

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE UNSPOKEN TRUTH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR PASTORS, HELPING ABUSERS
BREAK THE CYCLE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

A Thesis Project Submitted to
Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the degree

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

By

TERESA S. JOHNSON

Lynchburg, Virginia

March, 2015

Copyright © 2015 by Teresa S. Johnson

All Rights Reserved

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THESIS PROJECT APPROVAL SHEET

GRADE

MENTOR

Dr. Charles N. Davidson
Director, Doctor of Ministry
Assistant Professor of Counseling

READER

Dr. David W. Hirschman
Acting Dean
Assistant Professor of Religion

ABSTRACT

THE UNSPOKEN TRUTH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR PASTORS, HELPING ABUSERS BREAK THE CYCLE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Teresa S. Johnson

Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, 2014

Mentor: Dr. Charles N. Davidson

For years, men, women and children have suffered silently as a result of sexual abuse. The abuser suffers and the cycle continues. Destroying the silence of sexual abuse is the beginning of breaking the cycle. Research has shown that the abuse goes far beyond the actual act and causes physical, emotional, and psychological damage. This project will investigate and encourage open discussion, address the abuse, and give valuable insight to the causes and consequences of sexual abuse. This project will offer prescriptive and preventative measures to all parties involved, in an effort to heal and stop sexual abuse. Through research based on surveys to churches throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia, the author will present a practical guide for helping abusers break the cycle. The sexual abuse cycle can be stopped and prevented through pastoral counseling techniques to assist both the abuser and the abused.

DEDICATION

I give honor to my Heavenly Father, Who has guided me throughout this journey. Without the leading of the Holy Spirit and His wisdom, I would have never been able to see this project to completion. I realize timing is everything and the set time is now. I thank God for using me as an agent for change, whether small or great, and for trusting me to tackle such an issue.

To my husband Eric Johnson, thank you for your continued support, love, and encouragement throughout this process. I appreciate your patience and many sacrifices.

To Ericka Johnson, thank you for being the most amazing daughter. You have encouraged me, motivated and assisted me in every way possible throughout this process. You are a godsend, my true blessing.

To The Honorable Judge Angela Roberts, thank you for encouraging me to pursue my passion while I stuttered through talking about the subject with you. Because of your passionate plea for me to go forward, lives will be forever changed.

To Dr. Charlie N. Davidson, thank you for supporting me throughout the initial stages of choosing a topic that matters to me, even when it didn't prove to be a favorable decision among many options. The day you asked everyone in class to close our eyes, my eyes were open to the understanding that we all have experienced sexual abuse in our lives or families at some point or another, and I believe many strongholds were broken.

To Dr. Philip R. McFarland, you stepped in at the brink of my exhaustion and lifted my spirits immediately. I appreciate your kind spirit, your generous support, assistance and expertise in helping to make this project a success.

To Dr. Rod Earls, I am grateful for your patience and for everything you did to assist me in a short window of time.

To Roxanne Ledbetter, thank you for your determination in seeing this project to completion. Your loyalty, friendship, and participation along my journey meant a great deal.

To Jordan Douglas Kemp, thank you for being my ram in the bush and for caring enough to want to help me make this document the best work possible.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iv
DEDICATION	v
CONTENTS	vii
ABBREVIATIONS	x
INTRODUCTION	1
Statement of the Problem.....	2
Statement of Limitations.....	3
Theoretical Basis for the Project.....	4
Statement of Methodology.....	6
Review of Literature	10
CHAPTER I LET THE CONVERSATION BEGIN	27
Sexual Crimes against Children.....	32
Incest	40
Child Marriage	46
Molestation	48
Rape	50
Human Sex Trafficking.....	55
Sexual Abuse	58
CHAPTER 2 HEALING FROM THE INSIDE OUT	62
When Offenders Speak	64
Recognizing Deception.....	71
Recovery from Abuse	75
Church Leaders and their Conviction	79

Forgiveness	85
CHAPTER 3 PRESCRIPTIVE MEASURES.....	89
What We All Need to Know.....	93
Awareness Tips.....	97
Common Characteristics of Sex Offenders.....	102
Change is Possible	107
CHAPTER 4 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES.....	111
Prevention or Protection	112
Treatment	114
Measuring Improvement and Recovery.....	117
Manipulation.....	118
Secrecy.....	120
Prevention Programs.....	121
Prevention Taught in the Classroom.....	124
Community Involvement	125
The Victim's Needs	128
Child Sexual Abuse and the Law.....	131
Children's Advocacy Centers	132
CHAPTER 5 BREAKING THE CYCLE.....	134
Sexual Abuse: Illness or Sin	138
Breaking the Silence	143
Free will	145
Where the Church is Today	148

Clergy as Mandatory	154
State Statutes	155
Statute of Limitations.....	157
CONCLUSION	158
APPENDIX A: SURVEY RESULTS OF CHURCHES	164
APPENDIX B: SURVEY	173
APPENDIX C: JOURNAL AND ARTICLES	176
APPENDIX D: OTHER BIBLICAL REFERENCES	180
APPENDIX E: STATE STATUTES	181
BIBLIOGRAPHY	183
IRB Approval/Waiver Page	190

ABBREVIATIONS

CSA	<i>Child Sexual Abuse</i>
MTA	<i>Metropolitan Transit Authority</i>
DHS	<i>Department of Homeland Security</i>
NCCAN	<i>National Center for Child Abuse and Child Neglect</i>
UNICEF	<i>United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund</i>
CSATP	<i>Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program</i>
CPS	<i>Child Protective Services</i>
DSU	<i>Daughters and Sons United</i>
MDSO	<i>Mentally Disturbed Sex Offender</i>
CBT	<i>Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy</i>
CBT/RP	<i>Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Relapse Prevention</i>
CAC	<i>Children's Advocacy Center</i>
PTSD	<i>Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder</i>
CC	<i>Children on Children Sexual Abuse</i>
NSVRC	<i>National Sexual Violence Resource Center</i>
IPSV	<i>Intimate Partner Sexual Violence</i>
ICRW	<i>International Center for Research on Women</i>
UNODC	<i>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes</i>
NSOPW	<i>National Sex Offender Public Website</i>
CTI	<i>Christianity Today Internet</i>
CAPTA	<i>Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act</i>

INTRODUCTION

Sexual abuse is a difficult subject to discuss. For many, it is easy to sweep the issue under a rug when the abuse occurs within someone else's family, but when it hits home, panic sets in and suddenly there is an urgency to do something about it. Standing up for what is right and being the voice for those who cannot stand and voice their pain, suffering, and their disgust with sexual abuse is the responsibility of adults.

Although there are many issues that plague the United States, child sexual abuse is a life altering event in a person's life and should be treated as such. It is just as urgent and devastating as most other tragic events that take place throughout the United States. The nationwide, "If You See Something, Say Something" public awareness campaign is a simple and effective program to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism related crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper local law enforcement authorities. New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which has licensed the use of the slogan to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for anti-terrorism and similar crime related efforts, originally used the campaign. This campaign's same passion and momentum pertains to child sexual abuse: "If You're Told Something, Do Something." Many hear of occurrences of child sexual abuse and say or do nothing. Martin Luther King, Jr. says, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."¹

With respect to child sexual abuse, public awareness messages need to promote the notion that child sexual abuse, like all forms of maltreatment, is everyone's responsibility and

¹ <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/martinluth103526.html#UxVx6YkoQt54Id0k.99>.

everyone's problem.² There should be no tolerance for child sexual abuse. As adults, irresponsibility in this regard is unacceptable. There is always a solution to the problem when it relates to children being sexually abused.

Breaking the cycle of sexual abuse requires talking about the very secretive, taboo subject that has been neglected or discretely forbidden from open discussion for years. Child sexual abuse has proven to be a hidden epidemic that has plagued families for too long. Often, victims are too ashamed or humiliated to report their abuser, mostly for fear of ridicule. Many suffer fear of persecution, shame, guilt and often blame. Many are ashamed, even though they were victimized. Many are embarrassed to talk about the issue for fear of further victimization.

Statement of the Problem

Breaking the cycle of sexual abuse is relevant to ministry because it is a societal problem that has spilled over into the church. Sexual abuse continues to happen more often than we would like to admit. It also continues to affect those abused years later. For the sake of every child, it is important to find a solution, a cure, and to address the dehumanization of children.

This thesis will help to begin a meaningful conversation regarding healing and prevention for the victim, resources and help for the offender, and tools for the church to use in order to break the cycle of child sexual abuse. First, this investigation will consist of research of those who have sexually abused others and are recovering and seeking healing from the abuse they caused. The research will address a series of questions from abusers such as: what caused them to sexually abuse their victim, what was their thought process before and after the abuse, and when contemplating abusing a child, what could possibly stop them from committing the abuse?

² Deborah A. Daro, "Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse." *The Future of Children, Sexual Abuse of Children* 4, no.2 (Summer/Fall 1994): 198-223. http://futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/04_02_10.pdf

This research will seek to understand what triggers them to want to sexually abuse a child? Is the sexual abuse about sex, lustful desires, or a sense of power and domination? What are some preventative measures that need to be in place to prevent them from abusing again? Do they view their abusive behavior as a sickness or sin? Do they believe they can change? If they knew the victim would have told, would they have committed the sexual abuse? Are they repeated offenders? Do they believe they can recover? Are they remorseful? Do they understand the devastation of the abuse subjected upon a child? When, or if, they are around the same child that they sexually abused, how do they feel?

Second, this thesis project will conduct surveys of one hundred churches throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. These surveys will show what resources are in place in churches throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. From these surveys will be resources offering prescriptive and preventative measures. However, as for churches that do have measures in place, their information can serve as enhancement model for other churches. These surveys are not designed to condemn those churches that do not have measures in place.

Statement of Limitations

This thesis project does not condemn churches for not having proper guidelines, protocol or resources in place concerning child sexual abuse. Instead, this project reveals where there is a need for these resources within individual churches. For the sake of this study on sexual abuse, research is limited to child sexual abuse. While all sexual abuse is criminally, morally, and ethically wrong, and worthy of addressing, this investigation will represent children who are victims, as well as address male and female adults and older adolescents who have been sexually abused.

There are various dimensions of child sexual abuse, and though child sexual abuse can occur in a variety of settings, including home, school or work (in places where child labor is common), this research is further limited to child sexual abuse occurring within families. First, the project will highlight, but not discuss in-depth, child marriage which is one of the main forms of child sexual abuse. Second, this project will address incest. Sexual abuse by a family member can result in more serious and long-term psychological trauma, especially in the case of parental incest. Third, this thesis will address molestation. Most child molesters are able to molest dozens of children before they are caught. Fourth, this thesis will address rape. There are three types of rape: anger, power, and sadistic. While human sex trafficking is a major dilemma throughout the United States and other countries, this project will highlight the topic, but not discuss it in depth. Three constituent elements of human sex trafficking are: the act, the means and the purpose.

Theoretical Basis for Project

Christians as well as non-Christians have a moral responsibility to address child sexual abuse. Pastors are at liberty to serve as counseling agents in assisting with the epidemic of child sexual abuse. Therefore, Christian pastors are responsible for spreading hope through the good news which is the gospel of Jesus Christ to all men, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.”³

As with all states, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia statutes address those that are mandatory reporters of child sexual abuse allegations. While state statutes may differ in interpretation, pastors should also consider their ethical and moral obligation when determining

³ Titus 2:11-12. Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are in the *English Standard Version*.

how to proceed with allegations of child sexual abuse. The loyalty should always be to the child, making the child's safety a priority.

It is sin and a crime to take advantage of any child sexually. Child sexual abuse is a violation, a criminal act, and it goes against biblical teaching, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea."⁴

As this thesis focuses on helping victims of child sexual abuse, and offenders who cause child sexual abuse, pastors, as well as the community at large, are to "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."⁵ Each child deserves to be safe from harm, danger and abuse. Should they become subjected to sexual violations, they should have access to a responsible adult in which he or she is able to report the abuse, and expect action to be taken to protect them.

This investigation benefits both the academic community and Christian ministry field because sexual abuse is a nationwide epidemic that affects households throughout the United States. The public needs to be thoroughly and properly educated with verifiable research facts, as well as biblical instruction and guidance in relation to this topic. Sexual abuse is not a respecter of persons. It occurs in the homes of people in general, whether academically inclined or not, rich or poor, nor does it discriminate based on ethnicity. Sexual abuse does not take the various faiths into consideration, nor does the act escape those with ministry titles or leadership professions. The evil act of sexual abuse preys on the weak, takes advantage of the innocent and damages and destroys their innocence.

⁴ Mark 9:42.

⁵ Hebrews 13:3.

In some cases, the victim and the offender are fighting a similar battle. With that battle, the victim who was innocent has now been victimized. The offender who has abused was more than likely sexually abused as a child. The victim and the offender whether in recovery or not, are all fighting a battle within. Regardless of their situation, they each have a measure of pain and they each may experience some form of judgment. This judgment often prohibits the victim and the offender from receiving restoration or it slows down the process for restoration. The root cause of sexual abuse, regardless to where it attaches itself, is evil: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”⁶

Statement of Methodology

This thesis project was approached through research: reading books, journals, articles and surveys. Just as there has been relevant historical data on addictions and types of abuse, there is also historical, documented information for child sexual abuse, tracing back to biblical times. In providing proper tools and resources, just as with alcohol and drug addiction, gambling and any other addiction, offenders will be informed of the physical and psychological damages of child sexual abuse caused by their actions, as well as firsthand knowledge of the consequences of their actions. They will have informative information as to where to go for help and healing to prevent them from carrying out the act of sexual abuse or repeating the sexual abuse.

This project will use biblical perspectives to demonstrate the power of healing, restoration, and recovery concerning child sexual abuse. This project will answer questions such as: What does God say about child sexual abuse? Why is evil allowed? How should it be handled in the church? Report it or don't? Confidentiality? Taking sides between the abuser and the abused?

⁶ Romans 12:21.

A brief survey was sent to pastors to discover the need for resources in the church concerning child sexual abuse. The survey did not seek to find any correlation between denominations. It did seek to reveal a need in churches throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. The result of the survey is included within the project along with a copy of the instrument.

The proposed design for this project is laid out in the introduction, chapters one through five, and the conclusion. As men, women, and children have suffered silently for years as a result of sexual abuse, not only does the victim suffer, but the abuser suffers, and the cycle continues. These five chapters will discuss Perpetrators/Abusers/Child Molesters: How do they target children? Incest vs. strangers, pedophilia, statistics and studies about what the molesters are saying they do and why. These chapters will also bring awareness in: recognizing a molester; issues they deal with; past history of sexual abuse; and intervention for the molesters. What works to help them? What do they need?

The introduction seeks to highlight the urgency in having open discussion about child sexual abuse in order to break the cycle of sexual abuse. This overview will examine the relevance of child sexual abuse, as it is not just a ministry concern but a social problem. From this meaningful investigation will be resources for the victim, the offender, and the church. One hundred churches throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia will be surveyed in order to determine if they are in need of resources regarding sexual abuse within their churches.

This thesis overview will provide in depth research concerning child sexual abuse occurring within families. The areas of discussion are incest, molestation, and rape. This thesis will not provide in depth discussion on child marriage and human sex trafficking, but will highlight each topic.

This overview will address the ethical and moral obligation of pastors, and the legal responsibility of mandatory reporters. It will provide state statutes to benefit the academic community as well as the Christian ministry field. Biblical and scholarly perspectives will be addressed in order to break the cycle of sexual abuse.

Chapter one will begin the conversation of breaking the cycle of abuse. Destroying the silence of sexual abuse is the beginning of breaking the cycle. In this project there will be conversations, along with historical data and statistics, which is the beginning of tackling the unspoken truth of child sexual abuse. This project will address child sexual abuse, which includes the history/background, the definitions, and the effects of it. Why is it a problem? How many people suffer? Medical, psychological, and physical effects will also be included.

Chapter two will provide perspectives from victims and offenders, which are geared toward providing answers, solutions and healing. Abuse goes far beyond the actual act, and causes physical, emotional, and psychological concerns. This project will investigate and encourage open discussion, address the abuse, and give valuable insight to the causes and consequences of sexual abuse. It will include information found through research concerning recovering offenders who are willing to share their experiences in an effort to get to the root cause of sexual abuse.

Chapter three will offer prescriptive measures to all parties involved (the victim and the abuser) in an effort to heal and stop sexual abuse. This is an awareness chapter, which offers tips and guides to follow, to stay, or remain safe.

Chapter four will provide preventative measures to all parties involved in an effort to alleviate the risk of sexual abuse and to stop offenders from becoming repeat offenders. Concerning prevention programs, this project will talk about: What works that we need to

continue? What has been done in the past that did not work? What is Stranger Danger and what school based prevention programs are being used? This chapter will also seek to find out what parents want in the prevention programs. Parents cannot be afraid to talk to their children. They should become educated parents and start at a young age talking to their children. This chapter will also offer insight into what molesters of children say will be good for prevention, as well as what has stopped them from abusing in the past.

Chapter five will address breaking the cycle of silence, as well as the cycle of abuse. The result from the survey will be included in this chapter. It will provide information from research through one hundred surveys to churches throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. From this research, a practical guide for helping abusers break the cycle will be formulated. The solution will be reached through churches, leaders and parents taking a proactive role in talking openly about child sexual abuse, standing up for the rights of children, recognizing the signs of abuse, and by refusing to turn a deaf ear and blind eye to abuse.

The conclusion addresses the legal, therapeutic and pastoral response to child sexual abuse. Within the results of this investigation clear definitions of sexual abuse are provided. Churches and pastors are admonished to provide church-based ministry or referrals to other ministries for people with sexual addictions. Policies and guidelines are made available to equip churches in assisting victims and offenders with sexual abuse recovery.

Review of Literature

Bible

Proverbs 4:23

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”⁷

The heart of every man is the core of his actions. It is important for every person to guard their heart in such a way as to not allow negative or sinful thoughts or deeds to enter the heart. For everything he or she does comes from the heart, be it good or bad.

Romans 13:14

“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”⁸

Christians are to live by biblical instruction that set the standards for bringing the flesh under subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ. As those in a fallen or sinful state accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and adhere to His commands, obey His teaching, submit to Him, all of his or her fleshly desires must come under the blood of Jesus. He or she must integrate these things into their lives and deny their flesh, seeking rather to glorify God with their bodies, hearts and souls, and through their lives in an effort to not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

James 5:19-20

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”⁹

Pastors, ministers, and leaders have been given a great responsibility and are put in a position to

⁷ Proverbs 4:23.

⁸ Romans 13:14.

⁹ James 5:19-20.

lead others, bringing sinners back from his or her wandering. While it is a monumental responsibility, it is also an incredible reward being used as an agent to lead others from a sinful state to redemption through Christ.

Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”¹⁰

The world has standards for everything, and not all of those standards are representative of our Lord Jesus Christ. All have been subject to temptation at some point which caused them to act, react, or respond to various situations in various ways. Victims and offenders must rely on God in order to overcome temptations, moving from the world’s standards to God’s standards. The will of God is the safest and only perfect place to be or exist. Without an intimate relationship with God, lasting change will not occur.

Jeremiah 22:3

“Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.”¹¹

It is time for pastors and leaders to attend to matters of justice, and allow God to use them to set things right between people. Victims are to be rescued from their exploiters.

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”¹²

¹⁰ Romans 12:2.

¹¹ Jeremiah 22:3.

It is important to keep a firm grip on the faith. The enemy seeks to devour, but God, the advocate, brings the victory.

Psalms 11:5

“The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.”¹³

Evildoers are in for a rude awakening, both on earth and beyond earth. The eyes of God are taking everything in and none can escape.

Titus 2:11-12

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.”¹⁴

God is a forgiving God. Now is the time for all to receive the opportunity of Grace. God makes it possible for men and women to turn their backs on the godless, indulgent life, and in exchange, take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice to free all from a dark, rebellious life into a good, pure life.

Luke 6:28

“Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.”¹⁵

Enemies are often designed to bring out the best in people. There is liberty in walking in forgiveness. It means that total trust has been given over to God. It frees God to work amazing miracles in the lives of His children, and opens doors they were not aware were shut.

Matthew 25:40

¹² 1 Peter 5:8.

¹³ Psalms 11:5.

¹⁴ Titus 2:11-12.

¹⁵ Luke 6:28.

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me.”¹⁶

The love God has for His children is immeasurable. Abusing a child, ignoring or overlooking a child who has been sexually abused or suffering as a result of sexual abuse, is equivalent to abusing, ignoring and overlooking God.

Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”¹⁷

Everyone has free will, but depending on how that free will is utilized determines the ultimate destiny of a person. Choosing to operate in the works of the flesh has costly consequences including the very inheritance of the Kingdom of God. What an individual chooses to do on earth may cost him or her eternal life.

Hebrews 13:3

“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.”¹⁸

Standing up for justice should be as urgent as if it were a family member or as if it happened to an individual personally. All should be concerned when any person is victimized.

2 Samuel 13:10-15

¹⁶ Matthew 25:40.

¹⁷ Galatians 5:19-21.

¹⁸ Hebrews 13:3.

“Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand.” So Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, “Come, lie with me, my sister.” She answered him, “No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you will be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you.” But he would not listen to her; and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, “Get up! Go!”¹⁹

Incest is never justified. It is and has always been wrong. Often families decide to keep incestuous matters private. The family secret breeds internal damage physically and emotionally. Bitterness, guilt, and shame often accompany incestuous abuse.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”²⁰

Pastors should know without a doubt that God is able to restore any broken person. There is hope for everyone.

1 John 3:8

“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”²¹

Those habitually practicing sin have to be willing to move from sickness and sin to healing and holiness.

Proverbs 28:5

¹⁹ 2 Samuel 13:10-15.

²⁰ 1 John 1:9.

²¹ 1 John 3:8.

“Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.”²²

It is a dangerous state to be in when sin has is unbridled and there is an unwillingness to change. For such people, demonic forces have gained entry, causing deception that is detrimental to the person, as well as to others. This activity causes the individual to operate with blinders, as darkness surrounds them.

Deuteronomy 30:11-19

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.”²³

Free will offers voluntary choices; the Bible does not forfeit laying out options, instructions or guidelines for life. Free will is definitely a choice. God gives each person the option to choose the good life and receive the attached blessings, or choose the evil life and receive the attached curse.²⁴

Books

²² Proverbs 28:5.

²³ Deuteronomy 30:11-19.

²⁴ See Appendix D for Thirteen Other Biblical References.

Susan A. Clancy's book, *The Trauma Myth: The Truth about the Sexual Abuse of Children--And Its Aftermath* provides in-depth information about the trauma myth and the truth about the sexual abuse of children, and its aftermath.²⁵ This book will aid in understanding the cycle of abuse and the effects on the victims. Clancy outlines the experiences of sexual abuse victims such as: What the abuse was like when it happened; the truth about the abuse; the politics of sexual abuse; why the trauma myth damages victims; and how the trauma myth silences victims. Clancy portrays the reality of sexual abuse, the personality of the people who were abused, the complex interpersonal dynamics they faced both at the time of the abuse and in the aftermath, and the multitude of ways these crimes affect them throughout the course of their lives.

Tilman Furniss provides a wealth of information in the, *Multiprofessional Handbook of Child Sexual Abuse: Integrated Management, Therapy, and Legal Intervention*.²⁶ The scope of information within this handbook ranges from the individual process, family process, family and professional network, primary therapeutic network, preparation for disclosure and treatment issues. This book will be used within the thesis project to show the principle ways and basic concepts in dealing with child sexual abuse and intervention. Moreover, this book will address some of the countless obstacles for helping sexually abused children and their families.

Virginia M. Kendall and T. Markus Funk explores, *Child Exploitation and Trafficking*:

²⁵ Susan A. Clancy, *The Trauma Myth: The Truth about the Sexual Abuse of Children--And Its Aftermath* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2009), 22.

²⁶ Tilman Furniss, *The Multiprofessional Handbook of Child Sexual Abuse: Integrated Management, Therapy, and Legal Intervention* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2013), 5.

Examining the Global Challenges and U.S. Responses.²⁷ This book benefits the research as it talks about the impact of international organized crime groups on Child Trafficking and other forms of Sexual Exploitation. It defines who victims of trafficking are, as well as provides a closer look at the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. This information provokes public awareness of the Sex Traveler and how the traveler lures victims.

Karen A. Duncan's book, *Female Sexual Predators: Understanding Them to Protect Our Children and Youths* highlights the female sexual predator in an effort to protect children and youth.²⁸ This book will spot light female perpetrators and move the reader beyond gender stereotypes concerning child sexual abuse. The information is geared to changing the perspective and relinquishing the iconic image of the mother. Understanding female sexual offending will also assist victims within this thesis.

Justin S. Holcomb and Lindsey A. Holcomb's book, *Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and Healing for Victims of Sexual Assault* deals with the disgrace of Sexual Assault.²⁹ This book is helpful in that it defines sexual assault, and deals with the effects of sexual assault. The book was written to offer accessible, gospel-based help, hope, and healing for the victims.

Frances P. Reddington and Betsy Wright Kreisel delve into, *Sexual Assault: The Victims, the Perpetrators, and the Criminal Justice System*, the trauma of Sexual Assault, providing an overview of the crime, the victim's response, and the unacknowledged victim.³⁰

²⁷ Virginia M. Kendall and T. Markus Funk, *Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining the Global Challenges and U.S. Responses* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2012)

²⁸ Karen A. Duncan, *Female Sexual Predators: Understanding Them to Protect Our Children and Youths Forensic psychology* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2010), 1.

²⁹ Justin S. Holcomb and Lindsey A. Holcomb, *Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and Healing for Victims of Sexual Assault* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011), 28.

³⁰ Frances P. Reddington and Betsy Wright Kreisel, *Sexual Assault: The Victims, the Perpetrators, and the Criminal Justice System* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005), 226.

This book offers a comprehensive discussion of sex crime offenders. Reddington and Kreisel provide overviews of the various components of the criminal justice system, and the legislative response to sexual assault.

Adele D. Jones sheds light in her book, *Understanding Child Sexual Abuse: Perspectives from the Caribbean*.³¹ This author brings awareness to the effects of sexual abuse and introduces the abuse as ‘invisible scars’ which survivors often carry throughout their lives. This book is useful as it addresses the revolving doors of Child Sexual Abuse perpetration and the level of harm and mediating influences.

Judith Lewis Herman’s book on *Father-Daughter Incest* unfolds the incestuous secret and looks at the common occurrence, the question of harm, blame and the rule of the father.³² This book has vital information for professionals in the areas of mental health, child protective services, law, and law enforcement, who regularly encounter cases of father-daughter incest. Herman reviews the social responses to discovered incest, including crisis intervention, family treatment, and prosecution.

Beverly Ogilvie provides a guide for helping professionals address *Mother-Daughter Incest: A Guide for Helping Professionals*.³³ This book provides descriptions of the phenomenon of mother-daughter incest and expands knowledge about the differing dynamics entailed in the incest relationship based on the gender of the abuser. Ogilvie primarily emphasizes the victims’

³¹ Adele D. Jones, *Understanding Child Sexual Abuse: Perspectives from the Caribbean* (London, N1: Palgrave McMillian, 2013), 1.

³² Judith Lewis Herman, *Father-Daughter Incest* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012), 67.

³³ Beverly Ogilvie, *Mother-Daughter Incest: A Guide for Helping Professionals* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2012), 4.

perceptions and reactions to their experiences of incest at the hands of their mothers. Common themes among daughters and mothers are discussed.

Rachel B. Vogelstein efforts are focused on, *Ending Child Marriage: How Elevating the Status of Girls Advances U.S. Foreign Policy Objectives*.³⁴ The book helps to bring attention to child marriage in hopes of finding resolution. Vogelstein's presentation of suggestions, recommendations and solutions are instrumental in ending child marriage in the United States and abroad.

James D. Benish's book, *Protectus Prol: A Handbook* provides information on how to tell if your child has been victimized. The book is intended to arm mothers with information about how to protect their children from child molesters.³⁵ Benish provides clear information about pedophiles and how to recognize who they are. This book helps in the thesis project as it identifies the types of molesters and distinguishes between the predatory child molester and the sophisticated molester.

Shana L. Maier's book, *Rape, Victims and Investigation: Experiences and Perceptions of Law Enforcement Officers Responding to Reported Rapes*, explores the experiences of detectives who respond to and investigate reported rapes and their perceptions of rape, and rape victims, rape investigations, and case processing through the criminal justice and legal systems.³⁶ This information covers vicious trauma and organizational challenges. Maier research provides knowledge of the three components for a crime to occur. This book draws attention to a list of

³⁴ Rachel B. Vogelstein, *Ending Child Marriage: How Elevating the Status of Girls Advances U.S. Foreign Policy Objectives* (New York, NY: Council on Foreign Relations, 2013), 20.

³⁵ James D. Benish, *Protectus Prol: A Handbook* (Tempe, AZ: Codefore, Publishing. 2009), 43.

³⁶ Shana L. Maier, *Rape, Victims and Investigation: Experiences and Perceptions of Law Enforcement Officers Responding to Reported Rapes* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2014), 36.

key players important to the processing of rape cases and ultimately the recovering of rape victims.

Frances P. Bernat's book on *Human Sex Trafficking* will explore sex trafficking from the perspective that understanding its causes requires attention to global conditions while responding to it requires attention to local laws, policies and practices.³⁷ This book will support the thesis investigation as it addresses the complexities of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Bernat differentiates between human trafficking from sex work, and illegal immigration.

Pat Hoertdoerfer and Fredric John Muir explain *The Safe Congregation Handbook: Nurturing Healthy Boundaries in our Faith Communities*. This book teaches how to balance compassion and protection.³⁸ Information in this book can be used with recovering offenders in the Church. Hoertdoerfer and Muir addresses reporting policies, and requirements for the congregation.

In Steven R. Tracy's book, *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse*, insightful information is provided to mend the soul through understanding abuse.³⁹ This book discusses abuse as a perversion of the image of God. It profiles abusers and portraits of abusive families. Tracy shares the shame, powerlessness, deadness, and isolation facing the brokenness of abuse.

³⁷ Frances P. Bernat, *Human Sex Trafficking* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2013), 3.

³⁸ Pat Hoertdoerfer and Fredric John Muir (*The Safe Congregation Handbook: Nurturing Healthy Boundaries in our Faith Communities*, United States: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2005), 5.

³⁹ Steven R. Tracy, *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009).

Richard G. Wright wrote about *Sex Offender Laws, Failed Policies, and New Directions*.⁴⁰ Wright gives a brief history of major sex offender laws, sex offender registration and community notification. This book will benefit the research as it deals with the problem of sexual assault.

Margaret C. Harrell and Laura Werber Castaneda designed a manual entitled, *A Compendium of Sexual Assault Research* that features not only the physical and emotional harm resulting from the incident itself but also the physical and mental issues associated with recovery, including difficulties.⁴¹ The book lends to the thesis project as it discusses the perpetrator risk factors. The study also explored other risk factors such as alcohol use.

J. V. Fenner addresses *Sex Offenders: Management, Treatment, and Bibliography*.⁴² This book provides an overview of the dynamics and key issues warranting attention when considering reunification and preservation with sex offenders as part of a broader, more comprehensive approach to sex offender management. This book supports the research for recovering offenders.

