



THE
HOPE
OF SURVIVORS

2012
Annual Report

Celebrating 10 Years of Service 2002-2012

www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com

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Necessity of The Hope of Survivors

It's hard to imagine the need for The Hope of Survivors being so great, yet, over the past 10 years this truth has become more and more self-evident. It is true that clergy sexual abuse happens to people of all ages, backgrounds, gender and race. It is a global problem—existing in every denomination around the world. It is a human problem—a sin problem. The Hope of Survivors focuses primarily on assisting adult victims of clergy sexual abuse, but we also receive requests for help from teens and young people who have been abused by a youth pastor or someone in the role of spiritual authority. Perpetrators are most commonly male and victims generally tend to be female, but that is not always the case. We have counseled male victims of both male and female offenders, and female victims of female offenders. Sadly, their own family members, who serve in positions of spiritual authority, abuse some victims. Abuse knows no restriction!

Clergy sexual abuse is damaging in every way—no matter what age one is when the abuse takes place. The destruction in the victim's life 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 clergy 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 or spiritual leader who committed the abuse.

The Hope of Survivors strives to facilitate healing in victim's lives by imparting hope, uncovering truth and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Truly, the healing and hope all victims need comes from the One who created them in His image and desires to make them whole. The prayer of each victim can be found in Jeremiah 17:14, “*Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.*” Read for yourself the devastation of clergy sexual abuse, and the positive impact The Hope of Survivors is making in the lives of victims-turned-survivors:

“May God bless your ministry. I think this is going on in the church all the time, and someone needs to speak out. You have a ministry second to none.”—Pastor, South Africa

“I hope you still remember me way back 2007! Praise God! Now, I can say that now I'm one of the survivors! Thank you for your ministry. Praise God for your ministry. God has used you to make my broken life whole again! Pray for us as we continue to love God with all our hearts and follow Him always! Hope to be able to support your ministry soon! From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much!”—Survivor, Philippines

“My wife is one of the victims associated with this mess in Pella, Iowa. We truly need help over here. If someone does not commit suicide over this whole ordeal I will be very surprised. On a side note...your website has been very helpful. We read it daily. The articles associated with this website have been very helpful and we have forwarded them on to many people within our community. Can someone please respond to this...I don't know how much longer I can hold it together. Thank you.”—Survivor, IA

“I am an attorney representing a girl who suffered abuse by her Youth Pastor at the age of 16. We found your site and it has been of great help and comfort to my client. I would like any information you have or could share so that my client(s) can interact with other survivors and get help moving on. The church never apologized to the family, said it had no way of knowing such a thing would occur again, and the congregation and clergy have turned against them. The church did not offer any counseling, support, or legal help with the prosecution. The entire family is broken and suffering. I appreciate all the help you can offer via survivor support. Thank you very much for having this site on the Internet. It has already helped the family greatly, as the church's reaction has stunned them, and they feel lost, at fault, and guilty.”—Attorney, FL

The History of The Hope of Survivors

The year 2012 marked the 10-year anniversary of The Hope of Survivors, which was born one evening in December 2002, as Steve and Samantha were reflecting upon their own experience of clergy 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 website that would provide information and encouragement to anyone who may be searching for answers. Steve and Samantha felt if “just one person” could be helped by the website, then it would be well worth the effort and pain they had gone through. While Steve and Samantha’s vision was initially 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. (Romans 8:28)

The Hope of Survivors has grown rapidly in its services since it began, even earnestly embarking on a search for property to establish a healing center for victims in 2012. It has an active and growing 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 seminars and educational materials, including a booklet entitled, *Sexual Misconduct Among Spiritual Leaders*, (in Spanish and English) and DVDs, are circulated worldwide. The Hope of Survivors is unique, as a multitude of national websites now 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!

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

About The Hope of Survivors

The Hope of Survivors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct of all denominations, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches worldwide.

