FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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5/31/13-Omaha, NE: 3rd Annual Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Campaign®!

Only two months left to plan for events! August 2013 marks the 3rd annual Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Day® Campaign, an event to be celebrated throughout the month of August. "Over the past 11 years of working with victims and church leaders from around the world, it is inarguably evident how critical education is to the prevention of clergy sexual abuse. This campaign seeks to raise awareness of the issue in order to aid in the prevention of clergy sexual abuse and provide increased opportunities for victims to find the support and help they need for healing," says Samantha Nelson, Vice President & CEO of The Hope of Survivors, a nonprofit organization addressing the issue of clergy sexual abuse.

Ted Vanderlaan, chairman of the board of directors for The Hope of Survivors, states, "Imagine the very place you believe to be a refuge only to find yourself in a snake pit! You are violated not only physically and emotionally, but spiritually as well. It is out of control! Most insidious is that the violation is at the hands of the gatekeeper. Our minds can hardly comprehend how a person wearing the garb of our protector, claiming power from God Himself, could violate us! We begin to equate God with the violator. No denomination can claim to be free of this scourge and it seems that the perpetrators all read from the same play book. We are a voice that stands to break the codes of silence and processes that allow the evil to practice behind the veil of Christianity. Please join us by helping raise awareness so that more people will speak out!"

René Drumm, Dean at the School of Social Work at Southern Adventist University writes, in support of this campaign, "Any type of sexual abuse can be shattering and life changing. When sexual abuse occurs at the hand of a person in a powerful position with the "blessing" of sacred institutions, the negative impacts are often overwhelmingly devastating. Recognizing, labeling, and addressing clergy sexual misconduct constitutes an important step in the prevention process. Plan now to participate in the Enough IS Enough campaign to raise awareness about this important
topic. You can make a difference to future generations by helping to spread the word about clergy sexual abuse and its harmful effects."

In honor of the Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Day® Campaign, several events will take place during August. For more information, please visit the Events page of the website. If you’d like to conduct an event in your area, please email Samantha Nelson.