Nancy Nason-Clark, Barbara Fisher-Townsend and Victoria Fahlberg provide resources through their book, *Strengthening Families and Ending Abuse: Churches and Their Leaders Look to the Future* in an effort to strengthen families and end abuse.⁴³ This book challenges

⁴⁰ Richard G. Wright, *Sex Offender Laws: Failed Policies, New Directions* (New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2009), 112.

⁴¹ Margaret C. Harrell and Laura Werber Castaneda, *A Compendium of Sexual Assault Research* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2009), 25.

⁴² J. V. Fenner, *Sex Offenders: Management, Treatment, and Bibliography* (Hauppauge, NY: Nova Publishers, 2008), 3.

⁴³ Nancy Nason-Clark, Barbara Fisher-Townsend and Victoria Fahlberg, *Strengthening Families and Ending Abuse: Churches and Their Leaders Look to the Future* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013), 165.

congregations, their leaders, and the men, women, and youth who faithfully support them to consider their personal role in bringing peace within all homes. The information is useful to churches in the fight to end abuse.

Mark Umbriet and Marilyn Peterson Armour present a research tool for *Restorative Justice Dialogue: An Essential Guide for Research and Practice*.⁴⁴ This book provides an overview which seeks to bring people together to address the harm caused by crime, through empowerment of those involved. Restorative justice offers a very different way of understanding and responding to crime. This information will benefit the thesis project as it involves the victim in resolving the conflict.

Edmond J. Coleman and Margretta Dwyer offer a variety of information through, *Sex Offender Treatment: Psychological and Medical Approaches*.⁴⁵ This book offers a cautionary note to those who provide therapy for sex offenders. Coleman and Dwyer discuss treatment techniques and the public perception of sex offender treatment. This information serves to educate the church on the treatment of offenders.

Paul Stryker shares *Confessions of a Sex Offender*.⁴⁶ This book seeks to understand why offenders indulge in unhealthy behavior. Stryker Relapse Prevention Plan is considered a living document as it continues to evolve and change over time. Relapse Prevention Plan is designed to aid the offender in recognizing their trouble signs and help them counteract any deviant thoughts or behavior.

⁴⁴ Mark Umbriet and Marilyn Peterson Armour, *Restorative Justice Dialogue: An Essential Guide for Research and Practice* (New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2010)

⁴⁵ Edmond J. Coleman and Margretta Dwyer, *Sex Offender Treatment: Psychological and Medical Approaches* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2014).

⁴⁶ Paul Stryker, *Confessions of a Sex Offender* (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2014), 60.

Journals

Henry Giarretto's journal abstract and research on child abuse and neglect will benefit the project concerning a father-daughter incestuous relationship.⁴⁷ It addresses the damaging effects to the victim, the offender and the entire family, both during the sexual phase and after it ends. Giarretto prefers reaching more offenders with a resource for help rather than punishment for sexually abusive families. Giarretto estimates more than quarter million children are being molested in their own homes each year and most of the molestation would stop if a Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program (CSATP) were established in every community in the country. This journal offers a possible start to a solution from professionals in the community, as well as discusses the process, treatment and returning home of abused children. It lists a creed and offers insight in regard to getting started, and ways to help within the groups to empower people.

Michele Elliot's journal abstract and research on child sexual abuse prevention benefits as Elliot includes information gathered through interviews with offenders, how they select and recruit victims as well as the strategies they use.⁴⁸ It outlines the first move made in child sexual abuse, offender's feelings and concerns about abuse, and offender's comments relevant for children and parents about preventing child sexual abuse, what parents, teachers and schools need to know and should do, as well as what some abusers want.

Slavka Karkoskova's journal on a pastoral perspective of the approach to the offender provides a three dimensional approach to child sexual abuse for the offender: legal, therapeutic,

⁴⁷ Henry Giarretto, "A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program," *Child Abuse and Neglect* 6, no. 3 (May 29, 2002): 263-278. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0145213482900291>

⁴⁸ Michele Elliot, K. Browne and J. Kilcoyne, "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us," *Child Abuse and Neglect* 19, no. 5 (May 1995): 579-594. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/014521349500017>

and pastoral.⁴⁹ This journal addresses conditions for a sex offender's probation, the cycle, triggers of sex offenders, moral analysis, pastoral analysis and response to child sexual abuse—which deals with remorse, repentance, resolution and reconciliation. The author deals with child sexual abuse ethically and addresses the importance of reporting child sexual abuse.

Deborah Daro's journal on child sexual abuse prevention addresses when child sexual abuse can occur, what to do and what is not enough to do to prevent child sexual abuse.⁵⁰ What can be done and who should be targeted when working towards prevention? Daro further addresses other scenarios: what has been done historically, referencing common primary, secondary and tertiary prevention strategies, what the prevention process has done and needs to do more of to reach more people, the pros and cons to assisting the offender, and publicizing information for the victim.

Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) is the primary source of federal law addressing child abuse. Alison's journal offers information about child sexual abuse and the law.⁵¹ In the nineteenth century, the most common form of abuse was intrafamilial, or, incest. This journal also addresses Definitional Controversies, Children's Advocacy Centers, the Prosecution Problem, and Slipping through Incest Loopholes.

Susan L. Ray's journal regarding male survivors of sexual abuse shows how understanding the after effects of incest and other forms of sexual abuse from the male survivor's

⁴⁹ Slavka Karkoskova. Phd, "Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender: Pastoral Perspective," *Slovakia E-Theologos*, 3, no. 1 (May 2013): 82-95. Accessed January 4, 2014. [http://www.degruyter.com/dg/viewarticle.fullcontentlink:pdfeventlink/\\$002...](http://www.degruyter.com/dg/viewarticle.fullcontentlink:pdfeventlink/$002...)

⁵⁰ Daro. "Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse," 198-223.

⁵¹ Alison Adams, "Seen But Not heard: Child Sexual Abuse, Incest and the Law in the United States," *Journal of Law & Family Studies* 11, no. 2 (2009): 543-598. <http://epubs.utah.edu/index.php/jlfs/article/view/233/0>

perspective may help clinicians identify males with a possible history of sexual abuse.⁵² The after effects consist of social, psychological/emotional, physical, sexual, familial, sense of self, relation to men, and relation to women. The journal also provides data analysis.

Jon A. Shaw and John et al journal regarding child sexual abuse by other children addresses characteristics of the sexually abused child and characteristics of the sexual abuse. It also deals with clinical implications.⁵³ The clinical ramifications of this study suggest children, sexually abused by other children, experience comparable levels of emotional and behavioral problems to those abused by adults, and deserve the full range of investigatory and therapeutic services available to those victimized by adults.

Rebecca M. Bolen's journal on child sexual abuse prevention suggests that preventative programs should be coupled with other programs to better protect children from sexual abuse, seeing as prevention programs are not successful on their own.⁵⁴ It also suggests that potential offenders are more appropriate targets of prevention programs. It promotes school-based programs, which in essence, promote healthy relationship patterns to aid in building social skills of children. This journal article compares the existing victim-based paradigm with the proposed potential healthy relationship paradigm along the following domains: underlying assumptions, orientation, method, and goals.

Articles

⁵² Susan L. Ray, "Male Survivor's Perspective of Incest/Sexual Abuse," *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care* 37, no. 2 (April-June 2001): 49-59. Accessed January 4, 2014. <https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-75608414/male-survivors-perspectives-of-incest-sexual-abuse>

⁵³ Jon A. Shaw, John et al., "Child on Child Sexual Abuse: Psychological Perspectives," *Child Abuse & Neglect* 24, no. 12 (April 2000): 1591-1600. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S014521340000212X>

⁵⁴ Rebecca M. Bolen, "Child Sexual Abuse: Prevention or Promotion?" *Social Work* 48, no. 2 (April 2003): 174-85. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

An article by Bhagwan A. Bahroo addresses statistics, defines pedophilia, provides graphic descriptions of types of crimes against children, physiological factors, cognitive factors, affective state, personality factors, incest, legal concerns, and treatment issues.⁵⁵

An article by Barbara Cole in *The Daily News* talks about how an offender hoodwinked child psychologists into believing he was innocent.⁵⁶ A molester who managed to pull the wool over the eyes of the experts also disclosed that “Once an offender sets his sights on a particular victim, it can’t be stopped: it is going to happen. The child will have no defense to protect herself or himself.” Naidoo, director of Childline, with vast experience in child psychology, can recognize the behavior of a child victim, even though the offender denies it. “There is no cure,” Naidoo said. “You can only teach people how to manage their behavior.”⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Bhagwan A. Bahroo, “Pedophilia,” *Psychiatric Insights*. Family Court Review (2003).

⁵⁶ Barbara Cole, “Child Abusers Talk.” *The Daily News*, September 24, 2012. Accessed January 4,, 2014. <http://www.iol.co.za>

⁵⁷ Ibid.

CHAPTER 1

LET THE CONVERSATION BEGIN

According to authors Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, "The greatest emotional trauma is to experience sexual abuse at the hands of a family member, friend or stranger."¹

Sexual abuse violates the individual on every level. Women, men, girls and boys have a right to be free from sexual abuse. Each has a right to maintain their virginity until they choose to give it away. Each has a right to choose their sexual partners when the time is appropriate. No one has the right to rob anyone else of their dignity, trust, or innocence.

An individual's need for power, control, status, or sex has no justifiable or legal authority to force themselves upon another person for self-gain, self-satisfaction or self-gratification. The act of sexual abuse is both ethically and morally wrong. No victim of incest, molestation, rape, sexual assault or any type of sexual abuse warrants such a degrading act. No offender of incest, molestation, rape, sexual assault or any type of sexual abuse is ever justified.

Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect. Every year, more than three million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving more than six million children (a report can include multiple children). The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations, losing on average, between four and seven children every day to child abuse and neglect.² While pastors are typically focused on their adult membership with the alarming statistics of child abuse and neglect in the United States alone, they can play a vital role in the life of children. If one child is spared from abuse, their

¹ Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, *Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse*. National Child Abuse Statistics and Facts. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.childhelp.org>

² Ibid.

involvement is crucial. Pastors who invest in the everyday life of a child are capable of impacting society as a whole.

Child sexual abuse is one of the most pervasive social problems faced by this society. Unfortunately, even today, it is all too common, and has affected entirely too many children. One child is too many. The severity of the trauma brought to the lives of children and adults who have experienced this crime is massive. Historically, however, the sexual abuse of children was dismissed as a “family problem.” Within the past decade, it has been addressed by a sometimes reluctant criminal justice system. It is only in more recent years the profession of mental health has begun to understand child sexual abuse, not only as a criminal justice problem, but also as a mental health concern. This realization has been unavoidable as clinicians have repeatedly seen the manifestation of sexual abuse in the lives of their clients.³ By pastors taking a clear stand against child abuse, this can serve to break the cycle of child abuse within the membership of the local church bodies. When pastors view child sexual abuse as a kingdom concern, as opposed to a family problem stemming from a mental health, more children will be free from the bondage of child sexual abuse.

According to author Susan A. Clancy, “Sexual abuse is a significant factor for a wide range of adult psychological problems and disorders.” Clancy’s research among adult victims of childhood sexual abuse showed common themes. Almost every victim reported that their childhood sexual experiences had damaged them. They believed that what happened to them had negatively affected their lives and their relationships with others. Many reported they did not

³ Child Sexual Abuse: A Mental Health Issue? The Division of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services, Department for Human Support Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, (August 2005). <http://www.chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonoyres/0D6B2450-8D63-4853-8BB3-AE33185F9356/0/ChildSexualAbuseAMentalHealthIssue.htm>

remember their sexual abuse, which is known as alleged repression.⁴ It is safe to say some victims remember their abuse while others may only remember if there is a trigger which brings back memories.

Sexual abuse is the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents in sexual activities they do not fully comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent, or that violate the social taboos of family roles.⁵ Sexual abuse is any act designed to stimulate a child sexually, or to use a child for the sexual stimulation, either of the perpetrator or of another person. It includes both touching offenses (fondling or sexual intercourse) and non-touching offenses (exposing a child to pornographic materials) and can involve varying degrees of violence and emotional trauma. The most commonly reported cases involve incest: sexual abuse occurring among family members, including those in biological families, adoptive families, and step-families.⁶ There is an urgency to break the cycle of child sexual abuse. While all cases of abuse are equally important, an area pastors can begin to tackle is incest. Because incest involves families, pastors can seize the opportunity to bring families together for counseling, and providing resources to aid in healing and restoration.

There are many definitions of sexual abuse. The legal profession, however, has focused primarily on the perpetrator's behavior and not with the state of mind, because the perpetrator can be prosecuted only on the basis of his behavior. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment

⁴ Susan A. Clancy, *The Trauma Myth: The Truth about the Sexual Abuse of Children--And Its Aftermath* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2009), 22.

⁵ Zentralbl.Gynakol, *Genital Findings in Sexually Abused Prepubertal Girls*. *PubMed*, 123(10), 562-567 (2001). Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11753810>

⁶ United States, *Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2003). Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.childwelfare.gov>

and Adoption Reform Act (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106(g)(4), for example, defines sexual abuse for the purposes of that act as including the following: Employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or rape, and in cases of a caretaker or intra-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other forms of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.⁷ While the victim should never be neglected, as pastors seek to break the cycle of child sexual abuse, the perpetrator can offer tremendous insight on his or her behavior.

Physicians who have been influential in the identification of child abuse, define sexual abuse more broadly as the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents in sexual activities that they do not fully comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent, or that violate the social taboos of family roles. The focus in this definition is on the victim.⁸ Not only should the definition of sexual abuse focus on the victim, but it should provoke those of the legal profession, those in positions of authority, and pastors alike to also focus on the victim. Children need more advocates and responsible adults to take a stand against what is wrong, especially concerning the innocent.

Author Tilman Furniss says, “Underlying most normative definitions, is the notion that sexual relationships between adults and children constitute child abuse because sexual relationships should only be formed free will and out of free choice without coercion. In addition, both sexual partners need to be able to give full and informed consent to any sexual act in which they get involved.”⁹

⁷ Bahroo, “Pedophilia,” 2003.

⁸ Ruth S. Kempe and C. Henry Kempe (1978); Bhagwan A. Bahroo, “Pedophilia.” *Psychiatric Insights*. Family Court Review (2003). Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com>

⁹ Tilman Furniss, *The Multiprofessional Handbook of Child Sexual Abuse: Integrated Management, Therapy, and Legal Intervention* (New York, NY: Routledge 2013), 5.

Authors Kendall and Funk define three types of offenders: The Situational, Preferential and Commercial Offender. The situational offender reminds what the common public might label the “stranger danger.” This is the offender who acts out on his sexual urges by grabbing a child at an opportune time, molesting the child, and then escaping. There is no long-term grooming involved, no long-term captivity, and the event often takes place where the offender can have easy access and escape.

The preferential child exploiter has an inherent sexual drive to gain sexual pleasure from, or through, children, whereas, the commercial child exploiter is motivated by a desire for financial gain. All three types of offenders are equally committing a criminal act. None of these offenders are taking into consideration the damage being done to the child.

Sexual crimes are among the most disturbing acts committed by one human being against another. Author Karen A. Duncan says, “Historically, there have been less acknowledgment and little attention given to females who commit sexual crimes even though females have been documented as committing sexual offenses as early as the 1930s.”¹⁰ Research shows that females commit the same types of sexual crimes as males do. Such crimes are sexual stalking, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, and child sexual abuse.

According to Duncan, females represent 7 percent of all reported arrests for sexual offenses against people 12 years and older, placing the number of victims of female sexual offending at approximately 14,265 victims during 2008.¹¹ The statistics are astonishing. Pastors should not overlook women as offenders when allegations are brought. Nor should they minimize the abuse simply because of gender.

¹⁰ Virginia M. Kendall and T. Markus Funk, *Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining the Global Challenges and U.S. Responses* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2012), 46.

¹¹ Karen A. Duncan, *Female Sexual Predators: Understanding Them to Protect Our Children and Youths Forensic psychology* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2010), 1.

Sexual Crimes Against Children

Additional confusion arises out of the misuse of different terminology by different disciplines. The term *child sexual abuse* is not universally accepted and is frequently interchanged with *molestation*, *sexual exploitation*, *sexual misuse*, and *sexual assault*. Rather than referring to any specific type of sexual behavior, the term sexual abuse may mean *exhibitionism*, *genital manipulation*, *intercourse*, or *child pornography*. An operational definition of a sexual crime against a child could be stated as the “exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult.” Under this definition, the abuse may be touching (contact) or non-touching (non-contact) type and would include looking at a child who is undressing or undressed (voyeurism), exposing oneself to children or masturbating in the presence of a child (exhibitionism), gentle touching of or rubbing against a child (frotteurism) or fondling, performing fellatio or cunnilingus on a child (sodomy), or penetrating a child’s vagina, mouth, or anus with fingers, foreign objects, or penis (rape).¹²

Though the above descriptions of types of crimes against children may seem graphic, they are equally graphic and devastating to the child subjected to the abuse. Author Rebecca Bolen says, “However the term child sexual abuse is defined, the definition alone shows the sneakiness and devious ways in which sexual crimes are committed against children whether subtle or aggressive. These sexual crimes damage the child in multiple ways. It causes

¹² R.M. Bolen, *Child sexual abuse: Prevention or promotion? Social Work*, 48, no.2 (2003): 174- 185. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

tremendous damage to the esteem of the child, creates trust issues, among many other disturbing realities.”¹³

Authors Justin and Lindsey Holcomb say, “Slight changes in the definition and perception of sexual assault can change whether a person is considered a victim or not.”¹⁴ For reasons of simplification, textbooks generally classify sexual abuse of children as intrafamilial or extrafamilial, based on the relation of the perpetrator to the victim. It is estimated that 30% of child sexual abuse is intrafamilial, and 70% is extrafamilial.¹⁵ Perpetrators of extrafamilial abuse are: strangers, acquaintances, friends of the family or the child, romantic/sexual partners of parents and authority figures. Perpetrators of intrafamilial abuse are: parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles and cousins.

Intrafamilial abuse is the primary target of the project. This abuse is often more private as a result of the victim being in a controlled atmosphere where he or she is easily dominated due to the offender’s private access. Though the voluminous amounts of research and resources may not have effectively impacted homes enough to change the atmosphere of incest, a wealth of knowledge has been presented that has the potential to break the cycle entirely, if placed in the right hands.¹⁶ Thus, this thesis strategically targets pastors of all faiths, denominations, and ethnicities. It charges, challenges and provokes every pastor to get involved in this societal epidemic. Providing churches with easy access to help, guidance and solutions will in essence trickle down to families represented within the churches.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Justin S. Holcomb and Lindsey A. Holcomb, *Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and Healing for Victims of Sexual Assault* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011), 28.

¹⁵ R.M. Bolen, *Child sexual abuse: Prevention or promotion? Social Work*, 48, no.2 (2003): 174- 185. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

¹⁶ Ibid.

The pastor is instrumental in the lives of his or her congregants as he or she is able to provide families with survival tools, prescriptive and preventative resources, coping mechanism skills and a myriad of help that can be utilized in their homes. A pastor equipping the sheep allows the sheep to better equip their families for safety. Just as pastors are compassionate to save the soul he or she should be passionate about instilling safety in families. This pastoral response will cause a shift in the atmosphere within many homes.

Insights to understanding the causes of child sexual abuse are astonishing. It is a multidisciplinary concern and research has begun to show some patterns among perpetrators, both with regard to their personal characteristics and their mode of operation. Sex offenders attracted to girls usually prefer eight to ten year olds, whereas those attracted to boys usually prefer older children. Some clinicians have classified sex offenders as fixated, (those with primary sexual orientation toward children), or regressed, (those with primary sexual orientation toward peers or adults).¹⁷ The patterns and characteristics of the perpetrator definitely show the need for pastoral involvement within the families. It provides open access for pastors to take advantage of every opportunity to reach out to families. For the most part, families are willing to receive help, but help needs to be offered through someone who cares and someone they trust.

Pedophilic offenders have given different rationalizations of their acts as having “educational value” for the child, that the child derives “sexual pleasure” from the act, or that the child was “sexually provocative.” These themes are also commonly found in pedophilic pornography.¹⁸ Pedophilic offenders reveal mental illness through their rationalizations. Though

¹⁷ Nicholas Groth and Jean Birnbaum, “Adult Sexual Orientation and Attraction to Underage Persons,” *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 7, no. 3 (1978). Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/666571>

¹⁸ Bahroo, “Pedophilia,” 2003.

it may be easier said than done in some cases, if pastors are willing, he or she can guide the perpetrator through a deliverance process. The love God has for His child is immeasurable. Abusing a child, ignoring or overlooking a child who has been sexually abused or suffering as a result of sexual abuse, is equivalent to abusing, ignoring and overlooking God. The Scripture says, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me.”¹⁹ Pastors are privileged to bestow love upon the perpetrator and the victim simultaneously. Restoration is possible and available for both.

In the book *Sexual Assault: The Victims, the Perpetrators, and the Criminal Justice System*, Authors Frances P. Reddington and Betsy Wright Kreisel concurs with Finkelhor that there are four conditions for the abuse to occur: the potential offender has to have the motivation to sexually abuse, overcome internal inhibitors, overcome external impediments, and undermine or overcome the child’s resistance.²⁰ The motivation to commit a sexual offense is derived from three components: emotional congruence, sexual arousal, and blockage in developing age-appropriate sexual relationships. Sex offenders are attracted to children for reasons other than sexual gratification. They may have a need for dominance in relationships. Sadly it is easier to dominate a child than an adult. As seen above, there is a process the offender goes through mentally and physically in order to abuse a child. Providing prescriptive measures for the offender or the potential offender can assist in shutting down those preconditions.

¹⁹ Matthew 25:40.

²⁰ Frances P. Reddington and Betsy Wright Kreisel, *Sexual Assault: The Victims, the Perpetrators, and the Criminal Justice System* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005), 226.

Reddington and Kreisel describe many child molesters as displaying similar characteristics to rapists: they tend to be socially inept in adult relationships, have low self-esteem, have feelings of inadequacy, and a sense of worthlessness and vulnerability. These characteristics depart from rapists when analyzing characteristics such as aggressiveness, acting on impulse, and insensitivity to victim's feelings.²¹ Whether a child molester or rapist, the offender is in need of some form of rehabilitation.

Child molesters are seen to have deficits in social skills and emotional loneliness. Factors such as alcohol, psychosis, family dynamics, cognitive distortions, and personality characteristics, such as impulsiveness, all play their part in overcoming internal inhibitors.²² Though the molester is often wounded, he or she preys on the weakness of children to fulfill their own lack and dissatisfaction. As pastors become aware of the offenders' motivation to sexually abuse a child, he or she can assist the offender in making a positive exchange, thus overcoming inhibitors. The heart of every man is the core of his actions. It is important for every person to guard their heart in such a way as to not allow negative, or sinful thoughts, or deeds to enter the heart. For everything he or she does comes from the heart, be it good or bad. The Scripture says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."²³

Motivations for abuse can be seen in physiological factors in that they primarily seek sexual gratifications. The sexual arousal may become associated with aggression and violence. Typically there are multiple victims. The offenders may have cognitive distortions allowing some justification for offending or may have negative perceptions of women. They lack sexual

²¹ Frances P. Reddington and Betsy Wright Kreisel, *Sexual Assault: The Victims, the Perpetrators, and the Criminal Justice System* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005), 226.

²² David Finkelhor, *Child Sexual Abuse: New Theory and Research* (New York, NY: Free Press, 1984), 260.

²³ Proverbs. 4:23.

or general impulsivity. Often sexual aggression tends to be opportunistic, unplanned, violent, or predatory. Alcohol and stress are more likely to be determinants. Personality wise, the offenders have chronic impairment affecting many functional domains including intellectual impairment, family conflicts, poor social skills, chronic substance abuse, poor adult adjustment, and general antisocial activity. His or her impaired ability to regulate function in volition, emotion, behavior or other area leads to abnormal behaviors. Despite the many factors that combine together to cause a person to abuse another, the abnormal behavior which can be viewed as sickness is also what can lead to sin. Extensive help is needed to deter the offender from inflicting further abuse. Understanding what makes a person behave as they do, can be the very thing that causes the person to discontinue that behavior.

When dealing with the motives of an offender, it is not uncommon for man to judge or misjudges his or her motive. There are potential risks when man stands in judgment or misjudges the offender. Regardless to the offender's true motive, or those who stand in judgment, God always knows the truth. The Scripture says, "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit."²⁴ Whether right or wrong, there is a motive behind every action. Every action can be addressed through therapy or counseling in hopes of changing the pattern of the behavior.

The offender may also engage in other criminal activities along with committing child sexual abuse. In comparison to other sexual offenders, those in this group have the poorest prognosis for rehabilitation.²⁵ This behavior can be seen as veering off the path of righteousness, and proceeding down a dark path where sin is lurking. Along this dark path the

²⁴ Proverbs. 16:2.

²⁵ Bahroo, "Pedophilia," 2003.

individual is not only distracted, but is also enticed to partake even further in sin as if all hope is lost. The offender has to be aware that he or she is used through deception to cause abuse on others. The Scripture says, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”²⁶ The enemy seeks to devour by any means necessary, but God, the advocate, brings the victory.

Despite this prognosis, there is hope for all those willing to turn from sin and evil and submit to Christ! Not all sex offenders belong to or attend church. Regardless of the spiritual status of the offender, pastors understand God also created the offender. Christians are to live by biblical instruction that sets the standards for bringing the flesh under subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ. As those in a fallen or sinful state accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, adhere to His commands, obey His teaching, and submit to Him, all of his or her fleshly desires must come under the blood of Jesus. He or she must integrate Christ’s life into their lives and deny their flesh, seeking rather to glorify God. This state of surrender is demonstrated through their bodies, hearts and souls, as well as through their lives in an effort to not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The Scripture says, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”²⁷

Author Adele D. Jones, who mainly wrote about child sexual abuse in the Caribbean, describes child sexual abuse as a violation of children’s rights that perforates their sense of security and normalcy.²⁸ Every child needs a sense of security and normalcy. Children should be valued, not violated. Jones goes on to say when children’s rights are violated, “It is a perforation

²⁶ 1 Peter 5:8.

²⁷ Romans 13:14.

²⁸ Adele D. Jones, *Understanding Child Sexual Abuse: Perspectives from the Caribbean* (London, N1: Palgrave McMillian, 2013), 1.

that is further enlarged by the colluded silence of those who have the responsibility to protect them.”²⁹ Adults and especially parents ought to be the mouthpiece for children. The main goal should be safety.

Children of all ages and both genders are at risk for becoming victims of child sexual abuse. It is estimated that one hundred thousand to five hundred thousand children are sexually molested each year in the United States. Author Bhagwan Bahroo highlights, “sadly, by the age of eighteen years, approximately 15% to 25% of children have been sexually abused; 30% to 40% of girls and 10% to 15% of boys are subjected to sexual abuse by adults.”³⁰ For decades, societies in the Western world have generally had the tendency to deny the existence of sexual victimization of children. In the mid-twentieth century, the focus of attention was “stranger danger,” epitomized in the form of a dirty old man in a wrinkled raincoat approaching and preying on an innocent child at play. Today children are victimized, and not just by strangers. Regardless of how society has looked upon child sexual abuse, it undeniably existed back then and it continues to exist today.

Sex offenses against children are considered the worst of crimes, even among criminals themselves. Attitudes have changed from blaming the victim to holding the perpetrator responsible for the actions. Researchers have identified differences in perpetrators, depending on whether the abuse occurs in the home among family members or outside of the home among strangers or acquaintances. Dysfunction within the offender’s family and a weak parent-child bond are the two factors that relate primarily to incest. The third factor, insecure attachment, may be characteristic for all types of sexual abusers of children. Many other factors may also be noted

²⁹ Adele D. Jones, *Understanding Child Sexual Abuse: Perspectives from the Caribbean* (London, N1: Palgrave McMillian, 2013), 1.

³⁰ Bahroo, “Pedophilia,” 2003.

in intrafamilial abuse, for instance, sexual dysfunction, boundary issues, power and control, unexpressed anger, and family dynamics.³¹ Despite the factors relating to sexual abuse, all perpetrators are without excuse when committing crimes of child sexual abuse. Thankfully, progress is being made and strides taken to assure the blame is placed where it should always remain, with the perpetrator.

Evildoers are in for a rude awakening, both on earth and beyond earth. The eyes of God are taking everything in. None can escape. The Scripture says, “The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.”³² Regardless of the dysfunction within the offender, the offender has to answer to God for his actions.

As pastors faithfully preach the Word of God, though it offers encouragement for the victim, it also brings conviction to the perpetrator. The Word of God encourages and convicts simultaneously as needed. The pastor does a mighty service as he or she serves as a mouthpiece and representative among many for God, our Heavenly Creator. Boldly proclaiming truth and upholding truth is the beginning of breaking the cycle of silence in child sexual abuse.

Incest

The number of families troubled by parent-child incest in the typical community is much larger than suspected by professional workers. If left unattended, the victim(s) and the family as a whole will be critically traumatized. Parental incest in the nuclear family can be likened to terminal cancer in the individual.³³ This disease has spread rapidly destroying the family structure, ripping families apart whether they remain in the home or not.

³¹ Bahroo, “Pedophilia,” 2003.

³² Psalms 11:5.

³³ Giarretto, *A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program*, 263-278.

According to author Judith Lewis Herman, “Many of the first, most daring, and the most honest contribution to the public discussion of incest were made by black women.”³⁴ While African American women are to be commended, incest knows no color; abuse has occurred and continues to occur. The good news is that contributions were made and continue to be made in an effort to stop child sexual abuse.

Author Beverly Ogilvie says, “Recent research suggests that mother-daughter incest is not rare; it is underestimated and underreported because its occurrence involves the breaking of two taboos, incest and homosexuality.”³⁵ Incest is traumatic regardless to which parent is committing the abuse.

The community must encourage the incestuous families to seek treatment. Without treatment it is almost impossible for productive healing within families to occur. Comprehensive in-depth therapy needs to be provided to all members of the family. While therapy is a necessity, and a major contributor towards healing for all those affected by the abuse, it benefits the child when he or she is both able to receive individual treatment as well as treatment with family members.

According to author Henry Giarretto, “A father-daughter incestuous relationship usually is extremely damaging to the victim, the offender, and the entire family, both during the sexual phase and after it ends. The daughter suffers emotional trauma, which often leads to self-abusive behavior that may last a lifetime. The father’s life goes into sharp decline and the marriage, weak

³⁴ Judith Lewis Herman, *Father-Daughter Incest* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012), 67.

³⁵ Beverly Ogilvie, *Mother-Daughter Incest: A Guide for Helping Professionals* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2012), 4.

to begin with, becomes intolerable and often ends in dissolution.”³⁶ If the situation is reported to the authorities of a typical American community, their reactions aggravate the family’s troubled state even more. The victim’s accusations are often ignored by law enforcement officials if the evidence is weak and the parents deny the charges, thus leaving the child feeling betrayed, both by her parents and by the community.³⁷ Betrayal is one of the most painful human experiences. When trust is broken between children and parents it not only damages the support system the child relied upon, but it shatters the child’s innocence and exposes the parent’s disloyalty.

