

ADDRESSING THE COVENANT SCHOOL SHOOTING

Like so many, we've had a difficult time thinking about and processing the tragic events that transpired Monday at The Covenant School, Nashville. The loss of life is devastating and unnecessary. Our hearts are broken, along with those of Tennessee Baptists across our state. Prayers continue to be voiced for the entire Covenant community and especially for the families who suffered loss. This senseless act of evil hits close to home as there are many connections between Tennessee Baptists and friends and families who are a part of the Covenant family.

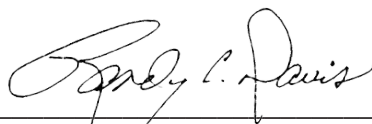
We especially want to commend the rapid and resolved response by the Nashville Metro Police Department and the courageous officers who charged into the line of fire. It was literally four minutes from the time officers arrived on campus until they neutralized the threat. There is no doubt these officers saved countless lives by their determined approach to protect those overcome by this terrorist act.

And we are extremely proud of the members of Woodmont Baptist Church and Pastor Nathan Parker. The church quickly responded to the need to receive Covenant's students and lovingly care for them until they were reunited with their parents. They showed the love of Christ and deep compassion.

This event ought to be a resounding reminder to Christians that we must be salt and light in this increasingly dark world. Our only hope is faith in Jesus Christ. We have to advance the message of the gospel.

Please continue to pray for everyone associated with The Covenant School and Covenant Presbyterian Church families. They have suffered an incredible trauma. May we "mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15) as we ask for God's mercy and grace on all who were affected.

Even in unimaginable sorrow, it is a joy for us to be with you on this journey.



Dr. Randy C. Davis
President/Executive Director,
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President,
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