

October 29, 2017



Greetings Parents and Volunteers of McLean Bible Church,

We are so grateful for you and your trust as we spiritually invest in your children. Our goal at McLean Bible Church is to be obedient to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). We are privileged to come alongside you as you raise your children to be devoted followers of Jesus and teach them to obey everything He commanded. We care deeply about you and the spiritual development of your children. We continually pray and seek to improve how we teach children and students to grow them into disciples of Christ. In 2018, we are planning to invest in the Next Generation more than ever.

Over the coming months, **in light of our changing culture**, you will see safer and more kid-friendly environments being created for our weekend programming. **We are thankful that God has protected our children and at-risk adults over the years.** We want to ensure to the best of our abilities that this continues. Please look for more details over the next few weeks as we roll out pertinent information.

Screening Upgrades

We are updating new screening procedures for staff, current and new volunteers beginning November 5, 2017, to include the following:

- New Volunteer Application for working with minors
- Updated Volunteer Policies and Procedures
- Updated, more extensive Background Checks
- Electronic fingerprinting for current staff, volunteers and potential volunteers

Security and Check-in System Upgrades

- Security camera coverage in all children's areas
- New Self Check-in option to reduce wait times in Smith Center

Facility Upgrades

- Beginning January 2018
- New and better programming locations for Kindergarten – 8th grade
- New iPad Self Check-in stations
- New security checkpoints and Volunteer Central locations

Once again, we will disseminate detailed information for these upgrades over the next few months. Parents and volunteers will have opportunities to give input and make suggestions as we move through the process. Would you please join us in praying as we move into the future of Next Generation Ministries at McLean Bible Church? We are excited to serve with you and your families as we work to build His Kingdom.

1. Did not inform parents that security was changing **because** of a predator at MBC
2. States security changes were being made “in light of the changing culture” —not because a predator had been grooming children
3. Specifically states that “We are thankful that God has protected our children and at-risk young adults over the years.” —**This is a lie and cover-up by MBC.**



McLean Bible Church

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 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).

1. Called abuse and grooming a "situation."
2. Letter was sent to only a very small number of families at the Tysons Campus, not all parents
3. Letter did not inform parents of name of predator, Scott Woods, or dates he had contact with MBC children
4. Did not tell parents that MBC waited 7 months to contact authorities
5. Did not inform parents that it took 1.5 years to remove Scott Woods from membership
6. Told members to contact MBC security—not the authorities
7. Apologized for previous 2017 letter that **COVERED UP Scott Woods' abuse and grooming of children at MBC**

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.