Dear Hope of Survivors Family,

What an eventful quarter it has been! Thank you for all your support as we launched the inaugural Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention campaign. Thanks to many generous donors and eager volunteers, The Hope of Survivors had events taking place in WA, SC, NM, CA, IL, TX, IN and even the United Kingdom (Wales)! We praise God for the greater awareness being raised through these programs, and we look forward to many more next year. In fact, plans are already underway for several events next August. It’s never too early to start planning and fundraising!

We were very blessed to be able to speak with several victims while at the ASI Convention in Sacramento, CA. The Lord has a way of leading people to The Hope of Survivors just when they need it most. ASI was bigger than ever this year, with over 3,300 people attending and 221 ministries from around the world represented.

The Hope of Survivors’ Board had a few high-profile cases of clergy sexual abuse to discuss during its board meeting and I am quite pleased with how matters are proceeding in those cases. I am even more pleased with how the Board really pulled together as a team, uniting and facing challenges together. Speaking of the Board, we want to welcome Ted Vanderlaan as the newest member of the Board. Ted is an attorney who has already been a tremendous blessing to The Hope of Survivors. Welcome, Ted!

As you read the rest of the newsletter, I pray you will be encouraged at the hope and healing God is providing to victims through The Hope of Survivors. The need is greater than ever for us to stand firm for what is right and to live out our calling as stated in Jesus’ own words in Isaiah 61:1-4, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.”

God bless you,
Samantha Nelson
Vice President & CEO

Why Do They Do It?
By Ardis Stenbakken

Almost every time you open a newspaper or see a local news report, you are
likely to read or see a story involving sexual abuse by a teacher, a pastor, lawyer, coach, caregiver, doctor, therapist, political leader, or church leader. In our small city one of the biggest stories of the spring was about a teacher caught naked in a car with one of her 16-year-old male students. And of course we have all known about the clergy sexual abuse stories from Ireland. Here in the United States there has been one story after another about a political leader involved in some sort of sexual scandal. Other countries are not exempt either. Read more...

Nowhere to Run
By T.A. de Bie

From my earliest memories I recall wanting to be at church, to sing, to seek God and a walk with Him. I grew up in a pristine part of the country on 400 acres of paradise. All of life was before me and my three sisters. My sisters and I attended a little one-room schoolhouse and the biggest excitement in the community was the occasional get-together at the Grange Hall. I was very shy but trusting. What was there in the world not to trust? Life was perfect...but that would all change. Read more...

Simon Says: "You Can Prevent Clergy Sexual Abuse!"
By Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, LPC

They call me Simon the Pharisee. "Simon" means "hearing." In accordance with my name, I heard the call of Jesus and became a disciple after He healed me of leprosy. Candidly, the physical disease symbolized the deeper spiritual disease from which Jesus also delivered me. I was guilty of clergy sexual abuse, a practice that fed on my Phariseeism like crustaceans feed on sewage. Read more...

Hope & Healing Conference Update

The awareness campaign month ended with a grand finale--the Hope & Healing Conference for victims, held in Indianapolis (Plainfield), IN. Dr. Martin Weber (board chair), Steve & Samantha Nelson, and Sandy Kirkham presented at this event where victims from CA, NY and many places in between attended. We'll let the responses speak for themselves:

"I am so glad I was there today. Thanks to you and Steve and Martin and the rest of the board for the good work you do."--CA

"What a blessed time for me and my husband! Thank you for the hope and healing you've given to me and countless others who were pursued, used, and abused by spiritual leaders. It was definitely worth the drive and the vacation day we both took! :-)"--NY

"What an amazing day! Thank you all for sharing your time and energy! What a blessing you all are to us! Thank you with all my heart!"--IN

"I so much appreciated the time we shared yesterday. I definitely came away much more clear on the line of abuse vs. adultery. I think this was one area that truly was torturing my heart... The seminar was very helpful... Thank you to all of you who helped and presented! I feel refreshed, blessed, encouraged and HOPE-ful!"--MI

"Great! Real stories bring others into understanding on so many levels. I feel
October 21-23, 2011
CCEF Convention
Louisville, KY
For more information about the convention and lodging facilities, please visit CCEF's website. All are welcome to stop by The Hope of Survivors booth and pick up resource materials or purchase DVDs. We look forward to seeing you there!

December 28, 2011-January 1, 2012
Houston, TX-GYC Convention
George R. Brown Convention Center
1001 Avenida de las Americas
Houston, TX 77010
The Hope of Survivors will be exhibiting at this conference, Wednesday-Sunday. 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. There is no fee to enter the exhibit hall and visit the various exhibits. For more information about the convention and lodging facilities, please visit the GYC website.

Hope & Healing victim's conferences are currently being considered in various locations (i.e., Long Island, NY; Jacksonville, FL; Denver, CO; Oklahoma City, OK; 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 website for additional details and the most current information.

