



THE **Hope**
of Survivors

Reaching the **HURTING**...

Calling the **FAITHFUL**...

Bridging the **GAP**...

2005 Annual Report

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Necessity of The Hope of Survivors

*“The sexual abuse of children, of course, is getting all of the press. But the bottom line is that far more clergy have sexual contact with adult women or late adolescent girls than they do with kids of either gender. And it’s a very widespread problem. People trust clergy like they trust nobody else. So the trust is there. The opportunity is there. Secondly, clergy get carried away with their own power and their own influence.”—Dr. Gary Schoener, Clinical Psychologist [Excerpt from an interview for *Religion & Ethics*, #934]*

Sad, but true, pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct is an ever-increasing problem in our congregations. It is not limited to children or Catholics. It takes place around the world in every denomination. When a pastor or other spiritual leader betrays his sacred trust and takes advantage of his position, power and authority to abuse a member of his (or her) congregation, the result is devastation—for the victim and her family, the pastor and his family, the church body and, oftentimes, the community. The destruction cannot be underestimated. The potential for health problems, suicide risk, breaking up of marriages and families is just the beginning. One of the worst “side effects” of pastoral sexual abuse is the loss of faith, trust and relationship with God. Many victims find it impossible to return to their church—or any church. Yet, that’s not the worst of it. Too often, there are some who never recover from the abuse and remain away from God forever. The responsibility for that victim’s life lies in the hands of the pastor who abused her. The Hope of Survivors works diligently to encourage, edify and strengthen the victim’s faith in God. It is a painstaking and slow process that requires much prayer, patience and love.

The History of The Hope of Survivors

The Hope of Survivors was born one evening in December 2002, as Steve and Samantha were reflecting upon their own experience of pastoral sexual abuse and the lack of resources that were available to help them understand and heal at that time. They felt compelled to develop a web site that would provide information and encouragement to anyone who may be searching for answers. Steve and Samantha felt that if “just one person” could be helped by the web site, then it would be well worth the effort and pain they had gone through. While Steve and Samantha’s vision was limited in thinking “just one,” the Lord knew how many hurting people there were—suffering all alone and living without hope. As you will see in the remainder of this report, there are many “ones” out there who have been touched and blessed by the ministry of The Hope of Survivors. Truly, God does work all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

The Hope of Survivors has grown rapidly in its services since it began. It has an active Board of Directors, Officers and volunteer staff. It often serves as the only available, unbiased liaison between victims and appropriate civil, public or religious assistance. Its documents, including a series of informational brochures and DVDs, are circulated worldwide. The Hope of Survivors is unique, as a multitude of national web sites exist on the subject, but most either provide angry denunciation of various religious organizations, or they are associated with a particular religious sect and require that affiliation from their clients, or they address the problem from a purely humanistic psychological approach—leaving God and His power to heal entirely out of the equation. Many charge for their services, yet The Hope of Survivors has determined to keep its services free of charge to victims. The need for The Hope of Survivors’ unique services and approach is evident. To God be the glory, what great things He has done!

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”—2 Corinthians 1:3-4

About The Hope of Survivors

The Hope of Survivors is an interdenominational 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches worldwide. Pastoral care is provided through The Hope of Survivors' separate pastoral division, *Calling the Faithful*. Other divisions under development include: Youth, Latino, Australia and Pastor's Wives. Professional memberships include: Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) and the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC).

Description of Mission, Services & Programs

The organization's purpose is to provide hope and healing in Christ through encouragement, support, referral, assistance, educational programs and information to victims of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct. The organization, and its Officers, Directors, Volunteers and Employees, use the Bible as the standard of their beliefs and philosophies in all areas. The ministry seeks to:

- (a) Educate the victims, the clergy, the church body and the general public about pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, the frequency of occurrences, the moral and social implications involved and the devastating consequences through national media, by disseminating brochures and other related materials, conducting educational and informational seminars, and by maintaining an up-to-date web site;
- (b) Conduct retreats and seminars specifically for the victims of pastoral sexual abuse and provide one-on-one counsel and support for the purpose of facilitating their healing and recovery, and helping them to gain a greater understanding of what has happened to them, giving them hope and encouragement, and restoring their faith in their Creator;
- (c) Work closely with churches that are dealing with the after-effects of an abuse situation for the purpose of helping them to understand the importance of providing a safe environment for all and for understanding the dynamics of pastoral sexual abuse so that the church and the victim are not further damaged in the after-math;
- (d) Provide pastoral training/educational seminars for the purpose of providing prevention information and encouragement, and to work closely with those who have violated their sacred trust and encourage them to make amends to their victims and to receive counseling.

