwork.org/>] **is just as reprehensible as sex criminals.** To make false accusations against a person in an effort to tarnish his reputation, as they regularly do and have most recently done to me is just as reprehensible and involves just as little integrity. My little granddaughters 10 and 8, were here the other day and heard on TV that their **Grandpa harbored sex criminals!** I suppose that this is somehow OK since I am a Pastor?"

***Mr. Patterson accuses them of making false accusation, however they told the truth.***

"Now, Debbie, I am profoundly sorry for what happened to you. If you please God with your life He will make it up to you in ten thousand ways, because He is a just, loving and Merciful God. But He will now bless if you **allow your sorrows to cause you to join false accusers in defamation of character.**

**Paige Patterson"**

***I never kept my name a secret in fact he calls me by my Name, Debbie.***

**Because of Paige Patterson and others, Darrell Gilyard, WAS ABLE to ABUSE people for TWO Decades before he was Finally Arrested and Convicted of Sexual Abuse.** Paige Patterson repeated his behavior of protecting Sex Offenders and Silencing Victims, in spite of what Resolutions were made by the SBC, who did nothing when they knew what Patterson was doing regarding sexual abuse. Patterson is currently being sued by yet another victim he tried to silence.



## In the News

◆ **"Judge delays trial date for Jane Roe's case against Patterson and Southwestern Seminary"** Baptist News Global, By Mark Wingfield



**"Two-and-a-half years after Jane Roe filed suit** in federal court against Paige Patterson and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the trial date **has been delayed yet again.**

On **Sept. 2**, Sean Jordan, U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Texas, issued an order to scuttle the trial planned for this month and **delay it indefinitely** due to what appears to be **uncooperative witnesses** and failure to complete the "discovery" part of trial preparation"

**"Here, Roe has identified numerous material discovery** disputes that remain outstanding. Moreover, Roe has attested that **certain key witnesses** with potentially essential information have yet to be deposed, including **SWBTS Board of Trustee Chairman Kevin Ueckert**," the judge explained."

**This systemic issue of failing to hold leaders accountable and being silent about abuse, is proven once again as this Trustee is not cooperating in this lady's case against Patterson.**

"Jane Roe is a pseudonym for an anonymous woman who has alleged that **while a student at Southwestern** she was **stalked, raped** and **repeatedly abused** by a male student who also was a **seminary employee** with **access to** her campus living space."

**"Patterson's mishandling of this case** — he reportedly **told other seminary officials** he **needed to** "break her down" **to silence her** — **led to Patterson's dismissal** by seminary trustees **in 2018**. Patterson also had been **accused of mishandling sexual abuse claims at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina**, where he **previously served as president.**"

**Look again at the Southern Baptist Convention resolution "On The Sexual Integrity Of Ministers", St. Louis, MO - 2002**

The resolution urged our seminaries to

- make **Ministerial Integrity** a major emphasis in the **Training of Pastors, Missionaries, Educators**, and other Ministers
- **RID their ranks of Predatory Ministers**
- to **cooperate with civil authorities** in the **prosecution of civil cases**

Not only did **Paige Patterson ignore this**, he did just the opposite. Also please note that this **is still an issue** as in the case where Roe has attested that certain **key witnesses** with potentially essential information have yet to be deposed, **"including SWBTS Board of Trustee Chairman Kevin Ueckert,"** the judge explained."

◆ **"Lawsuit reveals details about Paige Patterson's 'break her down' meeting with woman alleging campus rape"** Baptist News Global, By Bob Allen



**"Details behind the "break her down" comment** cited by **trustee leaders** in **last year's firing of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson** emerge in a lawsuit now pending in federal court.

Upon returning to campus, the lawsuit says, the seminary's chief of security requested a meeting with Patterson to bring him up to speed. In an **email dated Sept. 28, 2015**, Patterson replied: "Well we'll see. **I have to break her down and I may need no official types there...."**

"The Southwestern Seminary board of trustees convened a meeting to discuss the controversy on **May 22, 2018**, the same day the **Washington Post** published a story **quoting a former student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary** who claimed that **Patterson mishandled her Rape Report** shortly before he left the presidency of that school for the larger Southwestern in 2003."

"In addition, as previously disclosed, a **female student at SWBTS** reported to Dr. Patterson that **she had been Raped in 2015**," trustee chair **Kevin Ueckert** said in a statement **June 1, 2018**."

*Please Note it is trustee chair Kevin Ueckert who was referred to in these articles*

◆ **"Judge delays trial date for Jane Roe's case against Patterson and Southwestern Seminary"** Baptist News Global, By Mark Wingfield



"Roe has attested that certain key witnesses with potentially essential information have yet to be deposed, including **SWBTS Board of Trustee Chairman Kevin Ueckert**," the judge explained."

◆ **"SBC president cautions churches about hosting disgraced leader Paige Patterson"** Houston Chronicle, By Robert Downen



"The president of the Southern Baptist Convention on Friday said **churches should consider** disgraced former leader **Paige Patterson's history of mishandling sexual abuse** complaints **before inviting him to preach to their congregations**. President J.D. Greear's remarks **in response to Chronicle questions** are the **most forceful** to be **issued by SBC leadership regarding Patterson**, who was **ousted** as the leader of a Fort Worth seminary in **2018 for his Handling of MULTIPLE Students' Abuse Claims**."

Greear told the Chronicle. "I advise any Southern Baptist church to consider this severe action before having **Dr. Patterson preach or speak and to contact trustee officers if additional information is necessary**."

"**Dr. Patterson's actions have harmed many**," she [Susan Codone] said. "The SBC is on a great trajectory and does not need his presence anymore."

**Yet [other] current SBC leaders have usually stopped short of naming Patterson**, instead referring to "past" leaders or failures.

◆ **"Southwestern Distances Itself from Paige Patterson in Sex Abuse Lawsuit"** Christianity Today, By David Roach



"He was the face of Southern Baptist seminary. **Now the school keeps taking steps to separate from his legacy**."