The Hope of Survivors is a registered California nonprofit corporation and is authorized to conduct business in the states of Nebraska and Texas as a foreign corporation under the same name. *La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes*, the Latino Division of The Hope of Survivors, is registered in the state of Texas. The Hope of Survivors also maintains official offices with volunteer staff in Queensland, Australia; Alberta, Canada; and Bistrița, Romania.

Professional memberships include: American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC), Outpost Centers International (OCI); Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals (AAFLP), and Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI). The Hope of Survivors has also been recognized as a Valued Partner by GuideStar Exchange.



Description of Mission, Services & Programs

The organization's purpose is to provide hope and healing in Christ through encouragement, emotional and spiritual support, referral, educational programs and information to victims of clergy 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, clergy, church body and the general public about clergy 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 up-to-date websites;
- (b) Conduct retreats and seminars specifically for the victims of clergy sexual abuse and provide one-on-one 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 clergy sexual abuse so that the church and the victim are not further damaged in the aftermath;
- (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 clergy sexual abuse who 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. Grants previously awarded include: Versacare, The William R. Dally Foundation and the HOPE Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your support is greatly appreciated. The Hope of Survivors does not receive any denominational subsidies. Donations may also be received through:

GoodSearch



Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2012

	<u>Dec. 31, 2012</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 — Cash — HOPE Checking — US Bank	\$7,910.77
1074 — Cash — Hold for Healing Center	\$2,050.00
1075 — Cash — Hold — Temp Restr. Romania	<u>\$180.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$10,140.77
Other Current Assets	
1200 — Miscellaneous Receivables	<u>\$160.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>\$160.00</u>
Total Current Assets	\$10,300.77
Fixed Assets	
1600 — Equipment	\$14,448.89
1690 — Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$11,298.00)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$3,150.89</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$13,451.66</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
2300 — Credit Card Liability	
2310 — Company Credit Card—Capital One	<u>\$28.12</u>
Total 2300 — Credit Card Liability	<u>\$28.12</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>\$28.12</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$28.12</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$28.12</u>
Equity	
3010 — Unrestrict (retained earnings)	\$7,353.83
Net Income	<u>\$6,069.71</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$13,423.54</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$13,451.66</u>

Statement of Activities

<u>January through December 2012</u>	<u>Jan – Dec 2012</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 – Contributions	\$34,963.16
4001 – Grants	\$11,005.00
4002 – Contributions – Temp Restricted	\$25.00
4010 – Non-Cash Donations	\$189.00
4050 – Fundraising Income	\$1,311.56
4100 – Sales	\$415.38
4400 – Miscellaneous Income	\$14.86
4500 – Interest Income	<u>\$2.09</u>
Total Income	\$47,926.05
Expense	
6000 – Salaries	\$13,589.75
6010 – Payroll Taxes	\$1,074.14
6050 – Professional Fees	
6052 – Accounting	<u>\$534.10</u>
Total 6050 – Professional Fees	\$534.10
6060 – Books & Education	\$355.00
6070 – Bank Charges	\$63.00
6075 – Finance Charges	\$397.82
6080 – Contract Services	\$200.00
6090 – Donations	\$14.71
6110 – Equipment Repairs	\$211.48
6120 – Telephone & Internet Services	\$1,370.31
6130 – Dues & Publications	\$299.00
6150 – Licenses & Fees	\$600.00
6160 – Insurance	\$1,296.60
6200 – Office Supplies	\$1,446.98
6220 – Collection Service	\$433.49
6230 – Postage	\$1,485.31
6240 – Printing & Publishing	\$230.95
6245 – Software	\$182.09
6300 – Sales Tax Paid	\$56.00
6400 – Advertising	\$3,956.93
6420 – Travel	
6421 – Lodging	\$2,994.18
6422 – Airfare	\$3,082.72
6423 – Car Rental & Other Auto Expense	\$1,441.85
6424 – Fuel	\$1,206.71
6425 – Other Travel Expenses	\$48.77
6420 – Travel – Other	\$0.00
Total 6420 – Travel	\$8,774.23
6430 – Meals & Entertainment	\$1,789.01
6440 – Conference Expenses	\$783.93
6500 – Victim Assistance	\$1,571.62
6510 – Gifts	\$453.89
6700 – Depreciation Expense	\$686.00
9999 – Uncategorized	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$41,856.34</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$6,069.71
Net Income	<u>\$6,069.71</u>

Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2012 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

#	<u>Denominational Demographics</u>	%
1	Anabaptist Church	1%
9	Baptist, First Baptist, Christian Baptist or Southern Baptist	9%
5	Catholic, Roman Catholic, Jesuit	5%
1	Christian Brethren Church	1%
1	Covenant Reformed Church	1%
1	Episcopal Church	1%
1	Evangelical Church	1%
2	Evangelical Lutheran Church or Lutheran Church MO-Synod	2%
1	Foursquare Church	1%
1	Independent Fundamental Baptist Church	1%
1	Kabbalah	1%
1	Muslim	1%
14	Non-Denominational/Christian/Interdenominational	15%
1	Orthodox Church	1%
2	Pentecostal Church; United Pentecostal Church; PAC	2%
4	Presbyterian Church	4%
27	Seventh-day Adventist Church	28%
16	Undisclosed Denomination	17%
2	United Church of Christ	2%
4	United Methodist Church	4%
1	Wesleyan Church	1%
	<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>	<u>1%</u>
96	Total from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12	100%

Notes:

- (1) These demographics do **not** include clients from previous years, who may still be receiving ongoing support from The Hope of Survivors.
- (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. Thus, the total number served is much greater than these statistics cited.
- (4) The year 2012 averaged 2 new clients per week (96 total).
- (5) Same notes apply as stated above on following page.

Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below reveals the 2012 demographics based on the state/country where the client resides. Throughout just 2012 there were **32** known states and **10** known countries (other than the U.S.) represented as of 12/31/12.

State	#	%
Alabama	4	4%
Australia	2	2%
Arizona	2	2%
Brazil	1	1%
California	4	4%
Canada	2	2%
Colorado	3	3%
Connecticut	1	1%
Florida	2	2%
Georgia	2	2%
Germany	1	1%
Hawaii	7	7%
Idaho	1	1%
Illinois	2	2%
Indiana	3	3%
Iowa	1	1%
Kentucky	1	1%
Louisiana	1	1%
Maryland	2	2%
Massachusetts	2	2%
Michigan	1	1%
Minnesota	1	1%
Missouri	3	3%
Mississippi	1	1%
Montana	1	1%
Nebraska	2	2%
New Jersey	1	1%
New York	4	4%
New Zealand	1	1%
North Carolina	1	1%
Oklahoma	2	2%
Oregon	2	2%
Pennsylvania	4	4%
South Africa	1	1%
South Carolina	4	4%
South Wales	1	1%
St. Lucia	1	1%
Texas	3	3%
United Kingdom (UK)	3	3%
Undisclosed State/Country	11	11%

Virginia	2	2%
Washington	1	1%
Zimbabwe	1	1%
<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>		<u>4%</u>
Total from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12	96	100%

Notes:

- (1) These demographics do **not** include clients from previous years, who may still be receiving ongoing support from The Hope of Survivors.
- (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. Thus, the total number served is much greater than these statistics cited.
- (4) The year 2012 averaged 2 new clients per week (96 total).
- (5) Same notes apply as stated above on previous page.



Pastor Steve Nelson speaking at the Abuse Prevention Seminar at Kapa'au, HI.

The Hope of Survivors' Officers, Directors & Staff

Without God as the Ultimate Founder, Director and Provider for The Hope of Survivors, none of the work would have lasting effect or eternal results. We give all the glory and honor to our Heavenly Father, yet we recognize the individuals who are His instruments in service. We acknowledge and give our year-end 2012 Board of Directors and Volunteers our heartfelt gratitude for their sacrificial service:

Board of Directors

Steve Nelson, BCBC, CBT (since 12/02)—Co-Founder, President
Samantha Nelson, BCBC, CBT (since 12/02)—Co-Founder, V.P. & CEO
Martin Weber, D.Min. (since 4/08)—Board Chairman
Steven Grabiner (since 2/07)
Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, MS, NCC (since 9/07)
James L. Marcum, M.D. (since 9/07)
Ray Hartwell (since 4/08)
Herb Douglass, Th.D. (since 9/08)
Ardis D. Stenbakken (since 8/10)
Ted Vanderlaan, Esq. (since 8/11)
Kyoshin Ahn (since 8/11)
Wendy Lee (since 3/12)
Robert Peck (since 7.12)



Pastor Steve Nelson at Balta Alba Church in Bucharest, Romania

Volunteers

Tom Lemon (2004-2009)—Board Chairman Emeritus, Member Advisory Panel
Robert & Debbie Withrow (since 2/04)—Accounting
Peggy & Dave Mahrt (since 5/05)—PR/Marketing
Coralie Roll (since 1/06)—Australia Division/Victim Support Services
Sandy Kirkham (since 8/06)—Member Advisory Panel/Victim Support Services
Arlagene Groves (since 4/07)—Australia Division/Victim Support Services
Shyleene Rosado (since 4/07)—Latino Division Vice President/Victim Support Services
Karen Danka (since 9/07)—Graphic Design Assistant
Buffy Halvorsen (since 5/08)—Victim Support Services
Heather & Brad Brown (since 9/09)—Victim Support Services
Wendy Lee (since 6/10)—Victim Support Services
Gail W. & Elgin Jenkins (since 8/10)—Victim Support Services
Romulus Chelbegean, Ph.D., MS, MA, MFT, RN (since 11/10)—Romanian Division Vice President
Meredith & Mark Indermaur (since 8/11)—PR/Marketing
Danielle Jostes (since 9/11)—Victim Support Services
Javier & Gloria Huerta (since 10/11)—Victim Support Services (Latino Division)
Elizabeth Boone (since 1/12)—Research Assistant
Valerie Spielman (since 8/12)—Executive Assistant

Day-to-day operations are primarily the responsibility of the Vice President and CEO; however, each Director and Volunteer has 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. Volunteers offered support to hundreds of victims throughout the year, as well as assisted with raising awareness of the issue of clergy sexual abuse, conducting conferences, exhibiting at conventions, and many other tasks too numerous to mention. The Hope of Survivors is indeed indebted and greatly blessed by the involvement of each Director and Volunteer. The following chart shows the breakdown of volunteer hours:

Volunteer	Hours	(Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2012)
Samantha Nelson (paid hours not incl.)	1,700	(counseling, administration, etc.)
Martin Weber	600	(board mtgs., counseling, conf., etc.)
Shyleene Rosado	230	(counseling, seminars, conf., etc.)
Steve Nelson	184	(speaking, counseling, conferences)
Wendy Schwitzer	100	(victim support, convention exhibit, etc.)
Ted Vanderlaan	165	(legal support)
Jennifer Schwirzer	100	(board meetings, counseling, materials)
Coralie Roll	20	(Australia Division)
Arlagene Groves	30	(Australia Division)
Bob & Debbie Withrow	20	(accounting, meetings, reports)
Jim Marcum	10	(board meetings, material review, etc.)
Sandy Kirkham	275	(exhibits, conferences)
Steven Grabiner	15	(board meetings, material review)
Herb Douglass	10	(board meetings, material review)
Ray Hartwell	6	(board meetings, material review)
Ardis Stenbakken	20	(board meetings, material review)
Karen Danka	65	(design, promotion, etc.)
Heather Brown	65	(victim support)
Danielle Jostes	100	(victim support)
Meredith & Mark Indermaur	30	(marketing & PR)
Romulus Chelbegean	100	(Romania Division)
Javier & Gloria Huerta	56	(Latino Division)
Gail & Elgin Jenkins	50	(exhibiting, counseling, etc.)
Valerie Spielman	30	(office, phone calls, conferences, etc.)
Kyoshin Ahn	5	(board meetings, material review, etc.)
Bob Peck	3	(board meetings, material review, etc.)
Buffy Halvorsen	3	(counseling, meetings, etc.)