In short, the mission of The Hope of Survivors may be summed up in the motto:

Reaching the Hurting... Ministering to those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy.

Calling the Faithful... Providing resources and support to church leadership to help them remain true to their high calling.

Bridging the Gap... Leading the hurting to hope through a healing relationship with Christ.

Organization Funding

The Hope of Survivors is funded by individuals who support the mission and goals of the organization; survivors of pastoral sexual abuse who are now thriving and desire to use their means to help others; and by grants from private individuals and foundations whose values are similar to those of The Hope of Survivors. Contributions are tax-deductible. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2005

	<u>Dec. 31, 2005</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1015 – Cash – HOPE Checking	<u>6,089.68</u>
Total Checking/Savings	6,089.68
Other Current Assets	
1250 – Prepaid Expenses/Other Rec.	<u>101.23</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>101.23</u>
Total Current Assets	6,190.91
Fixed Assets	
1600 – Equipment	6,109.77
1690 – Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-832.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>5,277.77</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>11,468.68</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3010 – Unrestrict (retained earnings)	-10,433.35
Net Income	<u>21,902.03</u>
Total Equity	<u>11,468.68</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>11,468.68</u>

Statement of Activities

January through December 2005

Jan – Dec 2005

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

4000 – Contributions	42,542.98 **
4001 – Grants	6,320.00
4100 – Sales	215.51
4500 – Interest Income	<u>2.18</u>

Total Income

49,080.67

Expense

6000 – Salaries	2,153.86
6010 – Payroll Taxes	164.77
6050 – Professional Fees	750.00
6060 – Books & Education	324.01
6070 – Bank Charges	145.74
6080 – Contract Services	380.00
6120 – Telephone	1,783.09
6130 – Dues & Publications	313.99
6150 – Licenses & Fees	106.00
6200 – Office Supplies	2,218.52
6220 – Collection Service*	53.65
6230 – Postage	1,690.38
6240 – Printing & Publishing	1,453.70
6250 – Photography	50.00
6260 – Operating Supplies	761.88
6300 – Sales Tax Paid	12.00
6400 – Advertising	3,338.52
6410 – Domain Registration	386.30
6420 – Travel	
6421 – Lodging	2,266.72
6422 – Airfare	116.74
6423 – Car Rental	43.26
6424 – Fuel	559.85
6420 – Travel – Other	<u>966.36</u>

Total 6420 – Travel

3,952.93

6430 – Meals & Entertainment

1,160.34

6440 – Conference Expense

1,612.60

6450 – Fundraising Costs

1,070.44

6500 – Victim Assistance

2,298.32

6510 – Gifts

165.60

6700 – Depreciation Expense

832.00

Total Expense

27,178.64

Net Ordinary Income

21,902.03

Net Income

21,902.03

* Collection Service is the cost of accepting online donations. **Corrected 8/31/06.

Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2005 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

#	<u>Denominational Demographics</u>	%
1	Anglican Church	1%
1	Apostolic Church	1%
2	Assembly of God	1%
15	Baptist, Free Will Baptist or Southern Baptist Convention	14%
2	Calvary Chapel	1%
6	Catholic	6%
1	Christian Church, Disciples of Christ	1%
2	Church of Christ	1%
1	Church of God	1%
1	Church of the Nazarene	1%
1	Church of the Open Door	1%
3	Evangelical Church	3%
1	Foursquare Church	1%
1	Society of Friends (Quakers)	1%
1	Jesuit	1%
3	Lutheran or LCMS	3%
6	Non-Denominational	6%
3	Pentecostal Church	3%
1	Presbyterian	1%
1	Russian Orthodox Church	1%
15	Seventh-day Adventist	14%
8	Methodist or United Methodist Church	7%
31	Undisclosed Denomination	29%
0	<u>Adjustment for .9%-1.8%</u>	<u>1%</u>
107	Total as of 12/31/05	100%

Notes:

- (1) These demographics do **not** include clients from previous years.
- (2) These demographics do **not** include secondary victims such as spouses, children, friends or relatives of the affected individual who contacted The Hope of Survivors, or the other victims of the same pastor of which the client was aware and made known to The Hope of Survivors.
- (3) These figures also do **not** include known cases where The Hope of Survivors has been consulted but has had no direct contact with the client.
- (4) The year 2005 averaged slightly over 2 new clients per week (107 total).

Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below reveals the demographics based on the state where the client resides. There were 29 known states and 2 known countries as of 12/31/05.