**Why did they wait so long? If they had acted sooner, how many people could have been spared the trauma of sexual abuse.**

"**Southwestern** trustees **terminated Patterson in May 2018**, citing, among other factors, his **handling of an allegation of Sexual Abuse against a student during**" his presidency of another institution. The Washington Post reported **Patterson had told a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary**, which he led from **1992 to 2003, NOT to report an alleged rape to police**."

◆ **"The downfall of a pastor: Allegations of sexual misdeeds detailed"** Dallas Morning News, by Rebecca Sherman



"What he didn't say was **that for the fourth time in four years, he had been forced to walk away from a congregation**. A **growing number of women** in the Richardson church said **their pastor had sexually abused them**. One said he had had **sex with her in the pastor's study**. Another said she received lewd phone calls and, most recently, **a woman said he raped her**."

**"The morning after the resignation, Dr. Patterson described Mr. Gilyard as one of the "most brilliant men in the pulpit."**

**"First Baptist officials said they knew of the allegations of sexual misconduct, which began as long as four years ago when Mr. Gilyard was removed as assistant pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church in Oak Cliff. But they said they did not believe those allegations,"**

**"Their greed eclipsed their vision of reality,' said the Rev. E.K. Bailey, pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church, where Mr. Gilyard had been removed in 1987 amid allegations of sexual improprieties. Others, such as Dr. Patterson, paint Mr. Gilyard as a victim. "It's amazing,' Dr. Patterson said, "how jealousy, frustration and racism can be motives for making accusations."**

**"Mr. DeBoard said he asked the group not to discuss the meeting until he had a chance to pray about it. He said he did not encourage the woman to talk to police because he didn't believe that anything illegal had occurred. He said he confronted Mr. Gilyard with the woman's allegation; the pastor denied it."**

**He should have allowed them to call the police, that was their right.  
Sex Offenders do not normally admit what they have done if they think it cannot be proven.  
Why would he think Mr. Gilyard would confess?**

**"Mr. Bailey said officials from First Baptist attended the open service during which Mr. Gilyard was fired but later decided there was not enough evidence to further investigate Mr. Gilyard."**

**"Paige Patterson wrote me an unkind letter over the whole ordeal,' Mr. Bailey said. "He basically told me that he would have come out to my church and solved the problem for me if I had told him first."**

**"Mr. Simpkins said he spoke to The News after recent attempts to force Mr. Gilyard's resignation failed. "I realize now that I was wrong not to believe these women,' Mr. Simpkins said. "I believe it's time now to do the right thing.' Mr. Simpkins said he believes allegations against Mr. Gilyard that surfaced last year were Covered Up by Victory and First Baptist officials."**

**Not only because of Patterson – There were a number of Churches Covering up Sexual Abuse that also helped Gilyard to continue on to other churches and abused even more people. Mr. Gilyard Sexually Abused People for TWO decades before the parent of one of his victims reported him to the police in Florida.**

◆ **"SBC Recalls 'Year of Waking Up' Since Abuse Investigation"**  
Christianity Today, By David Roach



**"All six SBC seminaries are implementing abuse prevention and response training into their curricula."  
(This was also said in 2008 & only 1 seminary was actually doing this.)**

To learn more about the options  
for reporting sexual abuse/assault  
in your area, call the  
National Sexual Assault Hotline  
at 800.656.HOPE (4673).





## 9. Involve Law Enforcement and Civil Authorities

All Churches, Seminaries & other entities should be instructed on How important it is to **Report ALL Allegation of Sexual Abuse of minor children to the Police.** And when and how to report adult abuse.



### What the SBC has already said

#### On The Sexual Integrity Of Ministers – St. Louis, MO - 2002

##### Resolved:

- we urge **our seminaries** ...to make ministerial integrity a **major emphasis in the training of pastors, missionaries, educators, and other ministers**
- we encourage those religious bodies **dealing with the tragedy of clergy abuse in their efforts to rid their ranks of predatory ministers**; and be it further"
- **we call on civil authorities to punish to the fullest extent of the law sexual abuse among clergy and counselors**; and be it further"

#### On Sexual Abuse Of Children – Houston, TX – 2013

##### Whereas:

- The **sexual abuse of children** remains an ever - increasing **criminal offense**
- instances of **sexual abuse** have been perpetrated within **Southern Baptist congregations**

##### Resolved:

- **to stand with our Lord Jesus** in loving and **protecting children** as He does
- we **remind all Southern Baptists** of their **legal and moral responsibility to report any accusations of child abuse to authorities** in addition to implementing any appropriate church discipline or internal restoration processes
- [We] call upon **all Southern Baptists to cooperate fully with law enforcement officials** in **exposing and bringing to justice all perpetrators, sexual or otherwise, who criminally harm children placed in our trust**

#### On The Evil Of Sexual Abuse – Birmingham, AL - 2019

##### Whereas:

- The **autonomy of the local church is compatible** with the **protection of innocents** and **should not be used by any church or organization as a reason not to take appropriate actions to protect the people** it serves, including (but not limited to) the decision of an organization to **remove from fellowship any church that fails to protect the vulnerable**
- **true repentance for perpetrating sexual abuse** requires an **acceptance of the consequences** of sin, both in the context of the **civil government** and the context of the church

##### Resolved:

- we call on **all persons perpetrating and enabling sexual abuse** to repent and to confess their sin to Jesus Christ and to church authorities, and **to confess their crimes to civil authorities**; and be it further"
- we implore **all persons** to act decisively on matters of abuse, to **immediately report allegations of sexual abuse to civil authorities** according to the laws of their state, to **intervene on behalf of the abused**, to do everything possible to **ensure their safety**, and to exercise appropriate church discipline upon abusers
- we urge churches and their leaders to develop partnerships within their communities to serve the abused, **calling on government officials to strengthen laws** that maintain justice and protections for the vulnerable in our society."



