

# Hope SPEAK

## Dear Hope of Survivors Family,



“Go forward!” Those are the words I remember most from one of the key sermons at the General Conference Session last July. While Elder Ted N.C. Wilson may never know the reach and impact of his words, they inspired me to press on, despite how unpromising things may look at times in this ministry. Sometimes

it seems like we’ll have to close the doors and leave victims to fend for themselves with only text on a website and no personal support. We believe God does amazing things and will provide who or what is needed to keep going.

Finances and lack of staff are not the only discouraging elements we face though. It seems that some ill-informed individuals take it upon themselves at times to write “hate mail” to the ministry, misconstruing our efforts and purpose, even attacking our characters—Satan’s attempt to work through whom he can to try to deter us from the mission God has appointed to us.

While it can certainly be unpleasant to work in this ministry (or any line of work for the Lord) at times, we are often blessed and encouraged beyond measure when we see how the Lord opens doors, providing avenues of outreach we never even imagined.

Keep in mind, when Steve and I were compelled to start this ministry in 2002, we thought our pain would have been worth going through if “just one” victim could find truth and hope through the website. Today, instead of just one, there have been thousands! We never even dreamed the website would become a full-time, global ministry with operations and volunteers in other countries, and resources in multiple foreign languages. Indeed, the very fact that, in the past few months alone, several volunteers from around the world have translated resources so victims could be strengthened and encouraged in their time of need in their own language shows that



God still has big plans for The Hope of Survivors. This encourages us. And it should encourage you, especially those of you who support the ministry with your prayers, time, talents and love offerings.

So, in spite of how desperate things may appear at times, we know we serve a God who is able to do abundantly more than we could ask or think. And, this same God—the One who brings hope and healing to victims through this ministry—has given us the same command Elder Wilson mentioned in his sermon, “go forward!” You can read about it in Joshua 1:9, *“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”*

We at The Hope of Survivors plan to “go forward” in 2011. How about you? Will you join us?

God bless you,

*Samantha Nelson*

Samantha Nelson  
Vice President & CEO

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### The Hope of Survivors (Main Office)

P.O. Box 27

Effingham, IL 62401

Phone: (866) 260-8958

Web site: [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com)

The Hope of Survivors is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization funded by individuals who support the mission and goals of the organization; survivors of pastoral sexual abuse who desire to use their means to help others; and by grants from private foundations whose values are similar to those of The Hope of Survivors. All contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowable by law. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Special Announcement!

The Hope of Survivors recently released a new documentary DVD. *Call It Anything But Love!* is a true story of a couple's struggles and challenges as they overcome their painful pasts to find themselves in a spider's web of lies, deceit, adultery and abuse—at the hands of their pastor.



Clergy sexual abuse is not new, though it is becoming more and more prevalent in the news as of late. This documentary is for victims who are searching for hope and answers, as well as for the populace at large who wish to gain a greater understanding of the issue or simply be inspired by a heartwarming testimony.

*"It's an uplifting story of overcoming abuse and learning how to trust God and draw from His strength,"* remarks a survivor from Illinois. *"It makes you realize that God is bigger than any situation we have to endure."*

The DVD retails for \$15 and is available at The Hope of Survivors website at: <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/products.asp>

Help us spread the word! Download the press kit ([http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/pdf\\_files/CIABL\\_Press\\_Kit.pdf](http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/pdf_files/CIABL_Press_Kit.pdf)) and share it!

## News & Other Announcements

The Hope of Survivors recently updated its website and added several new foreign language options to its resources. To view information in French, Italian, Turkish, Romanian or Russian (in addition to English or Spanish), simply click on Languages on the top navigation. Many thanks to translators Irina Pica (Romanian), James England (French), Olga Azarian (Russian), Slavomir Balsan (Italian) and Zuhul Czuri (Turkish).

A special welcome to Romulus Chelbegean, Ph.D., MS, MA, MFT, RN, who joins The Hope of Survivors as the new vice president of the Romanian Division. Romulus currently resides in Loma Linda, CA, and will be coordinating the Romanian Division efforts with his colleagues in Romania.

