

Would you like to **HELP...**

- Create an influence that will restore faith and trust within the body of Christ?
- Bring hope and healing to the broken victims of abuse?
- Reveal the character of God as portrayed in His Word and inspire His children to reflect that character?

If so, then we invite you to please pray for this ministry and those whose lives we touch; consider a monetary donation in the form of a sponsorship or one-time gift; and tell others about this resource, including your local TV/radio station.

Your **DONATION** will...

Further expand the ministry, spreading the truth to some who might not be reachable through any other means. It can also help sponsor one of our many conferences for victims, pastors and churches. 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.

The Hope of Survivors is...

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.

THE **Hope** of Survivors

Many people mistakenly believe that when a pastor or clergy member becomes physically involved with a member of his congregation that it is an "affair."

Nothing is farther from the **TRUTH!**

A pastor is not "just a man." He is appointed by God to stand in Christ's stead to His people.—2 Corinthians 5:20

"When ministers thus take advantage of the confidence the people place in them and lead souls to ruin, they make themselves as much more guilty than the common sinner as their profession is higher."—Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5

While it is a violation of the seventh commandment, and some states have laws making it a criminal offense, it's not an affair. If the state can recognize this heinous crime, shouldn't the Church recognize it even more so?

This form of abuse has devastated untold numbers of women. They have lost faith in God. Some have lost their family and friends. Most stop attending church. Many no longer even pray. The losses are devastating. Do we abandon them? No! We help them.

For more information, please contact us at:

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(618) 983-6434 or (866) 260-8958



THE **Hope**
of Survivors

Reaching the **HURTING...**

Calling the **FAITHFUL...**

Bridging the **GAP...**

What is the **PURPOSE** of The Hope of Survivors?

The organization's purpose is to provide encouragement, support, referral, seminars and information to victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct; as well as provide educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches worldwide. The organization seeks to:

- Educate the victims, the clergy, the church and the general public about clergy sexual abuse and misconduct through national media (television, radio, etc.), printed media, public appearances and an up-to-date, interactive web site.
- Restore victims and their loved ones to faith in their Creator and trust of their fellow beings through weekend retreats and seminars, and one-on-one correspondence.
- Facilitate healing in the church families that have been affected by clergy sexual abuse; teach methods of prevention as well as recovery from the after-effects of abuse.
- Provide pastoral training/educational seminars to church leaders of all denominations; and work closely with clergy who have violated their sacred trust



and encourage them to make amends to their victims and to receive counseling.

How did this **MINISTRY** begin and how long has it been in existence?

The ministry began in December 2002, when Steve and Samantha were compelled by the Holy Spirit to provide information that could help

others who may find themselves in an abusive/exploitative situation with their pastor. With that goal in mind, they began writing and launched The Hope of Survivors web site in April 2003. The ministry became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in May 2004. In addition to providing information and resources, the web site encourages individuals to contact the organization, to

share their experiences, and to request help, support or referrals. Brochures suitable to both clergy and victims have been developed and disseminated nationwide, as well as in India, Africa, the UK, Canada, the Philippines and (soon) Mexico and Guatemala.

What is the background of those who **STARTED** the ministry? Is it run by the church?

The Hope of Survivors was co-founded by Steve and Samantha Nelson, who have experienced the devastation of clergy sexual abuse and then, in turn, the incredible healing power of God.

Steve is an ordained elder and, among other issues, speaks on the topic of abuse in its various forms. He has developed a line of Bible studies in a bookmark format called *StudyMarks*, and has worked on many evangelistic campaigns and outreach projects throughout the years. He is currently completing his B.Min. degree in Biblical counseling with an emphasis on sexual addictions.

Samantha holds certification as an Adventist Community Services caseworker and is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors (certificate of completion in the course, "Caring for People God's Way"). She holds an A.Min. degree in Biblical counseling and is currently completing her B.Min. degree.

The Board of Directors consists of church leaders, pastors, counselors and other professionals.

The ministry is not owned, operated or subsidized by any church or denomination. It is an independent organization, working cooperatively with many denominations. The founders and Directors are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Why is this ministry **NECESSARY**?

The Hope of Survivors is necessary due to the large number of victims of pastoral misconduct and the small number of resources available to assist them. Typically, there are no established resources for the victim within the local or corporate church. There are few individuals within the local congregation who have a clear conception of this form of exploitation. This ministry exists to provide education and support for the victims, as well as the church body and church leaders.