Giarretto says, “The other side of child sexual abuse is when officials believe and side with the child. They become harshly punitive if they have a court provable case. They separate the child from her mother and family and incarcerate the father, often for several years.”³⁸ This way of coping with father-daughter incest prevails in most communities in the United States and was the way officials reacted in Santa Clara County, California before the Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program (CSATP) of that county was started and proven effective.³⁹ Unfortunately, the child who has initially suffered the traumatic invasion of sexual abuse, is often further subjected to psychological abuse. Though the child may be removed from harm or danger, he or she may still have to learn to cope with abandonment and rejection as he or she is taken from the mother and the rest of the family. It is understood that the child should be protected, and even removed from an unsafe atmosphere. Yet being removed from the home may feel like punishment or alienation to the child.

³⁶ Giarretto, *A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program*, 263-278.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

It is essential that children receive some sort of treatment or counseling when sexually abused. One reason is that victims' parents are themselves victims of a dysfunctional family system. The victims and their families can be spared long years of alienation and pain if they are treated while the victims are still children. During the early stages of treatment, some of the adolescent girls, in particular those who feel they have been abandoned by their mothers, begin to manifest the anticipated self-abusive behavior: truancy, promiscuity and drug abuse. Girls rejected by mothers who deny the charges or blame their daughters for the incestuous situation are the most difficult to treat.⁴⁰ As mentioned before, in such cases where the daughter has been rejected by the mother, the daughter has literally been betrayed by both parents. Aside from the grace of God keeping the child, this betrayal could prove to be disastrous for the child.

Distrust breeds all kinds of problems. Research shows that persons who form abusive relationships with their mates, children, and other important people in their lives do so because they are incapable of developing trusting and mutually beneficial relations. Abusive parents typically were raised by punitive and generally uncaring parents. As children, and later as adults, they seem to court rejecting and even hostile responses from siblings, relatives, acquaintances, teachers, and others. They persevere in this lifestyle when they form their own families.⁴¹ Children have a tendency to model the behavior of those they are influenced by whether positive or negative. Though it is easy to see how behaviors are transferred, not all children go on to repeat every negative behavior they witnessed as a child.

Abusive parents are incapable of leading self-fulfilling lives. Consequently, they stew in a state of chronic resentment which can be discharged only through hostility unconsciously

⁴⁰ Giarretto, *A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program*, 263-278.

⁴¹ Ibid.

intended to be self-punishing. This attitude is generally displayed in numerous ways, and can often lead to self-destruction as well as intentionally or unintentionally inflicting abuse on others. The victim may began practicing what they have lived, operating out of life's experiences. In this sense it is easy to see the downward spiral where the victim is exercising, "what goes around comes around," or "sowing what they have reaped."

This essentially self-abusive behavior of the victim is an unconscious reaction to inner malaise. The sexually abusive father does not use his child primarily for sexual gratification but principally as a means of reconfirming and discharging his low self-worth. He approaches his child sexually without full awareness of the needs, drives or motives fueling his behavior, or of its consequences to his child, family and himself. When abusive parental behavior becomes severe enough to warrant intervention by the authorities, and they react by harshly punishing the offender, his self-hate/destructive energy syndrome is reinforced once more.⁴² Reconfirming and discharging the father's low self-worth, should never be at the cost of the child's innocence. It has been said, "what's on the inside of a person will eventually spill over to the outside of that person." It may be difficult to identify with an abusive parent who uses these practices to address their inner weaknesses. The responsibility for the parent to become whole or remain whole is solely on the parent. That wholeness should be addressed spiritually.

It is safe to say that not all fathers have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. However, God is at work in every life and this gives a measure of God-consciousness to every father. The Scripture says, "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned" (Romans 12:3). Because of that

⁴² Giarretto, *A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program*, 263-278.

measure of faith, all should be honest in their evaluation of themselves. It is important for the father to keep a firm grip on the faith.

In interviews with sex offenders it was concluded that offenders have no empathy for their victims; it is all about their needs. Their only fear is being discovered. Though this statement may be very disturbing, many believe offenders seek self-gratification and cannot change.⁴³ Pastors may be uncomfortable with allegations of incest. Some may not even have sympathy towards the offender. However, it is pertinent that the pastor understand that incest is uncomfortable for all those involved. The safety of a child outweighs the awkwardness of those involved. The protection of the child is more important than the protection of the offender.

Pastors can serve as an advocate for breaking the cycle of abuse. Standing up for justice should be as urgent as if it were a family member or as if it happened to an individual personally. All should be concerned when any brethren is victimized. "Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them had happened to you" (Hebrews 13:1-4).

Whether the offender is the father, mother, or sibling, the abuse is demeaning, costly and has to end. The Bible speaks of the incestuous relationship between Amnon and his sister Tamar where he violated her and lay with her. Afterwards, Amnon hated Tamar with a very great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her (2 Samuel 13:10-15). Incest is never justified. It is and has always been wrong. Often families decide to keep incestuous matters private. Whether private or public, the family secret breeds internal damage physically and psychologically. Bitterness, guilt, and shame often accompany incestuous abuse.

⁴³ Cole, "Child Abusers Talk," 2012.

Child Marriage

Child marriage, which is marriage before age eighteen, devastates the lives of girls, their families and their communities. Widespread in many developing countries, child brides number over sixty-seven million worldwide. In some countries, more than half of the girls are married before they turn eighteen.⁴⁴ There is much immaturity among adults who marry, let alone a child under the age of eighteen. Marriages tend to fail for various reasons: irreconcilable differences, infidelity, abuse, etc. Rarely is age a reason for failed marriages. However, the man who chooses a bride under the age of eighteen is operating under the preconceived notion that either there will be bliss, or the child will be an asset to him.

The harmful practice of child marriage is most common in poor, rural communities, and its consequences only perpetuate the cycle of poverty. More often than not, child brides are pulled out of school, depriving them of an education and meaningful work. They suffer health risks associated with early sexual activity and childbearing, leading to high rates of maternal and child mortality as well as sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. They are more likely to be victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and social isolation.⁴⁵ This raises the question, “Who comes to the rescue of the underage girl who is taken in marriage whether she agrees or not?”

Author Rachel B. Vogelstein says recent research suggests that the practice of child marriage is associated with instability and state fragility. One analysis show that most of the twenty-five countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage are also either fragile states

⁴⁴ <http://www.icrw.org/what-we-do/adolescents/child-marriage>

⁴⁵ Ibid.

or at high risk of natural disaster.⁴⁶ There needs to be other means for survival than the fate of young girls. Vogelstein says, “Girls living through conflict and humanitarian crises are uniquely susceptible to child marriage, given that family structures, social networks, and institutions may be upended; recent research confirms that some families pursue child marriage as a social protection or poverty reduction mechanism in crisis situations.⁴⁷ Children are not meant to be pawns.

Though child marriage is entrenched in tradition and culture, change is possible and communities are seeking solutions. Very often, girls and their parents want to delay marriage, but lack options. Governments and communities are actively working to discourage the practice by raising awareness of the adverse consequences for girls, running programs that provide girls with viable alternatives to marriage, and demanding more effective enforcement of existing laws that condemn child marriage. With the right mix of effective programs, policies and political will, millions of girls will have the opportunity to fulfill their potential.⁴⁸ The child deserves a chance at a life that is nurturing and fulfilling. No one should hastily rush into marriage regardless of age.

Many pastors insist on premarital counseling sessions before marriage, which is good. Unfortunately, some marriages are performed through the justice of peace where no counseling is offered. While tradition and culture play a major role in child marriage, pastors can offer extensive counseling to those they encounter who appear to be inadequately prepared for such responsibility and commitment.

⁴⁶ Rachel B. Vogelstein, *Ending Child Marriage: How Elevating the Status of Girls Advances U.S. Foreign Policy Objectives* (New York, NY: Council on Foreign Relations, 2013), 20.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ <http://www.icrw.org/what-we-do/adolescents/child-marriage>

Molestation

Most child molesters are able to molest dozens of children before they are caught. Boys and girls are at nearly equal risk to be abused and almost a quarter will be molested sometime before their eighteenth birthday. Most children do not tell anyone, and those who do often have to tell multiple people before someone calls the police or child welfare services. Most parents would never suspect someone they know and trust abuses the overwhelming majority of child sexual abuse victims. Females are estimated to account for less than 20% of child molesters.⁴⁹

Most child molesters are in a position of trust and are often able to undermine the child's ability to accurately perceive the behavior as abusive. Most molesters are also able to convince other adults that it never happened or that the child initiated it. Molesters test and desensitize children by telling dirty jokes, talking about sexual things and engaging in non-sexual physical contact like back-rubs, wrestling, hugging and horseplay. This behavior generally starts long before the sexual touching starts and serves to normalize contact and trust. The increased physical relationship and intimate talk between the child and offender makes it easier for the offender to introduce sexual behavior into the relationship. If the child's parent has been present when some of the close physical contact or joking has occurred, it also makes the child think it must be okay.⁵⁰

Author James D. Benish says that it is very rare that a child under ten years of age will lie about molestation. It is rare that a child under fifteen years of age will lie about molestation. It is

⁴⁹ Schnell Swain, "About Molesters, End Child Molestation," (2009). Accessed January 4, 2014. http://www.endchildmolestation.com/mainsite/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=125

⁵⁰ Ibid.

unlikely that any prepubescent child will lie about molestation.⁵¹ In other words, parents should give their children the benefit of the doubt. When a child tells about sexual abuse, instead of treating the offender as innocent until proven guilty, the offender should be considered guilty until proven innocent. Benish says, “When confronted with their crimes, all of the molesters he interviewed claimed it was not their fault. Their claim was that they were not in control, due to drugs, alcohol, or any other external force. One actually claimed he had been seduced by the child.”⁵² Whatever impediments the offender chooses to place blame on, two wrongs will never make a right.

Most child molesters abuse children they are sexually and emotionally attracted to, children they feel are vulnerable and needy, and children they feel that they can control and manipulate into keeping the abuse a secret. Molesters may lead up to the abuse by forming a friendship or paying special attention to the child, taking them places, buying them gifts or giving them extra support and encouragement. Child molesters may offer to “help out” with babysitting or transportation. They may exploit children who are neglected or verbally abused by their parents by positioning themselves as the one who is “nice” while the parents are “mean.” If the child’s relationship with the parents is basically sound, the offender may try to start conflicts within the family in order to alienate the child from the parents. Most child molesters are very good at developing dependent relationships that their victims feel obligated to, and may even feel protective of the offender, especially when the offender is a parent, relative, admired family friend, teacher, coach or.⁵³

⁵¹ James D. Benish. *Protectus Prol: A Handbook* (Tempe, AZ: Codefore Publishing, 2009), 43.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Swain, “About Molesters,” 2009.

Pastors should acknowledge, though many girls and boys were molested at a young age, most have not received any form of treatment. Sadly, molestation is not a thing of the past. Children need to hear from adults, as well as pastors, that they did nothing wrong. They did not deserve what happened to them, nor did their behavior warrant the abuse. Pastors are not expected to do everything, but they serve as a beacon of light. It is time for pastors and leaders to attend to matters of justice, and allow God to use them to set things right between people. Victims are to be rescued from their exploiters. “Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.”⁵⁴

Rape

According to author Shana L. Maier, research has found that many rapists who victimize strangers act with premeditation, and most considered the possibility of being apprehended before acting.⁵⁵ It is obvious that this offender is not concerned with consequences for his or her action. His or her belief system and values have truly been compromised when a rape occurs.

There are said to be three different types of rape: anger, power, and sadistic. Below is a breakdown of each: Anger rapes express hatred toward the victim with rage. This type of rapist wants the person to feel and understand his anger towards them. Though the victim may have not been the one to provoke the rage, the rapist needs to take it out on someone and make them suffer as he has for past wrongs and rejections.

Power rapes want to express power and domination over the victim. These rapists have a

⁵⁴ Jeremiah 22:3.

⁵⁵ Shana L. Maier, *Rape, Victims and Investigation: Experiences and Perceptions of Law Enforcement Officers Responding to Reported Rapes* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2014), 36.

common fantasy of women who want them and resist their come-ons and then consent to sex. So when the fantasy is acted out and the victim doesn't cooperate, the fantasy becomes more about the domination or taking control over that person. In this way, he is showing how very powerful, masculine, and sexually adequate he really is.

Sadistic rape is where the rapist is obsessed with the ritual that goes along with the sex. This could be making the victim act out a part in some sort of role-play. It could involve mutilation or torture as a means of getting the rapist excited. These rapists are the ones that wake women out of a dead sleep, scared to death for their lives.⁵⁶

Other types of rape include stranger rape, acquaintance rape, and marital rape:

While Stranger rapes are enacted by someone that is known to you, Acquaintance rapes are by someone that you know. This is where date rape falls into play. Of these three types of rape, Marital rape which is the rape of your spouse, was once thought that of as once you consented to a marriage, that you were obligated to serve your husband in any way he saw fit, and this meant sexually.⁵⁷

Whether through an acquaintance, stranger or spouse, it has been said that, “short of being killed, there is no greater insult to the self” than rape.⁵⁸ Sexual assault robs a woman of her sense of control over her body and life.⁵⁹ As pastors and leaders engage in counseling sessions with victims of rape, it is critical that they exhibit sensitivity towards the victim in their line of questioning and encouraging. The concern is that the pastor guards against re-victimization of the victim.

⁵⁶ University of Arkansas at Little Rock, “Types of Rape,” Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.ualr.edu/jlfleming/rapepg2.htm>.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Morton Bard and Dawn Sangrey, *The Crime Victim's Book* (New York, NY: Brunner/Mazel, 1986), 21.

⁵⁹ University of Arkansas at Little Rock, “Types of Rape.”

As quiet as it is kept, both men and women alike are subject to rape. Though it may be surprising to some, men and boys are often the victims of the crimes of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and rape. According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, in the U.S., about 10% of all victims are male. Regardless of gender, male survivors and others affected by sexual violence can receive free, confidential, live help through RAINN's (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) National Sexual Assault Hotline, 24/7.⁶⁰ As men and boys are identified or choose to reveal they have been raped in the past or currently, pastors can recommend mentors and offer counseling sessions to assist them in the healing process. If churches are literally hospitals for the sick and God is the Chief Surgeon, then healing can begin with pastors being used as agents through the churches.

Sometimes male survivors find it easier to first talk with an anonymous hotline staffer rather than a loved one. This allows the survivor to speak to someone who is impartial and trained to listen and help. Many male survivors find that talking to the hotline first makes it easier to tell friends and family later.⁶¹ As long as the survivor realizes he has a healthy outlet and a safe place to release or to discuss the violation that has occurred, progress is being made.

Sexual assault is a very personal crime. Many survivors do not wish to share what happened to them publicly and fear that disclosing or reporting the attack may require them to talk publicly about their assault. RAINN suggest that male survivors may blame themselves for the assault, believing they were not 'strong enough' to fight off the perpetrator. RAINN also says many are confused by the fact that they became physically aroused during the attack, despite the assault or abuse they endured. However, these normal physiological responses do not in any way

⁶⁰ "Male Sexual Assault," <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/types-of-sexual-assault/male-sexual-assault>.

⁶¹ Ibid.

imply that the victim ‘wanted’ or ‘liked’ the assault.⁶² It is important not to judge the survivor of sexual assault but instead focus on the blessing of survivorship. It has been said that rape is not about the sex. It has also been said that rape is about power and domination. Whatever the motive of the rapist, it is agreed upon that rape is an aggressive, violent crime.

While not every male survivor of sexual assault reacts in the same way, many reactions are quite common. If left untreated, the effects of sexual assault can have a long-term impact on a survivor’s well-being. Psychological effects may be evident, in that a sense of self and concept of “reality” are disrupted. Profound anxiety, depression and fearlessness may be present. There may be concern about sexual orientation, as well as development of phobias related to the assault setting. Fear of the worst happening and having a sense of a shortened future is not uncommon. Other effects are withdrawal from interpersonal contact and a heightened sense of alienation, and stress-induced reactions (problems sleeping, increased startle response, being unable to relax). Psychological outcomes can be severe for men because men are socialized to believe that they are immune to sexual assault and because societal reactions to these assaults can be more isolating.

Heterosexual Male Survivors may experience a fear that the assault will make them gay. They may feel that they are “less of a man.”⁶³ While Homosexual Male Survivors may feel the crime is “punishment” for their sexual orientation, they may worry that the assault affected their sexual orientation. They may fear they were targeted because they are gay. This fear may lead to

⁶² “Male Sexual Assault,” <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/types-of-sexual-assault/male-sexual-assault>.

⁶³ Ibid.

withdrawal from the community. They may also develop self-loathing related to their sexual orientation.⁶⁴

Relationships and intimacy may be disrupted by the assault. They may be disrupted by other's reactions to the assault, such as a lack of belief and support. Relationships may be disrupted by the survivor's reaction to or coping with the assault. Emotionally there will be anger about the assault, leading to outward and inward focused hostility. Avoidance of emotions or emotional situations stemming from the overwhelming feelings that comes with surviving a sexual assault.⁶⁵

Other organizations are "one in six" and "male survivors." Survivors of military sexual assault can receive help via the Department of Defense (DoD) Safe Helpline, a groundbreaking crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. The service is anonymous, secure, and available 24/7 to the worldwide DoD community providing victims with the help they need, anytime, anywhere.⁶⁶

Pastors may encounter victims of rape within their congregations. Some victims may have been identified, while others may not have divulged the violation to anyone. Pastors are not expected to seek out those who have been raped; however, pastors who seize the opportunity to offer support groups will inevitably assist those men and women through the healing process.

As research has shown, rape does not occur by strangers alone, it can occur within relationships such as dating and marriage as well. One of the pastor's most valuable tools in deterring rape is the Word of God. The Word offers correction, encouragement, and healing. The

⁶⁴ "Male Sexual Assault," <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/types-of-sexual-assault/male-sexual-assault>.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

Scripture says, “For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”⁶⁷ Laws pertaining to sexual abuse vary by state.⁶⁸

Human Sex Trafficking

According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), “Trafficking in persons is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, and for the purpose of exploitation.” UNODC says, “Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.” Sometimes, simply shining the light on a dark situation can bring hope and healing, as well as remove the threat.⁶⁹

On the basis of the definition given in the *Trafficking in Persons Protocol*, it is evident that trafficking in persons has three constituent elements: The Act (what is done), recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons; The Means (how it is done), threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim; and The Purpose (why it is done), for

⁶⁷ Hebrews 4:12.

⁶⁸ Learn more about the laws in your state through RAINN's state database, available at <https://www.rainn.org/public-policy/laws-in-your-state>.

⁶⁹ “Human Trafficking,” <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>.

the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.⁷⁰

Though exploitation among humans is still very much an issue in today's society, the means in which the exploitation is carried out is being exposed tremendously. The trade of another human is an unwillful act that endangers the physical health or emotional health of the individual. The reasoning behind human sex trafficking is ultimately for the benefit of cheap or free labor, and commercial sex. Because it can be extremely lucrative, there is a demand, and as a result, women and girls are continuously devalued.

Human sex trafficking is fraught with greed for money, a disregard for human sanctity, and selfish gain. Poverty may be the root of some trades for humans yet it is still not justified. Two wrongs can never make a right. Women and children alike suffer at the hands of others with no just cause. Injustices, trials, and tribulation can bring distress, uneasiness and uncertainty; however, God can turn those looks of terror and dismay into strength and harden the individual to difficulties. God can retain a person with His victorious right hand of rightness and justice. The Scripture says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

There are resources and there is help to combat human sex trafficking. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) offers practical help to states, not only helping to draft laws and create comprehensive national anti-trafficking strategies, but also assisting with resources to implement them. States receive specialized assistance including the development of local capacity and expertise, as well as practical tools to encourage cross-border cooperation in investigations and prosecutions.

⁷⁰ "Human Trafficking," <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>.

Despite the effort of the United Nations General Assembly to stop the trade of people, very few criminals are convicted and most victims are probably never identified or assisted. As the guardian of the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* a vast majority of States have now signed and ratified the Protocol, but translating it into reality remains problematic.⁷¹ Some things can end by education and public awareness. Though human sex trafficking may not end overnight, it has been brought to light and more is being done through organizations.

Author Frances P. Bernat says, “Human trafficking victims are forced to engage in sex and are locked into cycles of violence, abuse, and exploitation that have barely been studied within the United States.”⁷² This is a sad commentary to war against evils in ignorance. Bernat says traffickers earn billions of dollars worldwide, and human trafficking may, but not always, involve international cartels and organized crime syndicates.⁷³ This shows the level of investment and extent one will go to in order to exploit, primarily women and young children, for monetary gain.

Bernat concludes no nation is absolved from involvement in the commercial sexual exploitation of trafficking victims. All persons who wish to end modern-day slavery must learn what factors help to identify, investigate, and prosecute offenders.⁷⁴ Though human trafficking may not end overnight, it is important to continue supporting efforts to prevent the enslavement of male, female, children and adults. Pastors should know that it is quite possible to have victims

⁷¹ “Human Trafficking,” <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>.

⁷² Frances P. Bernat, *Human Sex Trafficking* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2013), 3.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

of human sex trafficking among their congregations, as well as offenders of human sex trafficking. Though this research project primarily focuses on child sexual abuse within families or homes, there are many who suffer as a result of human sex trafficking. The preached Word can provide healing for the victim and conviction for the offender which ultimately leads to healing for them both.

Sexual Abuse

It is important that when a child does come forth and reveals he or she has been sexually abused, they are not met with resistance. Prosecutors and many therapists contend that children rarely lie about sexual abuse and the implanting of false memories through leading and suggestive questions is unlikely. They worry that refusing to believe children's testimonies victimizes them a second time and sends a message that society does not want to hear about sexual abuse.⁷⁵

Others are more skeptical. About twenty studies have shown that suggestive questioning about events that never happened can contaminate young children's memories with fantasies. When police, social workers, therapists, and prosecutors conduct multiple interviews, details they provide in their questions and statements are likely to find their way into the statements of children. Children will use their imagination and fabricate stories that are richly detailed but are a mix of fact and fantasy. This is not to say that children are not to be believed. Children rarely lie when they spontaneously disclose abuse on their own or when a person seeks the complete story with the least probing or leading yes-no questions.⁷⁶ When children report abuse, some pastors

⁷⁵ <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Sexual+Abuse>.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

may err on the side of caution. When they are deciding what to do, they do what is safe instead of taking a risk. Keeping a child safe rather than rejecting the allegations is the aim.

Pastors should keep in mind that when dealing with allegations of sexual abuse, the child's welfare is the primary concern. Whether he or she believes the child or not, it is not the issue. It is important to ensure the safety of the child.

Pastors can also provide a welcoming and inviting environment where children feel comfortable sharing if they have been sexually abused. Children need to have the security of a safe outlet, should sexual abuse occur. Pastors can integrate this safety net within the church. Educating children so that they are not fooled by stereotypes of what a sex offender looks like can save them from a multitude of abuse. Sex offenders are not easily picked out of a crowd, nor are they easily singled out in families. Just as there are many faces among sex offenders, there are also several types of names for sex offenders.

Intra-familial or incest abusers are offenders who sexually abuse their own children. As most of these offenders have multiple victims, the abuse is not limited to their children, but other relatives and neighbors. Most incest offenders appear normal and lead average lives. Through deceit, even while molesting children, they maintain intimate relationships with their wives and girlfriends. If discovered or accused by their victims they are often able to talk family and friends out of reporting them. In some cases treatment may be effective.⁷⁷

Pedophiles are adults who are sexually attracted to and desire children. Often they may work or volunteer with children in positions such as coaches, teachers, Boy Scout leaders, ministers/priests, school bus drivers, day care providers. Some pedophiles believe they are showing love for the child and do not understand or care that their actions are harmful. They are

⁷⁷ <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Sexual+Abuse>.

likely to be single or live with their parents or have a dysfunctional marriage. Most molest many children before they are caught.⁷⁸

Sexually violent offenders are the smallest but most dangerous and publicized group of child molesters. They kidnap, physically abuse, rape, and even murder some children. Many also go on to rape women. They are often chronic drug users. Though treatment may be available it is rarely effective.⁷⁹ Sexual exploiters solicit and exploit children through Internet and expose them through child pornography. Men in their twenties and older who form sexual relationships with young teenage girls, sometimes as young as twelve or thirteen, can be considered sexual exploiters.⁸⁰ Children should be aware, but pastors should also be alert, keeping in mind that there is no set profile for child sexual abusers. Be it the outstanding deacon, the poised pastor, the low key usher, the anointed choir director, the bystander, the multi-tasked person, the nurturing mother, or the quiet faithful member, none are exempt. Unfortunately, men and women alike have been known to sexually abuse children.

Authors Pat Hoertdoerfer and Fredric John Muir believe, “Our faith calls us to practice our relational theology by respecting the worth of every person, while honoring the wholeness of life, by doing no harm and acting responsibly.”⁸¹ People who abuse others step outside the boundaries of respect, honor and responsible behavior. Hoertdoerfer and Muir say in taking unfair advantage of their victims, abusers use their power, their age, physical strength, authority,

⁷⁸ <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Sexual+Abuse>.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Pat Hoertdoerfer and Fredric John Muir, *The Safe Congregation Handbook: Nurturing Healthy Boundaries in our Faith Communities* (United States: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2005), 5. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.uua.org>

knowledge, and resources to overcome the victim.⁸² This in no way honors the wholeness of a life.

Hoerltoerfer and Muir agree while a faith community cannot guarantee the safety of every person, every congregation can be responsible for reducing the risk and eliminating the circumstance that lead to harm. No congregation can afford spiritually, ethically, legally, or financially to fail to live up to its covenant of trust by implementing strategies for reducing and preventing abuse and interpersonal violence.⁸³ The church must begin a meaningful and open conversation about sexual abuse as it relates to child sexual abuse and sexual crimes against children including incest, child marriage, molestation, rape and human sex trafficking. The church needs to implement strategies, and techniques utilizing available resources.

⁸² Pat Hoerltoerfer and Fredric John Muir, *The Safe Congregation Handbook: Nurturing Healthy Boundaries in our Faith Communities* (United States: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2005), 42. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.uua.org>

⁸³ Ibid.

CHAPTER 2

HEALING FROM THE INSIDE OUT

There are things that lead to the causes of child sexual abuse, just as there are consequences that stem from the act of sexual abuse. According to author Steven Tracy, “Abusive sexual interaction includes deliberate exposure of a minor to pornography or sexual activity in exhibitionism.”¹ This means a child is forced or talked into sex or sexual activities by another person. Such abuse includes: oral sex, pornography, sexual intercourse, and fondling.

Society was reluctant to deal with child sexual abuse a few decades ago. Today, it is considered a serious issue. It is difficult to determine how often child sexual abuse occurs, because it is more secret than physical abuse. Children are often scared to tell anyone about the abuse. Many cases of abuse are not reported.

Abusers are usually men. They tend to know the person they are abusing. The abuser violates the trust of the younger person, which makes the sexual abuse even more devastating. Child sexual abuse occurs in all social and economic classes of people. It has the same type of risk factors as physical child abuse, including: alcohol and drug abuse, family troubles and poverty. Abusers sometimes have a history of having been physically or sexually abused themselves. A small group of repeated abusers have the psychiatric disorder, pedophilia. Their preferred sexual contact is with children.²

Some offenders have said they had not sought help, which equates to healing, because there was no help available to them. Author Richard G. Wright interviewed Patty Wetterling, the

¹ Steven R. Tracy, *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009)

² <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007224.htm>.

Sexual Violence Prevention Program Director for the Minnesota Department of Health about the Politics of Sex Offender Policies. Wetterling says the one thing that is sorely missing concerning sexual abuse is a safe place for the offender.³ Since the church is said to be a hospital for the sick, the church can also provide counseling to offenders or at least referrals where they can receive the help they so desperately need.

Wetterling, a recognized expert in child abduction, makes this statement about offenders of child sexual abuse:

With all of our anger and all of our tough laws, there is no safe place for these guys. There are a lot of people who succeed. They do these terrible offences and they go to jail and do their time. Then they get out and never reoffend. There is no place to share their stories, because you can't say, well, yeah I was a sex offender once and then I got some help, and I got off alcohol and drugs and I'm cured. As a culture we do not tolerate that.⁴

This is the unfortunate side of committing a crime and especially against children. Some may view it as consequences for sin, though forgiven. Others may view it as reaping what has been sown.

When offenders seek out a therapist, not only is it important for the offender to accept responsibility for his or her actions, but also equally important for the therapist to show acceptance of the offender, but not of their offensive behaviors. To bring about change in the offender, two things need to take place: the therapist needs to encourage the offender, and the therapist needs to be strong and mature. The goal is to get the offender to a place where he or she looks at the relevant background factors, which are the factors that lead them to offend.⁵

³ Richard G. Wright, *Sex Offender Laws: Failed Policies, New Directions* (New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2009), 112.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ William L. Marshall et al., "Sexual Offender Treatment: A Positive Approach." *Psychiatric Clinics of North America* - December 2008, vol. 31, Issue 4, Pages 681-696, DOI: 10.1016/j.psc.2008.06.001. Accessed

The characteristics and/or behaviors of those who commit sexual assault are nothing short of dehumanization. Authors Margaret C. Harrell, and Laura Werber Castaneda, provided a wealth of information compiled in a technical report titled, *A Compendium of Sexual Assault Research*. Within this research a study on perpetrator risk factors found among perpetrators, hostile masculinity was most often found to be a significant predictor of sexual assault perpetration; men who adhered to aggression sexual beliefs were also considered at high risk of perpetrating sexual assault, as were those with a history of being coercive or committing assault.⁶ Offenders are suffering and operating from a very dark place. Many of them cannot see their way out of that darkness. Though all pastors are not counselors or therapists, many are still in a position where their combined efforts can aid in leading most offenders from darkness into light.

When Offenders Speak

Increased awareness and understanding of how and why child sex abusers target their victims is vital for helping children to prevent abuse, or at least to help them to tell and get help. Author Michelle Elliot says, “From the information supplied by sex abusers, there are some aspects of personal safety programs which are well founded and should be continued, such as teaching children that anyone, even someone they know, could harm them.”⁷ It teaches them to tell if anyone asks them to keep “touching” a secret and to go out in groups and get away as quickly possible from any worrying situation. There are some potentially dangerous suggestions currently being given to children, such as threatening the abuser with telling and perhaps shouting “No!” once the abuse has started. Child safety programs need to be re-evaluated in light

January 4, 2014. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0193953X08000762>

⁶ Margaret C. Harrell and Laura Werber Castaneda, *A Compendium of Sexual Assault Research* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2009), 25.

⁷ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

of what the offenders have said. Apparently some abusers are crying out for help as they purposely disclose their motives, strategies and tactics for abusing children.

