

# ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE CHURCH

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## **ROLE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

System by which values are transmitted, by which God is represented, and makes families and homes a "little piece of heaven on earth"

• FB quote:

One day, when my children are grown, I hope they still come through that front door without knocking. I hope they head to the kitchen for a snack and rifle through the mail looking for a magazine they always read. I hope they come in and feel the weight of adulthood leave them, for they are home. For my children, my door will forever be open. Above all else, I hope they know this without me telling them. Love speaks clearly enough.

# HEALTHY FAMILIES: BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Why are we here today, discussing domestic violence?

✓It happens in our communities

 $\checkmark$  US estimates range between 25-40% of women experience DV in their lifetimes

✓ About 10% of US males experiencer DV

 $\checkmark$  Up to 80% of women experience it worldwide

✓ Male worldwide estimates unknown

#### ✓It happens in our churches

- ✓NAD study by Rene D. Drumm 33.8% of women, 20.1% of men experienced DV (N=1,431)
- $\checkmark$  LUC study 42% of women self-identified as survivors, 33% indicated their abuser was also SDA (N=126)
- ✓ Unmeasured effects on children, families, congregations and communities

# WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

We've already...

- 1. Made a statement about families, their importance and our need to protect them
- 2. Made a statement about family violence, and one about violence against women and girls

https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/Statements-2010english.pdf

End it Now began about 7-8 years ago

<u>http://www.enditnownorthamerica.org/article/2/about-us</u>

## Two abuse summits have been held by the church

http://www.enditnownorthamerica.org/article/16/resources/videos-from-the-2014-summit-on-abuse

More is being done... and more needs to be done... https://vimeo.com/100912862

> Are we seeing the effects in our local churches? This is what I want to focus on today!

# WHAT CAN EACH ONE OF US DO?

Awareness of statements and the church's position
Post the statements around your church
Bring them to a board meeting

Day of Violence Prevention – END IT NOW day
Often led by the women's ministry department
<u>http://www.nadwm.org/article/12/news-and-features</u>

Has this been celebrated in your church?
Have you involved the community?
Is this an ongoing topic of interest?

### ➢GROW group model

Session right after this with Sharon Dudgeon and her experience working with survivors for over 4 years

#### Work with perpetrators

Session with Bradley Hinman this afternoon

>Three years of working with perpetrators, because Jesus is interested in everyone's salvation

#### >Work with Local Agencies

- Find your DV shelters
- >Hold meetings at your church
- >Donate/make supplies for survivors and their families
- >Offer a "spa day" for the women while someone takes care of the kids

#### Work with local schools

>Offer teen dating violence awareness

>Early prevention techniques for teaching about healthy marriages

Start a support group for students impacted by DV or TDV

Raise awareness in your community

>Local news/radio broadcasts

Fundraising

Homeless population – large part are now women and children escaping abusive homes

Work with law enforcement
Know what the church's responsibilities are
Ask how else you can be involved

# TAILOR THE WORK, BECAUSE ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL!

## **Culture matters**

 Ethnic variables: Gender role beliefs, American and Hispanic acculturation, language

✓ Religiosity: church attendance, "liberality"

✓Our religion takes place in our ethnic culture

Prevention and intervention needs to take account of these influences and be tailored to these dynamics

✓ How can this impact your "church"?

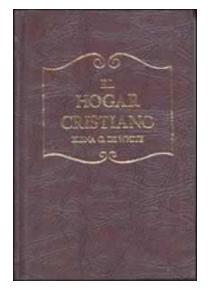
# **BRAINSTORMING:**

What is the current state of your church, with regards to the issue of domestic violence?

What is your "position" in the church, and how can you use it to address this issue?

## PERPETRATORS

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"Never, never are you to show a tyrannical spirit in the home. The man who does this is working in partnership with satanic agencies." The Adventist Home, p.213 Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

**Margaret Mead**