

HOPE SPEAK

Dear Hope of Survivors Family,

We are eagerly looking forward to the good things God has in store for victims of clergy sexual abuse around the world in this new year. As the Lord blesses The Hope of Survivors with volunteers and donations, we can do even more to raise awareness of the critical issue of clergy sexual abuse and its impact on victims, families, pastors, churches and communities. This is not an isolated form of abuse. No, it impacts whole communities each time it takes place. The worst part about it is how it affects the victim's view of God, and how it distorts the character of God in the eyes of many.

Before we talk about our goals for 2013, let me share a couple of the blessings the Lord provided in 2012. For starters, it marked the 10-year anniversary of The Hope of Survivors. It's hard to believe we've been ministering to victims of clergy sexual abuse, of all faiths, all around the globe, for 10 years! Glory be to God for what He has done in the lives of those thousands of victims served in the last decade.



Secondly, it was an honor to be granted the Top-Rated Nonprofit status for the second year in a row by

GreatNonprofits. If you missed the announcement, please check it out at http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/pdf_files/Top_rated_2012.pdf. We desire to do our best to serve God while serving victims and educating pastors, so thank you all for making this honor possible by providing your honest and generous feedback.

There were many other milestones achieved in 2012, but let me now share with you our goals for 2013. We've launched a \$1,000,000 fundraising campaign for the purpose of purchasing facilities in Pella, Iowa, and Romania, to be used as places of respite and healing for victims. We've got a long way to go, but we believe God will provide so even more victims can receive the hope and healing they need.

The Hope of Survivors has also been given some unprecedented opportunities, such as the possibility of exhibiting and conducting a seminar at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Korea. We're not sure yet if we'll get approved because our application was submitted after the deadline (which was when we received the invitation to apply), so please pray God will work it out according to His will. This would be

an amazing way to share the good news of hope and healing with victims from all denominations, worldwide, in one vast assembly.

Another wonderful opportunity is to present at the International Congress on Law & Mental Health in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Board member, Martin Weber, will be speaking on behalf of The Hope of Survivors on the topic of sexual misconduct & religious institutions. There will be hundreds of presenters at this conference, speaking on various topics pertaining to law and mental health. We see this as a key opportunity to raise awareness of The Hope of Survivors among those fields of practice.

Thirdly, we have been invited to speak to the pastors in the Romanian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the purpose of helping them better understand the effects of clergy sexual abuse and abuse within the church. When we

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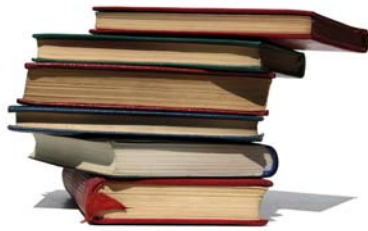
The Hope of Survivors is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization funded by individuals who support the mission and goals of the organization; survivors of pastoral sexual abuse who desire to use their means to help others; and by grants from private foundations whose values are similar to those of The Hope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

Pastors vs. Imposters

—Survivor Girl*

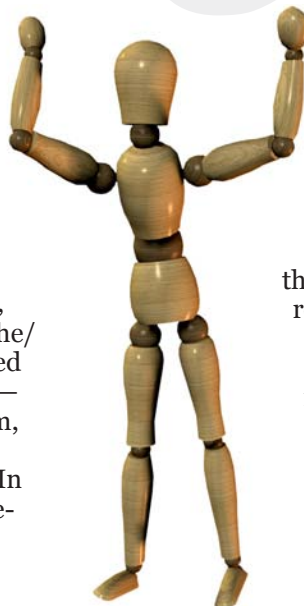
Like many Christ-followers, I have a large assortment of devotional books, but one of mine really stands head and shoulders above the others. *Daily with the King*, by Pastor W. Glyn Evans, packs a theological punch and keeps me on my spiritual toes. The fact that it was discovered while buried under a pile of books at Goodwill endears it even more to me and is a reminder that we often have to dig deep for gems of spiritual truth. Last week I unearthed a reading

entitled “Mannequin Christianity,” which focuses solely on the connection between pastors who live the Spirit-infused life (true shepherds) and those who don’t (false shepherds). Evans writes:



