

HopeSPEAK

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you but, for me, Spring reminds me of new beginnings, bright hope and possibilities. It's been very warm and sunny here in Omaha lately and, while I have enjoyed reflecting on how God has led The Hope of Survivors in the past, I have been eagerly looking forward to what He still has in store!

This year marks two important milestones: (1) the 10-year anniversary of The Hope of Survivors; and, (2) the second annual Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention campaign in August. As you will see from the calendar (page 8), we have many events scheduled throughout the month of August to help raise awareness of the issue of clergy sexual abuse and how The Hope of Survivors provides much-needed assistance for victims. If you would be interested in coordinating or hosting an event during August, please send us an email and let us know your ideas. We'd love to have as many events taking place as possible!

When I think of possibilities, I consider all that could be done if the ministry had a consistent monthly revenue stream. So, for The Hope of Survivors 10-year anniversary, I would encourage you to consider signing up for recurring monthly \$10 donations (or more) via the website (<http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/donate.asp>). It's simple and it's not a lot of money for any one person. Multiply your donation by several others and those small amounts add up! If you're unable to contribute financially, don't stress—we understand! Thank you for supporting us with your prayers. They are always needed!

Lastly, thank you all for "standing in the gap" with me, and with all of The Hope of Survivors' volunteers. Your prayers and support came through loud and clear (as shown in the testimonials in this newsletter) after my last prayer request was sent, and we are all so very grateful. Truly, *"the LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."* (Psalm 126:3)

I wish I could say all obstacles have been removed. I wish I could say the organization had all the funds it needed to cover project and event expenses and to pay staff. I wish I could say the enemies of the Lord, and of The Hope of Survivors, have become repentant. I wish for many things, yet I am content to see what good things God has in store (Jeremiah 29:11), for I believe in HIM and I trust in HIM. He brought The Hope of Survivors into existence 10 years ago, and He will sustain and strengthen it throughout the next decade as well, should

time last that long. Please join me in surrendering all to Him daily and leaning fully upon His plan and purpose for each of our lives and for this ministry.

May the Lord bless you and cause His face to shine upon you,

Samantha Nelson

Samantha Nelson
Vice President & CEO



Volume 9, Edition 2, April 2012

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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.

Doing Nothing Still Counts!

—Steve Nelson



The headlines are bursting with stories about persons in positions of authority who have turned a blind eye when it comes to protecting someone under their care—failing to do the right thing—the very thing their occupation demands. Does looking the other way, or pleading ignorance, really

exonerate someone who could do something to stop abuse yet, for political, or personal gain, does nothing?

Certainly, as members of the church, we struggle with the reality that everywhere we turn there seems to be a battle raging and, at times, we seem helpless to stem the tide of evil. With such an onslaught of moral corruption pervading our planet, it's little wonder we have become desensitized and almost ambivalent to the moral failures of those who are appointed as spiritual leaders in the very churches we attend. But, can we adequately plead “not guilty” if we do nothing?

Someone, long ago, took the easy way out defense too. He was at the pinnacle of leadership in his church. As the high priest, he was the only one who was permitted to meet yearly at the mercy seat with God. His sole ministry was to represent Christ—who intercedes for the sins of his people. Yet, within Eli's own family, a dark secret was lurking. He heard the rumors but, somehow, he failed to muster the courage to eradicate the evil. Why? What could he possibly offer as an adequate excuse for allowing such heinous sins to be committed on his watch, within his own church, and by his own sons? He had a choice to make and he chose to do nothing.

Years pass by and God appears to be silent. He has sent a warning message and now He waits to see what His servant will do. I'm sure the Spirit was pleading for this reluctant father to correct the evil course of his sons, but to no avail. Finally, in a very unexpected manner, the message comes. When Eli has procrastinated long enough, God speaks. His mouthpiece, a four-year-old boy—young, harmless, and undefiled by the associations of Eli's own sons—newly dedicated to assist the aged high priest, is to whom God unveils Eli's downfall and foretells his final doom.