Elliot says, “Some offenders indicate children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse when they have family problems, are alone, lack confidence, and are indiscriminate in their trust of others. This is especially the case when these children are also seen by the perpetrator to be pretty, “provocatively” dressed, young, or small.”⁸ These observations of the offender should provoke parents to begin meaningful conversations with their children that build self-esteem, provides open communication, and encourages them. Elliot further says, “Positive and informative dialogue will increase the child’s awareness and confidence.”⁹

It is evident that parents are not given enough information to keep their children safe, especially when they leave them in the care of others. Parents, teachers and other professionals need leaflets with specific suggestions, given out freely in schools, libraries, general practitioner’s surgeries (doctor’s offices), shopping malls, and other public places. Without good safety programs and informed adults, children will continue to be vulnerable to the sexual abuser.¹⁰

The first abusive action with the children involves one or two immediate sexual acts. Forty % of the abusers said that one of the first things they had done with the child was to engage in sexual activity such as sexual touching or genital kissing, 28% slowly desensitized the child into sexual activities, and 32% asked the child to do something that would help the offender, such as undressing or lying down.¹¹

⁸ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

During the first sexual contact, some men tried other methods or a combination of methods: 19% used physical force with the child, 44% of the men used coercion and persuasion, 49% talked about sexual matters, 47% used “accidental” touch as a ploy, and 46% used bribery and gifts in exchange for sexual touches.¹² Warren Wiersbe says, “As offenders are teaching researchers, there are many ways in which to entice or lure a child into sexual abuse.”¹³ The methods are many, and principles are few. Methods always change; principles never.¹⁴ As pastors and parents began to explore the best ways to prevent child sexual abuse, it is important to rely on principles as opposed to many different methods. Children need principles. It is okay to adopt methods, but what is the principle behind the method?

As some men began their first sexual contact, if the child resisted or was fearful, 39% of the offenders were prepared to use threats or violence to control the child as a way of overcoming the child’s anxieties, whereas the other offenders (61%) used passive methods of control, such as stopping the abuse and then coercing and persuading once again.¹⁵ In other words, once the abuse has been initiated, sadly, the offender is determined to see the abuse to completion. Author Michelle Elliot emphasizes, “The bottom line is, once the abuse has started, the offender does not want to walk away unsatisfied. Either he will dominate the child or he will manipulate the child into fulfilling his lust.”¹⁶ Unfortunately, lustful desires are often the driving motivational factors.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Warren Wiersbe, “Principles are the Bottom Line (Part 1).” *Christianity Today* (1990).

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

¹⁶ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

Authors Edmond J. Coleman and Margretta Dwyer say one offender reveals when targeting his victim, that the “games” started “probably with backrubs and...it just progressed from there.”¹⁷ What often appears as a game to the offender is not readily perceived as a game to the victim. Coleman and Dwyer highlight another offender who realized through treatment that he had to assess the damage which involved trying to identify factors that played a part in his becoming an incest offender. This process also involved facing the damage done to others.¹⁸ As with any other form of sickness, it is important to understand what causes an individual to resort to abuse. It is also important for the offender to understand the impact the abuse had on the victim. In the book, *Confessions of a Sex Offender*, author Paul Stryker says contrary to stereotypes, there is no single profile of an offender. Though not as frequent as men, women also sexually abuse children.¹⁹ The bottom line is that men, women and children are subject to abusing children. Stryker says juvenile perpetrators comprise nearly one third of all offenders. Child sex offenders often coerce children by offering gifts or attention. They also manipulate and threaten the children, or they use a combination of these tactics.²⁰ Even if the child claims to want to have sex, they cannot legally give consent. Child sex abuse is child rape.

Elliot shines light on the fact that the majority of offenders coerced children by carefully testing the child’s reaction to sex, by bringing up sexual matters or having sexual materials around, and by subtly increasing sexual touching. This was most often achieved in the offender’s own home where he created a “normalized” sexual setting, including sexually explicit videos and

¹⁷ Edmond J. Coleman and Margretta Dwyer, *Sex Offender Treatment: Psychological and Medical Approaches* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2014).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Paul Stryker, *Confessions of a Sex Offender* (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2014), 60.

²⁰ Ibid.

magazines (33%), and sexualized talking (28%) to seduce children into sexual behavior with them.²¹ When children are educated on sexual abuse, the offender will not easily be able to subject them to the subtleties or sexual gestures. Children should not be expected to know these tactics. Nor should they be expected to know how to react or respond to them without training. They should be taught before the testing. It is better to proceed with a level of preparedness than to operate unequipped.

According to Liautaud in *Sex Offenders in the Pew*, Craig, a prison inmate, who was serving a sentence for multiple sexual assault and abuse crimes he committed against his own young daughter and another girl, was asked by the prison chaplain if he was willing to accept Christ as his Savior. Craig, who has asked that his real name not be used, answered that question by asking if Christ would actually accept him. Some offenders want help but they don't believe help is available to them. Pastors can learn a lot from the offender. Taking a different approach, which involves demonstrating the love of God to the recovering offender, is the most pivotal part in transformation. It is clear with Craig's recovery, as with many who have sinned, that they not only think people won't accept them because of their sinful act, but they believe God wants nothing to do with them as well. When an offender is only discarded as trash, he or she is not able to live out the fullness of God's grace, and mercy.

Despite Craig's initial doubt that Christ could forgive him, he ultimately accepted God's pardon through Christ. Ever since then, Craig has been living under grace. However, the consequences of his sin remain with him. He recognizes that the innocence of children is one of God's greatest gifts, and he has to live with the fact that he destroyed that innocence in two young girls' lives. Craig has learned that lust, as with any other addiction, is selfish in nature,

²¹ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention* Child, 579-594.

desensitizing you to identify people as objects, rather than human beings. Craig has also learned to value the lives of others.

Pastors will come face to face with the reality of the horrific act the offender has carried out against a child; however, when an offender is repentant, has turned from their sin, and paid the penalty for the crime of child sexual abuse, such as prison, therapy, etcetera. it is the responsibility of the pastor to welcome the offender into the body of Christ through the grace of God. Undoubtedly, the offender should be led with boundaries and with the understanding that there will be no more victims.

Craig had plenty of time to reflect on his crimes while in prison. Group therapy helped him to examine and discuss all aspects of the abuse, including what led up to the abuse and its cycle. His mantra in prison and today is “No more victims.” While Craig’s mantra is a great start, the goal of this project is to reach a place where all can stand proudly as a result of, “No victims!” The goal is to break the cycle of child sexual abuse.

Now that Craig is out of prison, he has found local church support for sexual addiction and has served as a volunteer for such a ministry. Craig and his wife are in the process of changing churches, but Craig has made a point to inform his new pastor of his past, not wanting anyone to find out about his past sins from any other source. He respects that many people won’t accept him due to his past, but realizes rejection is one of the consequences for his sin. Craig acknowledges that part of God’s grace in keeping himself free from the bondage of past sin, is remembering his past.

In the book, *Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists, and Other Sex Offenders*, author Marian V. Liautaud states, “Trust is a major issue in itself, and when dealing with a child sex offender, it

can easily be exacerbated.”²² Pastors will have to discern, using judgment, in how to proceed with child sex offenders serving and working within the church. Though there are many circumstances that prohibit giving the offender the benefit of the doubt. Trust can be earned over a period of time. It is the attitude of the offender, what he or she has learned as a result of the sexual abuse, and how the sex offender proceeds in everyday life that causes the pastor to trust him or her.

According to author J. V. Fenner, “Effective and responsible sex offending management requires that while addressing the changing needs of offenders, the safety and protection of the victims must remain an overriding consideration.”²³ In helping the offender to adjust fitting back into society where there will always be children, it is important to remember the victim is always the priority. No matter how well the offender does in a community, he will have to learn to deal with the fact that the victim or potential victim’s safety will always come first.

Craig believes that cognitive behavioral techniques help offenders from repeating their crimes through learning to control thoughts and behaviors. He doesn’t believe offenders desire to repeat their crimes, but are looking for redemption and hope, in order to successfully integrate into society. Though Craig’s redemption and salvation came while in prison, it can be strengthened in the “real world,” by which the church is more than able to provide.²⁴ The church can offer offenders a support system, which also allows for accountability. The church can set

²² Marian V. Liautaud, “Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists, and Other Sex Offenders” qtd. in “Sex Offenders in the Pew,” <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/september/21.49.html>

²³ J. V. Fenner, *Sex Offenders: Management, Treatment, and Bibliography* (Hauppauge, NY: Nova Publishers, 2008), 3.

²⁴ Marian V. Liautaud, “Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists, and Other Sex Offenders” qtd. in “Sex Offenders in the Pew,” <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/september/21.49.html>

healthy boundaries for the offender, which gives the offender hands on training as to what he can or cannot do. The real work for the offender will be determining not to reoffend.

Some offenders hit rock bottom as a result of incarceration. Some only receive help after the sexual abuse has been reported. Whatever gets an offender to his or her breaking point, when they are finally able to reflect on their actions, it is beneficial.

Most pastors preach and teach from the grace aspect, in that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God loves all of His creation. There is nothing you could do where God won't welcome you back into His loving arms. While there are many conditional provisions in the Bible, love was not one of them, despite an individual's course. As God loves unconditionally, pastors are to love unconditionally. This does not mean without wisdom, precautions, boundaries, and discipline. Pastors who preach grace should also practice love, especially to those who have been singled out or ostracized. All can go from exile to wholeness.

Recognizing Deception

When dealing with any sex offender, offer trust, but make sure it is earned. According to Liautaud in *Sex Offenders in the Pew* article, clinical psychologist, Anna Salter, cautions church leaders not to blindly accept the word of suspected sex offenders. Christians tend to want to believe in the good in people and they are easier to fool than most others, according to many offenders. According to Salter, church leaders need to insist on good boundaries and best practices, not blind trust, in order for harmful behavior not to be repeated.²⁵ Offenders may have been able to deceive pastors in the past because pastors generally operate from a grace aspect. Grace does not mean there are no consequences. Mercy does not mean there are no boundaries.

²⁵ Liautaud, "Sex Offenders in the Pew," 2010.

Authors Nancy Nason-Clark, Barbara-Fisher Townsend and Victoria Fahlberg capture Anna C. Salter's words about one molester, who was himself a minister, who shared his views on Christians, "I considered church people easy to fool...they have a trust that comes from being Christians....They tend to be better folks all around. And they seem to want to believe in the good that exists in all people....I think they want to believe in people. And because of that, you can easily convince, with or without convincing words."²⁶ Reading what this minister shared does not make a good case for the recovering offender. However, pastors must remember that every case is different.

The more pastors know about the characteristics of sex offenders the better equipped they are to properly handle the offender. Just as there are Christian resumes and profiles for the Christian, there are also spiritual resumes and profiles of the individual designed by God. Pastors have no way of seeing the inside of the offender's heart, but thankfully God allows him or her to see the character through wisely observing attitudes and actions. He anoints the pastor to preach and shepherd the flock, which means He has graced the pastor for the position. The pastor does not lead blindly.

The Scripture says you will know a man by his fruit.²⁷ Pastors should examine offenders as with any member of their congregation by their fruit. A Richmond pastor has membership guidelines that states that a member must sit under the preached Word for ninety days before serving on a committee or ministry. So it is with any recovering sex offender—pastors can exercise a grace period of proving for the offender. Upon the grace period, monitoring does not

²⁶ Nancy Nason-Clark, Barbara Fisher-Townsend and Victoria Fahlberg, *Strengthening Families and Ending Abuse: Churches and Their Leaders Look to the Future* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013), 165.

²⁷ Matthew 7:20.

have to end. All Christians need to be held accountable to someone concerning their spiritual walk.

According to author Barbara Cole, “Local sex offenders have been telling the world the dark, devious strategies they used to abuse children, and how one even hoodwinked child psychologists into believing he was innocent.”²⁸ This molester managed to deceive experts, stating that, “Once an offender sets his sights on a particular victim, it can’t be stopped: it is going to happen. The child will have no defenses to protect herself.”²⁹ Cole reports, “The tactics used by four convicted child sex offenders have been revealed to delegates at a recent conference in Berlin, at the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders.”³⁰ While each case of child sexual abuse is different, each case is criminally wrong. Pastors will have interactions with the truly repentant offender as well as with the non-repentant offender.

Linda Naidoo, director of Childline, provides insight from offenders who openly talk about the abuse of their stepdaughters and children.³¹ Men, from Childline’s sex offender therapy program, voluntarily consented to talk about their experiences on videotape. Naidoo gave her expert opinion that there is no cure for the sex offender, but they can learn to manage their behavior. She further stated that parents need to beware not to underestimate offenders, who take plenty of time to cleverly plan their crimes.

As an example of this type of manipulation, one of the videotaped men described the extent of his deception on his wife, as well as psychologists, who believed in his denial of the

²⁸ Cole, “Child Abusers Talk,” 2012.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

sexual abuse he committed against his stepdaughter from age four to eight years old. His clever manipulation even included his outspoken hatred toward pedophiles. Once this man was finally identified by his stepdaughter as her abuser, he was quick to seek out a respected child psychologist, as a “concerned parent” who had done nothing wrong, but wanted to seek professional help for his daughter’s welfare. He explained that his manipulation caused the psychologist to determine the child’s allegations as false.

After this determination by the psychologist, the abuse stopped only for a few months. Once the stepdaughter complained again, this time to her school, the stepfather, again, outwitted the psychologist into thinking he was innocent. Once the child’s mother, however, brought her daughter to Childline for therapy, Naidoo was able to interview the stepfather and see through his manipulation. After only two sessions, the stepfather admitted to the abuse, and acknowledged that he was, himself, a victim of abuse by his own adoptive parents. Fortunately, he is now in recovery.³² When a child is bold enough to come forward to report abuse, they need to know that someone believes them. Every child should be given the benefit of the doubt until proven otherwise.

Many offenders may be remorseful, but the truth is, some are not. Remorse and resolution are necessary for forgiveness and reconciliation; this is the case with both God and man. An offender who is truly remorseful, does not try to forget his past sin, but accepts responsibility for it, rejects it, and adheres himself to God. Resolution, for the offender, is the willful decision to abandon the sin, using all available resources to help him in his healing and recovery.

³² Cole, “Child Abusers Talk,” 2012.

Healing occurs on three levels of relationship: God, neighbor, and self. The way back to the right relationship with God doesn't consist of a few tears, asking for forgiveness, and then returning to one's usual life, as though nothing bad has happened, but of asking for forgiveness, then turning from sin. With the neighbor, restitution is necessary, which means supporting the victim's process of healing, respecting particular conditions of separation, and paying the expenses of the victim's treatment. To one's self, healing involves the willingness to bear the consequences of the sin and crimes committed, and undergo the process of change.³³ When all of these dynamics are considered, recovery can begin.

Recovery from Abuse

Both heterosexual and homosexual men can have difficulty with sexual relationships as a result of their abuse. Sexual abuse is an abuse of power. The first step to recovery is to admit to yourself that you have been sexually abused. A counselor will probably have to remind you repeatedly that you were neither responsible for nor guilty of the abuse. What is possible in recovery is that your sexual abuse symptoms will diminish, your self-esteem will increase, and your relationships will be more satisfying. In other words, you can have a good life!³⁴ As devastating as sexual abuse is, it does not have to be the end of a fruitful, blessed life. When the victim is open to receive healing he or she can still go on to reach their ordained destiny despite the abuse.

³³ Slavka Karkoskova. Phd., "Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender: Pastoral Perspective," Slovakia E-Theologos, 3, no. 1 (May 2013): 82-95. Accessed January 4, 2014, [http://www.degruyter.com/dg/viewarticle.fullcontentlink:pdfeventlink/\\$002...](http://www.degruyter.com/dg/viewarticle.fullcontentlink:pdfeventlink/$002...)

³⁴ John Nipier-Heny, "When Males Have Been Sexually Abused as Children: A Guide for Men." Public Health Agency of Canada, Vancouver, BC, (July 2008): 14. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sfv-avf/sourcesnfnts/nfnts-visac-nale/index-eng.php>

Author Joyce Meyer says, “Surviving the trauma of abuse can throw people into a state of psychological damage that prohibits them from functioning properly in relationships with others. Such victims do not understand what is wrong with them or how to get out of their destructive patterns so they can live a normal life.”³⁵ It is possible through counseling, treatment and a support system to live a normal life.

Author Slavka Karkoskova notes that Child sexual abuse (CSA) victims often blame themselves, but this is just a result of the perpetrator’s action, a guilt that he implanted into the victim’s heart and mind thanks to the position of power and manipulation he used.³⁶ Victims deserve to hear from an authority that they are not guilty, that this should never have happened and that protection of his/her human rights and a demand for restitution is in place. The first step pastors can take is to assure the victim they did nothing wrong. This shows the victim they believe them and confirms to the victim that the sexual abuse was not their fault. When the victim hears from the pastor that the sexual act should have never happened, they hear empathy and the pastor cares. It is important that the victim knows the sinful act had nothing to do with them.

The goal and intention the perpetrator has is clearly evil. What he wants is to achieve his own sexual gratification at any cost, without regard to the victim and the consequences. CSA is deservedly considered a hideous crime in the eyes of society and a great sin in the eyes of God. Jesus proclaimed God’s love is willing to embrace even the worst among sinners. At the same time, he proclaimed the call to repentance from sin.

³⁵ Joyce Meyer, *Beauty for Ashes: Receiving Emotional Healing* (Nashville, TN: FaithWords, 2008), 1.

³⁶ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

The pastoral response is to accompany the sinner during his journey of repentance and thus create the conditions for reconciliation. In the case of a CSA perpetrator, this task is not easy, but crucial.³⁷ The Scripture says, “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”³⁸

The legal procedures, including the revelation of the truth and joining it to the consequences, give the perpetrator the opportunity for repentance. However, without developing an honest relationship with God, we can hardly expect an honest repentant attitude. Therapeutic techniques are necessary, especially when reflecting the phenomenon of guilt; however, they operate just with human means. It is believed that if the resolution of sexually delinquent behavior is to be effective, it must be a spiritually anchored process. Jesus Christ, alpha and omega of healing, the liberation from the slavery of sin, and basis of living effectively in community, is the source that prepares the sinner for the demanding journey of repentance and conversion. Karkoskova says Jesus is also the source for those who provide pastoral care and assistance.³⁹ Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.⁴⁰ Everything pastors need to be efficient and effective can be found in Jesus.

Repentance is the central requisite. It arises from the reality of sin and guilt that is bonded with humanity. Denial, elusions and blaming another have been present since the first sin of Adam and Eve; however, coming to repentance is always entwined with an individual's attitude

³⁷ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

³⁸ James 5:19-20.

³⁹ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

⁴⁰ Hebrews 12:2.

toward reality. The way of redemption and healing is only through the truth. Other ways lead to destruction.⁴¹ Scripture states, “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”⁴² It is important for the offender to confess his sin and turn from the sin. Confessing is good, but turning from the sin is even better. The Scripture talks about the necessity of repentance; “Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.”⁴³

The rationale is, one cannot give up the term “sin,” because it is each person’s existential situation before God. The Bible; however, testifies to the hope for overcoming the guilt. It calls sinners toward conversion and repentance, which are the conditions of receiving God’s gift of salvation. Karkoskova defines repentance as confronting one’s own life with God’s will, norms, and values identifying the sin, acknowledging and forsaking it.⁴⁴ It’s all about true conversion, about radical change of direction. This should occur inwardly and then be manifested externally through particular deeds. Only in this way can restoration of the relationship with God and neighbor become true. It is crucial to realize that forgiveness and reconciliation have the nature of change. They presume change and accompany it. Also, one must realize that repentance is a virtue, which is not spent in the sacramental confession, but is carried out through a changed life. Of course, repentance is an issue of one’s life journey, the journey from death to life (without repentance, eternal death would be the end for the sinner).⁴⁵ Repentance unlocks the door.

⁴¹ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

⁴² Proverbs 28:13.

⁴³ Acts 8:22.

⁴⁴ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

⁴⁵ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

In the book, *Restorative Justice Dialogue: An Essential Guide for Research and Practice*, Drs. Mark Umbriet and Marilyn Peterson Armour has a dialogue on how offenders can reform themselves into the sort of person who is unlikely to repeat the offense.⁴⁶ The ultimate goal of the offender is to make things right. Authors Umbriet and Armour gives a clear definition of what it means for the offender to right a wrong. “Righting a wrong involves a variety of behaviors, including apologizing, expressing remorse, promising to reform their behavior, or offering restitution or another gesture of good will.”⁴⁷ An offender who is genuinely willing to put in the work is on the right path.

Umbriet and Armour elaborate on the repairing gesture and what it involves for the offender to right a wrong. The gesture may involve ordeal, penance, and expression of moral obligation that requires offenders to recognize the harm they have caused, acknowledging their wrongdoing, and making an effort to follow a more spiritual path.⁴⁸ The damage the offender caused came at a price, and the work to repair the damage will come at a price. Without such effort, the offender may not be truly forgiven.

Church Leaders and Their Conviction

According to Dick Witherow, a contributor in Liautaud’s *Sex Offenders in the Pew* article, church leaders nationwide are facing a similar problem as Craig’s pastor, that is, how to

⁴⁶ Mark Umbriet and Marilyn Peterson Armour, *Restorative Justice Dialogue: An Essential Guide for Research and Practice* (New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2010)

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

help, restore, and incorporate past convicts who have committed heinous crimes, while keeping church members safe.⁴⁹

Pastor and author, Dick Witherow, considers the sex offender as “the modern-day leper,” which is also the title of his 2009 book.⁵⁰ In response to Florida’s state laws restricting where released sex offenders can live, Witherow expanded his prison ministry to help this populous. He opened a ranch where they could live. He also renamed an area of duplexes (surrounded by sugar cane fields) in rural Palm Beach County “Miracle Village,” where sixty-nine offenders, sugar cane workers, and their families live. They attend church where Witherow is senior pastor, as well as attend classes regularly on anger management, relationships, and life skills.

Witherow believes that sex offenders can be rehabilitated, just as any other addict. He also claims that sex offenders are least likely to reoffend compared to other criminals, if they are integrated into an effective accountability system.⁵¹ Many share that same opinion. Otherwise all sex offenders would be condemned and left to their own devices.

Beyond Risk Management

A new national survey reveals that most pastors, church staff, and lay leaders endorse Witherow's goals, but not always his methods of reaching those goals. In April 2010, Christianity Today International (CTI) conducted a national survey of 2,864 people who are CTI publication readers and website followers, which included: ordained church leaders (15%), church staff (20%), lay members (43%), and other Christians (22%). This *Sex Offenders in the Church* survey explored the attitudes and beliefs on the question of whether to allow sex offenders to participate

⁴⁹ Dick Witherow, *The Modern Day Leper* (Charleston, SC: Booksurge Publishing, 2009).

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Liautaud, “Sex Offenders in the Pew,” 2010.

in church worship and activities, as well as explored church methods used in keeping congregations safe among welcomed sex offenders.⁵² According to the survey conducted regarding Sex Offenders in the Church, the question presented was, “Do convicted sex offenders who have been released from prison belong in a church?” Responders could select more than one choice, so the total exceeds 100%. Of the people surveyed, 79% of pastors, lay leaders, and churchgoers agree that sex offenders, who have legally paid for their crime, should be allowed to attend church under supervision and subject to appropriate limitations. These people believe setting boundaries is a way of keeping children safe. 3% of those surveyed believe convicted sex offenders do not belong in church. 24% of the people surveyed said if one or more of the offender’s victims attend the same church the offender should not be allowed to attend church. 21% said released sex offenders belong in a church as members, while 5% said they belong in a church as an attender with no limitations or supervision. Only 4% believed released sex offenders belong in the church as a leader.

According to Liautaud, Ian Thomsen, church administrator for Arvada Covenant Church in Arvada, Colorado, is willing to take on the challenge of reaching out to sex offenders, changing their lives for the better, and removing a significant risk from society.⁵³ Mark Tusken, rector of St. Mark's Church in Geneva, Illinois says that his prayer has long been that St. Mark's would be a safe place where people sense the refuge of Christ.⁵⁴ Research clearly shows that there are pastors who seek to help the offender.

In the survey conducted for Ministry to the Sex-Addicted, the question was posed, “Does your church provide recovery ministry to people with sexual addictions, including

⁵² Liautaud, “Sex Offenders in the Pew,” 2010.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

cyberporn addiction as well as sex-related issues or problems?” While 24% said they do not provide recovery ministry, 12% provided ministry at the church to those in need. 49% offered referrals to ensure help was received and 15% provided local ministry plus gave referrals.

In the survey results, 20% of respondents said they are aware that a church attendee or member was convicted of a sex offense. 55% of the time, the offender directly informed the pastor of their offense, whereas 34% of respondents said that they were informed of the abuser by a church member, often another leader. This was the situation for Tusken, the new rector of St. Mark’s church.

Tusken learned from the outgoing rector that there was one man in the congregation who was known to have been convicted for a sexual offense. He made the decision to establish a friendship with the man, also establishing accountability. The individual was upfront about his past and had a repentant attitude, which Tusken believed was a healthy sign. The ex-offender also adheres to the church’s policy of never being alone with a child. 83% of survey respondents believe that signs of a repentant attitude are the leading indicators of deciding whether an ex-offender should be welcomed into the church. In this instance, there is established accountability which has produced healthy results.

Liautaud says Tusken desires that Jesus’ light shines in all dark places, in the abuser’s heart and throughout his or her life. Tusken desires that Jesus’ light shines in the hearts of the abused and in all corners of the church’s building.⁵⁵ This desire is reflected in a recent remodeling project that added interior windows to every room, and a front door sign stating the church's safety policies. Further, the church has implemented a child protection training program,

⁵⁵ Liautaud, “Sex Offenders in the Pew,” 2010.

of which more than three hundred adults have gone through.⁵⁶ This pastor had faith in the recovering offender. However, he did not rely on faith alone; he implemented safety precautions within the church which also consisted of works to maintain the safety of the children.

According to Liautaud, Laura Kubenez, a child protection program director at Woodside Bible Church in Michigan, looks at the facts as well as the offender's words and behavior, to make decisions on possibly allowing him or her to attend any of the church's satellite locations.⁵⁷ She examines court documents for facts about an individual's case. She also involves lay professionals in the church trained in criminal justice, a defense and prosecuting attorney, a child court advocate, child psychologists, psychiatrists, and retired police officers, in her decision-making process.

Kubenez realized that some registered sex offenders were coming to the church as a result of a ministry the church had started through their adoption of a low-income apartment building. Although this posed a dilemma, leadership agreed that these sex offenders were likely the most in need of Christ, also desperately needing to be coached and mentored by Christians.⁵⁸ Preventative measures and a proactive approach is what keep children safe. When the church is equipped for the journey dealing with child sexual offenders, they can better serve the offender through mentorship and coaching.

Arvada Covenant struggled with whether offenders needed constant chaperoning in church. There was an even split among the church council in those who believed that constant chaperoning was too intrusive and those who believed that it was necessary to protect children

⁵⁶ Liautaud, "Sex Offenders in the Pew," 2010.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

and youth. Arvada Covenant ultimately agreed on a sex offender conditional attendance policy.⁵⁹ A conditional attendance policy demands accountability. Accountability is good.

Redemption Road

66% of CTI survey respondents believe exclusion may be justified if their victims attend the same church; 61% would need to review the offender's probation terms and criminal record before permitting an offender to attend church; and 62% were unsure of a sex offender's ability to become rehabilitated enough not to pose a threat.⁶⁰ All of these concerns are a reality. Offenders will experience varying opinions as a result of the sexual abuse they committed against children.

Liautaud reports, The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, stated on their website that, though many sex abusers are treatable, there is no known 'cure.' According to them, prevention, assessment, treatment, supervision, and collaboration of involved parties, can greatly reduce repeat sexual crimes.⁶¹ The survey indicates that churches desire to be involved in the re-entry and prevention process.

Even so, 24% of surveyed leaders report that they have no church-based recovery ministry to help people with sexual addictions and 49% refer offenders to other ministries. This is due to several theories: 1) most churches do not know how to handle the negativity of our perception of sex offenders, 2) more people are needed to be invested in the recovery process, and 3) churches need to be more open in discussing the issue of sexual abuse.

⁵⁹ Liautaud, "Sex Offenders in the Pew," 2010.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

According to ex-offender, Craig, churches could be most helpful by reflecting Christ's love through aid, accountability and mentorship, but many are unwilling to discuss sex, not to mention sexual abuse.⁶² Churches no longer have to operate unequipped. Beginning a conversation about child sexual abuse is the beginning of breaking the cycle of abuse. Open communication and dialogue sets the stage for child sexual abuse to be addressed publicly. Churches can be resourceful while showing the love of God.⁶³

Churches may not be able to change the very structures that support such evil, but Jaycee Dugard, author of *A Stolen Life*, challenges pastors to "Just Ask Yourself to Care."⁶⁴ Dugard says she wants to be a part of small changes in our community that hopefully will lead to bigger changes in the future. There is no reason for such laziness in our society. No child, animal, or adult on this planet should be made to feel unsafe in this world we all share.⁶⁵ Every church should be convicted to address the societal issue of child sexual abuse, as children are the leaders of tomorrow.

Forgiveness

Many people believe that if a person has committed a crime once, he or she is always capable of committing the same crime again. There is hope for those suffering from sexual abuse, whether they were abused or whether they subjected others to sexual abuse. Help is available for all those who want help in being delivered from abusive behaviors. There are both prescriptive and preventative measures for becoming whole in the battle of sexual abuse. There

⁶² Liautaud, "Sex Offenders in the Pew," 2010.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Jaycee Dugard, *A Stolen Life* (New York, NY: Luna Lee, Inc., 2012), 272-273.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

are also preventative treatment programs available to those who feel they cannot be free of subjecting abuse on others.

Pastors should know without doubt that God is able to restore any broken person. The Scripture provides everyone with the assurance that, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Confession opens the door for forgiveness, and forgiveness ignites the cleansing process from sin. Once cleansing takes place, unrighteousness cannot stay. When an individual admits to sinning, and in this case, sexually abusing a child, is sincerely repentant, and turns from the sin, he or she is forgiven by God.

At repentance, the person acknowledges his or her wrong as sin. The person then desiring change turns from inflicting abuse on others. Their status changes as they have been forgiven. After receiving forgiveness, cleansing can begin. What this looks like is a renewed man, abstaining from old behaviors, understanding the act was wrong and sinful. It involves coming to terms with the violation and damage the person has caused another person. Judgment may flow from others, condemnation may arise from many, and the consequences of the abuse may still be a factor, but God has forgiven the act and initiated the cleansing process allowing the person to begin again through His grace.

Bishop T.D. Jakes said, “Forgiveness we are commanded to do, but trust must be earned. Forgiveness can happen instantaneously, but trust occurs over time. Trust has to be restored. Building that trust is the responsibility of the offender, and if he or she is serious about doing the work to build back the trust, they have to be able to identify and admit that they understand it, and that they accept how bad it was and how deeply they hurt the person. They have to own the pain they caused and understand they cannot just give lip service, but show true repentance until

the person they hurt has peace about it. The offender has to change their behavior enough for trust to be rebuilt because trust takes time to build. Forgiveness is a decision but trust is construction.”⁶⁶

When dealing with forgiveness, it does not always happen immediately. However, it is always possible. When wrestling with to forgive or not forgive, forgiveness is the healthier choice for all involved. Forgiveness is the most advantageous decision. When the offender puts in the hard work which has to be done, the victim takes back the control over his or her life, and the abuser can to begin to rebuild his or her life.

Are sexual abusers to be forgiven? Yes and no. Only God can provide judicial forgiveness of the horrible sin of abuse. Human beings can merely encourage abusers to own responsibility for their behavior and should never admonish premature relational forgiveness. Author Tracy Steven contends relational forgiveness should only be offered when the abuser has shown a clear willingness to take responsibility for his or her abuse, is taking clear steps toward changed behavior, is willing to enact firm and appropriate behavioral boundaries, and when the victim is not in significant danger of being re-victimized.⁶⁷ One should, however, offer psychological forgiveness even to unrepentant sexual abusers. This means that, in time, all can learn to let go of our personal attempts to exact revenge on the abuser and that all can, where possible, extend grace and kindness toward the abuser, not hatred. This is done with a view toward their healing, recognizing that their unrepentant evil of abuse will be judged righteously and decisively by God.