God’s people have institutionalized spiritual service. We call a man to be a pastor, and because he is officially a pastor, we expect him to be a mouthpiece for God. Not necessarily. The title is not the life, and the office is not the fruit. God does not bless an office or a title; He blesses a person, and He blesses him because he evidences the flow of spiritual life in his life ... spiritual life is what God requires and what the world craves. Nobody, not even the outspoken agnostic, will refuse the life and fruit that God gives through His church; but everyone will bitterly denounce the ‘mannequin’ aspect of Christianity, form without life. (Daily with the King, pp. 232-233)

Mannequin is a French word for a life-size but not life-filled form and is a fitting metaphor for false faith leaders or “imposters.” We can never assume that someone we call “Pastor” or “Reverend” or “Father” is living out the full requirements and responsibilities of that title. Assumptions, defined by Webster’s as “things taken for granted without proof,” are dangerous. One thing I’ve learned as a clergy sexual abuse victim-now-survivor is that there is a high spiritual, emotional and even physical cost to giving automatic (done unconsciously or from force of habit) trust (reliance on another’s ability, integrity or strength) to a pastor simply because he/she has the title. Historically we’ve been instructed to place our confidence—and often our very lives—in those who have more knowledge, more wisdom, more experience, and even more years on earth than we have. That’s a good thing...until it’s not. In other words, it’s dangerous for us to rely on someone’s *unproven* integrity and trustworthiness.



“It’s downright essential to ask ourselves if a faith leader’s life is marked by progressive conformity to Christ’s life. We need to be on the lookout for a life that honors God and others (good fruit).”

And it’s when we make the common mistake of believing that “title=integrity” that we are guilty of giving blind trust and are ripe for falling victim to an abuse of power. It’s downright essential to ask ourselves if a faith leader’s life is marked by progressive conformity to Christ’s life. Evan’s writes that “the office is not the fruit.” It’s foolish to believe that someone who occupies the role of “pastor” or “coach” or “doctor” is to be trusted simply based on his/her title. We need to be on the lookout for a life that honors God and others (good fruit).

God’s Word is replete with warnings to “test the spirits” and “watch out for false prophets [who] come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.” How will we recognize these wolves? “By their fruit you will recognize them.” (Matthew 7: 15-16) When we are lovers of Christ, we will manifest His mindset and His behavior as “fruit” in our lives. When we produce godly fruit, we are producing evidence that our hearts are filled with the Holy Spirit. 1 John 1:11 says to “remember that those who do evil prove they do not know God.” Abusive pastors who prey on the vulnerable are exploitative (using others for selfish gain), do egregious harm (produce bad fruit) and are the embodiment of evil. They do not know God; in fact, such acts prove they have the antithesis of the mind of Christ. *Period.*

Evans writes that God prizes the spiritual life so highly that He “makes it a condition of service.” Abusive pastors who prey on the vulnerable have no spiritual life and are in no condition to serve in authority over God’s people. Why would we allow those who do not qualify by *God’s own standards* to serve God to continue in any pastoral role? They should be removed from service. *Period.*

Faith leaders have certain responsibilities to those in their flocks, but the flocks also have responsibilities:

1. People of God are to pray for godly discernment and for godly pastors. *Are we regularly holding up our faith leaders in prayer?*
2. People of God are responsible not to follow

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In the Spotlight!

Denomination: Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Does the organization have a clergy sexual abuse policy in place? If yes, where can this policy be found (provide URL, mailing address if a copy must be requested, etc.)?

Yes. The organization's child sexual abuse policy and resources can be found online at:
<http://www.adventistrisk.org/Prevention/ChildProtection.aspx>

How/where can victims or members of the congregation find out about the policy and proper procedures for reporting abuse? Is there a specific person or office to contact?

The website mentioned above is a good place to start:
<http://www.adventistrisk.org/Prevention/ChildProtection.aspx>

Additionally, one can contact the Ministerial Association for a copy of the policy (in booklet format), *Sexual Misconduct in Church Relationships*.
http://www.ministerialassociation.com/transaction_detail.php?id=182

Incidents may be reported directly to the President or Ministerial Director at the local Conference in which the abuse took place.