## In the News



### "Southern Baptists urged to root out molesters" Associated Press

"SNAP presented a letter Monday to Southern Baptist Convention executive committee members in Nashville, **asking the group to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on sex abuse and to create an independent review board to investigate molestation reports.**"

"Church leaders concede there have been some incidents of abuse in Southern Baptist congregations but **say their hands are tied when it comes to investigating complaints across the denomination.**"

"They don't want to see this problem," said **Christa Brown**, a SNAP member from Austin, Texas, who says **she was sexually abused as a child** by a **Southern Baptist minister**.

"In the **past six months SNAP has received reports of about 40 cases of sexual abuse by Southern Baptist ministers** — with some of the incidents dating back many years, Brown said. SNAP leaders hold that **abuse is typically underreported** because being molested is such a painful experience that **victims often wait years before stepping forward.**"

"**Southern Baptists passed a resolution in 2002 urging its churches to discipline ministers guilty of sexual abuse and to cooperate with authorities in their prosecution.**"



### "FBI asks potential sexual abuse victims to come forward in wake of Oklahoma preacher's indictment" The Oklahoman; By Carla Hinton



"The FBI is encouraging any possible victims of a former Southern Baptist preacher to come forward in the wake of his recent indictment on sexual abuse charges."

"Roy Edward Williams is accused in federal court of **sexually abusing five minors**, offering them payment afterward and **threatening them to keep them from reporting the abuse**, Acting U.S. Attorney Clinton Johnson said."

Williams was charged in federal court because he is a member of the Cherokee Nation. The **victims ranged in age from 7 to 16** when the **abuse occurred**, the U.S. attorney alleged. **Williams was a member and a preacher at Bunker Hill Baptist Church in Vinita.**

In this article the **FBI is asking for victims to come forward.**

**Victims need your support in order to come forward and speak up, as it is extremely difficult for victims to come forward, especially Children.**



### "Probation terms altered to permit sex offender pastor to minister to children"

Baptist News Global, By Bob Allen



Gilyard began as pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Community Church in April 1993. He **resigned** Jan. 4, 2008, **after a member of the congregation filed a police report** claiming Gilyard sent sexually explicit text messages to her daughter.

**Gilyard was arrested** Jan. 14, 2008, **and charged** with two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct. **He pleaded guilty** May 21, 2009, to molesting one girl and sending lewd text messages to another."



### "Southwestern Distances Itself from Paige Patterson in Sex Abuse Lawsuit"

Christianity Today, By David Roach



"The Washington Post reported **Patterson had told a student** at **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary**, which he led from 1992 to 2003, **not to report an alleged rape to police.**"

*In another case of sexual abuse in the Southwestern Seminary*, "Jane Roe", a former **Southwestern student**, was **raped at gunpoint** by a **fellow student** and **campus employee** at least **three times** during the **2014 – 15 academic year**. She states **he [Paige Patterson]** **"interfered with a law enforcement investigation into [her] complaint"**. The woman says **Patterson told her he was "too busy" to deal with her rape allegation** because it was the beginning of the semester. **He grudgingly called police**, she says, because the **report was made on campus**. If he had received the report off campus, Patterson allegedly said, **there would be no need to involve law enforcement**. **"Police were notified of that report,"** said Ueckert, lead pastor of First Baptist Church in Georgetown, Texas. But in connection with **that allegation of rape**, **Dr. Patterson** sent an email (the contents of which were shared with the board on May 22) **to the chief of campus security in which Dr. Patterson discussed meeting with the student alone** so that he could **'break her down'** and that he preferred no officials be present."

◆ **"Southern Baptists pivot to address church sexual abuse at the state level"**

Religion News Service, By Bob Smietana



"The Houston Chronicle report was a big raiser of public awareness for churches, and therefore, led to more requests for help in this area [addressing sexual abuse]," he said. "In the past, he said, **"churches had a tendency to keep things private and not report abuse."** "I think now, churches need to receive the counsel that you take this very seriously," he said. **"Law enforcement needs to be contacted immediately** — they are equipped to handle this in ways that most local churches are not."

◆ **"Man accused of molesting children in church bathroom faces additional charges"**

Baptist News Global, By Bob Allen



"A former church volunteer allegedly ... faces new charges in a grand jury indictment handed down Aug. 1. **The charges relate to five newly identified alleged victims, raising the total number to 15. Hazlett now faces a total of 23 indictments.** "After discovering evidence of inappropriate conduct, the attorneys said, **NewSpring Church immediately notified law enforcement** and **continues to cooperate with the police investigation.**"

◆ **"Report: How Southern Baptists Failed to Care About Abuse"**

Christianity Today, By Kate Shellnutt



A Southern Baptist Convention report on sexual abuse [was] released Saturday as the culmination of a year of study, listening sessions, and expert consultation...In one section, the authors state, "We recognize failures have occurred in many ways, including:

- **Failing to adequately train our staff and volunteers** — on the national, state, and congregational levels — **to be aware of and respond appropriately to abuse**
- Using **church autonomy** improperly to **avoid taking appropriate action**
- **Failing to care well for survivors of abuse**
- **ailing to take disclosure seriously and to believe the survivor**
- **Failing to report abuse to civil authorities**
- **Recommending suspected perpetrators to new employment**

**"'Caring Well' leads to changes in procedures and lives, churches say"**

Baptist Press, By Scott Barkley



**One of the biggest issues to address in the culture of the SBC surrounding sexual abuse is Failure to report to Law Enforcement**

## 10. Use Available Security Technology

The use of **Security Cameras** could be a good tool for our Churches and Seminaries to use to help PROVE or DISPROVE Sexual Abuse. It may perhaps even help PREVENT Sexual Abuse.

I know this may be a long way off, however it is something that should be considered – the use of **Security Cameras**. Cameras are already being used in schools, stores, restaurants, in homes, in neighbourhoods, and in many other places, so why not in our churches and seminaries?



### In the News

◆ "Man accused of molesting children in church bathroom faces additional charges"  
Baptist News Global, By Bob Allen



"A former church volunteer allegedly **caught on security video** last year molesting preschoolers in a bathroom at a South Carolina megachurch faces new charges in a grand jury indictment handed down Aug. 1."

I applaud this Church for caring enough about these children to install Security Cameras, however it was a shame they did not go over what was recorded sooner, so other children could have been spared.