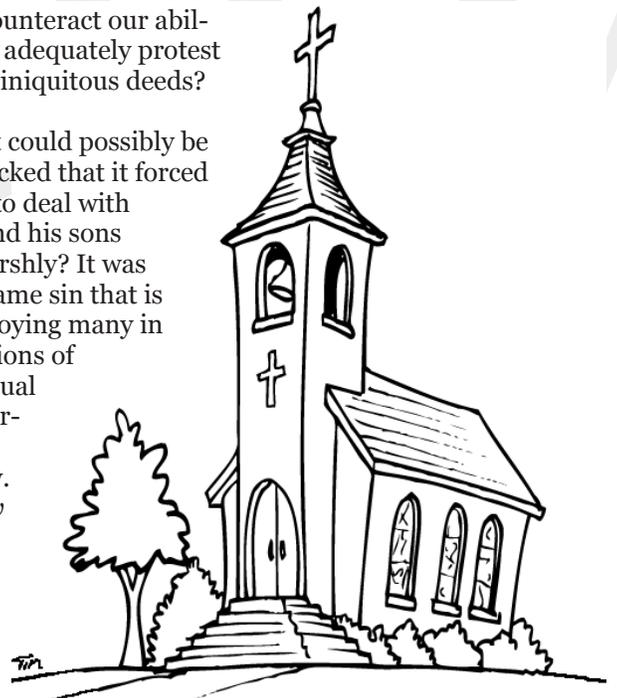
“The message God spoke to Samuel that night long ago has similar implications for His church today! Are we listening? If so, are we willing to say, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening?’”

The Bible account tells us, *“The Lord came and stood there, calling... ‘Samuel, Samuel.’ Then Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’”* (1 Samuel 3:10, NIV) There is an extremely important message within this verse that we would do well to heed. The message God spoke to Samuel that night long ago has similar implications for His church today! Are we listening? If so, are we willing to say, “Speak, for your servant is listening”?

As we probe a little deeper, we find the reason God has chosen to bypass the high priest and speak to his young protégé. The Lord says of Eli, *“You honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel.”* (1 Samuel 2:29, NIV) For personal reasons, some leaders today still choose not to deal strictly when difficult problems arise within the church. Is there something for us to gain by keeping silent?

God had previously warned Eli about the prevailing iniquity of his sons and what would happen if he failed to check their sins. *“The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house, ...you will see distress in my dwelling.”* (1 Samuel 2:31-32, NIV) Do we stand firm in protest of evil or, like Eli, do our sympathetic actions toward a fallen minister counteract our ability to adequately protest their iniquitous deeds?

What could possibly be so wicked that it forced God to deal with Eli and his sons so harshly? It was the same sin that is destroying many in positions of spiritual leadership today. *“Now Eli, who was*





very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.” (1 Samuel 2:22, NIV) Not only

“Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present.”

1 Corinthians 5:3 (NIV)

was the sacrifice disgraced and polluted, the personal lives of the priests—the very ones who were to be godly examples of holiness—were defiled with sexual immorality and abuse.

Can a minister who willfully chooses to destroy precious lives under his care simply excuse his actions as “a fall from grace”? Obviously, we know people make serious mistakes. But why is a moral failure from a minister so different than anyone else?

For a victim, the church is a haven of refuge—a harbor of safety—and when abuse is perpetrated from a spiritual leader, that abuse is directly connected to Christ. It appears as if God Himself approved the terrible pain and suffering they experienced by His representative. For this reason, God had to act to preserve the sacredness of His holy character. For the sake of His people, justice demanded that judgment be served.

God says, “I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.” (1 Samuel 3:13, NIV) God holds Eli personally responsible for the wicked actions his sons have committed. Why? His office as high priest demanded he compel his sons, who were also priests, to vigilantly maintain a model example of holiness and purity. Eli had the sacred obligation, and authority, to correct their evil course but he did nothing.

The people of Israel had a right to unquestionably believe the priests would always exemplify God’s character of moral purity to everyone they served. Yet, even when Eli knew of his sons’ total disregard for God—of the abuse of their sacred positions and the heinousness of their moral failures—“he failed to restrain them.”