Does your organization's policy include the abuse of vulnerable adults, as well as children?

Yes. For abuse of vulnerable adults, contacting Adventist Risk Management (<http://www.adventistrisk.org/AboutUs/ContactUs.aspx>) is a good place to start, along with obtaining a copy of *Sexual Misconduct in Church Relationships* (see details above).

Submitted By and Position:

After numerous attempts to contact the denomination with no official response, the information provided above was collected from the Internet at official denominational websites.



...**"Letter"** continued from page 1

return to Romania, we will continue our search for a suitable property to establish a healing center, provided funding is in place at that time.

There is more, especially in the US, but I should close for now. Will you join us in making 2013 the best year ever for helping victims find the hope and healing they need? Your prayers are appreciated more than you'll ever know, and so is your support. What seems impossible for us, in our own strength, is never impossible for God, for Jeremiah 32:17 says, *"Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:"*

Thank you so much for partnering with The Hope of Survivors to help facilitate healing in the lives of victims and raise awareness of this important issue around the world.

God bless you,

Samantha Nelson

Samantha Nelson
Vice President & CEO



Hope Renewed

—Samantha Nelson

Sometimes, when we least expect it, something happens that changes our lives forever.

For me, it began shortly before my husband and I arranged for me to counsel with our pastor. Unbeknownst to us at that time, it had actually begun a lot earlier on.

My husband and I had been out of the church for many years, not void of faith or religion, just not attending the usual services. We had finally reached a point where we knew we needed to go back. Walking back into the church family where my husband had spent much of his childhood, and where I had spent some of the early years of my Christian walk, was exciting and frightening at the same time. There was a different pastor than when we had last attended, and he preached a sermon on love and acceptance that first day, so we thought ourselves on the right track again. We attended sporadically for about a year and then we fully committed ourselves.

The pastor and his wife befriended us, and we began to spend quite a lot of time with them and their family. The pastor was the one who pursued the friendship, always calling to invite us for lunch or dinner or something. We enjoyed their friendship, looked up to them as parents and role models, took Bible studies from them, sought counsel from them and worked together on church projects and committees with them. We were very much a part of the church and each other's lives.

Our own lives were very stressful. I had health problems that were getting worse. We had our own business and were working far too much. We didn't have much time for personal spiritual growth and my own faith was not as strong as it should have been, or could have been. My hope for a healthy future, void of physical pain, was fast disappearing. Our dog was very ill, my husband was having chest pains and it seemed as if each area of our lives had some stressful situation going on. Then



Photo Credit: Michelle Dennis 2008

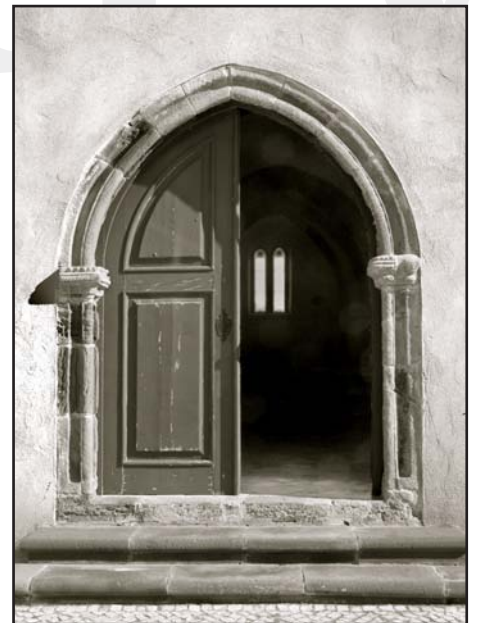
something happened that, once again, raised some questions about my past and the abuse that I had suffered. Thankfully, I was able to tell my husband right away.

Having been to psychologists before, as a teenager and very young adult, I didn't think they were particularly helpful, so I was not eager to see one again to help me with this problem. It seemed somewhat natural to ask the pastor to help me through this difficult time of sorting through these issues. He always seemed to care and he felt very badly about all the health problems I had, although initially, he made fun of one of them. My husband felt uneasy, and unsure if the pastor could separate his friendship from our counseling, but the pastor assured him all would be fine and that he could help me.

Looking back, it was the worst mistake of our lives.