Testimonials

"I've seen a number of websites for survivors, but yours is exceptional!"--MN

"I feel that I have come to a place of healing and peace. I have laid down my fear and pain and have taken up the hope and joy in my relationship with the Lord. Any lingering thoughts or possible future problems don't have as much power to hurt or consume my thoughts anymore. I continue to give thanks to you [Heather Brown] and Hope of Survivors for all the help you have given helping me understand what happened and for your continuing prayers and thoughtful guidance. As you have blessed me, I will continue to bless Hope of Survivors with a monthly contribution so that you may help others out there balanced."--WA

"All information was very helpful. Being a husband, I could really connect with Steve's story."--NY

"The Hope & Healing conference in Indianapolis was inspiring and uplifting, as Samantha, Steve, Martin, and Sandy all did a fantastic job explaining and educating us all about clergy sexual abuse. They all used their own past experiences as inspiration and as proof that there is hope to overcome and heal from abuse. The materials were presented in a very easy to understand fashion and the speakers made sure the atmosphere in the room was peaceful and inviting to all who attended. They made sure everyone knew they were welcome and that their lives could be changed for the better.

I greatly appreciated all the presenters taking time away from their busy lives and full time jobs to help everyone who attended gain a better understanding of clergy sexual abuse. I look forward to the next one!"-- Heather Brockett, IL

The following letter from a pastor who attended was a great encouragement as well:

September 1, 2011,

Hi Steve and Samantha,

I want to thank you for the Hope & Healing Conference you held in Indiana. It was very well done. As a pastor, my initial feeling regarding the Ministry Description was that it could lead to more distrust and disrespect toward the pastoral ministry. (Ministry Description: Support, Hope and Healing for Victims of Pastoral Sexual Abuse.)

However, one of the things that impressed me about the conference was how you elevated the work of the pastoral ministry. You communicated very effectively the high calling and influence of the ministry.

I have known clergy who have had to leave or should have been asked to leave the ministry as a result of inappropriate sexual behavior. I have also counseled individuals who have been victims of this kind of abuse.

You communicate with much sensitivity and balance and truly lead people to hope and healing as a result of what you do and the example you have set. The video you put together is very well done.

I would recommend a conference inviting you to do a seminar for pastors.

Clinton Meharry

We thank God for giving us the opportunity to minister to victims of clergy sexual abuse and to facilitate their healing process, by His grace. Your support makes these much-needed conferences possible. Thank you!
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.

* Funds for conferences, exhibits and conventions--one of the best ways to spread the word about this ministry and bring hope and healing to victims!

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.

Would you be willing to help? Thank you for considering a tax-deductible donation to further the work of this ministry and bring hope and healing to wounded hearts.

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**Highlights from August Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Campaign Events**

* Steve & Samantha Nelson were guests on the program *God Answers Prayer*, hosted by Ted Gonzales and Linda Cobb on KCHF-TV (Son Broadcasting) in Santa Fe, NM.

* Volunteers Gail & Elgin Jenkins staffed The Hope of Survivors' exhibit at the

Creative Ways to Help!

NEW! The Hope of Survivors has been added to IBM's list of charities that U.S. employees and retirees can chose 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!

Contribute with ease by setting up monthly recurring donations to The Hope of Survivors. It's easy! Just go to [http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/donate.asp](http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/donate.asp) and type in the amount you'd like to contribute. Victims thank you for your contributions, as they help provide the support they need for healing!

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](http://www.GoodSearch.com). Just type The Hope of Survivors in the charity to be supported box.


Do you shop online a lot? Then shop through [iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) and earn money for The Hope of Survivors each time you order online!

Benifit Concert Updates

**Simpsonville, SC**, August 6, 2011:

We were blessed to be able to participate in the Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness month by hosting a benefit concert at Word of Life International Ministries in Simpsonville, SC. We had anointed musicians and singers that lead us straight into the presence of God. The testimonies were filled with hope and healing. I was so inspired by the bravery of those who stood up and

Read more testimonials...
Pacific Union Conference Session & Ministerial Council held in Ontario, CA. Gail reported things went very well, with many pastors and leaders requesting more information about the organization and more involvement with other initiatives to end abuse within the church. Both English and Spanish booklets, as well as the *Enough Is Enough*, buttons were distributed at this event.

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Send *HopeSpeak* to a friend!

We hope you were blessed by this edition of *HopeSpeak*. If so, please feel free to forward it to a friend so they, too, can sign up.

To download a PDF file of this newsletter, please click here.

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. Order online!

*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. Their incredible and disturbing story offers context for the all too common, and widely misunderstood, topic of pastoral sexual abuse. This poignant illustration brings answers to the troubling questions we’ve all asked—Why? How? Who? Order online!

Make sure to check out the other products available too!