"The charges relate to five newly identified alleged victims, raising the total number to 15. Hazlett now faces a total of 23 indictments. After learning of the allegation, church leaders reviewed security camera footage monitoring the day-care area and found 14 separate incidents where Hazlett allegedly molested boys in the children's bathroom. Authorities at the time said there might be other victims, because the church only kept archived video for 90 days.

I hope other Churches will take this step and put in Security Cameras, which helped prove what this man was doing to these children. However, I would hope that people would take the time to review those tapes, or hire someone to do so, for it to become a better tool in fighting Child Sexual abuse in our Churches.

"While the church says Hazlett's background check revealed no previous arrests, he was charged in 2007 as a 17-year-old with gross sexual imposition in Ohio. He pleaded guilty to a lesser crime, and because he was a minor his court record was sealed."

This is why we need our own Database – to know about those they cannot be found by a criminal background check.

"Hazlett was reportedly asked to leave Cove Church in 2012 due to concerns about his behavior around children and was moved by Elevation Church to an administrative role with no direct contact with children because church leaders there had an "uneasy feeling" about how he interacted with kids."

Also note these Churches did NOT communicate well about this man and failed to warn these other churches before such harm could be done to these children.

# 11. Listen to Survivors and Stop Victim Blaming

Churches should **listen to those who come forward about abuse, take every accusation seriously, and NOT place Blame on the victim and cast them out.**

At least make them **feel they have been heard** and are still welcome by their "Church Family" When there is a disclosure of sexual abuse – **do NOT always defend the minister** and stand behind him especially before all the facts are known (**see #9: Involve Law Enforcement**) When abuse has been established, **focus on caring for the survivor** rather than the restoration of the leader.

◆ **"The roaring comeback of a toxic masculinity of power and victimization"**

Baptist News Global, Rodney Kennedy



"Evangelical churches and schools are enablers of toxic masculinity. This is seen **clearly in how they handle sexual assault claims.** A recent but all-too-prevalent headline caught my attention: **"They went to Bible college to deepen their faith, then they were sexually assaulted — and blamed for it."** What turns the world of power upside down where women are sexually assaulted by men with physical power and then are accused of having **power over men by seducing them or leading them on to act in such ways?"**

"No longer in charge as the male assumed he was during the assault, **he now pretends to be a victim.** He was **distracted, driven temporarily insane** by the most **exotic clothing**, most **alluring perfume**, the **seductive wiles** of the more powerful, more dominant female student. **She has to be blamed because she rendered the male helpless to her charms."**

**Apparently, they did NOT Read this in the bible:**

**1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."**

"A major reason that defendants in **sexual assault cases** insist on **blaming the woman's clothing** as the **cause of sexual assault is that it works.** For example, a judge in Quincy, Ill., who found an **18-year-old man guilty of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl** has **thrown out the conviction** and said the **months the young man spent in jail was punishment** enough. The **judge indicated** that **teenage drinking** and **females swimming** in their **underwear** were factors in his decision."

"The illusion turns the world of power upside down. After the woman tells the story of sexual assault, **the interrogator (usually a college administrator) suggests that it was the woman who had all the power."**

"Again, Proverbs chapter 7 paints the picture for us: **"With much seductive speech she persuades him;** with her smooth talk she compels him. Right away he follows her, and goes like an ox to the slaughter, or bounds like a stag towards the trap until an arrow pierces its entrails. He is like a bird rushing into a snare, not knowing that it will cost him his life."

**"All the responsibilities are on the girls to be pure,"** says Anna Schutte, who graduated from Moody Bible College in 2020. "You know, if a guy has a porn addiction and a sex addiction, you should pray for him. But **if a girl gets assaulted, it's her fault."**



**Unfortunately, there are people who still believe these things, however the Bible Clearly states this to be a false assumption to blame victims for their own Rape. I know that Paige Patterson thinks this way, he has proven that with his actions.**

**I Have NEVER heard of a Woman wanting to be raped.** I do agree that some swim wear is immodest, however that is **NOT an excuse for Rape.**

◆ **Abuse of Faith | Part 6 "Silence, survival, speaking out: survivors of Baptist sexual abuse come forward to help others"** Houston Chronicle, By John Tedesco, Lise Olsen, and Robert Downen



**"Kingsley Brown was only 14** in March 2009 when a counselor called her to the school office, where **Child Protective Service workers** were waiting. Outwardly, Kingsley was a success — a popular A student. But **she carried a secret: Her father began molesting her when she was 10 and continued to do so for two years.** Though Kingsley followed his command to never tell anyone, **her sister had eventually guessed.** At the time, **her father was lead pastor of Bellmead Baptist Church, a Waco** congregation with 1,300 members. Her father was immediately removed from the home. **He was indicted,** and he **later confessed** — and Waco newspapers ran the story on their front pages."

Brown was not alone as an incest survivor of a Southern Baptist preacher or leader, though she didn't know it then. The Chronicle's database **includes** about **two dozen cases of incest** involving church leaders. Nearly all of the cases are similar to Brown's, in which pastors and other trusted church figures were prosecuted for molesting or raping their own children or other relatives.

In **2009, William Brown pleaded guilty** and was sentenced to serve 50 years in prison on four counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child. **Kingsley later cut off all contact with her father for her own mental health.**

Both parents lost their jobs. Her mother, Connie, had been serving as an associate pastor alongside her father but could not stay because of the scandal...