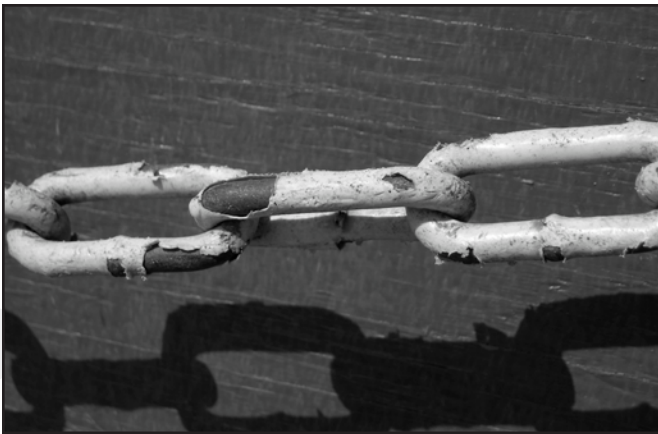
Let me back up and explain...I had noticed odd things for quite some time, things I couldn't quite put my finger on—the way the pastor would pay special attention to me—a look, a touch that seemed innocent, yet not—frequent phone calls or email and so on. I thought he just really enjoyed the friendship we all shared since on several occasions he had mentioned that he didn't keep many close friends. My husband was unaware of some of these things prior to my commencing counseling with the pastor. Due to my lack of knowledge of the effects of abuse at that time, I couldn't fully comprehend the magnitude of what was happening. I didn't realize the pastor was grooming me to be his next victim. And besides, who wants to think that their pastor is capable of having ulterior motives in anything he says or does? A pastor is a representative of Christ, and in our eyes, a pastor could (should) do no wrong. I tried to talk to my

“I couldn't fully comprehend the magnitude of what was happening. I didn't realize the pastor was grooming me to be his next victim. And besides, who wants to think that their pastor is capable of having ulterior motives in anything he says or does?”



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husband about it, but I couldn’t really express what was happening and neither of us could understand, or knew how to discuss it.



Then I started noticing more and more things and, finally, I asked the pastor (via email) if he emailed all the church members this way or just me. I was not prepared for his reply “just you,” he said. That seemed to open the floodgates of emails and phone calls and then he began sharing his personal feelings for me. It wasn’t until much later that the pastor admitted he had “set his sights on me the moment we walked through the church doors that first day.” I had no idea at this point how to stop what had begun or how to tell my husband. I was afraid. I felt trapped. I was no longer myself, but a woman who lived to please her pastor, keep his secrets and keep him from getting upset, and a woman who could no longer confide in her husband as she had done for so many years. I became controlled by this pastor and did whatever I could to keep him from getting upset with me. I was crushed with guilt and shame and didn’t know how to make things better.

I know it seems totally absurd, but I honestly believed that he could, and would, counsel me and help me. I never dreamed he would use the time to further his own agenda. Immediately after we started counseling together, he tried to become more physical with me.

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Testimonials

“God directed me to you and your amazing and wonderful help...You have been so valuable to my recovery as you know what it is like to cope with this. Even the counselor said that I appeared far better than he had thought I would be and I told him that it was because of my dearest friend [THOS] on the other side of the world who has been helping me. ...you were there when I was at my lowest...”—South Wales

“Thank you both so much for all of your support for us. Always know that God used your ministry, The Hope of Survivors, to deliver me out of such bondage and abuse from my pastor! I hope and pray that God will abundantly bless THOS and Steve and you so others will be set free too. The Truth is setting me free and I am healing by His Word and Grace. After my time of healing, I would love to work with your ministry however God would like to use me.”—AL

