



January 9, 2025

FBCH Church Family,

It's with a very heavy heart that I write this to you now. As with all serious situations that happen within or around FBC Hildebran, we will always be upfront and transparent with you. It was brought to my attention yesterday afternoon that one of our Volunteer Youth Leaders, Jessie Ramos-Beltran, was arrested and charged with Statutory Rape of a Child, which is a felony, and Solicitation by Computer/Appear. These are very serious charges, and they will carry a heavy sentence if Jessie is convicted. Since I was given this information, I've been in contact with Deputies from the Burke County Sheriff's Office and Jessie's family. Jessie has been removed from any leadership roles within the church. In addition, if he is granted pretrial release, he will not be permitted to gather with our church body. Before Jessie was allowed to serve with minors in our church, a criminal background check was performed. Nothing was reported on his background check, and there were no signs that indicated a problem with Jessie serving in our church.

At this point, we have no reason to believe that similar acts have happened within the church. However, we take the safety and security of our church family very seriously. I'll be contacting parents of children of all ages who may have been in contact with Jessie during church-related services and events to see if anything needs to be reported. Parents, talk to your children. If something inappropriate, harmful, or criminal has happened, please let us know by filling out a connect card on the church app or by calling the church office. You should also immediately inform the Burke County Sheriff's Office. FBC Hildebran will fully cooperate with the authorities.

My heart is broken for everyone involved in this situation. This is tragic and life-altering for these families. Now it's time for us to be the church, to live and love them as Jesus would. Please be in much prayer over this situation. Pray for the victim and her family. Pray for Jessie and for his family. Pray for accountability, justice, and for the truth to prevail. Church family, I understand that many of you will struggle with this. I know I am, but God is still faithful. We might fail, but God won't. Trust In Him!

Jesus reminds us in John 16:33...I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Should any more information come to light regarding our church body, we'll make sure you know.

Thank you,

Cory Smith  
Senior Pastor

8831 Old NC 10, Hildebran NC 28637

828-397-3641

| [ministry@fbchildebran.com](mailto:ministry@fbchildebran.com)

| [www.fbchildebran.com](http://www.fbchildebran.com)