

## **STATEMENT FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON AND NORTHPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE CLINT DOBSON MURDER TRIAL**

**On March 3, 2011, two churches and two families experienced a tragedy that has altered all of our lives. We will never forget the trauma and the shock of that fateful day.**

**On the one hand, we have all continued to live and progress through life. Both the Dobson and Elliott families have received outpourings of love and support. There is no question that healing has occurred and that God's grace has been sufficient. Our churches have been blessed by an incredible expression of concern as this community has reached out to us in tangible ways.**

**We have all waited for this day. We have prayed for the people who are charged with the responsibility for the wheels of justice in our society. We have asked God for the truth to be known and for justice to be served. As the Bible teaches us, God has placed the civil authority in our midst so that innocent people can live in freedom without fear and so that guilty offenders can be appropriately punished.**

**We are convinced that we have seen that process demonstrated in the past 17 months. We are grateful for police officers, crime investigators and legal specialists who have performed a great service for our community. This trial has been conducted with an incredible level of professionalism and integrity. A jury comprised of members from our community has reached a verdict based on evidence presented in a court of law. We now can confidently say that justice has been served and we will support the decision of this court.**

**We also want our community to know that Clint Dobson did not die in vain. His life was given courageously in service to the Lord Jesus Christ. The crown of life will be his forever in eternity. The testimony of his life continues to bear fruit in the lives of countless people who continue to benefit from his commitment to Christ.**

**We now can move forward to a greater level of healing since this part of the saga is behind us. We will never tire of proclaiming the life-giving message of hope that we know to be the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the message for which Clint gave his life. It is the message that offers light in the face of the darkness that caused this tragedy in the first place.**

**Both families and both churches are resilient and resolute in our hope. Our God is sufficient for all of life's circumstances and the good news of Jesus Christ will not be overwhelmed by evil. In fact, this good news is the answer for the ills of humanity and we will be faithful to share it with everyone until our Lord returns and His creation is redeemed, restored and truly reflects His glory.**

**Dr. Dennis R. Wiles, Pastor, FBC Arlington**