



THE **Hope**
of Survivors

Reaching the **HURTING...**

Calling the **FAITHFUL...**

Bridging the **GAP...**

2006 Annual Report

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Contact Information

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Necessity of The Hope of Survivors

"Ninety-six percent of sexual exploitation by professionals involves a man in power capitalizing on a woman's trust. Clergy sexual misconduct happens when a person in a ministerial role engages in sexual contact, threats or sexual behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, colleague or volunteer. Sometimes it's done once, spontaneously, by a leader who is emotionally vulnerable and lonely. Other times, the abuse happens from a leader who has a pattern of abusing power—a serial abuser who actively looks for opportunities to take advantage of congregants."—Phil Strickland, [excerpt from a letter of introduction for Broken Trust: Confronting Clergy Sexual Misconduct]

Contrary to the long-standing belief of some, children are not the only victims of clergy, and the vast majority of women attending church are not trying to see if they can "take down" their popular and charismatic pastor. Sadly, too often, it is the much-loved, outgoing, likeable pastor who masquerades as a shepherd of the flock but who, in reality, turns out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing. No, we do not deny there are a few women who may intentionally set out to destroy a pastor and his ministry for some reason. However, the vast majority of the time, it is the pastor who sets his sights on a vulnerable woman in his congregation and lures her into a web of deceit in order to take advantage of her. It's time the Church—the Body of Believers—learns to recognize its responsibility to those who have been harmed by clergy. God is not mocked, and He has given us ample warnings in His Word for situations just like this. 1 Samuel 2:22 states, *"Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation."* As Eli speaks to his sons, the priests of the House of God, he makes it clear to them that they are the ones causing the Lord's people to transgress (verse 24). The pastor (or any spiritual leader) is always the one with the responsibility to maintain healthy and appropriate boundaries—at *all* times.

Pastoral sexual abuse is an ever-increasing problem in congregations around the world, and in every denomination. The destruction in the victim's life cannot be underestimated. The potential for health problems, suicide risk, breaking up of marriages and families is just the beginning. One of the worst "side effects" of pastoral sexual abuse is the loss of faith, trust and relationship with God. Many victims find it impossible to return to their church—or any church. Yet, that's not the worst of it. Too often, there are some who never recover from the abuse and remain away from God forever. The responsibility for that victim's life lies in the hands of the pastor or spiritual leader who abused her (or him, as the case may sometimes be).

Those who abuse can be male or female. We've encountered both. However, the majority of offenders happen to be male. Victims come in all ages and include men and women, young and old. Some have kept this dark secret for decades, having been abused as a child or teen and not telling a soul about it until well in their seventies or eighties. Others plan to raise their families in church but, while turning to the pastor for help and spiritual guidance, they find themselves victims of an unscrupulous and unconsecrated pastor.

The collateral damage needs to be examined as well. Though the primary victim is most devastated, there are secondary victims and periphery victims who too often struggle in the aftermath of disclosure. The Church (or organization) needs to be aware of this far-reaching damage and provide relief and hope for those who have been deeply wounded.

The Hope of Survivors works diligently to encourage, edify and strengthen the victim's faith in God. It is a painstaking and slow process that requires much prayer, patience, understanding, empathy and love. By God's grace, healing will take place in each victim's life as she allows the Lord to strengthen her and set her free from the pain of abuse and betrayal.

"The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever." (Psalm 111:2-3)

The History of The Hope of Survivors

The Hope of Survivors was born one evening in December 2002, as Steve and Samantha were reflecting upon their own experience of pastoral sexual abuse and the lack of resources that were available to help them understand and heal at that time. They felt compelled to develop a web site that would provide information and encouragement to anyone who may be searching for answers. Steve and Samantha felt that if “just one person” could be helped by the web site, then it would be well worth the effort and pain they had gone through. While Steve and Samantha’s vision was limited in thinking “just one,” the Lord knew how many hurting people there were—suffering all alone and living without hope. As you will see in the remainder of this report, there are many “ones” out there who have been touched and blessed by the ministry of The Hope of Survivors. Truly, God does work all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

The Hope of Survivors has grown rapidly in its services since it began. It has an active and growing Board of Directors, Officers and volunteer staff. It often serves as the only available, unbiased liaison between victims and appropriate civil, public or religious assistance. Its documents, including a series of informational brochures (in Spanish and English) and DVDs, are circulated worldwide. The Hope of Survivors is unique, as a multitude of national web sites exist on the subject, but most either provide angry denunciation of various religious organizations, or they are associated with a particular religious sect and require that affiliation from their clients, or they address the problem from a purely humanistic psychological approach—leaving God and His power to heal entirely out of the equation. Many charge for their services, yet The Hope of Survivors has determined to keep its services free of charge to victims. The need for The Hope of Survivors’ unique services and approach is evident. To God be the glory, what great things He has done!

