Controlling Flies and Clergy Sexual Abuse
By Mary*

As a result of my past abuse, I have a strong aversion to Communion. So, I decided to study the Passover to help change my concept spiritually. I'm presently studying the 10 plagues. Different parts of them have led me into interesting side studies.

An example would be the flies. Some references called them possibly the "dog or stable" fly. So I sidelined to learn about them. Online I read an article from University of FL IFAS Extension on "Stable Fly (Dog Fly) Control" (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig133). Reading the section "Improving Control" reminded me of The Hope of Survivors. I have adapted the quote accordingly, using ( ) in places where there were terms like fly, dog fly, agricultural & industrial areas, animal & plant wastes, beaches, & late summer & fall. I have replaced them in ( ) with terms like clergy sexual abuse (CSA), church, district, large & small churches, relationships, secluded places, & year around. The adapted version reads as follows:

A number of actions must be taken if the present level of control (of CSA) is to be improved significantly. These are:

1. The public and those responsible for (CSA) control must be made aware of the massive size of this problem and must realize that it cannot be controlled by a token effort.

2. There must be realistic funding for trained personnel & equipment in combating this pest. Because of its long flight range (influence from CSA) is not a problem just at the (individual church level); it is an area problem. Therefore, even if the breeding of this pest is controlled in a (church), there still might be a (CSA) problem in that (church) if it is not controlled in other (churches).

3. Man-made sources of (CSA in large and small churches) and on private premises must be eliminated or greatly reduced. In most instances this can be accomplished by proper handling (of relationships) and disposal of (secluded places).

Each (church) must operate an effective (CSA) surveillance and control program (in its district) seven days a week (year round).

I use to think there was not much to learn from the 10 plagues and that they didn't apply to my life. Now I know differently. If you've been affected by clergy sexual abuse, I hope you can now apply this information to your life somehow too.

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P.S. This article was submitted to me by Mary* and I thought it would be worthwhile to share it with you as food for thought. What can each of us do within our own spheres of influence to combat clergy sexual abuse?
God bless you,
Samantha Nelson
Vice President
The Hope of Survivors
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The Hope of Survivors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping victims of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches worldwide. Professional memberships include: Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI), Outpost Centers International (OCI), and the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC). To learn more, visit www.thehopeofsurvivors.com, or call (866) 260-8958.