We are very grateful for the years of service and dedication of Alina and Gabriel Ciur, who helped with the start-up of the Romanian Division, and coordinated our programs there in 2009. They are moving into a new phase in their lives and will not be able to be as actively involved with THOS. We wish them all the best!

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*

## Reviews and Comments

*"I just got my DVD today and I just watched it. What an awesome job you two have done! **God, thru you my friend, saved my life and my marriage!**"*

—Survivor, NC

*"Wow. I can't tell you how much your story moved me. I can relate to most everything, including much of your childhood. ...The production of this documentary is amazing. The lighting, editing, b roll..., and the narration flow so well. The subtitles are so fitting—it's all very good. Steve is extremely compelling, especially his reflections about those red flags that made him feel uneasy, but that he didn't really know what to do with. ...I am so happy to promote this."*—Survivor, OR

*"**Call It Anything But Love!** confronts one of the most disturbing topics in our culture today and does so in the most disarming way possible—through the experiences of two people who lived it. Steve and Samantha Nelson speak with an openness and honesty that immediately draws the viewer into their story. The viewer is led down a path that seems more and more unimaginable. How can a man of God behave in such a way? What is most shocking—is knowing the story is true. Without resorting to Hollywood trickery or dramatic effects, **Call It Anything But Love!** has an emotional punch yet still manages to challenge our deepest, most profound beliefs."*—Martin Doblmeier, filmmaker

*"I watched the DVD and your story really touched me. God really works in mysterious ways. You both were emotionally hurt and experienced so much pain and now you are helping other people who have experienced the same pain."*—Translator, UK

*"Your DVD came today...what an outstanding piece of work it is....oh my!!! Bravo for your willingness to share the details of your lives in order to offer the context that*

*is so common in many of survivor's stories. Well done...I sat here watching it thinking...who do I send/give this to so it can be shared and persons can learn, or have the story told again, so folks grasp the complexity of the issue? Once again, you have done outstanding work and are to be commended. Thank you again!"*—Survivor, ME

*"I received your DVD in the post today and have already watched it. I thought it was very moving. You and Steve have been through so much! God bless you that you both started The Hope of Survivors. It is well needed."*—Germany

*"I got the DVD this afternoon and had mixed feelings about watching it—did I want to relive the pain again for no reason—or would it be beneficial to watch in some way. ...I just wanted to write to say I'm glad I watched it, it was very well done, but most of all, it is ANOINTED. I'm sure you prayed for that and I'm here to tell you God heard your prayer. I was in tears and it wasn't the bad kind, it was the healing kind. ...I just wanted to thank you again for the role you played in my life.... My husband and I are doing very well and will celebrate our 24th anniversary next month, a testament to God's moving through your ministry."*—Survivor, OH

*"The documentary was powerful. I was deeply moved again as I reflected on what you have gone through. But also inspired as the Lord has taken you from being a victim of an evil man to being a victor over all that was planned against you."*—Tom Lemon, President, Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

*"Thank you very much for your present. It is greatly appreciated. I watched the DVD, and it will always remind me that there is HOPE."*—Olga, Russian translator for THOS

*"5 Stars! So well put together, held our attention. Steve's face from the corner looking in was a spectacular force, very believable. Samantha's awful baggage she carried for so long was incredibly believable—what a pity!"*

—Herb Douglass, Th.D., CA

*"Thanks so much for the DVD. We have watched it and are amazed and thankful for your example of a couple who have gone through such circumstances and come through it stronger than before and have turned it into an opportunity to help others. ...Thanks once again for all the work you are doing. May God bless you."*

—Survivor, Australia

*"...beautiful job. Amazing. You guys really bared your souls. Courage."*—Jennifer Schwirzer, PA

*"Watched the video and it's great!"*

—Survivor, CA

## Immediate Needs...

- *Hope & Healing* (victim's) conference expenses (meeting space rental, meals, travel, materials, etc.)
- Monthly operating expenses (postage, office supplies, utilities, printing, etc.), staff, educational materials and victim assistance
- Donations to offset the current budget deficit (\$9,000)

Donations are the primary source of funds that make it possible for The Hope of Survivors to maintain its ministry. Since The Hope of Survivors receives no denominational subsidies, your gifts are vitally important. Thank you for considering a tax-deductible donation to further the work of this ministry and bring hope and healing to wounded hearts.



