

Kernan Family,

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has been in the news recently regarding the mishandling of sexual abuse cases. At the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting last June, messengers ( $\approx 15,000$  representatives from local churches) voted to form a Sexual Abuse Task Force. This task force was charged with hiring a third-party investigative firm to investigate the actions of the SBC's Executive Committee, headquartered in Nashville, TN. The findings of the report were disturbing, showing the Executive Committee's failure to properly address reported cases of sexual abuse for many years. The release of this report, prior to the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting is what has made recent news.

I am glad to say that the convention voted last week to approve the recommendations proposed by the Task Force based on the findings of the third-party investigative firm. This is a hopeful beginning to properly addressing the issues at hand. While I am glad the convention is doing the right thing now, we are grieved over the pain this has caused victims for many years.

This should serve as a forceful reminder to us all of the wickedness of the human heart and the need for justice to be served in every case by reporting to the proper authorities.

In light of these things, I think Kernan should respond in several ways:

1. Pray for victims of sexual abuse, that God will bring complete healing to them.
2. Pray for the SBC, that God will keep us faithful and obedient.
3. Enforce with the utmost care all of our safety policies and procedures here at Kernan.

I want to assure you that Kernan Church is committed to providing a safe place to worship and belong. May God grant us grace as we pursue obedience to his Word.

In Christ,  
Pastor Andrew