“...Had it not been for Samantha and Hope of Survivors, as well as my sponsor, who lives not far from me and counsels the Spanish community, I would not have received the healing I needed from God. Most people would not even want to hear something as sinister as a pastor doing something you would never expect him to. I had written a book about my emotional healing from God and named it “From caterpillar to butterfly” before the pastor’s abuse, and wish I had never written it. I took it out of anymore print. Now the book’s title needs to be “From trust to lust.” I thank you all at HOPE [The Hope of Survivors], and I pray God’s blessings on all of you. I know every city should be blessed with a HOPE counseling center. This is a type of abuse that is silent and leaves the victim without hope and healing. Samantha saved my life and helped me so much with her encouraging emails and wisdom and knowledge she has gained in helping many women heal when she feels so alone and has lost not only her pastor, but also the women in her church who did not believe her, and eventually had to leave the church she had worshipped and prayed in so often. May God bless HOPE in all ways and bring healing to all women who need so badly for someone to believe her and trust when no one else will hear her cries for help. The Hope of Survivors website is so helpful in knowing others have experienced the pain, hurt, shame, guilt, but through HOPE was able to survive and become a victor. God will someday bring vengeance upon the sin and it is not our place to try to get revenge. Thank you Lord God for providing HOPE to so many hurting women. I am a VICTOR not a VICTIM!”—TX

...*“Hope Renewed”* continued from page 5

Eventually, after a few appointments, he raped me in his office. I thought I would die afterward. I certainly wanted to. I could not fight off his constant pressure and demands for physical contact. I didn't have the emotional strength to do so and I didn't know how. So I continued to give in. I eventually believed that I must have been “in love” with him since I was involved with him in this way. After all, he had told me this was God's will (all kinds of twisted Scripture!) and that he had never been happier in his life. I was, to him, his cure-all. He needed me. Why did I keep going? I don't know. Somehow I believed I needed him and the help he gave, or was promising to give, I should say. I prayed for God to stop it, I begged the pastor to stop what he was doing and to stay with his wife. He only reiterated his love for me, his need for me, and he begged me not to tell anyone (especially my husband) and to run away and marry him.

By this point I didn't believe I could quit counseling with him because I thought for certain I would die. Isn't it odd how someone who is supposed to help you can be abusing you and yet you still feel like without his help you'll die? That's how I felt. Truth be told, I was dying either way. I had already begun the self-abuse patterns (cutting, beating, etc.) that I went through as a teenager, and I was making concrete plans to end my life. I was deeply depressed, even to the point of having hallucinations, and was becoming less and less able to function. The pastor knew these things and his response was, “I wish you didn't feel the need to be so harsh with yourself.” Through the pastor's bewitching influence, Satan had taken complete control of me and convinced me that I could not live without this pastor and that he was the only one who could help me.

My husband suffered greatly. He spoke with the pastor when he found out that something had happened and the pastor assured him it was a mistake and would never happen again. The pastor continually lied to my husband about what was happening and my husband didn't know

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what to do. He talked about turning the pastor in, but that frightened me so much because I felt responsible for this man's life, career and his family. I would tell my husband that if he told, I would leave or kill myself. I just couldn't bear the thought of this situation coming to light. The pastor's wife, however, was the one who finally turned him in. When it became known that the pastor was having an adulterous relationship with a congregant, the pastor was fired. He immediately left his wife and continued to stalk me (hang-up calls, drive-bys and so on) for quite some time. In fact, we have since moved (twice) and are not quite sure whether the stalking is finally over or not.

My husband and I had a very hard time coming through this. The church, unfortunately, was not very supportive, and did not handle the situation as well as it could have. Firing the pastor was the right thing to do, but that should have been only the beginning. Truth should have been told—to us and to the church family. But everything was kept hush-hush. My husband always supported me and kept trying to get me to open my eyes as to how I had been deceived and abused by the pastor. He wanted me to see how Satan had taken control of the pastor, and then me, and caused this whole mess. Don't misunderstand—it was not an easy thing for us to go through. We had many fights and arguments and often thought we'd never survive the whole ordeal. But, praise God, He kept us together and helped us through it all.

What opened my eyes to the truth? Through God's Providence, we were invited to a Tamar's Voice meeting and learned the truth—that pastoral abuse is sadly common and that it is wrong, period. Later, after much prayer and

growth in my relationship with the Lord, I learned that the greatest responsibility was with the pastor because he had the power, and that someone in a counseling/pastoral or other powerful position has the responsibility to protect and nurture the one who is seeking help. He is not to harm the one he is trying to help.