## Creative Ways To Help!

Contribute with ease by setting up **monthly recurring donations** to The Hope of Survivors. It's easy! Just go to [www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/donate.asp](http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/donate.asp) and type in the amount you'd like to contribute.

Did you know The Hope of Survivors is listed on the social networking site **Facebook**? Check it out! ([http://apps.facebook.com/causes/47537?m=33935&recruiter\\_id=12747904](http://apps.facebook.com/causes/47537?m=33935&recruiter_id=12747904))

**No money?** You can still support The Hope of Survivors! We will receive a penny each time you search the Internet using **www.GoodSearch.com**. Just be sure to type The Hope of Survivors in the charity to be supported box. (By the way, The Hope of Survivors received over \$148 from GoodSearch in 2010. Happy searching, Everyone!)

You can also donate through **American Express Giving Express** by going to: <http://amex.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=65-1211701>.

*Thank you for supporting The Hope of Survivors!*

## Testimonials

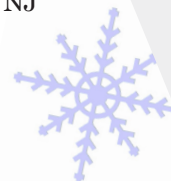
*"I just now watched Issues and Answers #148 on THOS website. You are lovely, and I was so deeply touched by everything both you and Steve had to say. Everything from your personal experience, to the empathy you share for others. I'm further touched by how universal the guilt and shame is for those who suffer through these abuse issues; thankful that there is this ministry to reach out and offer this lovely, Christ-centered hope and compassion. I've known about your compassion for some time now, but sometimes it just strikes me in a fresh and powerful way."*—OR

*"I love reading the monthly newsletter and keeping abreast of all the growth and lives that are being changed due to The Hope of Survivors."*—MO

*"Thank you for your kind and encouraging words. They are apples of gold in settings of silver to me."*—FL

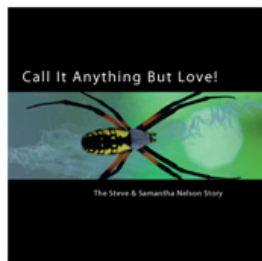
***"This information will be very useful to me as a pastor and family life educator."***  
—Pastor, TX

*"Thank you so much for this wonderful experience. It is nice to know that there are people who don't just get angry about this particular problem (sexual abuse by pastors), but actually do something about it. I wish the best to The Hope of Survivors."*—Olga, Russian Translator, NJ



## Resources

### DVD: *Call It Anything But Love!—The Steve & Samantha Nelson Story*



*Call It Anything But Love!* is a true story of a couple's struggles and challenges as they overcome their painful pasts to find themselves in a spider's web of lies, deceit, adultery and abuse—at the hands of their pastor. \$15.00 each.

Order online at: <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/products.asp>

### *Understanding Sexual Misconduct Among Spiritual Leaders*



Ever wonder what is really happening to you or someone you know? Are you trying to decide how to help someone who has been abused by a pastor? Or wanting to know how the church should address the issue? This booklet provides information for victims, spouses, youth, pastors and wives, church leaders and congregants, and an overview of the issue of pastoral sexual misconduct. It is a "must" for those who need answers and help! (8.5x5.5, 20 pages) Only \$2.95 each. Order online at: <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/products.asp>

### THOS Support Group Manual



Do you like to lead small groups? Do you have a heart for sharing the pain of others? Have you ever wanted to be involved helping victims of pastoral sexual abuse? Then The Hope of Survivors' *THOS Support Group Manual* may be just what you need! This manual provides step-by-step instructions and guidelines for becoming a THOS Support Group Facilitator in your area. (Full-size Binder) **\$39.95 \*\*\*New Price!\*\*\*** Order online at: <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/products.asp>

**Please Note:** The purchase of *THOS Support Group Manual* does not automatically grant you permission to begin THOS Support Groups in your area. You must comply with the guidelines in the Manual and submit to a background check and review process before being approved as an official THOS Support Group Facilitator.