“The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” (Psalm 126:3-5)

About The Hope of Survivors

Originally incorporated in California, and subsequently authorized to conduct affairs in the state of Illinois, The Hope of Survivors is an interdenominational 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches worldwide. Pastoral care is provided through The Hope of Survivors’ separate pastoral division, *Calling the Faithful*.

Many positive changes took place in 2006 and The Hope of Survivors—Australia Division was launched with Coralie Roll taking the position of Vice President. Irma Murray serves as Vice President of the Latino division, *La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes*, and Cesar and Carmen Carmona joined the Latino Division in late 2006. Other divisions under development include: Youth, Norway, Romania and Pastor’s Wives. Professional memberships include: Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) and the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC).

Description of Mission, Services & Programs

The organization's purpose is to provide hope and healing in Christ through encouragement, counseling, support, referral, assistance, educational programs and information to victims of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct. The organization, and its Officers, Directors, Volunteers and Employees, use the Bible as the standard of their beliefs and philosophies in all areas. The ministry seeks to:

(a) Educate the victims, the clergy, the church body and the general public about pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, the frequency of occurrences, the moral and social implications involved and the devastating consequences through national media, by disseminating brochures and other related materials, conducting educational and informational seminars, and by maintaining an up-to-date web site;

(b) Conduct retreats and seminars specifically for the victims of pastoral sexual abuse and provide one-on-one counsel and support for the purpose of facilitating their healing and recovery, and helping them to gain a greater understanding of what has happened to them, giving them hope and encouragement, and restoring their faith in their Creator;

(c) Work closely with churches that are dealing with the after-effects of an abuse situation for the purpose of helping them to understand the importance of providing a safe environment for all and for understanding the dynamics of pastoral sexual abuse so that the church and the victim are not further damaged in the after-math;

(d) Provide pastoral training/educational seminars for the purpose of providing prevention information and encouragement, and to work closely with those who have violated their sacred trust and encourage them to make amends to their victims and to receive counseling.

In short, the mission of The Hope of Survivors may be summed up in the motto:

Reaching the Hurting... Ministering to those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy.

Calling the Faithful... Providing resources and support to church leadership to help them remain true to their high calling.

Bridging the Gap... Leading the hurting to hope through a healing relationship with Christ.

Organization Funding

The Hope of Survivors is funded by individuals who support the mission and goals of the organization; survivors of pastoral sexual abuse who desire to use their means to help others; and by grants from private individuals and foundations whose values are similar to those of The Hope of Survivors. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2006

	<u>Dec. 31, 2006</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1015 — Cash — HOPE Checking	1,363.81
1040 — Cash — Healing Center	<u>680.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>2,043.81</u>
Total Current Assets	2,043.81
Fixed Assets	
1600 — Equipment	7,490.26
1690 — Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,904.00)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>5,586.26</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$7,630.07</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
2300 — Credit Card Liability	
2310 — Company Credit Card—Capital One	1,150.17
2311 — Company Credit Card—Advanta	<u>2,667.08</u>
Total 2300 — Credit Card Liability	<u>3,817.25</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>3,817.25</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
2130 — Accrued Payroll Taxes	56.54
2500 — Personal Loan	<u>68.90</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>125.44</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,942.69</u>
Total Liabilities	3,942.69
Equity	
3010 — Unrestrict (retained earnings)	11,468.68
Net Income	<u>(7,781.30)</u>
Total Equity	<u>3,687.38</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$7,630.07</u>

Statement of Activities

January through December 2006

Jan – Dec 2006

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

4000 — Contributions	23,729.46
4001 — Grants	180.00
4002 — Contributions — Temp. Restricted	500.00
4100 — Sales	669.13
4400 — Miscellaneous Income	63.88
4500 — Interest Income	<u>1.71</u>

