

Dear New Hope Family,

I am writing to you this afternoon with a heart full of emotions. One that is abundantly grateful for the sovereign God that I serve. God being in complete control continues to give me great peace and joy. But I am also writing with a troubled heart about some recent news.

The Southern Baptist Convention's Sexual Abuse Task Force report has just been released. Due to my recent surgery I have not been able to read the report in its entirety, but plan on doing so in the near future. But from what I have read, from all appearances it is terrible in the way that some abusers were protected and enabled. The hurt that many people have experienced causes my heart much pain. At this time we need to diligently pray for the victims and the churches that have been affected by these evils of satan. I want to assure you as your Pastor that discussions will take place concerning these issues with church leadership in the coming days. We as your Pastors are continually discussing and praying on how we can protect our church family from the evils of this world. We will continue to be about protecting the flock.

Also, I am sure many of you are aware of the tragedy in Texas and the evil involved in this incident. Please pray for those that were harmed and for those that lost loved ones in this evil act. As I close this letter I want to remind you as I started this letter. God is in control and the day of redemption draws near; therefore, keep your eyes focused on **Jesus**, not man and the darkness of this world. Christ Jesus lives!

I am so thankful and honored to serve as your pastor and I look forward always to our time of worshiping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ together.

Brett