

Press Release of North/East Texas District Church of the Nazarene  
Re David Pettigrew  
For Immediate Release  
August 24, 2021

It grieves us that our Christian brother David Pettigrew has produced child pornography, for which he has been convicted and sentenced to federal prison for 30 years. It grieves us all the more that he betrayed the trust that was placed in him to exploit innocent children. That said, and regardless of what he did, David is still loved by God and by us.

We pray that the children who have been exploited will find healing and experience God's grace in their lives as they deal with the serious consequences of having been abused, and that each of them will know in these days that she is loved by God and will know that God will work in her life. We further pray that David will also know in these days that he is still loved by God and that he will know that God will continue to work in his life.

We want to say something more about how what has happened fits into our Christian faith. We know as people of God that sin is a real power in our world and terribly destructive. We know that our sexuality is an incredible gift from our gracious and loving God that is meant to be a foundation for the family. We know that our sexuality is often perverted through sin and leads to broken lives and broken families. We know that the temptations of sin are a real threat to ensnare any of us and that we need to continually rely on God's grace and power to avoid bringing the chaos of sin into our lives and into the lives of others.

The worst that sin has ever done in our world was to crucify Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus died for the sins of each of us. When sin had done its worst, God raised Jesus from the dead, demonstrating for all time that sin does not have the last word in any of our lives. God continues to do His redemptive work in each of our lives, in all circumstances, and in the lives and circumstances of all in the world who will let Him. No one and no circumstance is beyond God's grace. As individuals made by a loving God, none of us are defined by even the worst thing that we have done in our lives. God is always doing His work in the world.

God also allows each of us to participate in His redemptive work by being His hands and feet. Each of us has experienced God's grace and forgiveness, and we are to extend that grace and forgiveness to everyone we come across in our lives. In the days to come, the Holy Spirit will help us to know how to participate in His gracious work in our world. We are to love one another as Christ has loved us and as the Holy Spirit enables us.