Total Income 25,144.18

Expense

6000 — Salaries	3,076.93
6010 — Payroll Taxes	260.01
6060 — Books & Education	2,065.49
6070 — Bank Charges	5.79
6075 — Finance Charges	398.02
6080 — Contract Services	400.00
6120 — Telephone	2,394.05
6130 — Dues & Publications	417.00
6150 — Licenses & Fees	167.00
6200 — Office Supplies	2,855.22
6220 — Collection Service*	43.52
6230 — Postage	1,972.48
6240 — Printing & Publishing	92.62
6260 — Operating Supplies	232.61
6300 — Sales Tax Paid	35.50
6400 — Advertising	2,841.85
6410 — Domain Registration	237.50
6420 — Travel	
6421 — Lodging	2,232.21
6422 — Airfare	1,105.09
6424 — Fuel	877.82
6420 — Travel — Other	<u>164.00</u>

Total 6420 — Travel 4,379.12

6430 — Meals & Entertainment	1,008.42
6440 — Conference Expense	233.32
6450 — Fundraising Costs	1,719.95
6500 — Victim Assistance	6,913.50
6510 — Gifts	103.56
6700 — Depreciation Expense	1,072.00

Total Expense 32,925.48

Net Ordinary Income -7,781.30

Net Income **-7,781.30**

*Collection Service is the fee charged for using online payment systems.

Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2006 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

#	<u>Denominational Demographics</u>	%
2	Apostolic Church	1.3%
3	Assembly of God	2%
13	Baptist, Free Will Baptist or Southern Baptist Convention	8.8%
1	Brethren Church	.6%
1	Calvary Chapel	.6%
8	Catholic	5.4%
1	Christian Church, Disciples of Christ	.6%
1	Christian Science	.6%
1	Church of Christ	.6%
1	Church of God	.6%
1	Episcopal Church	.6%
3	Independent Churches	2%
2	Non-Denominational	1.3%
4	Pentecostal Church	2.7%
2	Presbyterian	1.3%
47	Seventh-day Adventist	31.9%
5	Methodist or United Methodist Church	3.4%
51	Undisclosed Denomination	34.6%
0	<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>	<u>1.1%</u>
147	Total from 1/1/06 to 12/31/06	100%

Notes:

- (1) These demographics do **not** include clients from previous years.
- (2) These demographics do **not** include secondary victims such as spouses, children, friends or relatives of the affected individual who contacted The Hope of Survivors, or the other victims of the same pastor of which the client was aware and made known to The Hope of Survivors.
- (3) These figures also do **not** include known cases where The Hope of Survivors has been consulted but has had no direct contact with the client.
- (4) The year 2006 averaged nearly 3 new clients per week (147 total).

Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below (next page) reveals the demographics based on the state/country where the client resides. There were 31 known states and 9 known countries as of 12/31/06.

<u>State</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Alaska	1	.6%
Arizona	3	2%
Australia	9	6.1%
British Virgin Islands	1	.6%
California	10	6.8%
Canada	3	2%
Caribbean	1	.6%
Colorado	1	.6%
Connecticut	2	1.3%
England (UK)	3	2%
Florida	4	2.7%
Georgia	6	4%
Idaho	2	1.3%
Iowa	1	.6%
Illinois	7	4.7%
Indiana	3	2%
Kansas	1	.6%
Massachusetts	1	.6%
Maryland	3	2%
Michigan	2	1.3%
Minnesota	1	.6%
Missouri	4	2.7%
Nebraska	1	.6%
Nevada	1	.6%
New Zealand	1	.6%
New Jersey	3	2%
New Mexico	2	1.3%
New York	4	2.7%
North Carolina	3	2%
Norway	2	1.3%
Oklahoma	2	1.3%
Oregon	2	1.3%
Pennsylvania	1	.6%
Poland	2	1.3%
Tennessee	4	2.7%
Texas	7	4.7%
Undisclosed State	35	23.8%
Virginia	1	.6%
Washington	6	4%
Wyoming	1	.6%
<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2.3%</u>
Total from 1/1/06 to 12/31/06	147	100%

Notes: (1) Same notes apply as stated on previous page.