⁶⁶ T.D. Jakes, “Oprah’s Life Class,” Oprah.com/lifeclasse (2014).

⁶⁷ Tracy Steven, “Sexual Abuse and Forgiveness,” *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 27, no. 3(Fall 1999): 219. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://library.harvest.edu.au/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?>

A forgiveness that allows these principles breathes hope into malevolent human evil. It offers hope of healing for abuse survivors and a call to repentance for abuse perpetrators.⁶⁸ Forgiveness is attached to freedom. Freedom is attached to liberty. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom and liberty;” “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”⁶⁹

In order for victims to move through the process of forgiveness to completion, authors Lynn Heitritter and Jeanette Vought recommend counselors encourage survivors to differentiate between an insecure “I’m sorry” and godly sorrow coming from repentance that communicates messages such as “I didn’t know this had affected you so deeply,” or “I am willing to hear your pain.”⁷⁰ Heitritter and Vought say, “The offender who will listen without interrupting, defending, or correcting a survivor’s feelings will communicate a spirit of repentance. Before offenders can truthfully say they are sorry, they need to know what they are sorry for. After having shared the wound, when repentance comes, when there is a groaning from the spirit that says, “I am so sorry...,” there can flow the fullness of extended and completed forgiveness from the heart that has potential to restore and heal a relationship.”⁷¹ Healing is possible when there is true repentance and genuine forgiveness

⁶⁸ Tracy Steven, “Sexual Abuse and Forgiveness,” *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 27, no. 3(Fall 1999): 219. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://library.harvest.edu.au/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?>

⁶⁹ 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 8:36.

⁷⁰ Lynn Heitritter and Jeanette Vought, *Helping Victims of Sexual Abuse: A Sensitive Biblical Guide for Counselors, Victims, and Families* (Ada, MI: Bethany House, 2006)

⁷¹ Ibid.

CHAPTER 3

PRESCRIPTIVE MEASURES

Author Deborah Daro says, “Child sexual abuse cannot be predicted. Neither potential victims nor potential perpetrators can be reliably identified. Sexual abusers are not limited to parents. Offenders can and do represent the broad spectrum of adults who have relationships with children.”¹ Such adults are typically relatives, neighbors, family friends, day-care providers, teachers, and clergy. Universal prevention programs, while not blatant, generally fail to provide support to those who are currently offending or who are at imminent risk of offending.² Through conducting research on child sexual abuse, it has been concluded by many authors that though children do not have to be skeptical or leery of every adult, they should be on high alert following their intuition when there are warning signs.

Parents should trust their intuition and teach their children to do the same. Author Gaven De Becker defines intuition as knowing without knowing why, knowing even when you can’t see the evidence.³ Denial on the other hand is choosing not to know something even when the evidence is obvious. It’s easy to see which of these two human abilities is more likely to protect children from violence. Gaven says safety starts with knowing that your intuition about people is a brilliant guardian. Listening to intuition really means listening to yourself. To protect your child, you must believe in yourself.⁴

¹ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

² Ibid.

³ Gaven De Becker, *Protecting the Gift: Keeping Children and Teenagers Safe (and Parents Sane)* (New York, NY: Random House Publishing Group, 2013)

⁴ Ibid.

Gaven provides thought provoking questions to parents who are afraid to consider the details of how someone might harm their children. Of all the approaches parents might take to enhance the safety of their children, is ignorance about violence is an effective one? How about denial? Does it enhance safety? Of all the strategies parents might bring to protecting children, is worry is an effective one? Worry enhances risk.⁵ When parents worry themselves into a state of artificial fear about their children, they distract themselves from what is actually happening in favor of what they imagine is happening. Gaven insist that everything an individual gives energy to takes energy from something else.⁶

According to an article in the National Sexual Violence Resource Center,

A person sexually abuses a child when he or she exposes the child to sexual acts or sexual behavior. Child sexual abuse is an abuse of trust, power, and authority that may cause serious short-term and long-term problems for a child. About one in three girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused during childhood. Many of these children will never tell anyone about what happened to them, often as a result of threats or manipulation by the perpetrator. As a result, most cases are never reported to the police. Child sexual abuse is a serious violation that requires a community-wide response. Pastors can impact the lives of children by providing an open forum for parents and children to discuss child sexual abuse. Setting guidelines, having policies and procedures established will also aid in keeping children safe.

Whose responsibility is child sexual abuse prevention? In the end, it is the responsibility of individuals to not violate children in any way. Communities ought to actively engage in the prevention of child sexual abuse, safeguarding the well-being of children. Prevention programs designed for children are only one of many components of a successful community effort to prevent child sexual abuse. The burden of prevention should be distributed across community members, organizations, and social structures. Changing the behavior of adults and communities, rather than the behavior of children, is the ideal way to prevent child sexual abuse.

Generally, child sexual abuse prevention programs that target children have three main goals: to teach children to recognize child sexual abuse, to give them the skills to avoid

⁵ Gaven De Becker, *Protecting the Gift: Keeping Children and Teenagers Safe (and Parents Sane)* (New York, NY: Random House Publishing Group, 2013)

⁶ Ibid.

abuse, and to encourage them to report abuse that they have experienced, are experiencing, or may experience in the future.⁷

These are all good preventative goals in which adults should be privy to the information as well.

In order for children to have any chance of avoiding child sexual abuse, they should be taught at an early age the concept of ‘private zones’ and what parts of the body are considered ‘private.’ It is important that children understand the different kinds of appropriate and inappropriate touching. Although the goal is not to frighten the child, he or she should be told that it is possible that a person whom the child knows and likes may try to hurt them. Children should be encouraged to trust their intuition about people and situations. Parents should be open with children about healthy sexual development. Despite how private a parent may be, it is helpful for a child to be properly taught the necessities to remain safe from child sexual abuse at an early age. All teaching can be done decently and in order.

Every child should be equipped with necessary skills to repel child sexual abuse. These skills may involve teaching them that they have the right to decide who can and who cannot touch their body. Children should be told that, in a situation when someone touches them against their will or in a way that makes them uncomfortable, they can say “no” or leave/run away and tell a trusted adult.⁸ It is better to be safe than sorry. Children need truth. It is important to teach children to err on the side of safety and caution.

One of the most vital pieces of information that should be passed on to children is the importance of reporting child sexual abuse. It is important that children know that they will be believed and still loved if they tell. Children should be taught that child sexual abuse is never the fault of the child. This affirmation will aid in the child reporting the abuse.

⁷ National Sexual Violence Resource Center, “Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs for Children: Building an Evidence-Informed Approach” NSVRC, 2011. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsvrc.org>

⁸ Ibid.

Authors Mark J. Kittleson, John Haley and Wendy Stein expresses that many adults, including parents, are reluctant to report sexual abuse for fear that it will be traumatic for the child.⁹ However, children need to feel that adults are keeping them safe. Trying to take care of the abuse within the family may not ensure safety. Failing to report abuse also leaves other children at risk of abuse. Not only do parents have a moral obligation to investigate a child's claims of abuse, they also have a legal obligation to do so. In Texas, for example, child abuse charges can be filed against a parent who is aware of child sexual abuse but fails to report it.¹⁰

Children should be taught they can confide in a trusted adult should they encounter sexual abuse. Should someone touch them in a way that makes them uncomfortable, they should not keep it a secret. Reporting the abuse offers a system of hope to either avoid the abuse, or to stop the abuse. They should keep telling an adult they trust about sexual abuse until the adult does something to protect them. Finally children should be taught the correct names for body parts (e.g., penis, vagina, breasts, buttocks) so that they may accurately report what has happened to them.¹¹ Parents should use the proper names for body parts when teaching children.

With any societal issue there is controversy. There are differences of opinions and perspectives. The same is true with strategies for teaching children. There are strategies that are believed to be effective as well as strategies that may appear to be ineffective. Ultimately the goal is to strategize to keep children safe.

Some research suggests that potentially dangerous strategies which children are now being taught in some programs and which are stated in at least one leaflet includes: "Tell the

⁹ Mark J. Kittleson, John Haley and Wendy Stein, *The Truth About Abuse* (New York, NY: Book Builders LLC, 2005), 69.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ National Sexual Violence Resource Center, "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs for Children: Building an Evidence-Informed Approach" NSVRC, 2011. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsvrc.org>

abuser you are going to tell.” Once the abuse has started, children should not try saying “No!” nor threaten the offender with telling. Author Michelle Elliot claims this places the child at greater risk, as 39% of the abusers were prepared to threaten or use force.¹² Children need to know that shouting “No!” can be used when they are not alone with the offender or when first approached by the offender. Children need to know that they should tell on the offender but not alert the offender that they will tell.¹³ The key is to teach with consistency. The child needs to be clear on what the parent or guardian is teaching him or her. Pastors and parents can begin working together to create the same effective strategies for children.

What We All Need to Know

According to Megan’s Law, Adult and child victims of sexual abuse are never to blame for the assault, regardless of their behavior.¹⁴ No human should be taken advantage of or violated. Because of the age difference, children are unable to legally consent to sexual acts. Megan’s Law states children are often made to feel like willing participants, which further contribute to their shame and guilt.¹⁵ Sexual assault victims might not say “no” or not fight back for a variety of reasons, including fear and confusion. Megan’s Law also says Rape victims often report being “frozen” by fear during the assault, making them unable to fight back; other victims may not actively resist for fear of angering the assailant and causing him to use more force in the

¹² Elliot, *Child Sexual Abuse Prevention*, 579-594.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Office of the Attorney General, State of California, Department of Justice, “Megan’s Law-Facts about Sex Offenders,” 2001. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www/meganslaw.ca.gov/facts.htm>

¹⁵ Ibid.

assault.¹⁶ Pressure to be liked and not be talked about negatively by a peer will sometimes cause adolescents or children to avoid fighting back or actively resisting.¹⁷ This information should be communicated, circulated and used for open discussion among child and adult victims. The better educated we are about sexual abuse, the better the chances are to break the cycle of abuse.

CSA is a part of a deviant cycle that is well planned, step by step, and that evolves over time. The deviant cycle consists of several components. It is generally triggered by an affective state, such as rage, anxiety, depression or boredom, a chronically disordered sexual arousal pattern in which the offender is sexually attracted to children or to violence, or an antisocial attitude in which the offender is willing to use anyone or anything for sexual gratification and for fulfillment of his need to have power and control over others. In either case, the next step in the cycle is for the offender to place himself in a situation in which he can gain access to potential victims. The access is obtained most commonly through the use of vocation or avocation, an adult relationship, physical proximity, or emotional proximity.¹⁸ Offenders take advantage of any opportunity to prey on innocent children. Parents should be aware that when a person commits child sexual abuse, it is not by accident.

Whatever method the offenders choose, getting into high-risk situations is the next step in the deviant cycle. High risk situations are when situations permit access to children. Author Slavka Karkoskova says, “Some offender’s motive to offend is triggered by, drugs, alcohol, pornography, or specialized hobbies.”¹⁹ These triggers are no excuse for abusing a child. As

¹⁶ Office of the Attorney General, State of California, Department of Justice, “Megan’s Law-Facts about Sex Offenders,” 2001. Accessed February 7, 2015, <http://www/meganslaw.ca.gov/facts.htm>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

¹⁹ Ibid.

deviant as this cycle is, the good news is, despite the motive, God can deal with the heart of the human. He gets to the root of things and treats them as they really are, not as they pretend to be. When all is said and done, He knows the truth and He knows the true motives of the heart. The Scripture says, “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”²⁰

Once the offender has access to the child, he targets the child for purposes of offending. Planning and deviant fantasy are an integral part of the deviant cycle. He develops a plan for manipulating or coercing the child into sexual activity. Following this plan is grooming or forcing the victim into sexual abuse. The offender’s goal is to ensure the child does not report the abuse, to avoid the legal and social consequences of their behavior. The comforting truth through all the plotting, scheming, planning and actual act of sexual abuse is despite the offenders efforts to conceal the abuse, the child may eventually disclose the abuse.

Only if a person give up comfortable myths and accept bitter facts about CSA perpetrators, can he or she create valid theological responses to them. The main areas for theological reflection and response here are: moral, pastoral and canon-law (Church law).²¹ It is time for pastors and leaders to attend to matters of justice, and allow God to use them to set things right between people. Victims are to be rescued from their exploiters. The Scripture says, “Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.”²² The victim needs rescuing. The offender

²⁰ Jeremiah 17:10.

²¹ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

²² Jeremiah 22:3.

needs deliverance. God has already made provisions for pastors and leaders if they would begin to activate and exercise the power He has given them, greater results would they see.

A great deal remains to be done in altering the public's perception of child sexual abuse, as well as in strengthening parents' capacity to nurture their child's healthy sexual development. The goal should be to create a culture that eliminates any tolerance for sexual abuse or confusion over what society condones as appropriate interactions between adults and children.

According to author John Q. La Fond, there is no generally accepted scientific explanation of why sex offenders commit sex crimes.²³ When considering the fate of child sex offenders many believe offenders should be punished first and treated later.

La Fond states, "Unlike psychopath laws, which required the government to choose between punishment or treatment, a sex offender must serve his full prison term before he can be committed as a predator. Treatment is often delayed until many years after the individual has committed his sex crimes."²⁴ Most sex offenders will return to the community posing little risk of committing another sex crime. However, some will continue to pose a significant risk of re-offending.

Goals to help children in prevention include: improving a child's ability to recognize inappropriate behavior, providing a child with skills to respond to threatening situations, empowering a child to act when necessary, and creating an environment in which children can access help.²⁵ There are always pros and cons to everything. And there will be questions, such as,

²³ John Q. La Fond, *Preventing Sexual Violence How Society Should Cope With Sex Offenders* (Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2005), 133.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

“What if this or that happens?” Regardless to positive or negative feedback, something done is better than nothing done. There will always be critics.

Author Deborah Daro says when discussing parent education efforts, some parents sexually abuse their children, or negligently or knowingly allow others to do so.²⁶ The vast majority, however, do not. Strengthening a parent’s protective instincts and capacities may remain the single best defense against child sexual abuse.²⁷ In other words, the responsibility is pushed back on the parent, as opposed to holding the child responsible. Make the child aware, but hold the parent responsible.

All children need to be made safe from sexual mistreatment. Pertinent information needs to be available and readily accessible for all households. Because no one has all the answers, it is important to at least circulate the information that is current and effective. Offenders vary in their roles from parents, stepparents, etc. to the broad spectrum of adults.²⁸ Just as there are varying offenders, there are varying resources for the victim.

Awareness Tips

Statistics for sexual abuse are alarming. Approximately 30% of sexual assault cases are reported to authorities. 9.3% of cases of maltreatment of children in 2012 were classified as sexual abuse. 62,939 cases of child sexual abuse were reported in 2012.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ *National Criminal Victimization Survey*, in 2012, there were 346,830 reported rapes or sexual assaults of persons twelve years or older. In

²⁶ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

2010, 12% of rapes and sexual assaults involved a weapon. In 2010, strangers victimized 25% of the female victims of rape/sexual assault.²⁹

In an article entitled, *Have Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse Declined Since the 1990s?*, which was released by the Crimes Against Children Research Center in 2012, there was a 56% decline in physical abuse and a 62% decline in sexual abuse from 1992 to 2010.³⁰ Despite some skepticism of reporting methods by various agencies, declines in child physical and sexual abuse since the 1990s, as reported to National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), reflect a true decline in prevalence. The decline in sexual abuse in NCANDS was consistent with other data sources.³¹ Adult victims of sexual abuse that consist of about twenty million out of 112 million women (18.0%) in the United States have been raped during their lifetime. Only 16% of all rapes were reported to law enforcement. In 2006 alone, three hundred thousand college women (5.2%) were raped. Among college women, about 12% of rapes were reported to law enforcement.

A Center for Disease Control and Prevention survey on the national prevalence of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking found that 81% of women who experienced rape, stalking, or physical violence by an intimate partner reported significant short or long-term impacts. About 35% of women who were raped as minors also were raped as adults,

²⁹ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

³⁰ D. Finkelhor, and L. Jones, "Have Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse Declined Since the 1990s?" Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire. (November 1, 2012) Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://unh.edu/ccrc>

³¹ The U.S. Department of Justice, NSOPW. "Raising Awareness About Sexual Abuse: Facts and Statistics." Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsopw.gov>

compared to 14% of women without an early rape history. 28% of male rape victims were first raped when they were ten years old or younger.³²

In a 2012 maltreatment report, of the victims who were sexually abused, 26% were in the age group of twelve to fourteen years and 34% were younger than nine years. Approximately one of eight million adolescents in the United States has been the victims of sexual assault. Research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that approximately one in six boys and one in four girls are sexually abuse before the age of eighteen. 35.8% of sexual assaults occur when the victim is between the ages of twelve and seventeen. 82% of all juvenile victims are female. 69% of teen sexual assaults reported to law enforcement occurred in the residence of the victim, the offender, or another individual. Teens sixteen to nineteen years of age were three and one half times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault. Approximately one in five female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.³³ Among disclosure victims, not all sexually abused children exhibit symptoms.

Some estimate that up to 40% of sexually abused children are asymptomatic; however, others will give one detailed, clear account of abuse. This is not consistent with research. Disclosures often unfold gradually and may be presented in a series of hints. Children might imply that something has happened to them without directly stating they were sexually abused—they may be testing the reaction to their “hint.” If they are ready, children may then follow with a larger hint if they think it will be handled well. It is easy to miss hints of disclosure of abuse. As a result, a child may not receive the help needed. Disclosure of sexual abuse is often delayed.

³² The U.S. Department of Justice, NSOPW. “Raising Awareness About Sexual Abuse: Facts and Statistics.” Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsopw.gov>

³³ Ibid.

Children often avoid telling because they are either afraid of a negative reaction from their parents or of being harmed by the abuser. As such, they often delay disclosure until adulthood.

Males tend not to report their victimization, which may affect statistics. Some men even feel societal pressure to be proud of early sexual activity, regardless of whether it was unwanted. Studies of adults suggest that factors, such as the relationship to the perpetrator, age at first incident of abuse, use of physical force, severity of abuse, and demographic variables, such as gender and ethnicity, impact a child's willingness to disclose abuse.

When children do disclose abuse, it is frequently to a friend or a sibling. Of all other family members, mothers are most likely to be told. Whether or not a mother might be told will depend on the child's expected response from the mother. Few disclose abuse to authorities or professionals. Of all professionals, teachers are the most likely to be told. Historically, professionals promoted the idea that children frequently report false accounts of abuse. Current research, however, lacks systematic evidence that false allegations are common. Recantations of abuse are also uncommon.³⁴

Abuse via technology is not uncommon. Approximately one in seven (13%) youth Internet users received unwanted sexual solicitations. 9% of youth Internet users had been exposed to distressing sexual material while online. Predators seek youth vulnerable to seduction, including those with histories of sexual or physical abuse, those who post sexually provocative photos/videos online, and those who talk about sex with unknown people online.

One in twenty-five youths received an online sexual solicitation in which the solicitor tried to make offline contact. In more than one-quarter (27%) of incidents, solicitors asked youths for sexual photographs of themselves. The most common first encounter of a predator

³⁴ The U.S. Department of Justice, NSOPW. "Raising Awareness About Sexual Abuse: Facts and Statistics." Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsopw.gov>

with an internet-initiated sex crimes victim took place in an online chat room (76%). In nearly half (47%) of the cases involving an internet-initiated sex crimes victim, the predator offered gifts or money during the relationship-building phase. Internet-based predators used less deception to befriend their online victims than experts had thought. Only 5% of the predators told their victims that they were in the same age group as the victims. Most offenders told the victims that they were older males seeking sexual relations. 15% of cell-owning teens (twelve to seventeen) say they have received sexually suggestive nude/seminude images of someone they know via text.

Of respondents to a survey of juvenile victims of Internet-initiated sex crimes, the majority met the predator willingly face-to-face and 93% of those encounters had included sexual contact. 72% of teenagers and young adults believe that digital abuse is something that should be addressed by society. 11% of teenagers and young adults say they have shared naked pictures of themselves online or via text message. Of those, 26% do not think the person whom they sent the naked pictures to share them with anyone else. 26% of teenagers and young adults say they have participated in sexting (twelve different forms of sexting were examined), a 6% decline since 2011. Nearly 40% of young people in a relationship have experienced at least one form of abuse via technology. A large majority (81%) say they rarely or never feel their significant other uses technology to keep tabs on them too often.³⁵ It is estimated that 60% of perpetrators of sexual abuse are known to the child, but are not family members, e.g., family friends, babysitters, child care providers, or neighbors. About 30% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are family members. Only about 10% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are strangers to

³⁵ The U.S. Department of Justice, NSOPW. "Raising Awareness About Sexual Abuse: Facts and Statistics." Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsopw.gov>

the child. Not all perpetrators are adults; however, an estimated 23% of reported cases of child sexual abuse are perpetrated by individuals under the age of eighteen.³⁶

A wealth of information and awareness tips has been provided to educate pastors, parents and children about sexual abuse. Keeping children safe is a priority. Educating parents is priceless.

Common Characteristics among Sex Offenders

According to the Center for Sex Offender Management, “Researchers have examined multiple factors, traits, and characteristics of large samples of sex offenders, and they have found several issues that seem to be common throughout offenders. Not all of these issues are present in every sex offender.”³⁷ Nor does it mean that the presence of any of these variables, either alone or in combination, “makes” an individual a sex offender or necessarily causes them to commit sex offenses. The Center for Sex Offender Management also notes that some of these features or characteristics can also be found in samples of other criminals, or within the general population. But because these characteristics have been found in samples of sex offenders, experts believe that they may somehow be related to why individuals begin engaging in sexually abusive behavior, particularly when these factors interact with other variables and circumstances. And some, but not all, of these characteristics also predict reoffending among known sex offenders.³⁸

³⁶ The U.S. Department of Justice NSOPW. “Raising Awareness About Sexual Abuse: Facts and Statistics.” Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsopw.gov>

³⁷ Center for Sex Offender Management. *Understanding Sex Offenders: An Introductory Curriculum*. Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed February 7, 2015. http://www.csom.org/train/etiology/3/3_1.htm

³⁸ Ibid.

Deviant sexual arousal, interests, or preferences

Some sex offenders have interests in, or are aroused to, things that are considered to be outside the realm of healthy or appropriate sexual interests or behavior including, but not limited to, the following: Engaging in sexual contact with young children or adolescents; Having sexual contact with others against their will or without their consent; Inflicting pain or humiliation on others; Participating in or watching acts of physical aggression or violence; Exposing oneself in a public setting, and/or; Secretly watching others who are undressing, unclothed, or engaging in sexual activities.

The Center for Sex Offender Management say, “Some sex offenders may even prefer one or more of these types of behaviors over healthy, consenting sexual relationships with age appropriate partners, hence, the term deviant sexual preferences.”³⁹ Because these types of interests, urges, arousal, or even preferences can be so strong, it is believed that they are a significant driving force behind the initial onset of sexually abusive behaviors for some sex offenders. According to the Center for Sex Offender Management, researchers have found that deviant arousal, interests, or preferences are linked to recidivism. Not all sex offenders actually have evidence of these deviant interests, arousal patterns, or preferences, and there may also be people in the general public who have some types of deviant interests or preferences, but they may not ever engage in sex offending behaviors. Nonetheless, it is an important risk factor for sex offenders.⁴⁰

³⁹ Center for Sex Offender Management. Understanding Sex Offenders: An Introductory Curriculum. Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed February 7, 2015. http://www.csom.org/train/etiology/3/3_1.htm

⁴⁰ Ibid.

Cognitive Distortions or Pro–Offending Attitudes

Sex offenders are aware that acts, such as rape and child molestation, are not only illegal, but also harmful to others. Yet they engage in this behavior anyway. This is likely the result of cognitive distortions, or pro offending attitudes. What happens is that sex offenders may tell themselves (and even tell others) that the behavior is not harmful or that it is less serious, or claim that the victim enjoyed the behavior or initiated the sexual contact, or they may come up with justifications for engaging in sex offending behaviors, such as believing that women deserve to be treated in these ways. In so doing, these delusional beliefs give the offenders “permission” to do something that they know is wrong, and therefore they may not feel as badly about themselves for doing it.

The reality is that we all use different types of cognitive distortions to some extent for engaging in any other behavior that is problematic, illegal, or otherwise unhealthy. That way, we, too, can avoid feeling guilty or badly about what we are doing. The Center for Sex Offender Management notes that the process of using cognitive distortions is not unique to sex offenders. The types of cognitive distortions that sex offenders’ use, however, are often related specifically to their own problem behaviors, including general antisocial behaviors or sex offending behaviors.⁴¹

Social, interpersonal, and intimacy deficits

Some experts believe that sex offenders exhibit characteristics that play a role in the development of sexually abusive behavior. These characteristics involve problems in the social

⁴¹ Center for Sex Offender Management. Understanding Sex Offenders: An Introductory Curriculum. Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed February 7, 2015. http://www.csom.org/train/etiology/3/3_1.htm

or interpersonal realm, with issues such as ineffective communication skills, social isolation, general social skills deficits, or problems in intimate relationships. Problems establishing and maintaining intimate relationships are also associated with an increased risk for sexual recidivism.⁴²

Victim empathy deficits

Some sex offenders have no empathy. Unfortunately they are sometimes unable to feel what their victim may be feeling. The lack of empathy is partly what allows the offender to engage in sexual abusive behaviors; however, lack of empathy has not been found to predict recidivism among sex offenders.⁴³ For many, until an issue hits home, it is not taken as seriously as it should be. Offenders are probably more likely to better understand the effects of the abuse should it occur with their loved one at the hands of an outside sex offender.

Poor Coping or Self-management Skills

Emotional and behavioral self-regulation difficulties may be part of what leads an offender down the path of sex offending or re-offending. Some offenders may have difficulties managing their emotions appropriately. Many are highly impulsive and tend not to think carefully about the consequences of their behaviors before they act. Others may have difficulty resisting their urges from time to time.⁴⁴ Self-control is critical when approaching any situation.

Under-detected Deviant Sexual Behaviors

⁴² http://www.csom.org/train/etiology/3/3_1.htm

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

Most commonly, sex offenders only disclose information about their sexual behavior through an assessment polygraph, or through the course of treatment. Generally if the offender is apprehended, it may not be his or her first or only abusive behavior. Not all sex offenders have undisclosed victims; however, when dealing with offenders, it may sometimes require probing beyond the surface extensively.⁴⁵

History of Maltreatment

Not all sex offenders have been sexually abused. There are many people who have been subjected to physical, sexual, or emotional abuse during their childhood or adolescence, yet they never go on to commit sex offenses. Sometimes experiencing past trauma is a deterrent to subjecting trauma on others. The Scripture says, “As you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”⁴⁶ Recalling how the sexual abuse experience has affected the victim’s life is sometimes enough to want to ensure that no one else experiences that level of abuse. Therefore the victim does not become the offender. Factors or variables which predict sexual reoffending are the following: Problems with intimacy, or conflicts in intimate relationships; Increased hostility; Emotional identification with children; Becoming preoccupied with sexual matters or activities; Lifestyle instability and self-regulation difficulties, such as employment problems, impulsivity, and substance abuse; Attitudes and beliefs that tend to support or justify criminal or antisocial behaviors; and Demonstrating non-compliance with supervision or treatment expectations.⁴⁷

It is recognized that there are multiple things that can go wrong in a person’s life. Despite the setbacks, or difficulties, children are not expected to suffer the consequences of an

⁴⁵ http://www.csom.org/train/etiology/3/3_1.htm

⁴⁶ Luke 6:31.

⁴⁷ http://www.csom.org/train/etiology/3/3_1.htm

individual's challenging circumstance, or pitfall. The Scripture says, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed: perplexed, but not driven to despair."⁴⁸ The offender must know that he or she does not have to reach this level of despair; however, should they fall into despair, abusing children is not the way out. Nor should children be used as sedatives to cope with their problems.

Authors Cindy L. Miller-Perrin and Robin G. Perrin say Advocates argue that child maltreatment perpetrators should be both punished and treated. The punishment communicates that violence will not be tolerated, and the treatment helps the perpetrators recognize why they are prone to violence.⁴⁹ Many child sexual abuse offenders go unpunished and untreated. One of the goals of this research is to expose the offender to various avenues for healing and recovery from sexual abuse.

Change is Possible

Ninety-one child sex offenders were interviewed about the methods they used to target children, the age range of their victims, how they selected children and maintained them as victims, and what suggestions they had for preventing child sexual abuse. Results indicate that offenders gained access to children through caretaking: such as babysitting, targeted children by using bribes, gifts and games, used force, anger, threats, and bribes to ensure their continuing compliance, and systematically desensitized children through touch, talk about sex, and persuasion. Nearly half the offenders had no bad feelings about sexually abusing children.⁵⁰ This information may be hard to hear, but it is helpful in providing children with information to keep

⁴⁸ 2 Corinthians 4:8.

⁴⁹ Cindy L. Miller-Perrin and Robin G. Perrin, *Child Maltreatment: An Introduction* (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 2012), 25.

⁵⁰ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

them safe from offenders. The information also reveals that some offenders have no sympathy towards their victims. This should provoke every victim to report the abuse.

When selecting victims overall, according to the offender's perceptions, the child who was most vulnerable had family problems, was alone, was non-confident, curious, pretty, "provocatively" dressed, trusting, and young or small. Offenders who found child victims outside their immediate families had various strategies: 35% of the men frequented places where children were likely to go to such as schools, shopping centers, arcades, amusement/theme parks, playgrounds, parks, beaches, swimming baths, fairs, and so forth; 33% worked on becoming welcome in the child's home; 14% "took the chance" when a child approached them, perhaps to ask a question and 18% of the men tried to get more children by having their victims recruit other children.⁵¹ Offenders basically scope out their victims. Like an animal they lay in wait for children, waiting for the opportune time to attack.

It is highly significant that 48% of the offenders isolated their victims through babysitting. On these occasions, the offenders started by talking about sex (27%), offering to bathe or dress the child (20%), and/or using coercion by misrepresenting the abuse as having a different purpose (21%), such as "it would be good for you to do this for your education" or "this is what people do who love each other."⁵² Offenders are cunning and often lure children through deceitfulness. Whether they have been entrusted to babysit the child or not, they do not have the child's best interest at heart.

It appeared that convicted child abusers were very much creatures of habit. Author Michelle Elliot reports, "Eighty-four percent of the men said that once they had developed a

⁵¹ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

⁵² Ibid.

series of successful strategies, they approached children with that same method every time; 16% were inconsistent in their approaches and changed their strategies over time.”⁵³ Elliot says, “When asked what had influenced their choice of strategies, 56% of the offenders had no idea, 30% had been reinforced by their own experiences, and 14% said that pornography, television programs, films, or media played some part.”⁵⁴ What kept them from seeking help was the realization that there was no help available (46%), or that whatever they had tried hadn’t helped (17%). Some had not considered getting help prior to being caught because they had not, in their opinion, had a problem (37%).⁵⁵ So it is with the adversary who is the father of lies. He uses the same tactics because they are effective.