And today, thousands of years later, there are those who still fail in their responsibility to protect the vulnerable

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Denomination: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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.)?

The ELCA does have a policy for clergy sexual abuse but each one of our synods creates their own policy. One would need to contact the synod for a copy. Victims can contact the synod office where the abuse occurred. The synod bishop is the person with whom a victim can begin a report.

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?

Safeplace (<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Vocation/Rostered-Leadership/Leadership-Support/Safe-Place.aspx>) and Safehaven (<http://archive.elca.org/init/safehaven>) are our sites for finding information regarding abuse and how to report it.

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

Each individual ELCA congregation is responsible for creating its safe church policy. Our website offers guidelines and we do provide in-services to help but the responsibility is with the leadership in our congregations.

Submitted By and Position:

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Doing Nothing, *continued from page 3*

sheep from the devastating effects of abuse by a spiritual leader. When a transgression of this nature takes place, those who refuse to correct the evil done by a fallen minister are guilty of the same sinful neglect to God's heritage as was Eli.

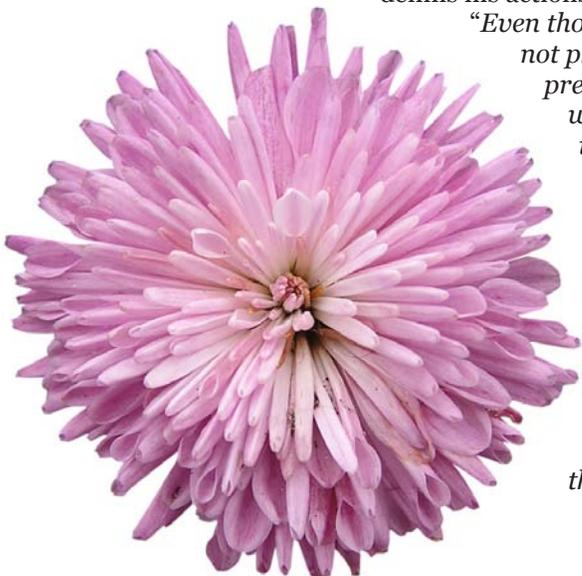
Because of the corruption that had taken hold of Eli's sons and the people, the Spirit of God had been restrained from His people. The book of Samuel tells us, *"In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions."* (1 Samuel 3:14, NIV) Sin, whether secret or openly practiced, prevents us from receiving the fullness of God's Spirit. We will never accomplish the work God has entrusted to us if we refuse to bring our lives into harmony with His will. When sexual immorality takes place in the life of one who stands as an ambassador of Christ, our worship, adoration and respect of God's highly exalted character become tainted—people fail to see the beauty and holiness of Christ's nature through the actions of His fallen representative.

What a tragic legacy we have on record of Eli's downfall and final end. Through Eli's own miserable example, God is still warning us today. Like Eli, there are some who hold high positions of leadership and need to take a stand against the wrong decisions that have been made to protect fallen ministers—those who, like Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas, are destroying the sacredness of God's church today.

Some may question, "How, then, are those in responsible positions required to deal with sexual immorality in the church?" The apostle Paul was forced to face a similar predicament in his ministry. In his letter to the church in Corinth he openly rebukes the church, and a member, who has taken his father's wife. Paul directly confronts

the situation and openly condemns his actions. He says,

"Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just



"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

Romans 1:18 (NIV)

as if I were present." (1 Corinthians 5:3, NIV)

Paul was compelled to act decidedly in order to abate a moral meltdown. The effect of this sexual sin was so serious

that many persons were becoming desensitized by its leavening effect—precious souls were in danger of losing their ability to clearly discern the vileness of such licentious behavior.

Leadership must always take a difficult but decisive stand when moral issues threaten to destroy the spiritual lives of its members and moral fabric of the church! Paul's admonishment was, *"put out of your fellowship the man who did this."* (1 Corinthians 5:2, NIV) Paul knew the church must do something, and the same holds true today.