Web Site Traffic Statistics

The chart below shows the traffic The Hope of Survivors' web site received during 2006. Most of the people who viewed the web site found it by searching on Google®, Yahoo!®, Amazon.com® or a similar search engine. These figures are excellent considering the lack of consistent, full-scale advertising during the year. As funds to advertise become more readily available, it is expected these numbers will continue to grow.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hits</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u># Contacts</u>
January 2006	36,638	6,617	22
February 2006	31,904	6,758	20
March 2006	43,468	9,510	24
April 2006	28,822	7,570	14
May 2006	26,456	7,140	10
June 2006	32,661	7,821	13
July 2006	25,884	7,453	6
August 2006	29,335	5,538	10
September 2006	25,915	6,863	9
October 2006	30,068	7,710	11
November 2006	21,542	6,684	5
<u>December 2006</u>	<u>18,482</u>	<u>6,740</u>	<u>3</u>
2006 Totals	351,175	86,404	147

Notes:

- (1) The # of Contacts indicates the number of people who actually made personal contact with The Hope of Survivors via email, phone or mail during the specified time period.
- (2) The # of Visits is the actual number of people who visited the web site during the specified time.
- (3) The # of Hits is the total number of every item or image on a page that has been downloaded.

Domain Name Assets

The Hope of Survivors owns the following domain names, not all of which have been fully developed or redirected to the primary site, www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com:

CALLINGTHEFAITHFUL.COM	PASTORALSEXUALMISCONDUCT.COM
HEALCLERGYABUSE.COM	PASTORSWHOPRAY.COM
HEALCLERGYSEXUALABUSE.COM	PASTORSWHOPRAY.NET
HOPEOFSURVIVORS.COM	PASTORSWHOPRAY.ORG
HOPE SPEAK.COM	PASTORSWHOPREY.ORG
PASTORALABUSE.COM	THEHOPEOFSURVIVORS.COM
PASTORALMISCONDUCT.COM	THEHOPEOFSURVIVORS.ORG
PASTORALSEXUALABUSE.COM	THETRUTHHEALS.COM

The Hope of Survivors' Officers, Directors & Staff

The Lord is the Ultimate Founder, Director and Provider for the ministry of The Hope of Survivors. Without Him, none of the work would have lasting effect or eternal results. We give all the glory and honor to our Heavenly Father, yet we also recognize He uses individuals in His service and we wish to acknowledge them and give them our heartfelt gratitude for their sacrificial service. Our 2006 Board of Directors consisted of the following individuals:

Steve Nelson – President, Chairman, CEO
Samantha Nelson – Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, COO
Marvin Wray – Director, Pastor of the Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church
Tom Lemon – Director, Minnesota Conference President
Bob Withrow, C.P.A. – Director, CFO
Doug Kilcher—Director, Texas Conference V.P. Administration
Ralph Robertson—Director, Northern California Conference Ministerial Director
Neil Biloff—Director, Dakota Conference President
Shelley J. Quinn—Director, Co-Director of Word Warrior Ministries
J.D. Quinn—Director, Co-Director of Word Warrior Ministries
C.A. Murray—Director, Producer at 3ABN
Irma Murray—Director, V.P. of Latino Division

Day-to-day operations are primarily the responsibility of Steve and Samantha Nelson; however, each Director and Volunteer played a vital role in the ongoing development and advancement of the ministry and its goals. Directors were actively involved in Board meetings, major decision-making, literature review, accounting, prayer, travel for meetings and many other activities. The Hope of Survivors is indeed indebted and greatly blessed by the involvement of each Director and Volunteer. The Hope of Survivors was also blessed by the contributions of Jill Morikone, Sandy & Bill Kirkham, Hope Bencho, Peggy & Dave Mahrt, Danielle Jostes, Larry Lauterjung and Isabel Fritzler. The following chart shows the breakdown of volunteer hours:

Volunteer	Hours (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2006)
Samantha Nelson	2,470 (counseling, administration, etc.)
Steve Nelson (does not include any paid time)	798 (counseling, design, conferences)
Irma Murray	46 (translation, Latino Division)
Jill Morikone	46 (administrative assistance)
Marvin Wray	10 (board meetings, material review)
Tom Lemon	12 (board meetings, material review)
Bob & Debbie Withrow	120 (accounting, meetings, reports)
C.A. Murray	30 (board meetings, material review)
Doug Kilcher	2 (board meetings, material review)
Shelley Quinn	2 (board meetings, material review)
J.D. Quinn	26 (board meetings, material review)
Ralph Robertson	4 (board meetings, material review)
Neil Biloff	4 (board meetings, material review)
Sandy Kirkham	83 (exhibits, conferences)
Danielle Jostes	30 (research-residential treatment prog.)
Bill Kirkham	5 (legal advice, document review)
Hope Bencho	120 (grant research, writing, etc.)
Larry Lauterjung	10 (client legal advice)
Peggy Mahrt	40 (material distribution, marketing)
Dave Mahrt	12 (material distribution, marketing)
Isabel Fritzler	15 (Hispanic Yellow Pages ad)
Total Volunteer Hours for 2006	3,885

