Thanksgiving Blessings from The Hope of Survivors

Dear Friends,

We are so thankful for you! As we review all that has happened in the past year since our last Thanksgiving note to you, we are truly amazed at the things God has done and how He has used YOU to accomplish them! THANK YOU for all you have helped The Hope of Survivors to do, such as:

...develop additional resources for victims in more languages (Dutch);
...raise awareness of clergy sexual abuse through seminars and conventions;
...fund emergency travel expenses for a victim and her children in crisis;
...provide emotional and spiritual support to victims through email, phone, in-person and weekend conferences (English, Spanish & Romanian);
...become a top-rated organization through Great Nonprofits for the second year in a row;
...and so much more!

Because of your prayers, your talents, the time you've invested and the financial support you've provided, victims from around the world have been able to become survivors and even "thivers." Just take a look for yourself at how the lives of those devastated by clergy sexual abuse have been impacted by The Hope of Survivors:

"I felt isolated and trapped in my situation of abuse. I Googled and found The Hope of Survivors--and became a survivor of Pastoral abuse... The encouragement and support I have received... has allowed me to grow to be a happier, healthier and stronger person.... I cannot imagine where I would be without their support and counsel over the past 18 months or so. I had no support structure here in Australia and I am very grateful to have "someone" who understands and accepts me unconditionally."

"Having been sexually abused by my youth pastor at age 16 and waiting over
30 years to finally confront him for his actions against me, it was The Hope of Survivors who was able to help me to continue in my journey of healing. Having been sexually abused by someone you have such trust and in a place where one should feel the safest, the church leaves a hurt and confusion so profound finding one’s way back seems impossible. It was through The Hope of Survivors I found understanding and support to guide me and allow healing to begin. The Hope of Survivors is exactly as they describe themselves..."A ministry of compassion, support, hope and encouragement."

"Hope of Survivors was a lifeline to me at a time when I needed help the most. ...They walked me through challenges, understood my situation, and encouraged me that things would get better. When I experienced Clergy Sexual Abuse I thought my world would end and I would not be able to function again. I knew that the one place that would always listen was only an email away. Samantha and Steve have watched me heal and grow. They wept with me and they now rejoice with me as they see God restore every bit that was stolen. Hope of Survivors has been a light in the darkness."

"The Hope of Survivors reached out with an incredible amount of time, patience, and understanding when a clergy member in a mainline Protestant denomination violated pastor-parishioner boundaries with me. ...What is special about THOS is that its leadership really understands something of the subjective, psychological experience of an adult parishioner whose boundaries are violated by a pastor. That understanding allows them to do a very specific and unique kind of counseling. As such, it is a one-of-a-kind non-profit. Surviving my case was a very tough ordeal, but THOS made it easier because its staff were very genuinely dedicated to helping me through it."

Praise God for doing more in the lives of victims than we could ask or think!

So, in closing, we just want to share our hearts of gratitude to GOD for His great love for all of us, to YOU for your faithful prayers and support, to each PASTOR who maintains integrity in ministry and relationships, and especially to each VICTIM for their courage in coming forward and seeking healing.

May the Lord bless you abundantly and fill your heart with His peace, joy and gratitude!
The Hope of Survivors’ Directors, Officers and Volunteers

P.S. Due to the holiday, our offices will be closed November 22-26. We apologize for any delay and inconvenience this may cause you.
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