Total Volunteer Hours for 2012 3,992*

*Estimates based on tasks undertaken by individual volunteers. Not all volunteers reported hours, even though they performed work on behalf of The Hope of Survivors. The total hours represents a **low** estimate of the number of volunteer hours required during 2012. Additional hours from project-based volunteers, such as the individuals who offered to translate the website into various languages, are not included in this estimate.

Exposure Information



Editorial / Media / Advertising

- Google AdWords (key words for search results – monthly)
- Hawaii Public Radio Interview with Keala Thompson on behalf of The Hope of Survivors (April 2012)
- *Christianity Today* (May 2012)
- ASI Magazine article (May 2012)
- *Project X* Documentary Interview (Bucharest, Romania, August 2012)
- *Shattering the Silence* Interview (October 2012)
- People of the Second Chance (POTSC) article (November 2012)
- OCI Reports article (Fall/Winter 2012)
- *God Is Speaking* article about The Hope of Survivors in *Portsmouth Herald* (8/27/12)
- Awarded a Top-Rated Nonprofit honor by Great Nonprofits
- And many others!

Additionally, The Hope of Survivors continued to publish and distribute its quarterly newsletter, *HopeSpeak*, to over 1,600 individuals, and distributed materials through various avenues, including online orders, direct requests, conventions, conferences and other venues.

Conferences / Programs / Projects

Beyond the day-to-day support it provided for victims of clergy sexual abuse, The Hope of Survivors was actively engaged in the following events, conferences and programs, plus several in-house and on-site counseling sessions at various times during 2012:

- ASI Chapter Meeting & Board Chairman Interview (Denver, CO)
- ASI exhibit (Cincinnati, OH)
- Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day Sermon & Seminars (Hawi and Kapa'au, HI)
- Kohala Mission School Abuse Presentation (Hawi, HI)
- 3-Part Healing/Revival Series (Kapa'au, HI)
- Spiritual Healing/Revival Series (Bucharest, Romania)
- *Trust & Truth* Conferences (Spring & Fall semesters) at Cincinnati Christian University (Cincinnati, OH)
- *Hope & Healing* Conference for victims (Omaha, NE)
- Spanish *Hope & Healing* seminars (Fresno, Los Angeles, and Bell Gardens, CA)



Left to Right: Dr. Martin Weber, Board Chairman; Ted Vanderlaan, Esq.; Steve Nelson, President; and Samantha Nelson, VP & CEO. (*Hope & Healing* Conference in Omaha, NE)

Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention™ Day Campaign

The Hope of Survivors conducted its second annual Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention (CSAAP) campaign (<http://www.clergysexualabuseawarenessday.com>) by hosting several events around the country and enlisting many volunteers for various activities. Although CSAAP was initiated by The Hope of Survivors, many other individuals and organizations are part of this campaign to raise awareness of the issue of clergy sexual abuse and to fight to stop its prevalence among churches of all denominations. Several endorsements have been garnered from leaders in the fields of advocacy, research, law and social work, which helped lend additional credibility to the significance of the campaign. It is the goal of The Hope of Survivors to see CSAAP become to clergy sexual abuse what pink ribbons have become to Breast Cancer Awareness. You can help us make that happen by sponsoring or hosting an event in your area, writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper, as well as mainstream media outlets. Just be sure to let us know your plans so we can assist you with promotion and materials!



Special Thanks...

The Hope of Survivors is deeply indebted and thankful to its Directors, Officers and Volunteers (listed on page 11) who served and supported the ministry in 2012. 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. There are many individuals who faithfully support this ministry in some way, and we are very grateful for you. Thank you all for your support and prayers!

We'd also like to say "Thank You" to our donors and to those who have donated their time, talents and services to help The Hope of Survivors conduct its programs and day-to-day operations. The Hope of Survivors would not be able to continue its operations and services for victims and churches if it were not for you.



Above: Volunteers, Shyleene Rosado and Sandy Kirkham at the ASI Convention in Cincinnati, OH. Right: Sandy Kirkham with her husband Bill.

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.”—1 Thessalonians 1:2-4