Recently in Papillion, Nebraska, a high school band teacher, Mike Pollock, was accused of sending inappropriate text messages to a former student. After his resignation, a spokesperson for the school stated that what Mr. Pollock had done was "...not just a violation by that one teacher, but it's a violation of the entire profession." If the secular community can see how important the

reputation of all teachers are, and that such actions committed by one destroy the reputation of everyone in that profession, certainly the church is in desperate need of true reformation when it comes to how we deal with a fallen minister of the gospel.

"In no other profession can an individual exhibit such a blatant dereliction of duty and still expect to maintain their position and be held in good standing among their peers."

One author, long ago, clearly set forth the responsibility of the church to deal with licentiousness when it becomes known. The author wrote we must, "Cleanse the camp of this moral corruption, if it takes the highest men in the highest positions.

God will not be trifled with. Fornication is in our ranks. I know it, for it has been shown me to be strengthening and extending its pollutions. There is much we will never know, but that which is revealed makes the church responsible and guilty unless they show a determined effort to eradicate the evil. Cleanse the camp, for there is an accursed thing in it.” (*Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, page 237)

In no other profession can an individual exhibit such a blatant dereliction of duty and still expect to maintain their position and be held in good standing among their peers. Many believe all that is necessary to restore the fallen leader is for them to confess—say they’re sorry and admit they made a mistake. Does the Bible support this view? Or does God hold leaders to a much higher standard than we have become accustomed to accept?

If we continue to turn a blind eye to what is undermining the effectiveness of the church’s mission, and destroying the purity of the gospel message, God will ultimately be forced to take action and deal out justice where men have failed to do their duty. His Word tells us, “*Judgment must begin at the house of God.*” (1 Peter 4:17, KJV) Judgment is a serious time. But, before God passes judgment, He always sends a message of mercy—a plea to return to Him and receive pardon and forgiveness. Sadly, Eli does not heed the warning. He neglects God’s urgent plea and, because his sons also reject the warning message, “...it was the Lord’s will to put them to death.” (1 Samuel 2:25, NIV)

That same day, both Eli and his sons perish in battle, the Ark of God was taken into captivity, and the presence of God was removed from the people. Phinehas’ wife also died that day and the son she bore forever declared the sin of his father. She named him Ichabod, saying, “*The glory has departed from Israel.*” (1 Samuel 4:21, NIV) The hand that is stretched out to protect His people will also withdraw that protection when mercy no longer pleads.

Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, tells us, “*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.*” (Romans 1:18, NIV) What suppresses the truth? It is the wicked deeds of men that bring the gospel of Jesus Christ into ill repute. God does not lightly regard the sins of those who hinder the work of church—the instrument through which He desires to bring all men to a knowledge of His character, love and saving truth.

From the pen of an author who wrote clearly and forcibly upon this subject we are told, “In Eli’s reproof to his sons are words of solemn and fearful import, words which all

“God does not lightly regard the sins of those who hinder the work of church—the instrument through which He desires to bring all men to a knowledge of His character, love and saving truth.”

who minister in sacred things would do well to ponder. ...Let those whose hearts are given to the service of sin and Satan, beware how they pollute the sacred office of the ministry. Let them beware how, while at heart agents of Satan, they dare to stand before the people as ambassadors for Christ. In the day of Judgment the doom of Hophni and Phinehas will be theirs.” (*Signs of the Times*, December 8, 1881.)

All who hold positions of sacred trust and, like Eli, knowingly fail to take a stand against the abusive actions of leaders under their charge, will have to face serious consequences for neglecting their responsibility to guard the flock under their care.

Thankfully, there is still time and mercy still pleads with our hearts. The signs around us loudly proclaim judgment is soon to be executed upon this earth. We, like Eli, have been given a message of warning. God is still waiting to see if we will correct our errors, retrace our steps, and implement justice before He executes judgment. If we fail to heed Heaven’s admonition, we too will pass beyond the line where mercy will no longer be able to reach our ears. Sadly, God will ultimately say to us what He said to Eli, “...I swore to the house of Eli, *‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’*” (1 Samuel 3:14, NIV)

Are you a spiritual leader? If so, I pray you are doing all God requires of you as a shepherd of His people. Now is the time to do what is right, before disregarding your duty counts against you.