State	#	%
Alabama	3	3%
Arkansas	1	1%
California	12	11%
Canada	5	5%
Colorado	2	1%
Connecticut	1	1%
District of Columbia	1	1%
Florida	4	4%
Georgia	4	4%
Iowa	1	1%
Illinois	3	3%
Indiana	1	1%
Kentucky	3	3%
Michigan	9	8%
Minnesota	1	1%
Missouri	2	1%
Mississippi	1	1%
North Carolina	3	3%
Nebraska	1	1%
Nevada	1	1%
New Zealand	1	1%
New Hampshire	1	1%
New Jersey	1	1%
New York	2	1%
Ohio	7	7%
Oregon	2	1%
Pennsylvania	2	1%
Texas	2	1%
Undisclosed State	20	19%
Virginia	2	1%
Washington	5	5%
West Virginia	1	1%
Wisconsin	2	1%
<u>Adjustment for .9%-1.8%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4%</u>
Total	107	100%

Notes:

- (1) Same notes apply as stated on previous page. Percentages are rounded.

Web Site Traffic Statistics

The chart below shows the traffic The Hope of Survivors' web site received during 2005. Most of the people who viewed the web site found it by searching on Google®, Yahoo!®, Amazon.com® or a similar search engine. These figures are excellent considering the lack of consistent, full-scale advertising during the year. As funds to advertise become more readily available, it is expected these numbers will continue to grow.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hits</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u># Contacts</u>
January 2005	31,193	3,133	3
February 2005	37,971	5,985	17
March 2005	26,886	5,630	6
April 2005	22,809	5,304	6
May 2005	19,109	4,325	11
June 2005	18,315	4,284	8
July 2005	16,340	4,330	4
August 2005	19,561	4,217	12
September 2005	19,564	4,437	9
October 2005	23,402	5,124	14
November 2005	27,174	5,595	9
<u>December 2005</u>	<u>24,800</u>	<u>5,453</u>	<u>8</u>
2005 Totals	287,124	57,817	107

Notes:

- (1) The # of Contacts indicates the number of people who actually contacted The Hope of Survivors via email, phone or mail during the specified time period.
- (2) The # of Visits is the actual number of people who visited the web site during the specified time.
- (3) The # of Hits is the total number of every item or image on a page that has been downloaded.

The Hope of Survivors' Officers, Directors & Staff

The Lord is the Ultimate Founder, Director and Provider for the ministry of The Hope of Survivors. Without Him, none of the work would have lasting effect or eternal results. We give all the glory and honor to our Heavenly Father, yet we also recognize He uses individuals in His service and we wish to acknowledge them and give them our heartfelt gratitude for their sacrificial service. Our 2005 Board of Directors consisted of the following individuals:

Steve Nelson – President, Chairman, CEO, Elder
Samantha Nelson – Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, COO
Marvin Wray – Director, Pastor of the Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church
Tom Lemon – Director, Pastor, Oregon Conference Ministerial Director
Bob Withrow, C.P.A. – Director, CFO
Doug Kilcher—Director, Texas Conference V.P. Administration
Ralph Robertson—Director, Northern California Conference Ministerial Director
Neil Biloff—Director, Dakota Conference President
Shelley J. Quinn—Director, 3ABN On-Air Hostess and Co-Director of Word Warrior Ministries
J.D. Quinn—Director, Pastoral Care Dept. at 3ABN and Co-Director of Word Warrior Ministries
Mable Dunbar—Director (served from January-August 2005)
Curtis Hartman—Director (served from January -June 2005)

Day-to-day operations are primarily the responsibility of Steve and Samantha Nelson; however, each Director and Volunteer played a vital role in the ongoing development and advancement of the ministry and its goals. Directors were actively involved in Board meetings, major decision-making, literature review, accounting, prayer, travel for meetings and many other activities. The Hope of Survivors is indeed indebted and greatly blessed by the involvement of each Director and Volunteer.

The Hope of Survivors was also blessed by the contributions of Isabel Fritzler and Irma Murray who contributed to the ongoing development of the Latino Division.

The following chart shows the breakdown of volunteer hours from January 1-December 31, 2005.