Despite the statistics, it is fair to say that sex offenders can change, just as an alcoholic or drug addict can change. Once the relevant background factors are addressed, strategies can be designed to teach behaviors that will allow the offender to take an action other than offending. Feelings of shame reflect an attribution for inappropriate behaviors to a defect in the person, and this prevents the person from believing that change is possible. Guilt, on the other hand, reflects an attribution for bad behavior to poor decision-making, and this encourages a belief in the possibility of change. This approach enhances their sense of self-worth, coupled with the level of respect being shown to the offender that ultimately should reduce shame and facilitate engagement in the change process.⁵⁶ Getting the offender to a state of mind where he or she is ready, willing and able to change is half the battle. Embracing change involves going from the old behavior to the new. Change should be the ultimate goal.

⁵³ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

When the offender is open to trust the process that facilitates change, his or her life will be forever changed. Changing the thought process is life changing. The Scripture reminds believers, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”⁵⁷ In order for healing to take place in the victim or the offender, the old mindset has to be replaced with the new mindset. Paul tells us, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”⁵⁸

The issue of guilt and managing it fall into the area of practical life.⁵⁹ People who abuse children provide a unique source of information for child protection programs and agencies. Since many of them have both a perpetrator and victim perspective, they can give valuable insights that will enable adults to help children remain safe.

⁵⁷ Romans 12:2.

⁵⁸ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

⁵⁹ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

CHAPTER 4

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Research shows that not all parents talk to their children about child sexual abuse.¹ However, the burden of prevention should never be placed on the child. Child sexual abuse occurs as a result of many factors working together, all of which are beyond the control of the child. It is the responsibility of individuals to not violate children in any way. Communities are expected to actively engage in the prevention of child sexual abuse and safeguard the well-being of children. Prevention programs designed for children are only one of many components of a successful community effort to prevent child sexual abuse. The burden of prevention should be distributed across community members, organizations and social structures. Changing the behavior of adults and communities, rather than the behavior of children, is the ideal way to prevent child sexual abuse.²

Preventing abuse can be seen as a process of altering the potential perpetrator, the potential victim, and the environment in which both exist. Prevention can occur on one of three levels: first prevention, which is targeting services to the general population with the objective of stopping any occurrence; second prevention, which is targeting services to high-risk groups in order to avoid the continued spread of the problem; and third prevention, which is targeting services to known perpetrators or victims with the intent of preventing new incidents.³ Whereas

¹ National Sexual Violence Resource Center, “Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs for Children: Building an Evidence-Informed Approach” NSVRC, 2011. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.nsvrc.org>

² Ibid.

³ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

this project seeks to avoid the continued spread of sexual abuse, it is also the objective of this author to stop any occurrences and prevent new incidents.

Author Carla Van Dam says in teaching abuse prevention, it is essential that adults understand molesters and recognize their methods of abusing.⁴ Many adults find this too distasteful. Dam says because ignorance is not bliss, when adults do not understand molesters and their methods of abusing, it can lend to more opportunities for offenders to abuse children.⁵ Hiding behind ignorance is a disservice to children.

Prevention or Protection

According to author Rebecca Bolen, “Researchers say people targeting the child in prevention programs to try to teach them how to avoid child sexual abuse, is ineffective because the rate of child sexual abuse is not decreasing.”⁶ It is suggested that potential offenders should be targeted instead of the children. The most beneficial piece to sexual abuse will be derived from recovering sex abusers/offenders. Offenders, especially those recovering and who are willing to offer insight can help victims to understand and begin the healing process. Knowing why an offender caused harm to the victim and understanding the damage caused by the offender in a way may bring closure.⁷

Less has been done about the issue of how the offenders actually target children and maintain them as victims. This information is vital to prevention work with children if the

⁴ Carla Van Dam, *Identifying Child Molesters: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse by Recognizing the Patterns of the Offenders* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2013)

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Rebecca M. Bolen, “Child Sexual Abuse: Prevention or Promotion?” *Social Work* 48, no. 2 (April 2003): 174-85. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

⁷ Ibid.

programs are to effectively counteract the methods used by offenders to gain access to children and to ensure their silence. People who abuse children provide a unique source of information for child protection programs and agencies. Since many of them have both a perpetrator and victim perspective (Browne, 1994), they can give valuable insights that will enable adults to help children stay safe. Offenders provide relevant comments to assist children in the prevention of sexual abuse.

Offenders' Information for Children:

Children need a guidebook and programs to give them information about prevention. Such information should include advising children to avoid secluded and remote places. Children should be informed that not everyone is trustworthy. They should know that if anyone tries to trick them or “makes strange suggestions or talks about sexual things or seems to touch or brush up against them accidentally” they should make up a fib and get away to tell a neighbor or someone. Children should also know if a babysitter tries or suggests anything; try to go out with other children.⁸

Children need to be wary of public toilets and never go into them alone. They should walk to school with other children. Children should never accept gifts or talk to anyone who comes up to them. If they are being followed, they should knock on the door of a nearby house. Children should always tell parents where they are going. Most importantly, children should tell if anyone, including a relative, is abusing them.

Parents need to be suspicious if someone seems more interested in their children than in the parents. Over-loving or over-affectionate type people are potentially dangerous. Offenses can occur gently and subtly. Children need to be prompted to get help early should something occur. There are people, even family members and friends, who could ask their children to do something sexual. Disabled people abuse children too.

Teach children to never keep secrets or feel they are to blame if they are abused. Teach children about sex, different part of the body, and “right and wrong” touches. Don't teach children to do everything adults tell them; otherwise they will be too frightened of adult status. Have family discussions about preventing abuse. Tell children they have

⁸ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention* Child, 579-594.

rights, and the child “is not comfortable with someone they do not have to be with them.”⁹

Children should know that it is a dangerous age when girls are “transforming into women and might be sexually curious. Beware of Children’s behavior changing. Do not be so hard on children. Realize that single family parents are a good target for pedophiles. Teachers and schools should have prevention programs for all kids from a very young age. They should have children role play. Students should be given courses to learn the signs of abuse. The programs should not concentrate on stranger danger and stereotypes. There should be discussions in school to prompt children to tell if they are being abused. When a child does tell, the teacher and the parent should believe the child. There should be events in held in school about being safe. Sex education should be taught. The offenders suggested that safety messages to children should start from the age of three and continue until the age of sixteen. They said that parents and teachers should give and reinforce the messages. Telephone help lines for children to call were seen as a good protection. Some of the abusers wanted help lines for people who abuse, to help them get advice about counseling and therapy groups. “Just banging us into prison doesn’t protect kids in the long run; we’ll only come out and do it again if we don’t get help to change.”¹⁰ For the most part, offenders are well aware of their crime. Some of them are also aware of the fact that they need help. Some will accept help and some will not.

Treatment

There needs to be a marriage between treatment and prevention, which has not occurred for child sexual abuse. It is not sufficient merely to teach a child how to resist inappropriate

⁹ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention* Child, 579-594.

¹⁰ Ibid.

sexual interactions; an effective intervention system should also address the conditions that lead an adult to consider the use of children for sexual gratification and should strengthen the environmental elements that discourage abuse.¹¹ Treatment and prevention are effective tools for the offender and the victim.

Once an offender has been disciplined and counseled in order for the counseling treatment to end, there needs to be sufficient progress made. According to Henry Giarretto, the following questions are usually considered to determine “sufficient progress.”¹²

Is molestation likely to recur? In other words, has the marital and home situation improved enough to prevent recurrence of molestation and ensure a safe home environment for the child-victim? Has the offender taken responsibility for his or her behavior and become aware of the formerly, largely unconscious impulses which preceded the molestation of his/her child? Is the offender able to control them if they recur? Have the feelings and conflicts between family members (mother, daughter, father, siblings) been dealt with openly and completely so that the family environment is nurturing for the child and other family members?¹³ Such questions are necessary when evaluating the offender’s progress. To not have this conversation would do children a disservice.

Marshall explains there are risks to be avoided in sexual offender treatment. A child molester should never allow himself to be alone with a child, a rapist should avoid placing himself in a situation where he has ready access to a victim, and an offender whose crimes were committed while intoxicated, should aim for abstinence from the problem drug. There needs to

¹¹ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

¹² Giarretto, *A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program*, 263-278.

¹³ Ibid.

be responsibility and accountability of the molester, rapist, or offender in order to coexist and remain safe.¹⁴

Being occupied at a reasonable job and in enjoyable leisure activities is quite important. Life upon discharge of the sex offender should consist of a support system to support his continued pursuit of his good life upon his discharge. These groups are designed to avoid risks and can provoke the offender to contribute to an offensive-free life.

According to Marshall, research revealed, through evaluating a program operated in a Canadian prison setting for the past fifteen years: 534 treated sexual offenders had been released into the community for an average of four years (48% had been in the community for over six years). Marshall says, “Only 3.2% had sexually re-offended, whereas the expected rate (based on an estimate derived from the offenders’ actuarial risk levels) was 16.8%.”¹⁵

The program, with its adaptation to each client, focused on the future and on developing a more fulfilling life, and an emphasis on the importance of the therapeutic processes, which is quite different from other Cognitive-behavioral therapy relapse preventions (CBT/RP) programs. On this point, it is relevant to note that none of the clients in the program who scored in the psychopathic range on Hare’s Psychopathy Checklist-Revised, or who suffered from any other personality disorder, were found to have re-offended. The evidence from the outcome study, then, suggests that the positive and flexible approach may be more effective than traditional CBT/RP programs.¹⁶ These results show evidence that there are effective programs to assist offenders on their journey to healing and recovery.

¹⁴ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

According to John Thoburn, “Over the years, a singular focus of working with sexual misconduct has been on treatment; however, treatment is costly, labor and time intensive, and is akin to closing the barn door after the horses have escaped.” Thoburn says a systems paradigm moves us far beyond focusing on treatment considerations alone, to include considerations of prevention, education, spiritual formation and direction, and relationally based supportive oversight structures.”¹⁷ This combination of considerations will help to alleviate further sexual misconduct as well as provide services and guidance for the whole person.

Measuring Improvement and Recovery

One of the most difficult issues in the treatment of sexual offenders is how to measure improvement and recovery. Most pedophiles do not seek treatment unless they experience extreme distress or if it is court mandated. Treatment needs to address such issues as denial and minimization of the behavior, inappropriate attitudes about sex, sexual needs, deviant sexual preferences, victim impact and empathy, social skills, anger control, relationship issues, and life skills.¹⁸ Recovery is important to all those involved, the offender, his or her family, and the victim and his or her family.

Measuring the effectiveness of prevention programs is a formidable task when the point of onset cannot be established and when the at-risk population is small and amorphous.¹⁹ That raises a puzzling question concerning the population of Homeschoolers. How are those families reached, and how are they calculated in measuring effectiveness of prevention programs? Very young children and children who are home-schooled may not have access to school-based

¹⁷ John Thoburn, *Clergy Sexual Misconduct* (Carefree, AZ: Gentle Path Press, 2012) Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.eBookIt.com>

¹⁸ Bahroo, “Pedophilia.” (2003).

¹⁹ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

programs. For these reasons, child focused programs can be implemented in other community settings, such as day cares, faith-based organizations, libraries, or community centers.²⁰ All children need easy access to vital safety information.

Manipulation

An offender uses strategies for manipulating victims into secrecy. He or she will test the child's willingness to keep secrets. This creation of secrecy at the start of a relationship may appear to be quite innocent. It is the start of enticing the child further into the seductive web of abuse. Another similar ploy is the offender testing children's reactions by "accidentally" touching them.²¹ Children should be taught to tell the offender they do not keep secrets. This and accidental touching are both warning signs. It is important that the child move away from that person, if possible, and tell someone what happened. There is a vital distinction here between the child telling someone who approaches them that they don't keep secrets, telling an adult if someone seems to be accidentally touching them, and a child threatening an offender with disclosure. Telling should not place them in danger, threatening does.

Parents need to be aware that abusers are evenly divided across the social classes and may or may not be married.²² Based on Elliot's research, studies suggest that most rape offenders are married or in consenting relationships. Elliot says it is a myth that men who rape do so because they cannot find a consenting sexual partner. Elliot explains while some offenders do seek sexual gratification from the act, sexual gratification is often not a primary motivation for a

²⁰ NSVRC. "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs for Children."

²¹ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

²² Ibid.

rape offender. Elliot concludes that power, control, and anger are more likely to be the primary motivators.²³

Most men who commit sexual offenses know their victim. 90% of child victims know their offender, with almost half of the offenders being a family member. Of sexual assaults against people age twelve and up, approximately 80% of the victims know the offender. Seldom do most child sexual abusers use physical force or threat to gain compliance from their victims. In the majority of cases, abusers gain access to their victims through deception and enticement. Abuse typically occurs within a long-term, ongoing relationship between the offender and victim, and escalates over time.

Victims of sexual assault are harmed in more ways than one. More than any physical injuries the victim sustains, the violation of trust that accompanies most sexual assaults has been shown to dramatically increase the level of trauma the victim suffers. Emotional and psychological injuries cause harm that can last much longer than physical wounds.²⁴ Victims continue to suffer long after their physical wounds have healed.

Not all men are suspects, but children should be on alert to men who attach themselves to their families and who offer to spend countless hours with their children, be it teaching sports, or offering to babysit. The psychological consequence of trusting your children to potential sex offenders is devastating. Unfortunately, not all families received or are receiving such advice.

Open communication is essential in any family. All children should be told that a babysitter should not give them “special” privileges, like staying up late. If the babysitter asks them to do anything different or unusual, they should tell their parents. Parents need to ensure

²³ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention* Child, 579-594.

²⁴ Office of the Attorney General, State of California, Department of Justice, “Megan’s Law-Facts about Sex Offenders,” 2001. Accessed February 7, 2015, <http://www/meganslaw.ca.gov/facts.htm>

that their children feel they can tell if anything happens.²⁵ Open communication and honesty will take children a long way. Parents should talk to their children daily asking probing questions out of concern for their children.

Secrecy

It is crucial to remember that secrecy is the matrix for CSA, an environment where CSA blooms. If we want to reduce the incidence and consequences of this heinous crime, we have to deal with the CSA cases in a more transparent way. Research shows that revealed cases are just the tip of the iceberg. CSA is rarely an isolated event. Reporting the perpetrator could help reveal many more victims we didn't know about and help protect many other potential victims.

The myth that keeping silence protects others (from troubles viewed as a greater evil) in the cases of CSA, is extremely dangerous. Reporting is not a betrayal of loyalty (if the perpetrator is from the family); in fact, real betrayal happened much earlier through the CSA, and our silence is just supporting the crime! Another myth is the fear of false reports: fear that through reporting, we could hurt the person who could already have changed, or that confronting him could cause a collapse in his family. Fear of reporting a sex offender should not cause the child to suffer. When there is fear, the focus is on the wrong person. It should be on the child. This speaks volumes. We run the risk of jeopardizing the victim's welfare as well as other potential victims when we choose to defend the perpetrator. We have no ethical right to protect the perpetrator from the consequences of his behavior. It is not cruel to hold him accountable for his deeds. Real cruelty is to let him go freely in a community that is unaware and put children at risk of traumatization, a negative impact which is often life-long.

²⁵ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention* Child, 579-594.

Pope John Paul II addressed canon law's view of CSA by clerics. He says that a sin against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue by a cleric with a minor under eighteen years of age is to be considered a more serious delict (crime) or *delictum gravitus*, which especially hurts the church and is worthy of the strictest punishments.²⁶ When the bishop receives a credible allegation of CSA by a cleric or religious figure, his duty is to investigate the matter. If he concludes that the allegations are founded, his duty is to refer the case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (the oldest of the *Roman Curia*, providing Catholic doctrine and defending endangered Christian tradition). It will give directives regarding what procedure should be followed. The final judgment of these cases is reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. The statute of limitations for indictments regarding these delicts is set at ten years, which runs from the eighteenth birthday of the victim.²⁷ A pastoral response is really needed to manage the CSA perpetrator in the community.

Prevention Programs

Marshall says not all treatment programs are the best fit for all sex offenders.²⁸ It is important to recognize there will not always be a “one size fits all” for every offender. It is inappropriate to require all sexual offenders to rigidly follow the same treatment program. Furthermore, there is evidence indicating that therapists who adhere to a detailed treatment manual diminish their effectiveness by doing so.²⁹ Following the leading of the Holy Spirit is

²⁶ John P. Beal, James A. Coriden, and Thomas Joseph Green, *New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2000), 1599.

²⁷ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

²⁸ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

²⁹ Ibid.

most advantageous coupled with treatment programs. The goal is to get the best results to assist the offender.

In the prevention programs, it does not work to have offenders focus on avoidance. Avoidance goals are rarely maintained even under the best of conditions, especially when life is experienced as unsatisfying. It is easy to say to the offender, stay clear of all children. However, the reality is, children are everywhere, and rightfully so.

What appears to work between therapists and sex offenders is establishing a relationship where there is mutual trust. It is the trust that provides clients with the confidence to explore various possibilities, including taking responsibility for their actions, both past and future. Research has shown that in treatment with sexual offenders, benefits are derived only when the therapist displays support, empathy, and warmth and when clients are encouraged for small steps in the right direction.³⁰ Trust goes a long way. It is the start of offenders opening up. The key to remember is, offenders are human too. They are looking for satisfaction, and support as with anyone else.

There are many benefits to child sexual abuse prevention programs: 1.) increased knowledge about child sexual abuse; 2.) increased self-protective knowledge and skills, and increased use of these self-protective skills; 3.) earlier disclosure of abuse, which could prevent further abuse from occurring and allow the child to be treated for the abuse; 4.) shorter duration of abuse; and 5.) increased positive feelings about self and decreased negative feelings about self.³¹

³⁰ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

³¹ NSVRC. "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs for Children."

Child abuse prevention programs are, for the most part, successful at teaching children concepts about sexual abuse and skills in self-protection. Numerous evaluations of prevention programs also note an increase in the number of disclosures of abuse.³² This means more children are being taught how to protect themselves against abuse, and more incidents of abuse are reported.

However, to prevent child sexual abuse, entire communities have to take responsibility and action in preventing abuse.³³ While the programs are working to prevent abuse, more pastors and communities need to get involved.

For prevention programs to be effective at reducing abuse, they must be able to provide skills and education to children that transfer to approaches by potential offenders. Therefore, skills presented to children must be broad enough to cover the spectrum of potential abuse situations, yet specific enough that children feel competent to use the skills in potential abuse situations.³⁴ Children on every level should have access to the information they need to remain safe. Pastors, leaders, and parents can become a powerful source in providing a safer place for children when they are educated on sexual abuse. One in five adults report that they were sexually abused as children— an experience that increases vulnerability to depression, substance abuse, aggression, and other difficulties. More than 88% of adults who were abused say they never reported the abuse to authorities.³⁵ Talking about past experiences of abuse with children will also provoke them to share any abuse they may have experienced.

³² Bolen, *Child Sexual Abuse: Prevention or Promotion*, 174-85.

³³ NSVRC. "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs for Children."

³⁴ Bolen, *Child Sexual Abuse: Prevention or Promotion*, 174-85.

³⁵ <http://www.safersociety.org/uploads/WP071-Prevent-Child-Abuse.pdf>.

Prevention Taught in the Classroom

Prevention programs taught in the classroom offer an opportunity for victims to reach out for help, thereby preventing continued abuse. Some children may be more comfortable sharing the abuse with a teacher than family members. In the classroom, most programs cover the following topics: The distinction between good, bad, and questionable touching, the rights of children to control who touches their bodies and where they are touched, the importance of the child's telling a responsible adult if someone inappropriately touches the child, even if the child was told not to reveal the incident, assertiveness skills ranging from repeatedly saying "no" to the use of self-defense techniques (for example, yelling, kicking, fighting back), and the existence of support systems to help the child who has experienced any form of maltreatment.³⁶ Sometimes this teaching will be the only lessons children are taught concerning sexual abuse. Teachers should be instructed on the importance of this teaching.

There is a need to provide children with opportunities for role play to practice new skills such as assertiveness. As uncomfortable as role play may be for some, it is certainly helpful regardless to being put on the spot; children are being challenged to think, come up with solutions or apply solutions. Role play is effective, especially when dealing with serious issues. It provides the child with clear communication, assertiveness, and teaches them to maintain a safe distance (that is, arm's length from strangers). However, role play could prove to be a different animal when the abuse is not occurring among strangers, but in the child's household among parents or siblings. Fortunately, research shows that children who had attended programs that included a role-play component were significantly more likely to report these types of activities.

³⁶ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

Research shows that the most promising programs have behavioral rehearsal of prevention strategies, and include curricula tailored to each age group's cognitive characteristics and learning ability. For young children, material is best presented in a stimulating and varied manner. Generic concepts, such as assertive behavior, decision-making skills, and communication skills, which children can use in everyday situations, not just to fend off abuse is most crucial. Programs that emphasize the need for children to tell every time someone touches them in a way that makes them uneasy are most beneficial. Also recommended are longer programs that are better integrated into school curricula.

It is important to understand that child sexual abuse prevention education, as an isolated strategy to prevent child sexual abuse, cannot succeed.³⁷ Parent education programs should emphasize communication skills to create a context in which secrets or manipulation by another adult becomes more difficult. Parents need to be given information about how to deal with a disclosure of sexual abuse and how to reach out to children (their own or others) who may be in vulnerable situations.³⁸ Children need advocates in the classroom and at home.

Community Involvement

School-based programs are the primary means of addressing the prevention of child sexual abuse in the United States. These programs were originally developed in the late 1970s and early 1980s, during a time of increased awareness of the problem of child sexual abuse. Originally, this awareness was largely the result of writings by feminists such as Florence Rush (1980) and Judith Herman (1981), who suggested that dynamics in society as a whole were a

³⁷ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

³⁸ Ibid.

primary cause of the prevalence of abuse. Feminists believed that child sexual abuse was symptomatic of a patriarchal society in which men had power over girls and women. One effect of this literature was to bring the problem of child sexual abuse to public awareness.³⁹ However the information was presented it drew attention to the safety of children and placed the focus where it belonged, on children. Public awareness is essential. Communities are provoked to take some sort of action in an effort to prevent child sexual abuse, which forces them to acknowledge the abuse.

Russell's (1983) prevalence study, the first random community prevalence survey ever done, contributed to a sense of urgency concerning child sexual abuse when she reported that thirty-eight percent of all female respondents in her sample had experienced contact sexual abuse as a child. In the 1980's, professional literature on the problem of child sexual abuse also began to expand rapidly. At the same time, high-profile cases started to be sensationalized in the media, especially abuse in day care centers, contributing further support for a sense of urgency.⁴⁰ When there is no awareness there are no results.

Several events in the early 1980's converged to raise public consciousness about child sexual abuse. The McMartin Preschool criminal prosecution began in 1980, drawing sustained media attention. In 1984, the national broadcast of "Something About Amelia," the story of an incest family, and the corresponding cover story in *Time* magazine reminded the public in a powerful manner that children's greatest risk for sexual abuse is at the hands of someone they know and trust. To address this public demand for action, child sexual abuse prevention

³⁹ Bolen, *Child Sexual Abuse: Prevention or Promotion*, 174-85.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

education programs were replicated far more rapidly than the research warranted.⁴¹ Whereas this effort should be applauded, the work is not done. Sadly, the number of victims appears to be on the rise. Reports of abuse coming to the attention of authorities have increased during the past fifteen to twenty years. For example, the National Incidence Study done in 1981 found that authorities knew of 44,700 cases of child sexual abuse. By 1986, 133,600 children had been identified and this number had increased to 300,200 in the latest national study conducted in 1993.⁴²

Although prevention programs may be partially responsible for such increases in reporting, other factors probably contributed, such as greater awareness of sexual abuse as a problem, greater emphasis on identifying abuse cases, increased emphasis on mandatory reporting laws, and a concomitant increase in funding. In sum, although children exposed to prevention programs may be more likely to disclose abuse, the actual number of cases occurring also may be increasing.⁴³ Pastors are an asset to their communities. If one child is spared from sexual abuse, the pastor would have made a difference. Breaking the cycle of abuse is the ultimate goal, even if it begins with one child.

Author Roger McNamara says the public often has a negative view of churches and child sexual abuse due to the dozens of well publicized cases of sexual misconduct by priests, pastors, and lay people. McNamara says, “The church is known for its negligence and failure to take preventative steps to minimize the potential of abuse.”⁴⁴ While many churches may have failed in the areas of sexual misconduct, there are also many churches working hard to combat sexual

⁴¹ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

⁴² Bolen, *Child Sexual Abuse: Prevention or Promotion*, 174-85.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Roger N. McNamara, *Child Safety Guidelines for Local Churches* (Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2010).

misconduct. McNamara recommends churches publicize their child safety guidelines through news releases and by mentioning it in their literature. This publicized information will alert the community to the fact that some churches are different, taking the issues of child safety and sexual abuse seriously.

Andrew Malekoff, author of *Group Work with Adolescents: Principles and Practice*, discusses the importance and necessity of group work. The practice of tapping into what people have to offer is another way of saying that strengths matter. Helping people to discover the resources to improve their situations is not an option for social workers but an obligation.⁴⁵ Malekoff stresses, “It is our duty to understand what people know, what they can do, and what they and their environments have to offer, all adding up to a commitment to developing relationships with adolescents and their parents that transcends the traditional paradigm of practitioner as knowledgeable expert and client as naïve initiate, relationships that capture the joy of human collaboration.”⁴⁶ So it is with pastors, strengths matter, understanding what churches and their community have to offer is vital in building professional relationships with social workers, teachers, law enforcement, parents, youth and other pastors in order to break the cycle of Child Sexual Abuse. As Malekoff admonishes, “*Establishing a strengths perspective is a good starting point.*”

The Victim's Needs

When a child is sexually abused, he or she is forever changed. Survivors cannot be stereotyped. Some transcend the experience and become outspoken advocates for societal

⁴⁵ Andrew Malekoff, *Group Work with Adolescents: Principles and Practice* (New York, NY: Guilford Press, 2014), 44-45.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

change. Others adopt risky life styles such as prostitution, promiscuity, and substance abuse. Recovery is possible. Transcendence through the experience involves telling the secret and being supported.⁴⁷ Not all victims remain victims, just as not all victims receive the help they desperately need. There are many survivors, many positive role models for overcoming abuse.

It helps the victim to talk about the abuse. The victim's recovery will be enhanced if she or he feels believed, supported, protected, and receives counseling following the disclosure that she/he was assaulted. However, sexual assault victims should always have the choice about when, with whom, and under what conditions they wish to discuss their experiences.⁴⁸ No victim should be forced to talk openly about a sexual violation. It should be encouraged that should the victim choose to talk the opportunity will be provided. The victim can discuss the abuse when they are prepared to their own terms to avoid re-living the abuse.

Pain associated with sexual abuse takes on many aspects. It affects trust, self-esteem, coping with stress, impulsivity, anger, dissociation, and self-harm. Dissociation is where your mind "separates" itself from painful events to protect itself. You may have a hard time remembering what happened, feel like the world around you isn't real or feel like you aren't connected to your body. It's a common reaction to pain and fear.⁴⁹ It is not uncommon for a victim to suppress the pain in order to move on with his/her lives.

⁴⁷ Debra Rose Wilson, "Health Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse," *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care* 46, no. 1 (January 2010): 56-64. Accessed January 7, 2014. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1744-6163.2009.00238.x/abstract>

⁴⁸ Office of the Attorney General, State of California, Department of Justice, "Megan's Law – Facts about Sex Offenders." Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://meganslaw.ca.gov/facts.htm>.

⁴⁹ "Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Mental Health Issue," Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/childhood-sexual-abuse-a-mental-health-issue>.

Author Nichole Bromley shares her personal experience. She says, “My own experience has been that sexual abuse has had the greatest impact on six kinds of relationships: the one I had with parents, mentors, fellow followers of Jesus, friends, a spouse, and God. In turn, these relationships had had the greatest influence on me on my healing journey.”⁵⁰ Bromley’s experience also demonstrates the necessity of a support system. Her experience proves that in time, healing can take place in the victim’s life.

Because of the wide range of serious long and short term consequences of child sexual abuse and the need to prevent abuse of other children by a victim of abuse, all children who are suspected of being sexually abused should be referred for psychological assessment and treatment.⁵¹ Treatment is beneficial for all parties involved. The abuse may not affect each child the same. It is important that all involved are able to express what they feel.

The victim is known to experience symptoms of child sexual abuse, such as bedwetting, nail biting, and fainting. Symptoms of sexual abuse in children are similar to those of depression or severe anxiety and nervousness. They can include: bowel disorders, such as soiling oneself, (encopresis); Eating disorders, such as anorexia nervosa; Genital or rectal symptoms, such as pain during a bowel movement or urination, or vaginal itch or discharge; Repeated headaches; Sleep problems; and Stomach aches (vague complaints). Children who are abused may display disruptive behaviors such as using alcohol and street drugs or engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors. They may also do poorly in school, have excessive fears, and withdraw from normal activities.⁵²

⁵⁰ Nicole Braddock Bromley, *Breathe: Finding Freedom to Thrive in Relationships After Childhood Sexual Abuse* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009), 13.

⁵¹ Charles Felzen Johnson . “Child Sexual Abuse.” *Lancet* 364, (July 2004): 462-70. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/pllS0140673604167718.pdf>

⁵² *Ibid.*

Whereas not all victims go on to sexually abuse others, research suggests that adult offenders frequently have a history of being victimized sexually as children. Perhaps one of the greatest risk factors for sexual abuse is the abuse of a sibling. A parent is unlikely to single out an individual child. Older children may actually stay in an abusive situation to protect younger siblings. All children within a home environment should be assessed for abuse if a sibling has been diagnosed with CSA.⁵³

Child Sexual Abuse and the Law

According to a 2009 study written by Alison Adams in the *Journal of Law & Family Studies*,

Congress began debating child abuse in 1973. These discussions led to the enactment of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974 (CAPTA). CAPTA allocated federal government resources to prevent child abuse and neglect, and authorized the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Child Abuse and Neglect. Additionally, CAPTA authorized the Secretary to provide federal grants to states for child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment programs, as well as programs related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases. Importantly, CAPTA placed significant emphasis on reporting child abuse crimes and provided funding for states to maintain accurate child abuse information for criminal background checks.⁵⁴

Child abuse crimes should be reported to the proper authorities.

To date, CAPTA is the primary source of federal law addressing child abuse. CAPTA has been amended and reauthorized several times. It was most recently amended and reauthorized on CAPTA by enacting state laws prohibiting child sexual abuse, and by 1986, all fifty states and the District of Columbia had enacted statutes identifying child sexual abuse as criminal behavior. Additionally, each state has added child abuse

⁵³ Christopher W. Moody, "Male Child Sexual Abuse," *Journal of Pediatric Health Care* 13, no. 3 Part 1 (May/June 1999): 112-119. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S089152459990072X>

⁵⁴ Alison Adams, "Seen But Not heard: Child Sexual Abuse, Incest and the Law in the United States," *Journal of Law & Family Studies* 11, no. 2 (2009): 543-598. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://epubs.utah.edu/index.php/jlfs/article/view/233/0>

reporting laws. Thus, laws criminalizing child sexual abuse in the United States are primarily creatures of state statute.⁵⁵

Pastors should find out what the state reporting laws are whether they are mandatory reporters or not. Each pastor has a moral obligation to assist keeping children safe.

