

2x2 Church Updates

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 Update: Wayne Bechtol and Safety Team

This is an update on what we know so far regarding the Wayne Bechtol situation in the Washington/N. Idaho/Alaska region and our experience and observations with the safety team that was formed in that region in late 2023/early 2024.

We want to preface this by acknowledging that we know the members of this safety team have the very best intentions and want to be a force for change in the church. The post below is going to state facts very plainly, sometimes in ways that do not reflect well on the safety team, their ability to hold perpetrators accountable, and their commitment to protect survivors.

Timeline of events related to Wayne's allegations and our interactions with the safety team:

Fall of 2024 - Overseer Darryl Doland and the safety team (to our knowledge) become aware of multiple allegations against Wayne. The safety team categorizes the incidents as 'red-flag' behaviors and does not take further action. (Of note: multiple professionals have advised us that these cases absolutely warranted mandatory reports.)

6/25/25 - We publish a post stating allegations against Wayne Bechtol after receiving and vetting multiple reports of incidents that fit the criteria of CSA and SA.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1MHd55XPq7/>

6/25/25 - A safety team member (henceforth referred to as Safety Team Member 1) contacts us via private message on the CCF platform. They state that they are aware of only **one incident** involving Wayne last year. They ask if we can share any pertinent information with them. We advise them to contact Darryl Doland, as we know he is aware of multiple incidents. No further request is made by Safety Team Member 1. (See image 1)

6/25/25-6/29/25 - We receive reports from a survivor that their identity is circulating amongst the congregation at Wasilla, AK convention, where Wayne spoke on 6/25 and was scheduled to speak on 6/27. While the exact source of the disclosure is unclear at this time, we suspect it may have come from Wayne or someone in ministry leadership.

6/26/25 - We learn that Safety Team Member 1 spoke with a contact related to one of the allegations and told them that the safety team had been aware of **two incidents** involving Wayne for some time.

6/27/25 - Regional leadership sends an email to all worker staff claiming that the posted allegations did not go through the "normal vetting process" (though it is unclear what that process entails), while also acknowledging that there are multiple 'red-flag' behaviors that have been reported. The email states that it is to be shared with anyone who inquires about the situation. It is signed by Darryl Doland (Overseer) as well as Brian Getz and **Wayne Bechtol (signing the letter excusing his own actions)**. Brian and Wayne are acting Co-Overseers during Darryl's absence in Vietnam. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CPLKSX9EG/>

6/27/25 - We send an additional message to Safety Team Member 1, letting them know of additional problematic behavior that we have learned about, and providing our phone number. We never receive another response from this safety team member.

6/29/25 - We receive a message from someone who is not on the safety team, asking if we would be willing to talk to the safety team about the incidents we know about. They provide the contact information of another safety team member (Safety Team Member 2).

6/30/25 - We reply to the above individual confirming that we'd like to talk to them. We send a text message to Safety Team Member 2 to arrange a conversation.

7/1/25 - We have a phone conversation with Safety Team Member 2. We discuss 6 incidents that the safety team is already aware of. The incidents are a mixture of CSA/SA and 'red-flag' behavior. We also provide information about two additional 'red-flag' incidents that the safety team was not previously aware of, bringing the total incidents that the safety team is aware of to eight. The safety team member indicates that they will likely be advising Darryl Doland to pursue a 3rd party investigation into the matter.

7/11/25 - We check in again with Safety Team Member 2 to see if there's an update on the situation. They reply that they are busy with personal matters and will check in with the team for an update later.

7/14/25 - We receive a generic response from the above safety team member via Whatsapp, a platform which we have not used previously to communicate and continue to have a conversation with the team member about our concerns. A public update from the safety team was alluded to but has not materialized. (See images 2-6)

7/25/25 - We receive confirmation about how a survivor's identity had been spread amongst the congregation at Wasilla convention. Their identity was disclosed to multiple people, including the survivor's family members, by safety team member Mark Stock.

7/27/25 - We send an email to Darryl Doland and the safety team, requesting the removal of Mark Stock from the safety team and to ask for an update regarding public communication about the Wayne Bechtol situation from either the ministry or safety team. (See image 7)

To our knowledge, every member of the safety team was alerted to this email the same day it was sent. In the following days, news of the email was quickly passed to people outside of the safety team.

To date we have received no further response from the safety team.

The safety team currently has documentation for a minimum of 8 incidents regarding Wayne Bechtol. Our confidence in the safety team's efficacy at this point is very low. We are concerned that they may have access to a large number of documented abuse cases in which they have taken no action.

Given the current situation, we can no longer recommend that survivors engage with the WA/NID/AK safety team.

The documented mishandling of cases, disclosure of survivor identities, and apparent lack of independence from ministry leadership raise serious concerns. We urge the broader community to advocate for an accountable, survivor-centered response mechanism that is truly independent from those in positions of power. We've spoken to a number of individuals who have worked closely with the safety team on a variety of matters and all agree that they are unable to take any measurable action on the reports they are given, unless given approval by ministry leadership.

At this time, we believe the safety team's role is symbolic rather than functional, lacking the independence necessary to protect survivors and the congregation. In effect, this has made the community less safe by asking them to put their faith - and the safety of the vulnerable - in what has proven to be a facade of security.