**In the aftermath, church leaders,** many of whom did not know that Brown's daughter was his victim, **failed to provide comfort or support to the family"**

**This girl was raped by her father, who was the pastor of this church and his wife found out about it from the school who called Child Protective Services. When the story hit the paper the girl and her mother who were the victims, were cast out by their Church Family.**

**How could any Christian Church Family be so uncaring?**

I have known others **who were also cast out** as they were **blamed for what these Sex Offenders who call themselves Ministers had done to them.**

**Where was their Church Family?**

◆ **"Under #caringwell scrutiny, Texas Baptist church slammed for response to abuse arrest "** Baptist News Global, By Bob Allen



"While national leaders continue grapple with new revelations of past missteps involving the reporting of sexual abuse in the Southern Baptist Convention, a **Texas church urged its members to give a former worship leader under arrest for alleged sex crimes in Tennessee the benefit of the doubt.**"

"Amy Smith, a blogger and long-time advocate for abuse survivors in Southern Baptist life, called it **"a textbook church response in how to discourage other victims from coming forward to police thereby enabling an alleged child sexual predator."**

**Unfortunately, most congregations give their Minister the benefit of the doubt and many times blame the victims. People do this without even knowing all of the facts.**

**This needs to stop.**

**Victims are being harmed even worse when they see this and it keeps other victims from feeling safe to come forward about their own abuse. Things need to change.**

**“‘Caring Well’ leads to changes in procedures and lives, churches say”** Baptist Press, By Scott Barkley



“Since the launch of the Caring Well Challenge [www.caringwell.com] in August 2019, momentum has grown for the 12-month, eight-step process of **“listening, learning, assessing and launching needed initiatives”** to make churches safer against sexual abuse

“According to the CDC, **one in four women and one in six men are sexually abused before they turn 18,**” he said. “Regardless of the size of the church you pastor or attend, **there are survivors of abuse in your congregation** – and the **potential still exists for abuse in your local church.**”

Consider again the **SBC Report:**

## **How Southern Baptists Failed to Care About Abuse**



In one section, the authors’ state, **“We recognize failures have occurred in many ways, including:**

**“Failing to take disclosure seriously and to believe the survivor”**

**Unfortunately, this has been the SBC policy for many years. When I went to the Annual meeting in 2008, these SBC men did not want to talk about protecting future victims, instead they were more concerned about redeeming these sex offenders and restoring them to the ministry.**

***( I have this conversation on tape to prove this from the 2008 meeting. )***

**“Protecting Abuse Survivors is ‘Personal,’ Says New Southern Baptist Leader”**

Religion News Service, By Adelle M. Banks



Rev. Rolland Slade **“I encourage you to listen** [to survivors who disclose abuse]. You don’t have to solve it but you **need to listen and share with them how much you care and what has happened to them is not what God would have happen in the church.**”

**“Abuse survivors urge Southern Baptists to listen, then act”** Houston Chronicle, By John Tedesco



**“For years, victims’ advocates have called for sweeping changes in how the Southern Baptist Convention responds to sexual abuse in its churches.”**

“It was a wrenching three days for family members and **abuse victims, who said they were ostracized by their churches.** Yet it also marked the **first time some** of those **ostracized voices were acknowledged** and **even invited to speak.**”

**“Megan Lively, a seminary student who had been raped by her then-boyfriend at North Carolina’s Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2003, told the audience she was viewed as a threat by school leaders when she mustered the courage to come forward.”**

"[Boz] Tchividjian said **abuse survivors are the key to healing Southern Baptist churches**. There needs to be a **"lengthy season of listening" to victims**, he said, and he proposed establishing a commission to do that.

**"so much pain and damage could have been avoided if SBC leaders had simply listened to past warnings,"** said Rachael Denhollander"

◆ Reported by Religion News Service on **October 5, 2019** By JACK JENKINS  
**"At Caring Well conference, SBC leaders hear criticism of abuse response"**



"After a **first day focused on** stories of abuse survivors, the Caring Well conference, organized by the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, devoted its second and third days to hearing from critics of the denomination's response to abuse."

"The **SBC** has, **over and over again, trampled on these** precious (abuse) **survivors**, and that is why **they are afraid to speak up** — **that fear is deserved,**" said Rachael Denhollander.... **She said that the first time she was abused** — before encountering Nassar — **was in a church at age 7."**

"A series of breakout sessions also offered pastors and church leaders practical lessons for **dealing with sexual abuse** and covered a broad range of issues that fall under the broader category of abuse: how to screen for child sex abusers, prevent domestic violence and **how to talk to abuse survivors.**"

## **Before you can learn to talk to abuse survivors – You need to Learn How to **LISTEN** to them.**

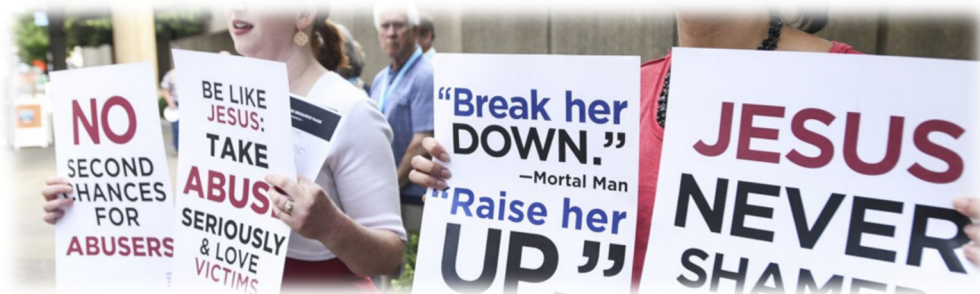
◆ **"29-page memorandum illustrates what the SBC Sexual Abuse Task force is hearing"**  
Baptist News Global, By David Bumgardner



"A 29-page single-spaced memorandum originally obtained by *Baptist News Global* and subsequently **made public by the survivor** and advocate who authored it **alleges at least 18 years of mishandling specific instances of sexual abuse** by the **Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee**. The allegations include resistance to meaningful abuse reform initiatives and the **mistreatment and intimidation of survivors.**"

"Brown wonders if Patterson had a hand in the article in question, which she called a "smear." She surmises that Patterson made these comments because at the time, **SNAP had recently sent a letter to Southwestern's board of trustees calling for them to suspend Patterson and conduct an investigation into his covering for "reported serial predator" Darrell Gilyard.**"

"Brown concluded with some words for **survivors in the SBC who may be skeptical of coming forward to assist Guidepost's investigation and/or going public with their story.**"