Testimonies

“I know you are doing a wonderful and much-needed work! I am not surprised to hear of Satan’s attacks. I will certainly pray for you, and please keep up the work of helping victims of clergy sexual abuse!”—CO

“I will stand with you in prayer and against the enemy. He will NOT win! We have the victory and we will maintain that victory!”—IN

“I haven’t spoken to you in quite awhile. I am in tears as I read your email. My heart is soooo heavy for you and The Hope of Survivors. You were there to help me when

I REALLY needed to hear the voice of truth and you were there beyond that and I know that you are still there if I need you. And I am only one. I can’t imagine what it requires to do what you do for each and every little voice that musters up the courage to call never knowing as their story unfolds, what the battle ahead will require of THOS.”—Survivor

“You can count on me to pray diligently for you and the others at THOS as you are under attack. I am also available to talk to anyone that may need it (including you!). You know that I am a licensed counselor for nearly 20 years. I can also make a small, wish it was big, monetary donation to THOS if you let me know how to do that. If you can think of any other way that I can help you please let me know.”—FL

“Thank you for sharing this email of general but plain expression of your need for support and prayer. I have had you all on my heart a lot—and I will continue to pray. I strongly believe that the battle you all face is because you dare to help those who have been shackled by Satan and his agents to escape the chains of abuse and death. This is no easy work. I have often thought, as I share with you my burden and prayer requests, that I know you need prayer as much, or more, than I do. Know my heart will continue to pray for God to uphold and bless you with his abundant mercy. May He allow the bread you have cast on the waters to come back on every wave and feed your souls. May He allow you to reap a harvest of good in time for the beautiful seeds of hope, peace, freedom and comfort that you have planted. And while you wait for these times of refreshing, may His Spirit give you light in the darkness, and songs in your night.”—MI

“Your ministry is much needed. It has given me much courage to deal with my ordeal. The devil has been extremely busy lately—he knows he is running out of time. I guess you can use him as an indicator of your

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 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)
- 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!
- 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!

“I will keep all of those on staff and volunteers in my prayers. What you did for me I will never forget. I know I would not be here if not for your strong opposition to Satan in my trying time of abuse and recovery.” —IA

value to God by the torment he inflicts on you. :) You have my love and appreciation for your dedication to our Lord, and doubtless the same from any other of the Survivors who have been helped by your ministry.”—Australia

“I know God has called you for His purpose. Recently on THOS website I read “How to “Tell it to the Church”—Christ’s Neglected Commandment” by Martin Weber. What a powerful message! And such a contrast to what I see and hear most often around me. I decided to start donating \$20 dollars per month to help your ministry. I want you to know I support what you are doing and I know God has called you to do it.”—OR

“I just read your newsletter. I just want to encourage you and Steve to push on. God is with you, and you and your volunteers are doing a wonderful and very important work with THOS. Even though, at the moment, I cannot support you financially, I will keep you in my prayers. I will never forget those years, when I was struggling, not only with my past, but also with the lack of friendliness in the church I was at. When I e-mailed you from that Christian bookstore in Germany, you always answered my e-mails straight away—even when I didn’t expect an answer. You were there for me in a time when things were very confusing for me. I want to thank you for that, and again, I want to encourage you and Steve to keep on doing the work with THOS that you do so well. God bless you.”
—Germany

“My prayers are with you. I know you asked for our prayers for THOS ministry—and you have them! But I am also praying particularly for you, for quick healing from shingles and for God’s encouragement and strength. I am so grateful for everything you do. Your

ministry has made a huge, healing difference in my life. God bless you and Steve!”—CA