Volunteer	Hours
Samantha Nelson	2,750
Steve Nelson	720 (does not include any paid time)
Isabel Fritzler	2
Irma Murray	27
Curtis Hartman	2
Marvin Wray	8
Tom Lemon	30 (includes approx. 20 hours travel time)
Mable Dunbar	2
Bob & Debbie Withrow	80 (accounting, meetings, reports)
Doug Kilcher	8
Shelley Quinn	18
JD Quinn	12
Ralph Robertson	8
Neil Biloff	2
Peggy Mahrt	40
Dave Mahrt	12
Total Volunteer Hours for 2005	3,721

Exposure Information

Advertising

Google AdWords (key words for search results – monthly)
“A Place of Safety” mailing to 10,000 Christian women (funded by OVC’s HOPE grant)
Ad in the South England Conference Youth Department youth magazine, *the Hub*

Editorial

Articles and interviews with and/or about The Hope of Survivors appeared (or are scheduled to appear) in the following publications/broadcasts:

3ABN Radio *Crossroads* program (May 2005)
3ABN *Issues & Answers* program (aired June 2005)
Ministry Magazine (Letter to the Editor - 2005)
Hope Channel News Interview (aired 2005 during General Conference Session)
Hope Channel Interview, 1/2-hour program (to air in 2006)
Radio Interview, 1/2-hour program, WYCB in Lanham, MD (aired December 10, 2005)

Distribution of Brochures

The Hope of Survivors distributed brochures and DVDs to over 62 countries during the General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists held in St. Louis, MO, including: Afghanistan, Andorra, Ghana, Liberia, Samoa, Guyana, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Nova Scotia (the women’s ministry directors took 100 of each brochure and a set of DVDs), Guam, Kenya, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Russia, South Africa, Haiti, Congo, Venezuela, Brazil, Trinidad, Canada, Romania, Cuba, United States, England, Peru, Sweden, India, Indonesia, Portugal, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Costa Rica, Togo, Singapore, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Colombia, Mozambique, Malawi, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Estonia, Martinique, Angola, Italy, Jamaica, Ukraine, Curacao, Germany, Vietnam, Nigeria, Guatemala, Bahamas, Cameroon, France, Grenada, Hungary, Australia, New Zealand, and many, many more! Over 200 countries were represented at this event, and most likely materials (brochures and/or DVD programs) were sent into nearly every country. These are just the countries we confirmed. You may read more at http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/GC_2005_Update.asp.

Materials were also distributed at each conference, convention and program. Mailings continued to victims, pastors and to churches of various denominations, as well as a few counseling centers throughout the U.S.

Newsletter

The Hope of Survivors continued to publish and mail out its quarterly newsletter, *HopeSpeak*, to over 700 individuals. A second newsletter to serve the pastoral community, *FaithSpeak*, was developed for the *Calling the Faithful* Division with the first issue being mailed out to approximately 400 church leaders in December 2005, with a January 2006 cover date.

Conferences

During 2005, The Hope of Survivors exhibited at the General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists in St. Louis, MO, in June-July; at the ASI International Convention in Sacramento, CA, and the Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting in South Lake Tahoe, CA, in August; held an abuse prevention program and benefit concert in Thompsonville, IL, in August; exhibited at the Thompsonville Christian School Fall Festival in Thompsonville, IL, in November; and conducted a *Trust & Truth* conference for church members and the community at large in Ottawa, Illinois, in October. Steve and Samantha Nelson conducted these conferences and programs. Additional conferences and programs were not scheduled due to the time and expense involved in attending and exhibiting at the General Conference Session that takes place every five years.

Special Thanks...

The Hope of Survivors is especially thankful to its Directors, Officers and Volunteers (listed on page 10) who served (and contributed) in 2005, and, aside from them, it is difficult to list the names of every individual or organization that has had a part in supporting or assisting the ministry in some way. The Hope of Survivors received permission to list the names of the following individuals who have made contributions to the ministry, although there are many others who chose to remain anonymous. Thank you all for your support and prayers!

Joanne Adam, RI
John Bridges, CA
Herb & Norma Douglass, CA
Sara Kidd, AL
Sandy & Bill Kirkham, OH
Kim A. Marshall, CA
Rev. Jeanette Pollard, RN, M.Div., MD
A Door of Hope Ministries, TN

Deb & James Bieker, IA
Tara Brocklesby, NC
Debbie & Dennis Harris, OH
Doug & Carole Kilcher, TX
Dave & Peggy Mahrt, CA
Greg & Jill Morikone, IL
Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, PA

Thanks to the following organizations that provided grant monies to The Hope of Survivors:

Polly's Place Network: International Ministries, WA

Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Dept. of Justice HOPE Grant, DC

We'd also like to say "Thank You" to those who have donated their time, talents and services to help The Hope of Survivors conduct its programs and day-to-day operations.

Pastor John & Angela Lomacang, IL
Dr. Christine & Robert Salter, MO
Sandy & Bill Kirkham, OH

Ullanda Innocent-Palmer, CA
Pastor Hal & Mollie Steenson, IL
Pastor Albert & Rosalee Beierle, CA

We express our sincere gratitude to the following churches and congregations who supported The Hope of Survivors by hosting abuse prevention programs and/or benefit concerts:

Thompsonville Seventh-day Adventist Church Family, IL

Brownsville Seventh-day Adventist Church Family, CA

Donor Profiles...