Although I was not completely innocent, I did lie; I did commit adultery; I was not the one to blame. I did not

pursue this man. I never wanted a relationship with him. If it were not for his power over me as a “man of God,” as my counselor and father figure, he would never have been able to get me to participate in any of the horrible things I did. I was not infatuated with him because of his position, or for any other reason. There was no attraction. He was, to my husband and me, the father figure we needed. His family was the type of family we desired to be a part of, or so we thought. That was all. It took me a long time to understand that this was not an “af-fair.” It was abuse. It was calculated and premeditated. And we were the victims.



“Sometimes, when we least expect it, something happens that changes our lives forever.”

Although I have left out most all the gory details and the real terror in this brief recap, I do feel it is enough for someone to be able to understand the horror of clergy sexual abuse.

I honestly don’t know what I would have done without such a caring, compassionate and God-loving husband. I thank God for him each day, because without him, I surely would be dead. Countless times he listened to God’s voice speak to him through the Holy Spirit and he returned home just in time to reverse the suicide action I had taken and prevent my death.

So, where was God in all this? Well, I didn’t think He was there at the time. But now I can see clearly His intervention in all things—His working to bring good out of horror, His desire to draw me (and my husband) closer to Him, His desire to cleanse the church and to allow the pastor to make his choices—right or wrong. I believe God intends to use me and my husband as examples to other hurting couples and victimized women. We are proof of His power to save, heal and improve broken and hurting lives and relationships.

The sad part is that the pastor has not chosen to confess, repent and return to God (or to his wife). God gave us all free will and the freedom to choose what we will do and whom we will serve in this life—God or Satan. He allowed the pastor to perpetrate his evil scheme to abuse me, and my husband. He also allowed us to make the decision to stay together and heal our brokenness. I hope one day the pastor will take advantage of God’s offer as we have—*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just*

to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”—1 John 1:9

My hope has been renewed. My sins have been confessed and I am forgiven. I love my husband and appreciate his strength and character much more than ever. I love God even more than I ever thought I could. We have come through this terrible ordeal and have obtained a much better understanding of how the past affects our behavior and emotions today. I have a deeper relationship with both God and my husband. For that I am thankful. If I had to go through what

I went through in order to get here, then it was worth the heartache and pain. It was worth the bloodshed (my own) and all the sleepless nights. God will always be with me and He has promised He will not give me more than I can bear—even though it may seem like it at the time. I just need to trust in Him completely.

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”—1 Corinthians 10:13

Today I praise God for the good works He has done in my life. I praise Him for the opportunity to share my testimony in order to help others who are struggling now. I praise Him that He brought me through the pain of my childhood and adolescence so that I may be able to help someone else who is hurting in the same way. I thank Him for my husband whom I love dearly. Most of all, I thank Him for the gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus, without whom I am nothing.

Sometimes, when we least expect it, something happens that changes our lives forever.

Sometimes, it can turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

Note: This testimony was originally published in 2003. Since then, hundreds of new victims have contacted The Hope of Survivors and have not read this. We felt it was important to share it again. May it be a blessing to you!



...**“Pastors vs. Imposters”** continued from page 2

blindly but should “test the spirits.” *Do we hear our faith leaders consistently giving out a message that conforms to Christ?*

3. People of God are responsible not to be fooled by the attractiveness of still-life mannequins but to “know them [our faith leaders] by their fruits.” *Do we see our faith leaders consistently living out a message that conforms to Christ?*

It’s important to remember that we are responsible to trust only those who prove themselves *trustworthy*.

Entitlement is not an option because it breeds a false sense of one’s importance (leader) and breeds a false sense of security (parishioner). We can view trust like a dimmer switch. With each fruitful act, more light shines on the “evidence” until the quality of character, for good or for ill, is revealed. With our dimmer switch, we can learn to “adjust the trust.” 1 Timothy 3:2 says that the pastor is to be “above reproach;” when he/she abuses the role by using others for selfish gain, he/she is 100% untrustworthy. After all, God calls and equips true pastors, not imposters.

* A pseudonym.

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” (1 Peter 5:1-4)

How Can I Help?