## International Division Contacts

### Australia Division

Coralie Roll (Administration)  
Arlagene Groves (Victim Support Services)  
Phone: (866) 260-8958 extension 6 (from U.S.) or (in AU) 07 4615 2430  
Web: [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com)  
Email: [Coralie@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](mailto:Coralie@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)  
Email: [Arlagene@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](mailto:Arlagene@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)

### Latino Division

#### (La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes)

Shyleene Rosado-Maldonado  
Phone: (787) 902-8867 or (866) 260-8958 extension 2  
Email: [Ayuda@LaEsperanzaDeLosSobrevivientes.com](mailto:Ayuda@LaEsperanzaDeLosSobrevivientes.com)  
Web: [www.LaEsperanzaDeLosSobrevivientes.com](http://www.LaEsperanzaDeLosSobrevivientes.com)

### Romania Division

Romulus Chelbegean (Vice President, Romanian Division)  
Email: [Romulus@TheHopeOfSurvivors.com](mailto:Romulus@TheHopeOfSurvivors.com)  
Web: [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.ro](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.ro)

### Canadian Division

Wendy Schwitzer (Victim Support Services)  
Email: [Wendy@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](mailto:Wendy@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)  
Web: [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com)

### Testimonial from the Australia Division

*"You [Arlagene] have been an amazing help and support to us... Thank you for the great work you're doing. You have been a great blessing to us."*—Survivor, Australia

### Testimonial from the Canadian Division

*"Thanks again [Wendy] for all your love and support, and God tells me you ARE in the RIGHT job—you know just what to say when that person needs to hear it!"*  
—Survivor, Canada

## Calendar of Events

### December 29-January 2, 2011

Baltimore, MD—GYC

Location: Baltimore Convention Center

One West Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

The Hope of Survivors will be exhibiting at the GYC Convention. This is an excellent venue for reaching victims of pastoral sexual abuse and for raising awareness among youth and young adults in the church. All are welcome to visit the booth, pick up educational materials and speak with representatives from The Hope of Survivors. Volunteers Gail Jenkins and Kashae Ferguson will be staffing the booth. There is no fee to enter the exhibit hall and visit the various exhibits. Please visit the GYC website for more schedule information (<http://gycweb.org>).

### January 10, 2011

Des Moines, IA—*Faith & Fidelity* Conference

Time: 9:15am-12:15pm & 2:00pm-5:00pm (Monday)

Location: Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

1005 Grand Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50265

Steve and Samantha Nelson will be presenting a *Faith & Fidelity* seminar to Conference pastors on the



prevention of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as how the church/organization should respond if a situation arises.

### February 27, 2011

Pastor Steve & Samantha Nelson will be interviewed on the topic of pastoral sexual abuse by host Vivionne Grace Keli for *The Re-Born Identity* show on BlogRadio. Tune in at 9:00pm (CST).

### August 29, 2011

Redding, CA—Fundraising Event

Prime 11 Cinemas—Monday Sponsorship Program Arranged by The Hope of Survivors' volunteers, Peggy and Dave Mahrt, The Hope of Survivors will be the recipient of a portion of funds collected at **Prime 11 Cinemas** during the day. If you're in the area, please plan to participate in this fundraising event.

*Hope & Healing* victim's conferences are currently being considered in various locations (i.e., Indianapolis, IN; Long Island, NY; Jacksonville, FL; etc.) and will be scheduled when funds become available to conduct such programs.

To schedule or sponsor a conference in your area, call (866) 260-8958. Check our web site for additional details and the most current information. [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com)

Samantha and Steve Nelson are Co-Founders of The Hope of Survivors. They strive to facilitate healing in the lives of those who have been wounded by a spiritual leader.

The ministry is founded on the commission in God's Word, which calls us to "...comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

—2 Corinthians 1:4



THE  
HOPE  
OF SURVIVORS

P.O. Box 27, Effingham, IL 62401