Exposure Information

Advertising

- Google AdWords (key words for search results – monthly)
- 1/2-page ad for Latino Division in the Arizona Yellow Pages (*Sus Páginas Amarillas*)
- Registration packet insert at AACCC's (American Association of Christian Counselors) *Freedom West* convention (Colorado)

Editorial

Articles and interviews with/and/or about The Hope of Survivors appeared in the following publications/broadcasts:

- 3ABN *Today* program with Danny Shelton (taped in January; aired throughout 2006)
- KGEC Channel 26 (Redding, CA) aired 3 *Issues & Answers* programs (January 2006)
- 3ABN Radio *Crossroads* program with Atonte Myers (July 2006)
- LLBN *Christian Connections* TV interview with Marlon Paley (August 2006)

Distribution of Brochures/DVDs/Educational Materials

The Hope of Survivors was able to send materials to be distributed at the following events:

- PASCH Conference—Peace and Safety in the Christian Home (Massachusetts)
- CCEF Conference—Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation (Pennsylvania)
- Natural Radiance Spa—Received request for brochures for their customers (New York)

Materials were also distributed at each conference, convention and program conducted by The Hope of Survivors. Mailings continued to victims, pastors and to churches of various denominations, as well as a few counseling centers throughout the U.S.

Newsletter

The Hope of Survivors continued to publish and mail out its quarterly newsletter, *HopeSpeak*, to over 800 individuals. The quarterly pastoral newsletter, *FaithSpeak*, was mailed or emailed to approximately 400 church leaders.

Conferences/Programs

During 2006, The Hope of Survivors conducted the following conferences and programs:

- *Hope & Healing* Conference for victims and their families (Roseville, MI, in January);
- Abuse prevention program and benefit concert (Springfield, IL, in February);
- Abuse prevention program and benefit concert (Chestnut Hill, PA, in March);
- *Women of Spiritual Praise* Conference in Thompsonville, IL, in April (exhibit);
- ASI International Convention in Grapevine, TX, in August (exhibit);
- 3ABN Fall Camp Meeting in Thompsonville, IL, in September (exhibit); and,
- Abuse prevention program and benefit concert (Thompsonville, IL, in October).

The Hope of Survivors also conducted in-house counseling sessions on the following dates during 2006:

- June 15-18 (client from Iowa)
- July 23-27 (client from West Virginia)
- September 24-27 (client from Florida)
- October 3-December 5 (client from Norway)

Special Thanks...

The Hope of Survivors is especially thankful to its Directors, Officers and Volunteers (listed on page 11) who served (and contributed) in 2006, and, aside from them, it is difficult to list the names of every individual or organization that has had a part in supporting or assisting the ministry in some way. The Hope of Survivors received permission to list the names of the following individuals who have made contributions to the ministry, although there are many others who chose to remain anonymous. Thank you all for your support and prayers!

Joanne Adam, RI
John Bridges, CA
Herb & Norma Douglass, CA
Sara Kidd, AL
Sandy & Bill Kirkham, OH
Kim A. Marshall, CA
Rev. Jeanette Pollard, RN, M.Div., MD
A Door of Hope Ministries, TN

Deb & James Bieker, IA
Tara Brocklesby, NC
Debbie & Dennis Harris, OH
Doug & Carole Kilcher, TX
Dave & Peggy Mahrt, CA
Greg & Jill Morikone, IL
Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, PA

We'd also like to say "Thank You" to those who have donated their time, talents and services to help The Hope of Survivors conduct its programs and day-to-day operations.

