



Dear Parents of McLean Bible Church,

We want to make you aware of a situation that took place with one of our former Rock Student Ministries adult volunteers. It was brought to our attention that this particular volunteer may have engaged in inappropriate conduct and communication with a former Rock student who had recently graduated from high school. When this came to light we did three things. (1) We removed the volunteer from his volunteer role and enacted other appropriate restrictions, (2) we involved a private investigator to objectively collect evidence, and, (3) we reported what was learned to the police, who then conducted their own independent investigation.

We were provided with detailed evidence that the volunteer had behaved in what we considered to be gross misconduct with one former student and had inappropriate communication with at least two others. However, after the police detectives conducted their own investigation, they concluded that, from their perspective, law enforcement action was not warranted for certain reasons. In accordance with the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17, the volunteer was confronted by several MBC pastors and responded with denial and a lack of full transparency. In order to ensure a safe environment for children at MBC, the volunteer, having been a member of the church, was issued a no-trespass order and banned from all affiliation with McLean Bible Church. We ask that if you or someone you know has also been affected by any inappropriate action of this or any volunteer or staff at MBC, please do not hesitate to contact Lucius Thompson, our director of security at (703) 770-2969.

It is important that you are aware of this situation for several reasons:

- 1) So you can pray with us for healing, wisdom, peace, and comfort for the families involved. It has caused them much pain and frustration to have someone so close betray their trust. We have withheld the names of those family members to protect their privacy.
- 2) So you can be patient and proactive with us as we continue to move toward greater security and accountability in our family ministry environments at MBC. You may have noticed increased communication about security and volunteer onboarding, as well as physical changes happening in our facility. All of this is a serious effort to make our ministries the safest places for your families. Some of these efforts are a reaction to this situation. Others have been proactive based on what we've seen in recent news events. To date, we have made the following security updates:
 - a. While we always background check staff and volunteers who work with our students, we have upgraded our volunteer background checks to a more extensive external system.
 - b. We have improved and updated accountability procedures and expectations for all Rock volunteers who work with children and teens to include a signed covenant, more strict transportation policies and communication curfews.
 - c. We have purchased additional monitoring cameras that have been installed in most children's and student areas.
 - d. We've given additional training to MBC children's and student ministry staff on recognizing signs of abuse and signs that a potential predator may be active.
 - e. We will be providing training by outside experts in conjunction with our staff for parents and volunteers on how to spot and protect against predators in any setting (see below for more info).

- f. We have hired an additional police officer to be in our children's spaces on Sundays and Wednesday nights for additional protection and observation.
- 3) So you can be all the more diligent in creating, monitoring, and enforcing boundaries between your students and adults, including adults who work/volunteer at schools, community programs, athletic teams, and yes, even churches. We need you to be involved. It causes us much grief to learn and confront the realities of the sinful world we live in, and we ask for your help in keeping our kids safe. If you see something, please say something. And please consider volunteering in any of our children's or teen areas once a month until the building efforts are complete.

Finally, some of you may remember a letter we previously gave to parents regarding physical changes we made last year to enhance our Tysons physical security. In that letter there was a broader statement that said, "We are thankful that God has protected our children and at-risk adults over the years and want to ensure to the best of our abilities that this continues." We want you to know this statement was primarily intended to address how we were strengthening specific physical site security as we reconfigured certain spaces at Tysons, which caused some disruption to others who were used to having full access to restrooms and space that became restricted. There was no intent to attempt to mislead anyone about this particular situation. However, as we have processed things in the context of this situation, it is clear that statement was poorly written and was insensitive to the families involved. For this, we humbly apologize.

We want you to know our faith and confidence in the sovereignty, love, and promises of God have not and will not be shaken. Situations like this remind us of the wickedness that exists in this world because of sin. Our Lord, in His manifold wisdom and holiness, has promised to bring justice to that wickedness, save His people, and make all things new (Revelation 21:1-8). As you pray with us, do not fear, nor lose heart. Rather, seek to know, trust, and love Jesus by His word and through prayer. We love your families deeply and want to ensure to the best of our abilities that this never happens again at MBC. We also want to mirror God's justice, mercy, and compassion for children and survivors of all ages. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our director of security at the number above.

Sincerely,

-The Tysons Staff and The Elders of McLean Bible Church

Upcoming Parent Training

As mentioned above, we will be hosting the following initial training sessions for parents on how to spot, report and protect against predators in any setting (school, church public etc.). Those training sessions will be on **Sunday, October 7th** at the following times:

- 9:00am in room 2400
- 11:00am in room 2400

Registration is not required. You may simply show up. For more information about this training, please contact Leah Buller (operations manager for RSM) at leah.buller@mcleanbible.org. We intend to make this training and other trainings of use to parents a regular part of our communications.