- **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**. You can also earn money by shopping at your favorite stores! Just be sure to type The Hope of Survivors in the charity to be supported box. Happy searching and shopping!
- 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 and type in the amount you’d like to contribute.
- The Hope of Survivors has been added to IBM’s list of charities that U.S. employees and retirees can choose from during annual Employee/Retiree Charitable Contribution Campaigns. Employees have several contribution options—automatic deductions from every paycheck, onetime payroll deductions, IBM stock contributions, or a pledge to write their own check to the charity. If you work for IBM, please consider supporting The Hope of Survivors through IBM’s ECCC campaign. Thank you!
- 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)
- You may also donate through **American Express Giving Express** by going to: <http://amex.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=65-1211701>.
- As a nonprofit organization, The Hope of Survivors may be listed as a beneficiary on life insurance policies, trusts, etc. Contact us to find out more!

Thank you for supporting The Hope of Survivors!

Calendar of Events

March 16, 2013

Oklahoma City, OK—*Trust & Truth* Conference
Central Seventh-day Adventist Church

4747 NW 63rd Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73132-6851

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Cost: Thanks to a generous sponsor, there is **NO COST** for this conference. Registration, by 2/18/13, is required.

Register NOW at http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/registration_TT.asp!

Speaker: Jennifer Schwirzer, LPC, board member. This seminar is for women's ministry leaders and will help them better understand the issue of clergy sexual abuse and how to keep or make the church a safe place for all. For more details about the information covered in the seminar, look under *Trust & Truth* on our Services page (<http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/services.asp>).

March 17, 2013

Oklahoma City, OK—*Hope & Healing* Conference

Time: 9:00am-5:00pm (Sunday)

Location: Hampton Inn-Oklahoma City Airport

1905 South Meridian Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73108

Cost: There is a \$25 per person non-refundable fee for the conference, which includes the cost of lunch and materials. Thanks to a generous sponsor the cost, for **THIS CONFERENCE ONLY**, has been reduced from \$50 to \$25. You are responsible for your own lodging and transportation, if necessary.

Registration deadline is February 18. Register now at <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/registration.asp>! There is limited seating and the conference will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Speakers: Martin Weber, D.Min., and Jennifer Schwirzer, LPC, board members.

Topics include: What is clergy/pastoral sexual abuse? How does this happen? Is there an imbalance? Who is vulnerable? What are the vulnerabilities? Why is this not an affair? How do we prevent this? Where is God? How to start over? How should the church respond? There will be testimonies, inspiring messages and much more!

Lodging: Call Hampton Inn at (405) 682-2080 to book your room at The Hope of Survivors group discount rate of \$89 per night, plus tax. Or, book online by going to: http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/O/OKCAPHX-HSS-20130317/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Group Name: The Hope of Survivors

Group Code: HSS

There is a **free** shuttle from the hotel to and from the airport.

Note: There are no childcare services available for this conference.

March 18, 2013

Oklahoma City, OK—*Faith & Fidelity* Conference
Central Seventh-day Adventist Church

4747 NW 63rd Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73132-6851

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Cost: Thanks to a generous sponsor, there is **NO COST** for this conference. Registration, by 2/18/13, is required.

Register NOW at http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/registration_FF.asp!

Speaker: Martin Weber, D.Min., board member. Martin Weber will be presenting a *Faith & Fidelity* seminar to pastors and church leaders on the prevention of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as how the church/organization should respond if a situation arises. For more details about the information covered in the seminar, look under *Faith & Fidelity* on our Services page (<http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/services.asp>).

Hope & Healing victim's conferences are currently being considered in various locations throughout the United States and abroad 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

Immediate Needs

- \$500,000 to purchase and modify a healing center for victims of clergy sexual abuse in Pella, IA.
- \$200,000-\$250,000 to purchase or build a healing center for victims of clergy sexual abuse in Romania.
- Conference and convention expenses for raising awareness and providing assistance to victims (meeting space rental, meals, travel, materials, etc.).
- Monthly operating expenses (postage, office supplies, utilities, website hosting—THOS maintains multiple websites, printing, etc.), staff, educational materials and victim assistance.
- Funds for further establishing foreign divisions to provide support to victims in other countries.

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.

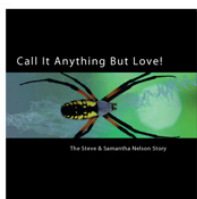
Resources

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.

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>

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



International Division Contacts

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