Children's Advocacy Centers

Research suggests that children's advocacy centers (CACs) may assist in providing better outcomes in sexual abuse cases. CACs aid in obtaining a clear disclosure of abuse from the child through forensic interviewing. The CAC model requires forensic interviews to be of a neutral, fact-finding nature. CACs also focus on improving forensic interviews. They are taking care to enhance the value of the child's report as evidence of a crime, and these interviews are recorded to avoid duplication, making the experience less traumatic for the child-victim. A 2001-03 study found that most children interviewed by CACs had fewer than two interviews. CACs were also more likely than comparison communities to conduct their interviews in a child-friendly environment.⁵⁶

Pastors can rely heavily on children advocacy centers when dealing with child sexual abuse.

....All states have laws criminalizing child sexual abuse, but where an offender is the child-victim's family member, many states allow the prosecutor to file charges under the incest statute, rather than under [the child] sexual abuse statute. Incest convictions often carry far less significant penalties. States and prosecutors should make every effort to close incest loopholes. States should amend their statutes to require child sexual abuse to be prosecuted under child sexual abuse statutes. Additionally, until state statutes reflect these changes, prosecutors should prosecute child sex offenders under sexual abuse laws, rather than incest laws. Sexual abuse against a child should be subject to uniform punishment, regardless of whether the offender and the child are related.⁵⁷

It is not the pastor's concern as to how the offender is prosecuted. It is the pastors concern to ensure safety for the child.

⁵⁵ Alison Adams,. "Seen But Not heard: Child Sexual Abuse, Incest and the Law in the United States," *Journal of Law & Family Studies* 11, no. 2 (2009): 543-598. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://epubs.utah.edu/index.php/jlfs/article/view/233/0>

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

CHAPTER 5

BREAKING THE CYCLE

There are far more offenders in the general population than those who are reported to authorities. Most offenders are never caught. The difficulties in identifying offenders are many. The child must disclose the abuse, or abuse must be suspected; the disclosure must be reported to the proper authorities; the complaint must be deemed serious enough to warrant an investigation; if substantiated and the evidence is sufficient, then there is a possibility of prosecution; and finally, the perpetrator must be convicted. Some fear the abused child, who may be the only witness, will not be reliable or credible. Others think children may be mistaken or confused, and false accusations of abuse may occur.¹ Unfortunately, the child is placed in a horrific position, by no fault of his or her own. There are many factors when attempting to correct the wrong done to a child who has been sexually abused. So many issues have to be sought through, that the child is practically put on trial. When a child is abused, it should be cut and dry. The abuse deserves punishment in some form or another.

Breaking the cycle of child sexual abuse involves understanding the cycle. Understanding comes through self-awareness, being honest with yourself and others, and looking to change. Understanding also involves holding yourself accountable. In her book, *Women Who Sexually Abuse Children*, author Hannah Ford suggest understanding what abusers have in common also helps weed out other abusers or potential abusers. Understanding the cycle shows

¹ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

you who is at risk for abusing.² It has often been said, “Information is Power.” It has even been said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”³ The more parents know about the cycle of child sexual abuse, the better equipped they are in keeping children safe.

In breaking the cycle of abuse, Hannah agrees that preventive counseling helps with social skills, family issues, and therapy for those who have experienced trauma.⁴ However, providing a system of support is of equal importance, as this may be a missing link in many offenders’ lives. Offenders need to know they are not alone, and that they can talk about those deviant thoughts and feelings. Pastors are all too aware of the fact that real ministry involves going into the trenches. As Pastors are further involved in conversations with members of their congregations, the atmosphere of openness can lead to offenders reaching out for help. It is important for offenders to have some place to go as they hold themselves accountable for their actions.

Another concern is how useful legal sanctions are to deter sex offenders. Many offenders have normal sexual preferences. They are not pedophiles by thought process but merely in behavior. In other words, it’s not who they are, but what they do. Pedophiles substitute children for adult sexual partners whom they would prefer, but are unavailable to them. Such offenders are usually deterred by the threat of punishment. Although the punishment for sexual abuse of children is severe, a large number of offenders are not deterred, mainly because they doubt they will be punished.⁵ More offenders might be deterred from sexually abusing children if

² Hannah Ford, *Women Who Sexually Abuse Children* (West Sussex, EN: Ford, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2006), 44-45.

³ Hosea 4:6.

⁴ Hannah Ford, *Women Who Sexually Abuse Children* (West Sussex, EN: Ford, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2006), 44-45.

⁵ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

they knew they would be punished severely. A similar example is reckless driving. An individual may speed excessively and once caught pay the fines with no thought. Though the fines may be costly, it may not be enough to prevent him or her from speeding. Whereas the threat of jail time may easily deter the driver from speeding excessively. Suffering minimal consequences is different than severe punishment where freedom is lost.

Authors Brayford, Cowe and Deering say punishment involves degree of blame, disapproval, and containment, and attempts to restrict and reduce the activities of the offender. These authors say no matter how repulsive the crimes and regardless to the priority given to the rights of victims or potential victims, the rights of the sex offender remain as those experienced by all citizens. Sex offenders are still entitled to the ‘due process’ of law and rights. Despite the crime, the state is obligated to respect all legal rights that are owed to a person.⁶

In the book, *The Apology of the Sex Offender*, an offender said in response to the sexual crime he committed, “In the eyes of my family, I am not a sex offender. My debt to society was paid in full when I finished my probation, and constitutionally that should have been the case. But it’s not.”⁷ Some people may never forgive offenders for child sexual abuse. Others may think they should be punished indefinitely. While some victims may be satisfied with the offender receiving jail time, some victims may think jail time alone does not rectify the abuse.

The dilemma faced in reporting CSA is not as uncommon as some would think. The view of the church (canon) law, canon 220 of CIC (code of canon law) deals with the right to a good reputation and protection of one’s own privacy, which has many questioning if they should

⁶ Jo Brayford, Francis Cowe and John Deering, *Sex Offenders: Punish, Help, Change or Control?: Theory, Policy and Practice Explored* (New York, NY: Routledge Frontiers of Criminal Justice, 2013).

⁷ An Offender, *The Apology of a Sex Offender* (Houston, TX: Strategic Book Publishing & Rights Agency, 2014), 109. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.http://books.google.com>

or should not report CSA. If keeping the secrecy regarding one's bad behavior or transgression has more damaging consequences than its revelation, then protecting the values and rights which are endangered by the behavior of this person has greater value than protecting his reputation or privacy. The welfare of victims and the public is far more important. It is for the sake of protection and healing that cases of CSA need to be revealed. Such revelation is not an illegal deprivation of reputation and privacy. He who committed such immoral and criminal acts (as in CSA) has by this very transgression lessened his right to good reputation and privacy. The authentic Christian attitude is to hold the perpetrator accountable for his deeds, demand repentance, and offer him assistance on this journey. Such an attitude is an expression of the healing balance between justice and mercy; moreover justice itself is already mercy, for it gives a chance for repentance.⁸ We have no ethical right to protect the perpetrator. Research from 1982 estimated that more than a quarter million of children were molested in their homes each year. It is also believed that most of the molestation would stop if CSATP were established in every community in the country. Whether this belief is accepted or not, it would be worth it to find out.

The CSATP is composed of three interdependent components: a professional staff, a cadre of volunteers, and self-help groups which, together, provide services responsive to the special needs of sexually abused children and their families. All three components are necessary to promote healthy self-fulfilling lives. Within the three components victims and perpetrators are able to receive support, learn skills and adapt in areas of social responsibility. CSATP is viewed as a resource for help rather than punishment for sexually abusive families.

Some parents of sexually abusive families are themselves victims of a dysfunctional family system. However, the victims and their families can be spared long years of alienation and pain if they are treated while the victims are still children. During the early stages of

⁸ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

treatment, some of the adolescent girls, in particular those who feel they have been abandoned by their mothers, begin to manifest the anticipated self-abusive behavior: truancy, promiscuity and drug abuse. Girls rejected by mothers who deny the charges or blame their daughters for the incestuous situation, are the most difficult to treat.⁹ Such high levels of hurt, pain, distrust, rejection and abandonment along with other issues and concern may require more extensive treatment as the daughter has been affected by the physical abuse of the father, and psychological abuse of the mother.

Sexual Abuse: Illness or Sin

One pastor shockingly shot down the concept of breaking the cycle of sexual abuse, and voiced that these offenders could not change. This pastor believes once an offender, always an offender. What this in essence says is that God cannot change or restore such people. It says they will always be sex offenders repeating the acts. This statement is equivalent to saying a murderer will always commit murders, a thief will always steal, a drug addict will always use, an alcoholic will always drink, a gambler will always gamble, a liar will always tell a lie, and an adulterer will always be unfaithful. If this were so, how can one venture into transformation? This pastor shares the opinion of Linda Naidoo, who says, “There is no cure. You can only teach people how to manage their behavior.”

The Apostle Paul wrote with urgency for each of us to do what was reasonably required of us. We were to go from a life of turmoil to a life of freedom in God. Ultimately Paul wanted us to be in the will of God and do the will of God. Paul’s appeal is addressed to the people of God, grounded on the mercies of God and concerned with the will of God. Only a vision of His mercy will inspire or motivate us to present our bodies to Him, and allow Him, through His

⁹ Giarretto, *A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program*, 263-278.

Word, to transform us according to His will.¹⁰ Each individual is given the same opportunity to respond to the freedom that God offers. Each is given the opportunity to allow God to transform him or her from a sinful life to a whole and victorious life.

There are differing opinions from the Apostle Paul, as many have not complied with his instruction, and lived up to his wisdom. According to Megan's Law, "Sexual Offenders could not stop their sexually violent behavior on their own if they wanted to. Wanting to change is usually not enough to be able to change the pattern that leads to sexual offenses. To create the motivation to change, some offenders need a variety of treatment and corrective interventions, and for others, learning how to make the change in their own behavioral cycle of abuse is more effective."¹¹ Thankfully treatment is available to those who need and want it.

A clergy member shared an experience during her tenure at a church where a recovering offender served in the church with clear limitations and boundaries given by the pastor. While the pastor of the church held him accountable, he fled from temptation. Unfortunately after the pastor left, and a series of things took place, the man chose to go back into his sinful state, and fell to temptation yet again. He faced consequences for his actions.

According to this clergy, the Lord initially saw that this man was taken out of the temptation, and he was given an opportunity to come to it again. Unfortunately, in this church, as with many others, clergy lacked the training to continue accountability standards where the offender would be unlikely to "fall back" into his sinful state. God was offering him an opportunity to choose the road he would take. Take the road that leads to healing and restoration, or the road that leads to sin and destruction. This man was used by the enemy in a horrible way,

¹⁰ Warren E. Berkly, From Expository Files 6.8; August 1999.

¹¹ "Megan's Law – Facts about Sex Offenders." <http://meganslaw.ca.gov/facts.htm>.

and he fell to temptation again. The Scripture says, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires,”¹² In this case, the man allowed Satan to dominate and he fulfilled the desires of his flesh. In other words, he fell prey to the fulfillment of lust.

The pastor, however, did a noble thing. As the shepherd, he protected the sheep. He set boundaries for the recovering offender. He did not stand in judgment of the person, but gave him strict and clear limitations, which were abided by while the pastor remained at the church. He did not hinder the person from serving. He trusted that the person was truly recovering, and gave him another chance for redemption opposed to treating him as a villain on the prowl.

The pastor believed that the man would remain in an upright position. The Scripture says, “My brothers, if anyone among you wander from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20). The pastor showed mercy and compassion, while also holding him accountable. The rest was between the man and God. It was the man’s obligation and responsibility to adhere to Scripture, as a Christian ought to. “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”¹³

The Scripture says, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”¹⁴ Had the man relied on Scripture, he may have overcome and remained free from sexual abuse. However, he crossed boundaries and was eventually put back into a place of discipline. He continued to receive ministry and counseling from church members, but he lost his freedom.

¹² Romans 13:14.

¹³ 1 Peter 5:8.

¹⁴ Proverbs 4:23.

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.”¹⁵ Prayerfully, this man has chosen to live a self-controlled, upright, and godly life after this experience, whether incarcerated or not. Robert Frost says, “Nothing can make injustice just but mercy.” Mercy is what continued to provide help for this man. Jail addresses the sin but not the sickness. Just as an individual is incarcerated for acting out of anger, and the incarceration only magnifies the anger, incarceration does not solve issues of sexual abuse permanently.

In determining whether sexual abuse is an illness or sin, ultimately, the abuse may be considered both sickness and sin. It is sickness and sin that leads to child sexual abuse. The abuse may cause mental health issues in the victim, which makes the abuse sin. The rationale of what leads a person to sexually abuse a child may be a sickness, but the act is sin.

During interviews, information was collected from eighty-seven offenders in relation to their own sexual experiences as children. Two-thirds of the men (68%) said that they had been sexually abused as children. Fifty-nine percent of the offenders described some form of sexual abuse contact during their childhood.¹⁶ Hurting people often hurt other people. However, such behavior is not justified. “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”¹⁷ The offender has to be willing to move from sickness and sin to healing and holiness. Trusting the process for deliverance from the old to the new is a necessity. The

¹⁵ Titus 2:11-12.

¹⁶ Elliot, *Sexual Abuse Prevention Child*, 579-594.

¹⁷ 1 John 3:8.

Scripture says, “For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.”¹⁸ Relying on God initiates the process and allows healing to take place. The offender has to totally rely on the grace and mercy of God. “Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.”¹⁹

Oftentimes, various combinations of help come through other vessels designated by God. Tapping into those resources are crucial. “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”²⁰ The confidence is that the Word of God brings healing to any situation. “He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.”²¹

According to authors Shelly and John, while the effects of sin force us to contend with suffering, death, injustice, despair, human perversion, alienation and overwhelming feelings of guilt, it is not necessarily personal sin which causes mental illness. Mental illness can result from any number of environmental, chemical, relational, biological and hereditary factors, as well as from personal choices or lack of choices. We can no more say that all mental illness is the result of sin in a person’s life than we can claim that all physical illness is the result of an individual’s sin.”²² The act of carrying out sexual abuse is a sin. The cause for the act of carrying out sexual abuse may be associated with an illness.

¹⁸ Psalm 91:3.

¹⁹ Psalm 25:20.

²⁰ James 5:16.

²¹ Psalm 107:20.

²² Judith Allen Shelly and Sandra D. John, *Spiritual Dimensions of Mental Health* (Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009)

Breaking the Silence

Sexual offenders characteristically experience physical, sexual, and emotional abuse or neglect in their childhoods.²³ One would think if something was done negatively to an individual that wrecked his or her life, they dare not inflict pain on others by repeating the cycle; however, many have been known to model behaviors and experiences, whether a good or negative impact.

There is now evidence indicating that sexual offenders have serious deficits in self-regulation. Effective self-regulation allows people to order their lives in such a way that they can successfully achieve the goals they seek. In the general psychological literature, it has been shown that control over emotions is essential to the development of effective self-regulation. Affective dysregulation does not permit clients to focus on their plans, and on behaving in ways necessary to achieve these plans. In addition, emotional lability diverts clients from considering the long-term effects of their actions, and directs attention to the achievement of immediate satisfaction. For sexual offenders, this attention to immediate satisfaction may result in the pursuit of sexual gratification. Consistent with these concerns about emotional dysfunction, acute emotional states have been found to predict the immediate likelihood of a sexual re-offense.

Deficits in both behavioral and emotional self-regulation are implicated in all types of criminal behavior, in the inappropriate expression of sexual behavior, the abuse of alcohol or drugs, and in the unsatisfactory formation of attachment relationships. Since emotional dysregulation crucially underpins both general and sexual self-regulation, then clearly this must be a target in treatment with sexual offenders. The rationale is that sexual offenders have been shown to have problems accurately recognizing emotions in others, stemming from their

²³ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

difficulties in identifying their own emotions.²⁴ When the offender accepts treatment and is open to change that result in healing, he or she can learn the principles, and skills to overcome inappropriate behavior.

Author Rudy Flora discusses how to work with Sex Offenders. Flora says, “A number of outcome studies indicate a decline in reoffending occurs when treatment is used as a protocol. Yet only a minority of sexual offenders paroled is ordered into treatment.” Flora says, “Nearly 75 to 80 percent of sex offenders can be supervised and treated through a community basis.”²⁵ Research clearly substantiates treatment for offenders are most effective when used as protocol. Following protocol helps with accountability and liability.

Though the downfall of assisting the offender may cloud the mind of many, the absence of public sympathy for the offender dampens support for publicly funded services for perpetrators. Even if publicly funded programs were widely available, the difficulty individuals have in admitting to sexual problems and the stigmas attached to the problem of sexual abuse create enormous barriers for the successful use of such a program. In fact, the effectiveness of treatment programs for convicted molesters is questionable. Simply put, the sexual abuse offender, voluntarily attempting to change his or her behavior, is likely to encounter prosecution in the process of seeking help.²⁶ Thus, this thesis visits the dilemma of punishment for perpetrators who volunteer to seek help opposed to those who never tell. In cases where a sexual crime has been committed, though we may have compassion, there needs to be consequences and accountability.

²⁴ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

²⁵ Rudy Flora, *How to Work with Sex Offenders: A Handbook for Criminal Justice, Human Service, and Mental Health Professionals* (New York, NY, Routledge 2014).

²⁶ Daro, *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*, 198-223.

The Apostle Paul says, “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”²⁷ It is hard for anyone to have compassion for someone who is continuously performing works of the flesh. The individual who is non-repentant, or in denial, having a bad attitude about their sin cannot see their wrong. That individual makes excuses for his/her wrong, thus making it hard for others to reach out to him/her. Even David said in Scripture, “The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup.”²⁸

It is a dangerous state to be in when sin has abounded and there is an unwillingness to change. For such people, demonic forces have gained entry, causing deception that is detrimental to the person as well as to others. This activity causes the individual to operate with blinders, as darkness surrounds them. “Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.”²⁹

Free will

All are given the same guidelines for life. All must suffer consequences for going outside of those guidelines. That brings up the matter of free will. God gives freewill. Author John Shore says, “The blessing of free will is the cause of human evil. Those two are inseparable. That

²⁷ Galatians 5:19-21.

²⁸ Psalm 11:5-6.

²⁹ Proverbs 28:5.

cannot change.”³⁰ However, as free as individuals are to choose their actions, free will does not justify or excuse abuse. Instead, it provides all people with choices to do good or evil.

Unfortunately, some fall prey to or willfully choose evil; child sexual abuse is intrinsically evil. God does not look upon this as favorable, but because He has given all choices, He also gives all consequences for their choices.

In defining free will, there are several definitions. Translation of Free will in English says, in the religious realm, free will implies that individual will and choices can coexist with an omnipotent divinity.³¹ The Apostle Paul says, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”³² Paul understood free will, but he knew, firsthand, the benefits of obeying a sovereign and majestic God as well. He had received the solution to existing and coexisting with The Most High God.

Another definition for free will is voluntary choice or decision. The freedom of humans to make choices that is not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention.³³ Though free will offers voluntary choices, the Bible does not forfeit laying out options and instructions or guidelines for life:

This commandment that I’m commanding you today isn’t too much for you, it’s not out of your reach. It’s not on a high mountain-you don’t have to get mountaineers to climb the peak and bring it down to your level and explain it before you can live it. And it’s not

³⁰ John Shore, “Where was God When My 9 Year Old Son was Drugged and Raped.” (2012).

³¹ Translation of Free will in English, <http://translation.babylon.com/english/free%20will/>

³² Romans 12:1-2.

³³ Free will, Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (ed.), [http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/free will](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/free%20will)

across the ocean-you don't have to send sailors out to get it, bring it back and then explain it before you can live it. No. The word is right here and now-as near as the tongue in your mouth, as near as the heart in your chest. Just do it!

Look at what I've done for you today: I've placed in front of you Life and Good Death and Evil. And I command you today: Love God, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments, regulations, and rules so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God, your God in the land you are about to enter and possess. But I warn you: If you have a change of heart, refuse to listen obediently, and willfully go off to serve and worship other gods, you will most certainly die. You won't last long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call Heaven and Earth to witness against you today: I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live³⁴

Free will is definitely a choice. God gives each individual the choice of living a happy and joyful life, or a miserable, unfulfilled life. The choice is theirs to make. The offer is always on the table. Choose the good life and get the attached blessings, or choose the evil life and get the attached curse. Some people choose to live dangerously out of pure ignorance.

According to author Sam Harris, "The question of free will touches nearly everything we care about. Morality, law, policies, religion, public policy, intimate relationships, feelings of guilt and personal accomplishment, most of what is distinctly human about our lives seems to depend upon our viewing one another as autonomous persons, capable of free choice."³⁵

Harris says, "Without free will, sinners and criminals would be nothing more than poorly calibrated clock-work, and any conception of justice that emphasized punishing them (rather than deterring, rehabilitating, or merely containing them) would appear utterly incongruous. And those of us who work hard and follow the rules would not "deserve" our success in any deep sense."³⁶ Many people may prefer free will as opposed to living in bondage. Some may prefer

³⁴ Deuteronomy 30:11-19 [MSG].

³⁵ Sam Harris, *Free Will* (New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 2012).

³⁶ *Ibid.*

free will as a means of living a quality life outside of bondage. Free will is all in how one interprets it.

Where the Church is Today

Author H. Richard Niebuhr says, “The Church is not responsible for the judgment or destruction of any beings in the world of God, but for the conversation, reformation, redemption, and transfiguration of whatever creatures its action touches.”³⁷ The reality is churches have a responsibility to address societal concerns. The good news is churches are equipped to handle many societal concerns.

As pastors serve as shepherds of the flock, the responsibility is far greater than mere preaching on Sundays and teaching at midweek Bible study services. If the church is a place for the sick, then pastors are equipped to handle the sickness with the help of the Lord. Pastors have an awesome responsibility to meet the needs of the sheep. Not only have they been entrusted to watch over the souls of their sheep, but they are charged to assist them in becoming the most whole person they can become.

There are many eloquent pastors; some are magnificent teachers. However, there are few with an expertise in counseling, and that is not an issue for the pastor per se. Pastors, though nurturers at heart, are not expected to do everything themselves. However they are expected to seek out resources to assure those who need help receive that help, and are given the opportunity of recovery.

Issues, problems, concerns and chaos happen within the church, and sometimes simultaneously. When something occurs, great or small, even if the pastor does not have the

³⁷ H. Richard Niebuhr, “The Responsibility of the Church for Society” and Other Essays (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 45.

answer or the solution to the problem, it does not mean that the problem goes unaddressed. It means pastors will seek the necessary resources in an effort to solve the problem or at least assist with it. The problem should never be totally dismissed because the pastor feels he or she is out of his or her league. Acquiring help should be seen more as networking to produce results. The goal should always be to get the results that bring about deliverance and healing.

Churches are on every corner. Though there are many different visions and styles of preaching. It is safe to say, whatever the sheep is looking for in a church or pastor, they will find. Often people go to the church hoping for discernment so that their healing can finally begin. One of the issues the church has to be willing to address is sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is not new to the church. It may be dealt with in secret, but it continues to exist.

The question the pastor of any church should answer is, “Does he or she have the resources to address the issues of sexual abuse?” Whether he or she responds yes or not, the issue remains. The reality is that every church needs to be equipped with vital information, including policies and guidelines for sexual abuse.

One hundred pastors were surveyed in an effort to discover what resources churches had in place concerning sexual abuse, but specifically child sexual abuse. The survey sought to find out whether churches had policies and guidelines in place to assist in sexual abuse allegations. It also sought to find out if counseling was offered to the victim of sexual abuse or to the offender of the sexual abuse.³⁸

³⁸ See survey result graphs in Appendix A

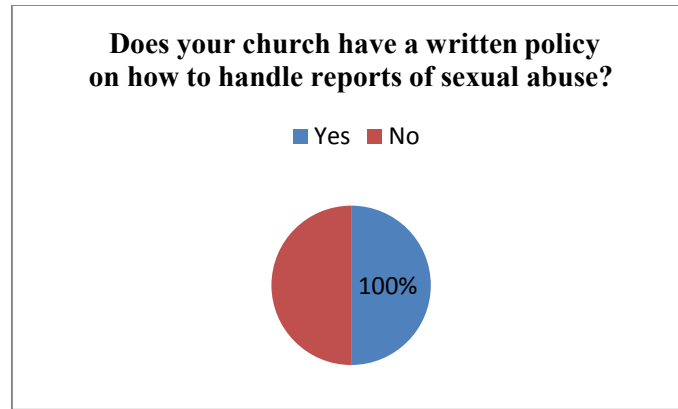


Figure 1.1 Sexual Abuse Policies in the Church

The survey revealed that 100% of churches throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia did not have a written policy on how to handle reports of sexual abuse. Neither did 100% of churches have a written policy that covered or included child sexual abuse. Churches are in dire need of written sexual abuse policies.

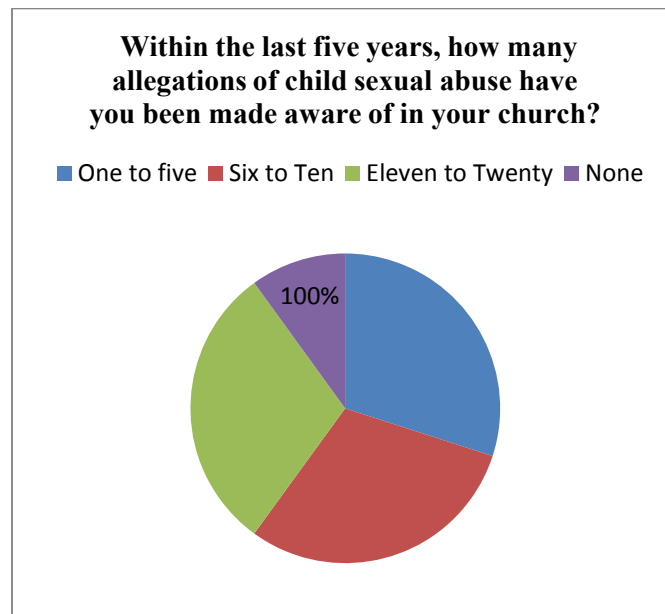


Figure 1.2 Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church

Within the last five years, 100% of the churches reported there were no allegations of child sexual abuse that pastors were made aware of in the church. Therefore 100% of the

churches had not reported allegations of sexual abuse to authorities or police. Despite the lack of allegations made known to the pastors, it is fair to say that it does not mean there were no sexually abused victims attending the churches within the last five years.

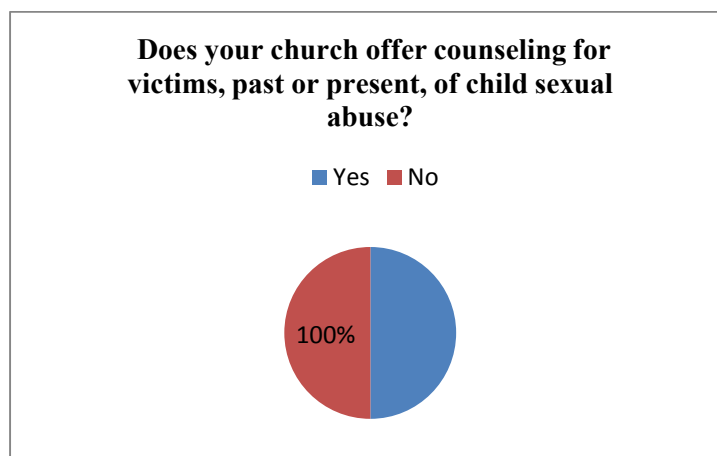


Figure 1.3 Counseling for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church

100% of churches reported they did not offer counseling for victims, past or present, of child sexual abuse. Many churches do not offer counseling for victims because they do not have adequate resources. Needless to say, it is expected that there are many victims in churches who are without counseling opportunities.

Interestingly, 100% of pastors said they did not believe that there were certain situations in which he or she, as a pastor, should not report allegations of child sexual abuse to authorities or police. This report was refreshing as it showed that 100% of pastors did not show biases toward the offender. Pastors believed they should report all allegations of child sexual abuse.

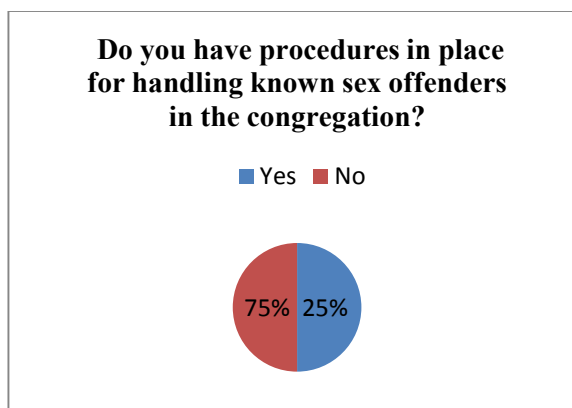


Figure 1.4 Procedures for handling known Sex Offender in Congregations

25% of churches had procedures in place for handling known sex offenders in the congregation, whereas 75% of churches did not have procedures in place for handling known sex offenders in the congregation. 25% of churches had guidelines for handling known sex offenders serving in the church, whereas 75% did not. Whereas many churches may not have written guidelines or policies in place concerning sexual abuse, they had implemented procedures for handling known sex offenders in the congregation and guidelines for handling known sex offenders serving in the church. 75% of pastors believed sex offenders could change or recover, while 25% believed sex offenders could not change or recover. Despite their beliefs, 25% of pastors said they dealt with one to five recovering sex offenders within the last five years. 75% of pastors said they did not deal with any recovering sex offenders within the last five years.

The survey also revealed that 100% of churches do not offer counseling for sex offenders, past or present. It is not mandatory that churches offer counseling to sex offenders. Many pastors are not counselors, nor are there licensed counselors within the congregation. However, pastors can recommend sex offenders for counseling.

Though 100% of the churches could not share a written sexual abuse policy, 100% of the churches would like to receive a written sexual abuse policy. The fact that churches are open to

receive written sexual abuse policies reflects their willingness to receive help for victims and sex offenders.

Of the pastors surveyed, 75% were between the ages of forty-one to sixty, and 25% of pastors were between the ages of sixty-one to eighty. 75% were female, and 25% were male. All of the pastors who took the survey were serving as senior pastor. All of those pastors had acquired degrees. 75% received either a Master of Divinity or Master's degree. 25% received a Bachelor's degree or Associate's degree. 50% of these pastors had pastored their congregation between one to five years. 25% pastored between six to ten years, and 25% pastored between eleven to twenty years.

It was concluded that churches need and want help to assist in breaking the cycle of sexual abuse. While breaking the silence of sexual abuse begins with each individual, the church can become a healing agent for those who assemble weekly. Pastors can begin the conversation, offering help to the victim and the offender.

Author Margaret A. Pitts reveals, "I somehow learned that abuse can be passed on to the next generation if you don't break the cycle."³⁹ For generations child sexual abuse has existed. Whether the statistics are increasing or decreasing, it remains a societal problem. Pastors can impact the lives of children tremendously by committing to break generational curses.

Group Publishing admonishes churches to, "Acknowledge that child abuse, including sexual abuse is a major concern for your ministry. Raise awareness of the reality of abuse and

³⁹ Margaret A. Pitts, *The Silent Cry: Lost Among the Hearing* (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2003), 131.

neglect.”⁴⁰ The church has power to change lives through the Word of God, and with the Love of God. The church can take a stand against child sexual abuse.