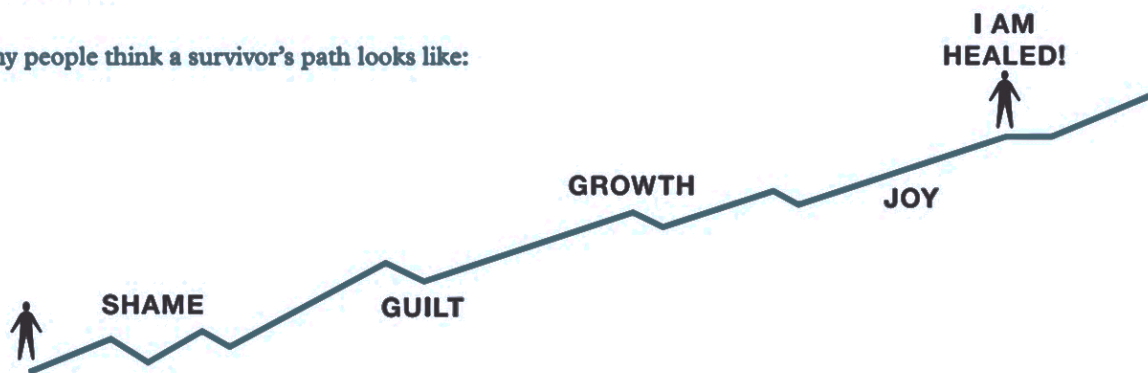


## 12. Assist Survivors in Recovery

**Providing Counseling** and/or legal assistance to victims, or financial assistance so victims might avail themselves of such professional help as well as other **Medical Expenses** they might have **Due to this abuse**.

When sexually abused by someone you were told you could trust, in a place that **should have been safe**, causes victims so much pain. Some victims take their own life or use alcohol or drugs to erase these memories. **They need help** and **as good Christians we should supply it**. If you read the articles "Abuse of Faith" by the Houston Chronicle. You can read about some of these cases.

What many people think a survivor's path looks like:



The Realistic Version:



Image: Caring Well / SBC

I would **recommend** that people **read this little book** that was given to me by a friend. I do not know the writer **nor do I profit from recommending it**, however I felt it **is good for someone who has been hurt** to read. The book is called **"MY BEAUTIFUL BROKEN SHELL: Words of Hope to Refresh the Soul"** By Carol Hamblet Adams

**Here is a short part of this book:**

"This Shell is people who are hurting ... people who have lost loved ones ...  
people who are frightened or alone ... people with unfulfilled dreams.  
This shell has had to fight so hard to keep from being totally crushed by the pounding surf ...  
Just as I have had to.  
Yet this shell is still out on the beautiful sandy shore ... just as I am  
Thank You Lord, that I haven't been completely crushed by the heaviness in my heart ...  
by the pounding of the surf.



## My Story

I am going to start this off with what I know best—myself and my abuse. Before I do this There have been other articles written about my abuse, however this writer knew more than I did as she knew the name of this field where I was first raped when I was 15. She also put in a lot of details. **I wept the first time I read it** and I have not read it in many years, however I just read it again and **it still brings tears to my eyes**. I was so hurt and confused and I think it fits perfectly here. This writer spoke in a way it took me back and brought back many feelings. I am a perfect example of someone who needed help.

**I needed help but did NOT get it for many Years.**



◆ “What Would Jesus Say?” Nashville Scene, By Elizabeth Ulrich



I learned to **turn my emotions off** in order **to survive**, so people did not know I was hurting. After **he told me about this girl**, I knew **I had to tell**. However **I could not handle the guilt** I felt when I found out **my silence could have allowed this man** to be **in a position** where he could **hurt another girl**. It was **too much for me to handle**. I also **felt guilty because I told**, as I was **told before if I told I would hurt the Church** and **I did not want to do that**. Anyway I looked at it **I was wrong for not telling and for telling** as **I never wanted to hurt the Church then or now**. – I have learned better now – however feelings of guilt still occur.

**I was able to control my emotions and no one knew of my pain, until I learned of this girl, but that was too much I could not eat or sleep and I was in such bad shape as all of this pain I had buried came up and so much more with the guilt about this girl.**

**“Vasquez has experienced so much guilt that she has been suicidal. “Knowing how much [sexual abuse] hurts, and thinking I kept my mouth shut, and so now someone else is hurting, that’s what gets to me.”**

**“Vasquez says officials at Amyx’s current church are aware of her allegations and of the proven paternity, and they have failed to act.”**

**I needed help. I did eventually start to see a therapist.** I also had some physical problems because of what he did and **needed medical care**. As a **final attempt to stop him** from **abusing this child** or anyone else **I did a lawsuit**. I wanted to go to court, so this girl could see that **he is not as powerful as he says he is** and **if I can stand up to him so can she**. However **I failed once again**, as the lawyer I had **originally took my case on a contingency plan**, but **she changed law offices** and said the new firm did not work on that kind of case and said I needed to settle. **I did not have the money to continue so I could go to court**. I called around and asked if **I could go to court without a lawyer** and I was **told I could not**, so I settled. **It was not about money**, I told the lawyer to do whatever, just make sure **she got all the money needed to pay for everything**, as I did not have money to pay her and her firm. **I did insist on an apology letter**. It was not much of an apology, however the lawyer said it was probably the best I would be able to get from him. **In this letter he promises to stay away from me and my family**. I know legally it is not worth much, however if he showed up again I would have something to show the police in the new city I moved to in order to get away from him.



