

Dear Pastor or Church Leader,

I pray this finds you well and being strengthened by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to inform you about resources that we have developed to assist you and your congregation in preparing for the first National Caring Well Sunday, a day set aside on the Southern Baptist Convention Calendar to raise awareness regarding the effects of sexual abuse and its prevention, that we might pray and work to eliminate abuse from our churches.

Addressing the issue of sexual abuse within our churches is of utmost importance, but it is also a sensitive matter that is difficult to discuss for many. At the BCM/D our goal is to create a safe and supportive environment for survivors of abuse, to educate our congregations about prevention strategies, and to work towards making all of our churches safer for vulnerable people.

To aid you in this effort, we have compiled a comprehensive set of resources designed to guide pastors, church leaders, and congregations in preparing for Caring Well Sunday. These resources include:

1. Sample Sermons: I've written two messages, one directed towards pastors and church leaders as a challenge to protect the flock from sexual predators, and another more general message that you can use to introduce the need for the church to support efforts to care well and work at creating a protective environment. You find videos of myself preaching the sermon and transcripts of the sermon for your use.
2. Social Media Graphic: You can use this on instagram, facebook, and presentation-ready graphics to make your church aware of Caring Well Sunday. Feel free to add your church's logo.
3. Bulletin Insert: This is an introduction and explanation to the BCM/D's Pathways Initiative. It includes a QR code linking to the Pathways to Protection and Prevention website, located at www.bcnd.org/pathways. This document is set up to be printed and cut in half. You may choose to print the Prayer Guide on the back or as a separate insert.
4. Prayer Guide: Prayer warrior and BCMD staffer Adron Dozat has prepared a prayer guide to help you and your congregation pray in support of sexual abuse awareness and prevention.

We are committed to assisting you and helping your church prepare for Caring Well Sunday and implementing your own prevention and awareness measures.

Our team is available to answer any questions you may have and to provide guidance as you navigate the process of addressing this important topic within your congregation.

Please be aware that you may have people who approach you after the sermon who have been affected by abuse that may need care. The Pathways resource page has resources for victims, survivors, and their families including a list of Biblical, trauma-informed counselors that you may refer them to if needed. If additional assistance is needed, please don't hesitate to contact us for support.

Together, we can make a meaningful impact in our communities by raising awareness, providing education, and increasing the safety of our churches.

Thank you for your dedication to your congregation and for taking steps to address this critical issue. I am also thankful for the work of our task force as well as the BCM/D staff. We look forward to partnering with you..

In Him,

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