



# NASHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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*Deputy Chief Kevin Rourke*

For Immediate Release:  
March 15, 2022

Contact:  
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On March 15, 2022 at approximately 9:45 a.m., members of the Nashua Police Department's Special Investigations Division in conjunction with Homeland Security Investigations, New Hampshire Internet Crimes against Children Task Force and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at the Bible Baptist Church - Parsonage at 62 Caldwell Road in Nashua. Subsequently, Pastor Stephen Bates, age 46, of 62 Caldwell Road in Nashua was arrested for Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Images, Class A Felony.

An investigation involving the Bible Baptist Church began in August, 2016 after the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children sent the Nashua Police Department a cybertip indicating child pornography had been accessed by an electronic device utilizing an IP address associated with the Bible Baptist Church. Similar cybertips were received in 2017. All cybertips were investigated but the results were insufficient to support any criminal charges.

In 2019, Homeland Security Investigations in Denver, Colorado conducted an online child sexual exploitation investigation targeting individuals producing and distributing child pornography. The suspect in that investigation shared child pornography with an unknown individual through social media. The IP Address used by the unknown individual was associated with the Bible Baptist Church.

In 2020, the Tallahassee, Florida Police Department initiated an investigation into the publishing of child pornography on the internet. During their investigation, they discovered the account responsible for publishing the images utilized an IP address associated with the Bible Baptist Church.

In 2021, Homeland Security Investigations in Blaine, Washington was involved in an investigation into the sexual exploitation of a child. The suspect in that investigation communicated with an unknown individual through social media about their shared interest in having sexual contact with children. The IP address utilized by the unknown individual was associated with the Bible Baptist Church.

From the onset of the investigation, Pastor Bates was contacted several times by investigators with the Nashua Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations. Pastor Bates was considered a person of interest during the earlier investigations but until today there wasn't sufficient evidence to charge him with any crimes.

During the execution of today's search warrant investigators made contact with Pastor Bates. During a search of his person two flash drives were located. During a review of the content on the drives numerous images of child pornography were located. As a result of him possessing child pornography Pastor Bates was arrested. Pastor Bates has been initially charged with Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Images but more charges are expected as the investigation continues and more digital evidence is analyzed.



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A Class A Felony is punishable up to 15 years in State Prison, exclusive of fines. Pastor Bates had bail set at \$3000.00 cash. If he posts bail he'll be arraigned at a date to be determined otherwise his arraignment will be at the Hillsborough County Superior Court-South on March 16, 2022.

If anyone has any further information regarding this case, please call the Nashua Police Department Crime Line 603-589-1665. Please follow the Nashua Police Department on Twitter @Nashuapolice.



Bates