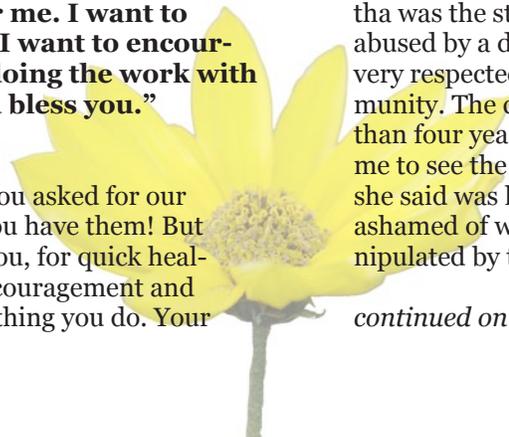
“Samantha, I know you face a great amount of stress and so many people need you—thank you from the very bottom of my heart. I would have never been strong enough to face that testimony without the guidance, love, support, and prayers you have given me over the past 3 years.”—IL

“We are lifting you up in prayer—extra. We just finished praying for you in our family worship. We know you are on the front lines in your specific ministry. Satan would like to stop what you do because hearts are being healed and sin is being revealed. May God continue to sustain and bless you both as well as your efforts. The work He began, He will finish in truth and righteousness.”—AL

“We lift you, all those who serve and victims up in prayer. Your ministry was one of the two earthly supports that God gave us to survive & heal and we will never forget that. I pray for your healing, for peace and for God to fortify you and others who are serving in such an important ministry. Thank you for what you are doing and may God lift you up.”—FL

“I will forever be thankful for the support I received from Samantha personally several years ago when I contacted Hope of Survivors. The ongoing counseling from Samantha was the starting point of my recovery. I had been abused by a doctor that I worked with who was also a very respected spiritual leader in our church and community. The confusion that I had experienced for more than four years had me so entangled. Samantha helped me to see the situation for what it was. Oftentimes what she said was hard for me to accept. I was very alone and ashamed of what was going on in my life. I was very manipulated by this individual and had an allegiance

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Calendar of Events

April 16, 2012

Cincinnati, OH—Cincinnati Christian University
Location: 2700 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45204

Sandy Kirkham, member of The Hope of Survivors Advisory Panel, will be speaking to the Ethics Class students about pastoral sexual misconduct, in the context of leadership and integrity. The goal for this presentation is to help future pastors and church leaders understand the dynamics and devastation of pastoral sexual abuse from a victim's perspective.

April 19, 2012

Denver, CO—ASI Chapter Meeting
Denver Ramada
10 East 120th Ave.

Northglenn, CO 80233
ASI will be interviewing The Hope of Survivors Board Chairman, Martin Weber during this convention. Check the schedule on the handouts when you arrive at the convention for the date and time. Visit www.asimidamerica.org for more information.

April 21, 2012

Hawi, HI—Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day Sermon
Kohala Seventh-day Adventist Church
55-3361 Akoni Pule Highway
Hawi, HI 96719
Time: 11:00am

Pastor Steve Nelson will be speaking for the worship service, followed by an afternoon *Trust & Truth* seminar (different location) with Steve and Samantha on abuse in the church.

April 21, 2012

Kapa'au, HI—Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day Seminar
Kohala Intergenerational Center
54-3853 Akoni Pule Hwy.
Kapa'au, HI 96755
Time: 5:00pm

Pastor Steve Nelson & Samantha will be presenting a *Trust & Truth* seminar on abuse in the church.

April 27, 2012

Hawi, HI—School Presentation
Kohala Seventh-day Adventist Church School
55-3361 Akoni Pule Highway
Hawi, HI 96719
Time: 10:00am

Steve & Samantha Nelson will be presenting a message on abuse prevention to grades K-6.

April 27, 2012

Kapa'au, HI—Healing/Revival Sermon – Part 1
Kohala Intergenerational Center
54-3853 Akoni Pule Hwy.
Kapa'au, HI 96755
Time: 7:00pm

Pastor Steve Nelson will be presenting this series of messages focused on spiritual, emotional and physical healing through Christ.

April 28, 2012

Kapa'au, HI—Healing/Revival Sermon – Part 2
Kohala Intergenerational Center
54-3853 Akoni Pule Hwy.
Kapa'au, HI 96755
Time: 11:00am

Pastor Steve Nelson will be presenting this series of messages focused on spiritual, emotional and physical healing through Christ.

