

### **Dear Harvest Families & Community,**

This letter is coming to you to address concerns after our student worship service on Wednesday, December 10. Some students felt uneasy about events that occurred before and during the service.

#### **The letter aims to:**

- Explain what happened before and during the service.
- Detail how our security team and the Billings Police Department managed the situation.
- Assure families that no student was harmed and emphasize that student safety is our top priority.
- Inform you that the threat was addressed swiftly and professionally, and appropriate action has been taken with the students involved.

On December 10th, we received a tip at 3:30pm about a concerning social media post suggesting a threat to Harvest Students. We consulted with Jeff Milliken, Harvest Church's Security Director, and the Billings Police Department (BPD) for support. As students arrived, officers were present, which caused concern with many students and families. Having uniformed officers at Harvest Students is very rare, but their presence was necessary in this situation. BPD, prior to Harvest Church contacting them, had received info about the potential threat and after speaking with our Security Team, felt their support and presence was necessary. Safety is our number one priority for these students, and sometimes the hardships and consequences they're dealing with outside the walls of the church come with them into the halls of the church. Regardless of the scope and legitimacy of any potential situation, our team is trained and prepared to ensure the safety of all students, volunteers, and staff.

The BPD, in coordination with our security team, identified the students involved and addressed the threat quickly. No students were harmed, and the threat did not materialize. No weapon was found, despite rumors. Caleb Hamilton, Harvest's Next Gen Pastor will be contacting the families involved to inform them that their students will not be allowed back at Harvest Church.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our Next Gen Pastor, Caleb Hamilton at 406-259-5648 or email him at [caleb.hamilton@harvestchurch.tv](mailto:caleb.hamilton@harvestchurch.tv). Again, safety is our #1 priority for your students, which is why we responded swiftly and proactively. BPD commended Harvest's Security Team for the way that they responded to the situation and being proactive to head off any potential problems.

God is moving in this next generation, and our goal is to protect, encourage, and empower these students to make a difference and be a light for Jesus Christ.