How did you first become aware of The Hope of Survivors?

After a few months of working closely with Samantha and Steve, I became convinced that they were a remarkable couple with clear-headed insights that were guiding their outreach to those who also had been terribly abused by those they had a right to trust.

Do you plan to remain involved with and/or support The Hope of Survivors? If so, why?

My wife and I will continue to encourage and support this rather unique enterprise. Knowing that there are many more “out there” who most often have no knowledge that others are prepared to help them—how can we not lift up their hands? Steve and Samantha are doing a work that very few can do—they have the insights, experience, and communication skills to make a heroic difference.



Herbert E. Douglass, Th.D.



Victim of pastoral sexual abuse within the Church of Christ in the southwest United States (name withheld upon request).

How did you first become aware of The Hope of Survivors?

I was searching on the Internet for help dealing with the situation I was trapped in. I think I ran across a link on Amazon.com that led me to the website.

What made you decide to become involved with and/or support The Hope of Survivors?

A couple of reasons—we received so much support from The Hope of Survivors during our time of greatest need, when we were basically abandoned by our church, and we wanted to give back to the ministry that helped us survive the trauma we were going through. Plus, ...we wanted to support a ministry that had been such a blessing to us personally.

Do you plan to remain involved with and/or support The Hope of Survivors? If so, why?

Yes, because even though the initial crisis has passed for us, the after-effects will take years to heal, and The Hope of Survivors has continued to offer wisdom and support throughout the healing process. Sadly, there will always be more victims, as well, and we want to support a ministry that was literally a lifeline to us when we were drowning, so that other victims can find the same support as we did.



Joanne R. Adam, Accountant

A victim of pastoral sexual abuse within the Rhode Island Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

First Awareness:

I first became aware of The Hope of Survivors when searching online for some information that would help me with my dilemma. I knew I wasn't crazy, like the people at my former church were making me feel. It was with the utmost pleasure that I stumbled on The Hope of Survivors. As I started to read the website I thought, "Oh my God, I could have written that." I could have written it all.

Involvement:

The Hope of Survivors was instrumental in helping me keep my sanity at the darkest time in my life. I felt so alone and misunderstood until I spoke with Samantha. She helped me to see that God was still with me and never abandoned me. She helped me to realize that what was done to me was wrong and justice needed to be sought. Ironically, my church was driving me away from God while Samantha kept me in His path.

The Hope of Survivors guided me to my Savior. It is with my sincerest gratitude that I continue to support this ministry. Just thinking of others suffering like I have, or worse, is enough to know that this ministry is an unfortunate necessity. This ministry provided me the strength to fight for accountability and justice. I cannot imagine another victim feeling alone. It is for the regrettably inevitable future victims that we must help to continue this ministry. They are not alone. They must know they are not alone.

Continue Support:

Yes, I most definitely plan to continue to support and remain involved with The Hope of Survivors. First, I am still on the road to becoming a survivor and, sadly, still need their support. Second, I have discovered that this ministry is much needed in our society where evil tends to be so prevalent. Church leaders and lay people alike need to be edified regarding abuse and how to properly handle the ramifications of it. While we need to continue to help victims, a large part of rectifying the situation comes with educating the masses. The Hope of Survivors is beginning to do just that. With all the bad that has happened to me, I feel called to this ministry to help make a difference in someone's life just as Samantha has done in mine.



Sandy Kirkham, wife, mother, R.N.

Victim of pastoral sexual abuse by youth minister at the age of 17, in the Church of Christ, Christian Church.

How did you first become aware of The Hope of Survivors?

I found The Hope of Survivors ministry on a link from another website dealing with pastoral misconduct.

What made you decide to become involved with and/or support The Hope of Survivors?

The support and understanding I received when I contacted them told me this ministry was exactly as it was described on their site, "A ministry of compassion, support, hope and encouragement." They were not only instrumental in guiding me through my own spiritual journey, as I struggled with issues that resulted from the abuse of a trusted minister, but were a tremendous help in assisting me as I took on the daunting task of addressing church leaders regarding church policy related to pastoral sexual abuse.

Do you plan to remain involved with and/or support The Hope of Survivors? If so, why?

Absolutely. The Hope of Survivors is a gift from God for those of us who have suffered and whose spiritual lives have been shattered by a trusted minister. None of us can erase the past but, because of this ministry, I now have hope. The need for this kind of ministry is vital to victims of pastoral sexual abuse. Supporting The Hope of Survivors ministry is one way I can help.

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