Pastor John & Angela Lomacang, IL
Dr. Christine & Robert Salter, MO
Sandy & Bill Kirkham, OH
Jill Morikone, IL
Sherry & Jeremy Stockford
Danielle Jostes, IL
Isabel Fritzler, AZ
Alison Schwirzer, PA
Bonnie Coche, PA
Rev. Clifford Cutler, PA
Carl Grear, PA
Pastor Albert & Rosalee Beierle, CA

Sandra Entermann (Australia)
Pastor Hal & Mollie Steenson, IL
Jennifer Ebanks (TX)
Hope Bencho, WV
Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, PA
C.A. & Irma Murray, IL
Pastor J.P. & Ani O'Connor, PA
Vishnu Nancoo, PA
Jeff Stark, PA
June Davis, PA
Roy Schaeffer, PA

We express our sincere gratitude to the following churches, pastors and congregations who supported The Hope of Survivors by hosting abuse prevention programs and benefit concerts:

Chestnut Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church Family, PA—Pastor J.P. O'Connor
Springfield First Seventh-day Adventist Church Family, IL—Pastor John Stanton
Thompsonville Seventh-day Adventist Church Family, IL —Pastor John Lomacang



Sandy Kirkham,
Samantha & Steve
Nelson at The Hope of
Survivors' Benefit
Concert at the
Thompsonville Seventh-
day Adventist Church in
Thompsonville, IL.

Donor Profiles...

In the 28 years of pastoral ministry, I have seen many women in churches abused, deeply wounded and emotionally destroyed. I have even had the heartache of ministering at the funeral caused by the suicide of one of these victims. I have also observed most church's practice of expelling the victim and retaining the abuser.

How did you first become aware of The Hope of Survivors?

I became aware of The Hope of Survivors through Steve and Samantha Nelson, the founders of this ministry. I watched their program that was aired on worldwide Christian Television and was pleased to see someone taking a stand on this issue.

What made you decide to become involved with and/or support The Hope of Survivors?

I've had the privilege of working closely with Steve Nelson at Three Angels Broadcasting Network and have seen, in him, a heart of restoration and compassion. In addition, I've observed the Nelson's willingness to confront pastoral abuse head-on, not wavering in searching for the truth.

I am also aware of a beautiful truth, which is demonstrated through The Hope of Survivors' ministry. This truth is: they are a Dove ministry. There are ministries that deal with pastoral abuse but they pursue those involved like a Lion—very aggressive, biting and tearing at those involved. I am also familiar with the Ostrich principle; it's the most common form of handling this immoral act. These groups stick their passive heads in the sand of the situation and only address the victim. However, this Dove ministry not only secures the victim, but also confronts the violator. I have seen The Hope of Survivors' boldness and I've witnessed their Holy Spirit-led humility—to know when to be bold and know when to be humble, one must be led continually by the Holy Spirit.

Do you plan to remain involved with and/or support The Hope of Survivors? If so, why?

I intend to help this ministry in every way I am able—my time, my talent, my will and money. How can anyone refuse a God-ordained ministry that is compelled by compassion?



Hal Steenson
3ABN Pastoral Staff,
28 years as a Pastor



Rachel (a pseudonym), R.N.

A victim of abuse by a religious leader and physician in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

First Awareness:

I accidentally heard an interview with The Hope of Survivors on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and then I went to their web page for more information. While I was reading about The Hope of Survivors, I could not believe my eyes that finally I found answers to my problems.

Involvement:

I can only say that it was God's Providence that brought me to The Hope of Survivors. I was a slave to sinful secrets that I was terrified to talk about. I was living everyday with the fear that the moment I talked about the abuse, my abuser would kill me. I was angry with God for allowing the abuse in my life and I refused to have much to do with church, God and fellowship. They were all hypocrites to me, but I soon realized I was one myself—going to church just to “get-a-check-on-the-book” kind of thing and smiling, acting as if life was glorious when I was dying inside. In other words, it was like I was buried alive. I had no joy for life, no vision and no reason to live anymore. The good news is this year I celebrated one year since my new life started with The Hope of Survivors. I could never have come forward and talked about the abuse and been free if it wasn't for The Hope of Survivors. After the counseling sessions, I started getting my joy back, I started hearing the birds singing again and, most of all, I started praying again.

Today, as I look back at the darkest chapter of my life, I have no words to express how thankful I am to The Hope of Survivors. In financial terms, we (as victims) can never pay back the help we received, but we know how important it is to have this ministry continue. Only we, the ones who have received help from The Hope of Survivors, can fully understand how important it is for other victims to obtain the same.

Continue Support:

Even though I am so far away, geographically, The Hope of Survivors is living in my heart everyday. As matter of fact, I am praying for God to open a door for The Hope of Survivors Norwegian and Romanian divisions to start. This is in God's timing, but I am ready when He will send me.

Regarding donations and financial support, we all know that The Hope of Survivors is surviving on donor support. So, why don't you consider donating to The Hope of Survivors as one of your New Year's resolutions?! Oh, I know I will.

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)



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