

One Pastor's Alleged Abuse and Cover-up Across Multiple Megachurches

"There's nothing quite like waking up to discover that your church is being featured on an episode of 'Dateline,'" Pastor Cal Jernigan wrote in a letter to Central Christian Church, the congregation he leads in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jernigan's church has been under the microscope and featured in news headlines after he brought in Caleb Baker to work on their staff as the Lead Student Pastor and Associate Preaching Pastor.

On Feb. 12th Jernigan discovered Caleb was involved in a six month extramarital relationship with another staff member at their church.

Once Jernigan informed the board, Baker and the other staff member were let go, just one day later.

This isn't just one lone accusation made against Baker. Baker previously worked under his father Mike Baker at Eastview Christian Church in Normal, Illinois before he was quietly let go for abusing women in the church. Jernigan claims Caleb's dad, a longtime friend, did inform him of an accusation made against his son "by a woman who felt Caleb acted inappropriately toward her."

Jernigan says, "He assured me his leadership team had investigated this charge and it was proven to be an unfounded and unsubstantiated claim by someone who had it out for his son."

A former Eastview staff member Brooke Yarbrough wrote a lengthy post on Facebook about her experience working for the

church and says what happened in Phoenix, Arizona was "completely preventable." She says in 2016, while on staff, Caleb was let go for the sexual misconduct. She left the church because of their mishandling of the situation.