## Other Stories

◆ “Abuse of Faith: 20 years, 700 victims: Southern Baptist sexual abuse spreads as leaders resist reforms” Houston Chronicle, By Robert Downen, Lise Olsen, & John Tedesco



**“Heather Schneider was 14 when she was molested in a choir room at Houston's Second Baptist Church, according to criminal and civil court records”**

**“Schneider slit her wrists the day after that attack in 1994, Casados said. She survived, but she died 14 years later from a drug overdose that her mother blames on the trauma. “I never got her back,” Casados said.”**



◆ **"Offend, then repeat: Southern Baptist churches hired dozens of leaders previously accused of sex offenses"** Houston Chronicle, 2019

By John Tedesco, Robert Downen, and Lise Olsen



"Some **ministers move from church to church** for years **until they're caught**. Concerns about **Doug Myers' behavior** around young boys **followed him from Alabama to Florida** before **he was finally caught, then convicted in 2007**. The victim, who according to the suit **was 11** when he met Myers, said **the assaults caused "shame, humiliation ... suicidal ideations and night terrors."**

◆ **"Preying on teens: More than 100 Southern Baptist youth pastors convicted or charged in sex crimes"** Houston Chronicle, By Lise Olsen, Robert Downen, and John Tedesco



"Foster had been leading the youth group at Community of Faith for less than a year when the mother of the **16-year-old** spotted his texts. By then, Foster had already invited the girl alone to his home and **illegally engaged in sexual intercourse with her at least three times.**"

"The **16-year-old suffered an emotional crisis**. She confided in a teacher who alerted police; **police alerted the church**. Her pastor at Community of Faith quickly reached out to others."

"That's when **a second victim came forward** — the girl who first met Foster at **Second Baptist** when **she was just 12.**"

"My life **has turned upside down**. I can't relate to what people are going through anymore. **My innocence is gone,**" his **youngest victim** later said in court, **breaking down in tears**. "I no longer have a **relationship with God**, and that was once something very special to me. **I don't trust anyone in churches anymore.**"

"At Foster's sentencing, **three victims testified**. Nicole, the eldest of the trio, took the stand first to tell the judge **that there were even more youth group members who were afraid to speak out**. **"Although these girls didn't come forward, this is not an isolated incident, and there are a lot more that have come to me,"** she said.

**After that episode, she suffered nightmares and panic attacks for years.** She still has trouble staying alone in locked rooms, she said.

**Harris County prosecutors and victims opposed Foster's parole. Nicole's mother informed Texas officials in a letter that her daughter and others still suffered from Foster's long pattern of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior.**

◆ **"Silence, survival, speaking out: Survivors of Baptist sexual abuse come forward to help others"** Houston Chronicle, By John Tedesco, Lise Olsen, and Robert Downen



"Dillon Price was routinely molested by the pastor of his church in Fort Worth, Texas. **He remained silent about the abuse for years**, and at one point **became suicidal**. He recently **decided to speak out so as to help other victims**"

**Kingsley Brown's "father began molesting her when she was 10 and continued to do so for two years. At the time, her father was lead pastor of Bellmead Baptist Church, a Waco congregation with 1,300 members. In 2009, William Brown pleaded guilty and was sentenced to serve 50 years in prison on four counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child. Kingsley later cut off all contact with her father for her own mental health"**

**"In the aftermath, church leaders, many of whom did not know that Brown's daughter was his victim, failed to provide comfort or support to the family," There's a lot of damage that you have to pick up from what occurs after abuse like that, so it's important to be able to speak on restoration and healing,"** Kingsley said."

"Kenny Stubblefield still remembers every inch of that basement in Memphis: the shag carpet. The fridge full of Michelob's. The big-screen TV with porn playing. The waterbed, where at 16 he slept at the insistence of his youth pastor. The black window curtains, and the way the sunrise bled through them as he sat, paralyzed with fear, in the early

morning hours after he said he was molested in November 1996. **"For the next year, he lived 'in the shadows,' he said in a recent interview. At the time, he thought: 'I am by myself... I am alone. Nobody will protect me.'"**

"Then his best friend, **Brooks Hansen**, told him about his own night in their youth pastor's basement. Hansen's **older brother had a similar story. All three eventually went to the church's lead pastor**, Scott Payne, who said he would act. The youth pastor was back at the church months later, the men said. **Stubblefield said they were told to stay quiet, because that "was what the faithful did."**

**"The abuse was horrendous,"** Stubblefield said. "But the most **damaging, life-altering part of** the entire process was when the **people I trusted** — that **I thought I could trust**, that **had my back**, that were **supposed to protect me** — **absolutely re-victimized me**. It was like a **gunshot wound in my gut**."

◆ **"Texas Suits Allege Baptist Clergy Misconduct: Two Baptist ministers apologize after women bring forth accusations"** Denton Record-Chronicle, By Donna Fielder

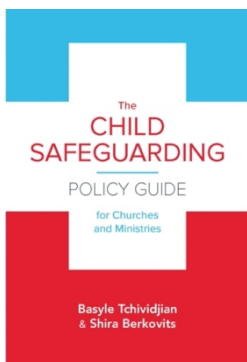


**"Roush's mother**, Sandy Lyons, said she **learned about the allegations** when she visited **her daughter at an alcohol and drug rehabilitation hospital** in Arizona about a year and a half ago. **Suppressed shame and anxiety over the abuse** had driven her daughter to **self-medicate**, she said." **"Larry Reynolds, pastor of the Southmont Baptist Church in Denton"** She was 15, the touching had become intercourse, according to the suit. He **molested her at various locations, including the church**, the document states."

## 13. Have Good Safety Policies and Follow Them

Follow known Best Practices in Safety and Prevention from experts in sexual abuse.

**I highly recommend GRACE resources.** One of the best books available on the topic of safeguarding children is The ***Child Safeguarding Policy for Churches and Ministries*** by Basyle Tchividjian and Shira M. Berkovits



Use every available means to **make it harder** for these **sexual predators** to be able to **come into our Churches** and **Sexually Abuse our Children**. And if you have ideas, then **Please Speak Up** — Let People know what you think could help and let's **start to take action to stop abuse in our Churches**.

**We are all brothers and Sisters in Christ and should act together to prevent this horrible abuse from occurring in our Churches Together. PLEASE HELP !!**

# 14. Work to change laws regarding sexual abuse

**Be Active in Supporting** new legislation and strengthening existing laws in your state regarding Sexual Abuse

## A. Change Reporting Laws

In Texas, Southern Baptist pastors Ben Wright and Bart Barber went to Congress to get a law to pass to keep Churches safe from civil suits for reporting sex offenders and telling others so to make it more difficult for them to go from Church to Church.