April 28, 2012

Kapa'au, HI—Healing/Revival Sermon – Part 3
Location: Kohala Intergenerational Center
54-3853 Akoni Pule Hwy.
Kapa'au, HI 96755
Time: 3:00pm (Anointing service following last sermon for those who desire.)

Pastor Steve Nelson will be presenting this series of messages focused on spiritual, emotional and physical healing through Christ.

June 17-24, 2012

Omaha, NE—The Hope of Survivors Canadian Division Training Session

August 26, 2012

Omaha, NE—*Hope & Healing* Conference
Time: 9:00am-5:00pm (Sunday)
Location: Hampton Inn & Suites—Omaha Downtown,
1212 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102
Cost: There is a \$50 per person non-refundable fee for the conference, which includes the cost of lunch and materials. You are responsible for your own lodging and transportation, if necessary. Registration deadline is July 29. For more information, visit: <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/registration.asp>

Hope & Healing victim's conferences are currently being considered in various locations (i.e., Long Island, NY; Jacksonville, FL; Denver, CO; 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

Testimonies, *continued from page 7*

to him that was so hard to describe when I look back at that time. I knew that if I contacted Samantha she would always respond with Godly advice. I do not know if I would be at this same point if she had not so faithfully supported me through all of her e-mails.

God has done a good work in my life. I have not spoken with Samantha since she resigned the job of counseling but I would like her to know how well I am doing. What Satan thought would destroy me and my family made us all stronger. I would like to support this great ministry. I have shared with so many about all that they have done for me. May God continue to give each of the support staff the strength needed for this ministry.”—WI

“I can tell you now that, had it not been for your personal talk with me, I would never have gotten over the misconduct my pastor displayed toward me and how he made me feel, along with his wife, that I was the one who caused it all. It is so sad that the victim is blamed for the misconduct of their pastor.”—TX

“I do know God is in control . . . of my life, of your life, of The Hope of Survivors, etc. I also know that Satan is working harder than ever to steal, kill and destroy and, unfortunately, he has found a way into our churches through weak-minded men who yield much power over those under their leadership. As you said, he’ll do everything he can to keep you from destroying his work by exposing the evil he is orchestrating. I will pray for you and your ministry. I’m all for hope and healing, but there’s got to be honesty, too, and that’s a challenge when you’re dealing with something that so many try to hide. I wish you the best as you continue to fight the good fight.”—AR

“Keep fighting, Samantha! You can’t see us but you are not alone. You have sisters standing with you and some brothers too! Keep up the good work!”—TX

“...The Hope of Survivors is carrying on a much-needed work among a group that currently has no official recognition in the church organization, at least not that I am aware of. My belief is that this is the work that the Lord has asked you and Steve to carry on for Him. Although, you will pass through trials and temptations, He will guide you and bless you. As you know, I have prayed for you and your ministry on numerous occasions and I will talk to the Lord again about your present situation. Blessings to you and Steve and The Hope of Survivors.”—MO

International Division Contacts

Australia Division

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(La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes)

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Romania Division

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Immediate Needs...

- Sexual abuse seminar & healing/revival series in Hawaii in April (\$1,100 still needed)
- Meetings in Romania in August (\$2,000 still needed)
- ASI Convention exhibit in Cincinnati, OH, in August (\$1,500 still needed)
- Monthly operating expenses (postage, office supplies, utilities, insurance, website hosting—THOS maintains multiple websites, printing, etc.), staff, educational materials and victim assistance.

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.

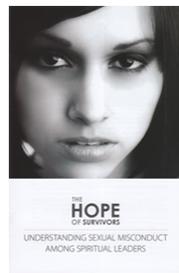
Samantha and Steve Nelson are Co-Founders of The Hope of Survivors. They strive to facilitate healing in the lives of those who have been wounded by a spiritual leader.

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



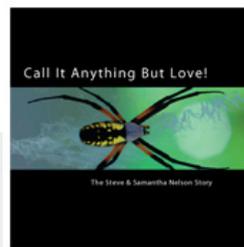
Resources

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>



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