

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



August 15, 2006

David Clohessy
SNAP
P O Box 6416
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Mr. Clohessy & Colleagues,

I thank you for your letter of August 2. I am taking the liberty of sending this letter on to Dr. Richard Land, President of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as to Dr. Morris Chapman, President of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Your letter was a very disturbing and frightening example of what happens when those in spiritual places of authority misuse that authority and power in a most egregious fashion. It is personally disturbing as I know that this has happened on multiple occasions in some settings.

You have asked me to do many things in your letter. Many of the things you have asked for me to do are far beyond my authority and ability. Thus, I am forwarding this letter on to those who are in positions to be sensitive to your request.

However, let me remind you of the structure of the Southern Baptist Convention. Each entity within Southern Baptist life is autonomous and separate. For example, we have absolutely no authority over the Baptist General Convention of Texas. They are a separate entity and in recent days have found themselves quite at odds with the national leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention. If abuse is "routinely covered up", then that is the responsibility of that entity and/or group. However, please remember that even The Baptist General Convention of Texas has no authority over the local church. It is a travesty if a local church covers up abuse by its ministers or its members. Personally, I would never be a part of a congregation that did not act to protect its members. On more than one occasion, the churches I have pastored have had to deal with abusive situations. Fortunately, that has not involved ministers, but has involved elected leaders and others. In each case we have acted decisively and quickly to deal with these situations. However, with all that being said, I do realize the importance of your concern. The possibility of providing some kind of "informing" may be possible. I simply do not know. However, please know that I will not ignore this request. I will meet with the officials of the Southern Baptist Convention to see if there is some way that we might

FRANK S. PAGE, PH. D.

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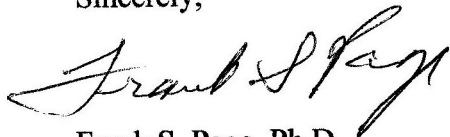
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David Clohessy
SNAP National Director
Page 2

provide this kind of assistance without infringing upon the autonomy of these state level or local level entities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank S. Page". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank S. Page, Ph.D.

Cc: Dr. Richard Land
Dr. Morris Chapman