◆ "TX reps OK bill for churches to report sex predators" Baptist Press, Diana Chandler



"The Texas Legislature unanimously passed a bill initiated by Southern Baptists to **provide civil immunity to churches that disclose credible sex abuse allegations**. The Texas Senate **passed House Bill 4345 late yesterday (May 22)** without opposition, two weeks after the House approved the measure. The bill is written to **protect charitable organizations, their volunteers and independent contractors from liability when disclosing credible allegations to prospective employers, even when no criminal charges have been filed against the accused.**"

◆ "Texas Bill Would Shield Churches that Report Sex Abuse from Civil Liability"  
Baptist Press, Diana Chandler



"Southern Baptist pastors and leaders have initiated a Texas bill to allow nonprofits including churches **to disclose credible but unproven sexual abuse allegations with no fear of civil liability.**

The bill can strengthen churches and other charitable organizations in hindering repeat offenders, said pastor Ben Wright who helped initiate the bill.

But it does help churches and organizations know that if they pass on information that they believe to be true, that they have good reason to believe is true, it helps them know that they will be **shielded from potential lawsuits.**"

I think a Database, would be a great help with this, However, I think another wonderful idea, if it is possible, would be to

**B. Get the "Statute of Limitations" Changed** in regards to the Sexual assault and Rape, especially against anyone 18 years or younger.

The SBC already has written Resolutions that would support taking more action to stop this.

As there is **NO Statute of Limitations when it comes to murder** – I do not see **why there should be any Statute of Limitation when it comes to sexually assaulting and raping of these young people**. In a way they have **committed murder**. They murdered their innocence. They murdered their **ability to trust** the Church. They murdered their **ability to have a good relationship in marriage** for some. Also for some they have even **murdered their ability to go to the Bible for help and comfort**, as some of their abusers used the Bible to serve their own purposes and to hurt these victims. These so called **Ministers have made the Bible something dirty to them** and this is a great crime in itself. Furthermore there are many who **took their own lives because of the abuse** that was done to them, therefore **they are guilty of their deaths as they caused it.**

**If you look at all of the cases I have put forth you will see a pattern of the "Statute of Limitation" being an issue in prosecuting the case.**



# What the SBC has already said

## On The Sexual Integrity Of Ministers – St. Louis, MO - 2002

### Resolved:

- we urge **our seminaries** ...to make ministerial integrity a **major emphasis in the training of pastors, missionaries, educators, and other ministers**
- we encourage those religious bodies **dealing with the tragedy of clergy abuse in their efforts to rid their ranks of predatory ministers**
- **we call on civil authorities to punish to the fullest extent of the law sexual abuse among clergy and counselors; and be it further**"

## On The Evil Of Sexual Abuse – Birmingham, AL - 2019

### Resolved:

- **we ask civil authorities**, in the implementation of due process for the accused, to **review laws**, in consultation with social workers and trauma counselors, to ensure that privacy laws do not prevent the pursuit of **justice on behalf of the abused, and that statutes of limitations** (criminal and civil) **do not unduly protect perpetrators of sexual abuse.**
- we implore all persons to act decisively on matters of abuse, to **immediately report allegations of sexual abuse to civil authorities** according to the laws of their state, to **intervene on behalf of the abused**, t
- we urge churches and their leaders to **develop** partnerships within their communities to serve the abused, **calling on government officials to strengthen laws** that maintain justice and protections for the vulnerable in our society."

## On Local Church Autonomy And Accountability – Birmingham, AL – 2019

### Resolved:

- we affirm that **local church autonomy** is **compatible with** the **mutual accountability** to the Lord of all the churches, especially those churches of like faith and practice
- That **we warn those** who would **misuse local church autonomy** as a **license for sin** that **God will judge both shepherds and the wolves** who **abuse the vulnerable sheep in the flock** (Ezekiel 34:1–24); and be it further"
- That God explicitly instructed His churches to **be careful** when setting apart individuals for ministerial leadership, appointing ministers in their churches, and **monitoring the continued integrity of these ministers"**
- We...**repudiate** any who seek to use the cherished doctrine of local church **autonomy as a means of hiding the sins of ministers and others in the church who abuse, sexually** or otherwise, "the little ones" of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 18:6–10)."

I know I have put forth a number of suggestions and I know some you may agree upon and some may take time for you all to consider. However, **I beg you all to consider them.** I ask that you **good Christians would at least endorse some of these things now.**

## Steps need to be taken – Not just Words

To Protect our Children and others from Sexual Abuse that is occurring in our Churches.

### Every bit of time counts. The longer we wait the more victims there are

and that is our responsibility. Please come forth with any other suggestions that you all can think of that would result in better protection for our Children. **What is being done now – DOES NOT WORK. The evidence is clear on that.**

Basically if **everyone could come up with ways to make it harder for sexual predators to be able to come into our Churches and Sexually Abuse our Children** then **Please Speak Up – Let's start to take action to stop abuse in our Churches.** We are all brothers and Sisters in Christ and should act together to prevent this horrible abuse from occurring in our Churches Together.

**PLEASE HELP !!**

## Final Thoughts

**“All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing”**

**“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”**

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”**

### Epilogue, by Todd Benkert

I want to thank you for taking the time to read what Debbie has prepared. As you can see, she has done a lot of research because she wants Southern Baptists to see the urgency of acting to prevent abuse and prevent ministers from being serial abusers. Debbie told me “What happened to me is past. I can’t do anything about it. But maybe I can prevent others from being abused.”

I met Debbie Vasquez at the ERLC’s Caring Well Conference in Grapevine, Texas. For more than an hour, Debbie not only told me her story, but poured out to me all of her passion and frustration at our actions and inactions as Southern Baptists. She was devastated that so many people had been abused that didn’t have to be, if only we’d cared about this sooner. But of all the words she spoke to me that night, the one thing that she repeated over and over and that to this day I cannot shake:

**“Why won’t you do something?!?”**

**Southern Baptists, It’s time to do something**



**#StandWithSurvivors**