Clergy as Mandatory Reporters

Authors Lau, Krase and Morse stresses, “Mandated reporting of child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment is a daunting responsibility shared by many professionals who work with children and families.”⁴¹ As daunting as it may be, if one child is spared from abuse it is worth it. All children deserve to live in a safe and loving environment.

Author Nicholas Cafardi says, “There has not been an era in the Church’s long history when it was not aware of the evil of sexual abuse of children, especially by its clergy.”⁴² Whether clergy or non-clergy commit the abuse, the responsibility remains to protect children from the abuse. Even if the abuser is in the position of clergy the abuse should be reported.

The response to the CSA perpetrator should be 3-dimensional, legal, therapeutic and pastoral. Both, support and control, are crucial and have to be used in a balanced way. If pastors exaggerate or neglect any of these elements, it will have negative consequences. Control is covered in legal intervention (investigation, conviction, sentencing and probation), while providing therapy and pastoral care covers the element of support.

⁴⁰ Group Publishing, *Group's Emergency Response Handbook for Children's Ministry* (Loveland, CO: Group, 2007), 15.

⁴¹ Kenneth Lau, Kathryn Krase, and Richard H. Morse, *Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect: A Practical Guide for Social Workers* (New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2008), 15.

⁴² Nicholas P. Cafardi, *Before Dallas: The U.S. Bishops' Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse of Children* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2008), 9.

Legal intervention is crucial to hold the perpetrator accountable for his deeds. Conviction and sentencing are the first therapeutic intervention. It puts the guilt where it belongs. Legal intervention demonstrates clear limit setting. It condemns the deeds that are in contradiction with social norms (covered in law) and sets up the measures for prevention of repeated transgression. That is why probation has to take place in cases where the risk of relapse is too high.

Therapeutic intervention should follow the legal intervention. Psychotherapy should assist a perpetrator's ability to accept the responsibility for his behavior (past, present and future) and for making amends. Therapeutic intervention helps with accountability.

Pastoral intervention should accompany the perpetrator on his journey of repentance and integrate natural and supernatural (transcendent) sources of conversion. Whether the CSA offender is a Christian or not, she or he is very likely in the church's pastoral field. Perhaps s/he is a regular churchgoer receiving the sacraments, or even a minister who has regular contact with children; perhaps she/he is a relative or friend of someone who is a dedicated Christian. The victim him/herself may be a believer.

Offenders often show various warning signs; victims ask for help, many people might have questions about the whole issue. In this context, it should be clear that responding to the phenomenon of CSA is by no means just a business of governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations. It's the business of the church also.⁴³

State Statutes

According to authors O'Reilly and Chalmers, "The federal act and a revised model reporting statute issued by the American Medical Association in 1975 led most states to amend

⁴³ Karkoskova, *Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender*, 82-95.

their statutes to require reports from a larger class of professionals with access to or responsibility for children, “including teachers, social workers, and in some instances, attorneys and members of clergy.”⁴⁴ This amendment placed the responsibility of reporting child abuse on a broader range of adults. It also made it possible for more children to be rescued from child abuse.

The state statutes for Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia are current through November 2013. Under Maryland Statutes, a person other than a health practitioner, police officer, or educator or human service worker who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect shall notify the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency. A minister of the Gospel, clergy member, or priest of an established church of any denomination is not required to provide notice [when they have reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect] if the notice would disclose matter in relation to any communication that is protected by the clergy-penitent privilege and: the communication was made to a minister, clergy member, or priest in a professional character in the course of discipline enjoined by the church to which the minister, clergy member, or priest belongs. The minister, clergy member, or priest is bound to maintain the confidentiality of that communication under canon law, church doctrine or practice.

In the District of Columbia, this issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed. However, Virginia’s statute addresses the conditions and mandatory reporters of child abuse. Enumerating mandated reporters shall not apply to any regular minister, priest, rabbi, imam, or duly accredited practitioner of any religious organization or denomination usually referred to as a church.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ James T. O'Reilly and Margaret S.P. Chalmers, *The Clergy Sex Abuse Crisis and the Legal Responses* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014), 115.

⁴⁵ Child Welfare Information Gateway, https://www.childwelfare.gov/emwide/laws_policies/state.

Statute of Limitations

The statute of limitations, or the time that must expire before legal proceedings can no longer be initiated, differs for each state. In many cases it can be very confusing. According to the Maryland - Civil Statute of Limitations, Child sexual abuse actions may be brought within 7 years of the date the victim turns 18 years old. In the District of Columbia (D.C.) there is no specific SOL for suits based on sexual acts, but the period does not begin until the victim reaches age 18. Virginia has a two-year SOL. In Maryland under Criminal Statute of Limitations, there is no SOL for Felony Offenses but there is a one-year SOL for Misdemeanors. Though most sexual offenses are classified as felonies, Maryland has no time limitation for prosecution of felonies. Misdemeanors on the other hand may be prosecuted within one year.

The Criminal Statute of Limitations in the District of Columbia is 15 year SOL for child sexual abuse. First and second degree child sexual abuse must be prosecuted within 15 years of the date the offense was committed. For most other child sexual offenses, primarily using or promoting a minor in a sexual performance or incest carries 10 years.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ <http://angelroar.com/foradults/c-child-abuse-resources-adults/childabusestatuteoflimitationsbystate>.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that one of the most effective ways of ensuring the safety of children against child sexual abuse is through breaking the silence and cycle of abuse. The study was set out to explore breaking the silence and the cycle of child sexual abuse. The study also sought to find out whether churches were equipped with resources, policies and guidelines to aid in the prevention of child sexual abuse. It sought to provide a guide to assist pastors in helping abusers break the cycle. This study offers prescriptive and preventative measures for the victim, preventative and recovery information for the offender, and healing and treatment for both the victim and the offender.

This study also addresses the legal, therapeutic and pastoral response to child sexual abuse. Legal intervention holds the perpetrator accountable for his deeds. Conviction and sentencing are the first therapeutic intervention. It puts the guilt where it belongs. Legal intervention demonstrates clear limit setting. Therapeutic intervention should follow the legal intervention. Psychotherapy should assist a perpetrator's ability to accept the responsibility for his past, present and future behavior, and for making amends. Pastoral intervention should accompany the perpetrator on his journey of repentance, and integrate natural and supernatural sources of conversion.

It is only in the last few decades that we, as a society, have started to acknowledge how widespread child sexual abuse has been and how much it hurts children. One in five adults report they were sexually abused as children. This experience increases vulnerability to depression, substance abuse, aggression, and other difficulties. Author Peter Pollard of Prevent Child Abuse provides statistics that more than 88% of adults who were abused say they never reported the

abuse to authorities.¹ Although much has been done to prevent sexual abuse in the United States, four in seven children are abused or neglected every day. The aim of this research is to break the silence of sexual abuse by beginning the conversation on child sexual abuse, as it relates to incest, molestation and rape. Reporting child sexual abuse is not a betrayal of loyalty (if the perpetrator is from the family); in fact, real betrayal happened much earlier through the CSA and our silence is just supporting the crime.

Child marriage and Human Sex Trafficking was highlighted, but not discussed in-depth. Research does suggest that government and communities are taking an active approach to discourage the practice of child marriage by raising the awareness of the adverse consequences for girls, running programs that provide girls with viable alternatives to marriage, and demanding more effective enforcement of existing laws that condemn child marriage.

Breaking the silence will inevitably lead to help abusers break the cycle of abuse. More than six million children are abused in the United States each year. One of the most pervasive social problems faced by society is child sexual abuse. Sex offenses against children are considered the worst of crimes, even among criminals themselves. It is estimated that one hundred thousand to five hundred thousand boys and girls of all ages are sexually molested each year in the United States. Child sexual abuse is a serious violation that requires a community-wide response. Breaking the silence and the cycle of child sexual abuse involves public awareness, communities taking action, and seeking solutions.

While there are many definitions of sexual abuse, the best definition found was highlighted for this research, in which the focus is on the victim. Other definitions focus primarily on the perpetrator's behavior or state of mind. It is defined as: "the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents in sexual activities that they do

¹ <http://www.safersociety.org/uploads/WP071-Prevent-Child-Abuse.pdf>

not fully comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent, or that violate the social taboos of family roles.”² There was no shortage of information as it relates to discussions, conversations, and talking about child sexual abuse from a professional standpoint. The breakdown appears to be within families, victims, offenders and non-mandatory professionals.

Breaking the silence of child sexual abuse is the beginning of breaking the cycle of child sexual abuse. Breaking the silence creates hope. Churches, leaders and parents can begin taking a proactive role in talking openly about child sexual abuse. It involves standing up for the rights of children, recognizing the signs of abuse, and refusing to turn a deaf ear and blind eye to abuse.

Sex offenders provide perspectives from the inside which are geared toward providing answers, solutions and healing. Abuse goes far beyond the actual act, and causes physical, emotional, and psychological concerns. Open discussion shines the light on the causes and consequences of sexual abuse.

Destroying the silence of sexual abuse is the beginning of breaking the cycle. When the victim is provided with an opportunity for conversations, along with historical data and statistics, which is the beginning of tackling the unspoken truth of child sexual abuse, it opens the door for hope and healing. As a societal problem, sexual abuse causes many to suffer. There are medical, psychological, and physical effects to consider concerning sexual abuse.

More churches and pastors are needed to provide a church-based recovery ministry to people with sexual addictions, or at least provide referrals to other ministries. Meanwhile, it is important that churches are equipped with policies and guidelines to assist the victim and offender with sexual abuse recovery.

² Claytor RN, Barth BA and Shubin CI, “Evaluating Child Sexual Abuse: Observations Regarding Ano-genital Injury. Clin Pediatrics,” *PubMed* 28, no. 2 (1989):419-422. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

A wealth of information is available for pastors, leaders, victims, and the offender, which provide prescriptive measures for awareness, safety, myths and statistics. It also helps that the community's perspective on sexual abuse has changed tremendously, from blaming the victim to holding the perpetrator responsible for their actions. Changing the behavior of adults and communities, rather than the behavior of the children, is the greatest way to prevent further child sexual abuse. No adult or child victim of sexual abuse is ever to blame for the assault, regardless of their behavior.

Prevention programs are designed to assist parents, children (the victim), and the offender. One of the main concerns in child sexual abuse is silence— silence before the sexual abuse occurs, and silence after it occurs. Parents cannot be afraid to talk to their children. They should become educated parents and start talking to their children at a young age.

It is a necessity for the victim and the abuser of sexual abuse to heal, in an effort to stop sexual abuse. Preventing abuse can be seen as a process of altering the potential perpetrator, the potential victim, and the environment in which both exist. The burden of prevention should never be placed on the child. It should be distributed across community members, organizations and social structures. Research suggests that targeting potential offenders and recovering sex abusers/offenders is more beneficial in preventing abuse. People who abuse children can provide a unique source of information for child protection programs and agencies. Since many of them have both a perpetrator and victim perspective, they can give valuable insights that will enable adults to help children stay safe.

Research shows that child sexual abuse is usually well thought out before it occurs. It is generally triggered by rage, anxiety, depression or boredom, sexual arousal pattern, and an antisocial attitude. The ideal goal is to create a culture that eliminates any tolerance for sexual

abuse, or confusion over what society condones as information on treatment, prevention in classrooms, and prevention programs which assist the victims, as well as the recovering victim.

Research suggests that one of the most commonly reported cases involve incest-sexual abuse occurring among family members, including those in biological families, adoptive families and stepfamilies. With that being said, there remains the need for a marriage between treatment and prevention for child sexual abuse. In a recent evaluation, “534 treated sex offenders had been released into the community for an average of 5.4 years (48% had been in the community for over 6 years). Only 3.2% had sexually re-offended, whereas the expected rate (based on an estimate derived from the offenders’ actuarial risk levels) was 16.8%.”³

Further areas to be explored are in prevention. In order to effectively counteract the methods used by offenders to gain access to children and to ensure their silence, more needs to be done about the issue of how the offenders actually target children and maintain them as victims. Another area is measuring the effectiveness of prevention programs. One of the most difficult issues in the treatment of sexual offenders is how to measure improvement and recovery. Treatment needs to address such issues as denial and minimization of the behavior, inappropriate attitudes about sex, sexual needs, deviant sexual preferences, victim impact and empathy, social skills, anger control, relationship issues, and life skills.

In theory, breaking the cycle of silence through a meaningful conversation with leaders, pastors, victims and offenders can begin the healing process. As knowledge and insight is gained from the offender, it creates awareness that offers prescriptive measures to the victim, in an effort to keep children safe. Preventative measures can be offered to the victim, offender, and recovering offender, in an effort to break the silence and combat the cycle of abuse. The method

³ Marshall et al., *Sexual Offender Treatment*, 681-696.

used in order for the cycle of abuse to be broken, is through awareness, prevention and insight, tips and the engagement of the offender, and community involvement through pastors. Following up with the pastors and providing a resource to them is an avenue that will lead to open communication and provide healing for the victim as well as the offender. This process will lead to the goal of breaking the cycle of abuse.

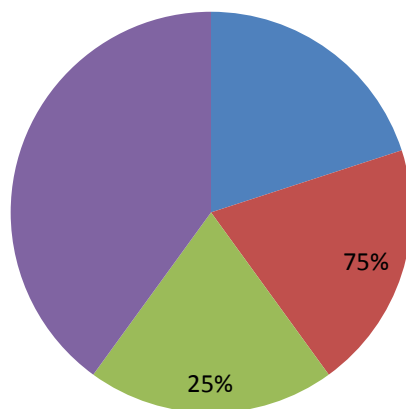
APPENDIX A. SURVEY RESULTS OF CHURCHES

Statistics of local churches equipped for sexual abuse accountability

One hundred pastors surveyed in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia

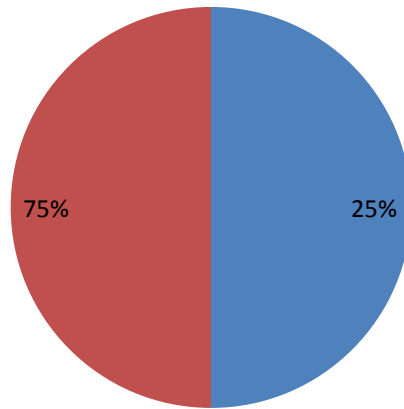
1. What is your age?

■ 25-40 ■ 41-60 ■ 61-80 ■ 81 or older



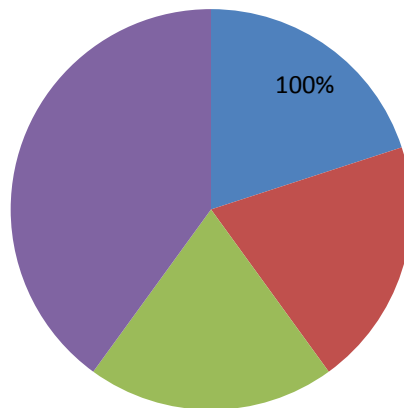
2. What is your gender?

■ Male ■ Female



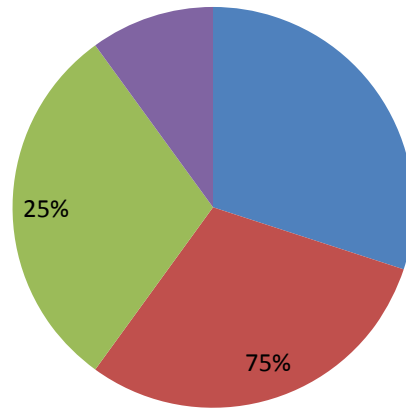
3. What is your title?

■ Senior Pastor ■ Interim Pastor ■ Assistant Pastor ■ Associate Pastor



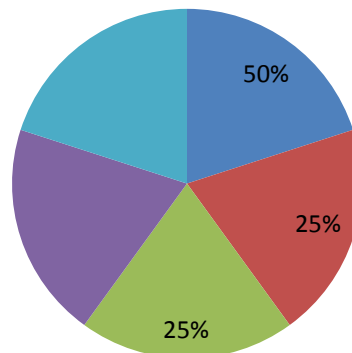
4. What is your education level?

■ DoctoratePhD ■ Master of Divinity/Master's ■ Bachelor's/Associate's ■ No degree



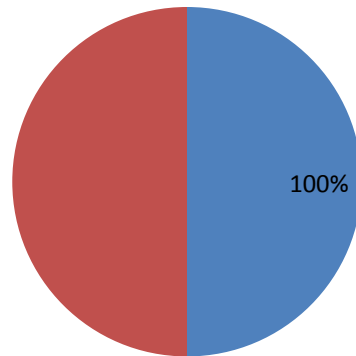
5. How many years have you pastored this congregation?

■ 1-5 ■ 6-10 ■ 11-20 ■ 21-30 ■ More than 30



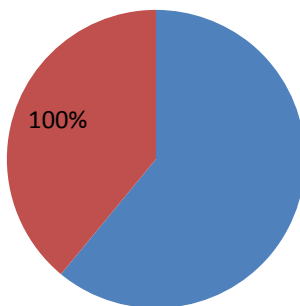
6. Does your church have a written policy on how to handle reports of sexual abuse?

■ Yes ■ No



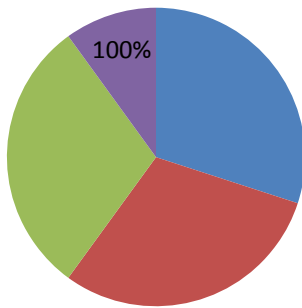
7. If your church does have a written policy on how to handle reports of sexual abuse, does it cover or include child sexual abuse?

■ Yes ■ No



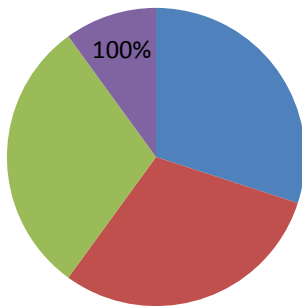
8. Within the last five years, how many allegations of child sexual abuse have you been made aware of in your church?

■ One to five ■ Six to Ten ■ Eleven to Twenty ■ None



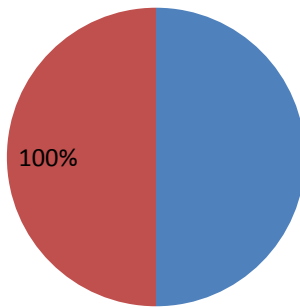
9. Within the last five years, how many reports of child sexual abuse have you reported to authorities or police?

■ One to Five ■ Six to Ten ■ Eleven to Twenty ■ None



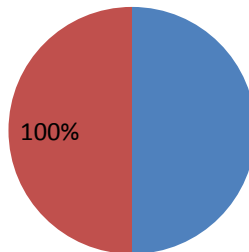
10. Does your church offer counseling for victims, past or present, of child sexual abuse?

■ Yes ■ No



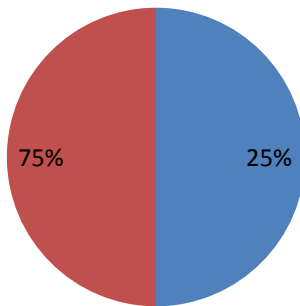
11. Do you believe that there are certain situations in which you, as a pastor, should report allegations of child sexual abuse to authorities or police?

■ Yes ■ No



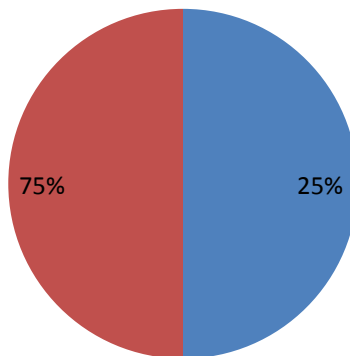
12. Do you have procedures in place for handling known sex offenders in the congregation?

■ Yes ■ No



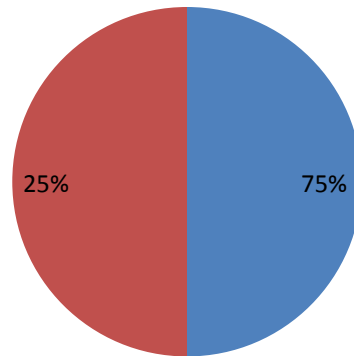
13. Do you have guidelines for handling known sex offenders serving in the church?

■ Yes ■ No



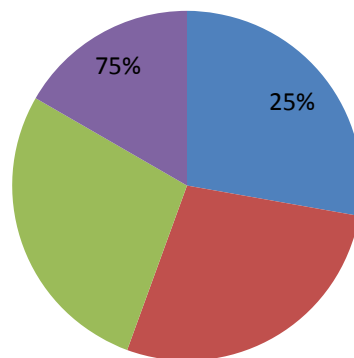
14. Do you believe sex offenders can change/recover?

■ Yes ■ No



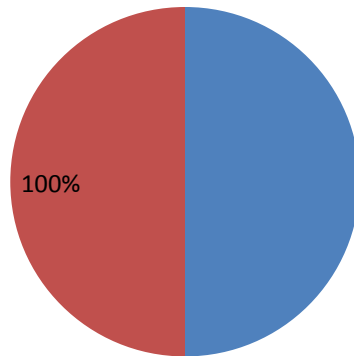
15. How many recovering sex offenders have you dealt with in the last five years?

■ One to Five ■ Six to Ten ■ Eleven to Twenty ■ None



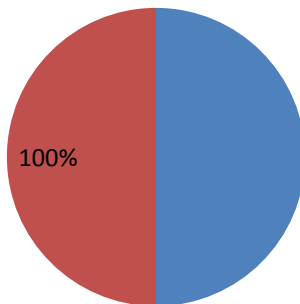
16. Does your church offer counseling for sex offenders, past or present?

■ Yes ■ No



17. If you have a written sexual abuse policy, would you be willing to share it for the purposes of this research?

■ Yes ■ No



APPENDIX B. SURVEY

Sexual abuse-the unspoken truth: a practical guide for pastors, helping abusers break the cycle.

Survey

1. What is your age?
 - a. 25-40
 - b. 41-60
 - c. 61-80
 - d. 81 or older
2. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
3. What is your title?
 - a. Senior Pastor
 - b. Interim Pastor
 - c. Assistant Pastor
 - d. Associate Pastor
4. What is your education level?
 - a. Doctorate/PhD
 - b. Master of Divinity/Master's
 - c. Bachelor's/Associate's
 - d. No Degree
5. How many years have you pastored this congregation?
 - a. 1-5
 - b. 6-10
 - c. 11-20
 - d. 21-30
 - e. More than 30
6. Does your church have a written policy on how to handle reports of sexual abuse?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
7. If your church does have a written policy on how to handle reports of sexual abuse, does it cover or include child sexual abuse?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

8. Within the last five years, how many allegations of child sexual abuse have you been made aware of in your church?
 - a. One to Five
 - b. Six to Ten
 - c. Eleven to Twenty
 - d. None
9. Within the last five years, how many reports of child sexual abuse have you reported to authorities or police?
 - a. One to Five
 - b. Six to Ten
 - c. Eleven to Twenty
 - d. None
10. Does your church offer counseling for victims, past or present, of child sexual abuse?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
11. Do you believe that there are certain situations in which you, as a pastor, should not report allegations of child sexual abuse to authorities or police?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
12. Do you have procedures in place for handling known sex offenders in the congregation?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
13. Do you have guidelines for handling known sex offenders serving in the church?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
14. Do you believe sex offenders can change/recover?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
15. How many recovering sex offenders have you dealt with in the last five years?
 - a. One to Five
 - b. Six to Ten
 - c. Eleven to Twenty
 - d. None
16. Does your church offer counseling for sex offenders, past or present?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
17. If you have a written sexual abuse policy, would you be willing to share it for the

purposes of this research?

- a. Yes
- b. No

18. Would you like to receive a written sexual abuse policy if you do not currently have one in place?

- a. Yes
- b. No

APPENDIX C. JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

Deborah G. Haskin's journal investigates attitudes toward incest and child sexual abuse among religious and non-religious African Americans so that more effective cultural-based clinical and prevention interventions can be designed.⁴ It provides data to support utilizing the Black Church for sexual abuse prevention and psychological support. The journal provides clinicians, researchers and abuse policy makers with information for understanding African American attitudes toward incest and child sexual abuse.

Donalee Brown et al journal articles discuss the incidence of child sexual abuse, define incest and discuss treatment options.⁵ A review of group treatment is explored, with results being documented, providing support for the effectiveness of the group treatment process.

A journal article by Jay Peters and Lenard W. Kaye reviews post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in older people, especially those who were exposed to sexual assault during childhood.⁶ It addresses long-term effects of Traumatic Stress, Extent and Nature of Child Sexual Abuse, Impact of Entering the Institution and the Impact of Institutional Practices as well as Implications.

Charles F. Johnson's journal talks about the consequences of child sexual abuse as well

⁴ Deborah G. Haskins, Ralph L. Piedmont, Joanne Marie G. Greer, Beverly E. Eanes, "African American Attitudes Toward Incest and Child Sexual Abuse," *Journal of Religion & Abuse* 2, no.3 (January 2001): 51-80. Accessed January 4, 2014. http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J154v02n03_04

⁵ Donalee Brown et al., "The Effectiveness of Group Treatment for Female Adult Incest Survivors," *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* 22, no. 2 (February 2013): 143-152. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://eric.ed.gov/?q=%22Child+sexual+abuse%22&ffl=subAdults>

⁶ Jay Peters and Lenard W. Kaye, "Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Review of Its Impact on Older Women Entering Institutional Settings," *Clinical Gerontologist* 26, no. 3-4 (2003): 29-53. Accessed January 4, 2014. http://www.researchgate.net/publication/242597049_Childhood_Sexual_Abuse_A_Review_of_Its_Impact_on_Older_Women_Entering_Institutional_Settings

as physical consequences.⁷ The author deals with the physicians' role, court appearances, and who is likely to sexually abuse a child. This article addresses controversy in child sexual abuse. This prevention information can be useful in prescriptive measures for child sexual abuse.

News media coverage of child sexual abuse can help policymakers and the public understand what must be done to prevent future abuse, but coverage tends to focus on extreme cases. A journal by Pamela Mejia, Andrew Cheyne and Lori Dorfman presents an analysis of newspaper coverage from 2007 to 2009 to describe how the daily news presents and frames day-to-day stories about child sexual abuse.⁸ When child sexual abuse receives news attention, the stories focus primarily on the criminal justice details of a specific incident rather than contextual information about causes of and solutions to child sexual abuse, and prevention is rarely addressed. This journal offers suggestions for strategies that advocates can use to help reporters improve news coverage so that it better contextualizes child sexual abuse and links it to prevention policies.

A journal by K. Walsh and L. Brandon talks about parents' knowledge about child sexual abuse and its prevention, the statistics of how many parents talk to their children about child sexual abuse prevention, parents' attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention education, and parents' views about sexual abuse prevention education at home and in schools.⁹ An array of questions was asked in these interviews that will be useful in prescriptive and preventative measures of child sexual abuse.

⁷ Charles F. Johnson, "Child Sexual Abuse," *Lancet* 364, (July 2004): 462-70.

⁸ Pamela Mejia, Andrew Cheyne, and Lori Dorfman, "News Coverage of Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention, 2007-2009," *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* 21, no. 4 (July 2012): 470-487. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ973327>

⁹ K. Walsh and L. Brandon, "Their Children's First Educators: Parents' Views About Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education," *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 21, no. 5 (2012): 734-746. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://eprints.qut.edu.au/49416/>

In Debra Rose Wilson's journal on the health consequences of childhood sexual abuse, participants experienced discomfort when talking about their sexual or physical abuse, and were more likely to admit trauma and abuse if they could read a list of numbered descriptions and then report only the corresponding number to the interviewer.¹⁰ The authors also reported an increase in accuracy of the report when this was practiced. This information is helpful when interviewing others regarding child sexual abuse.

A study on breaking the cycle of abuse by Byron Egeland, Deborah Jacobvitz and L. Alan Sroufe examined possible variables related to the ability of women, abused during childhood, to break the abusive cycle and provide adequate child care.¹¹ The data in this journal indicate that a number of personality characteristics, the level of life stress, and a variety of relationship variables play a role in this process.

A journal by Rosalyn D. Lee et al explores the possible relation between a history of child maltreatment and maltreatment perpetration in adulthood.¹² It is suggested that there may be intergenerational continuity, meaning children who experience childhood abuse have an increased chance of becoming violent as adults. The study conducted in this article proved that having a history of maltreatment does significantly increase the risk of subsequent maltreatment perpetration. However, enhancing relationship satisfaction, parental satisfaction, and the

¹⁰ Debra Rose Wilson, "Health Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse." *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care* 46, no. 1 (January 2010): 56-64. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1744-6163.2009.00238.x/abstract>

¹¹ Byron Egeland, Deborah Jacobvitz and L. Alan Sroufe, "Breaking the Cycle of Abuse." *Child Development* 59, no. 4 (August 1988): 1080-1088. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/1130274>

¹² Rosalyn D. Lee et al., "Breaking the Cycle of Maltreatment: The Role of Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationship," *Journal of Adolescent Health* 53 (April 30, 2013): 25-31. Accessed January 4, 2014. http://www.ncdsv.org/images/JAH_Breaking-the-cycle-of-maltreatment-the-role-of-safe-stable-and-nurturing-relationships_10-2013.pdf

attachment to the child, can significantly reduce the risk of continuing the intergenerational cycle of abuse.

The journal by Debra Rose on the Health Consequences of Childhood Sexual abuse provides a summary for advocacy, court testimony, assessment, treatment, prevention, and further research studies in the field of childhood sexual abuse.¹³ A literature review identifies the psychiatric, social, and disease disorders to which this population is predisposed. Adult survivors experience more depression, obesity, autoimmune disorders (irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, and fibromyalgia), eating disorders, and addictions. A holistic perspective allows understanding of health consequences for survivors. A model through which to consider these phenomena is presented. The long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse must be assessed and addressed by healthcare professionals.

¹³ Debra Rose, "Health Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse," *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care* 46, no. 1 (01, 2010): 56-64. Accessed January 7, 2014.
http://www.researchgate.net/publication/40849936_Health_consequences_of_childhood_sexual_abuse

APPENDIX D

OTHER BIBLICAL REFERENCES

Proverbs 16:2
Hebrews 4:12
Matthew 7:20
Hebrews 12:2
Proverbs 28:13
Acts 8:22
2 Corinthians 3:17
John 8:36
2 Corinthians 4:8
Hosea 4:6
Psalm 91:3
James 5:16
Psalm 107:20

APPENDIX E

STATE STATUTES

Maryland

Md. Code Ann. Fam. Law § 5-705(a)(1), (a)(3)

Except as provided below, notwithstanding any other provision of law, including a law on privileged communications, a person other than a health practitioner, police officer, or educator or human service worker who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect shall notify the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

A minister of the Gospel, clergy member, or priest of an established church of any denomination is not required to provide notice [when they have reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect] if the notice would disclose matter in relation to any communication that is protected by the clergy-penitent privilege and:

- The communication was made to a minister, clergy member, or priest in a professional character in the course of discipline enjoined by the church to which the minister, clergy member, or priest belongs.
- The minister, clergy member, or priest is bound to maintain the confidentiality of that communication under canon law, church doctrine or practice.

District of Columbia

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Virginia

Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1509

This subsection [enumerating mandated reporters shall not apply to any regular minister, priest, rabbi, imam, or duly accredited practitioner of any religious organization or denomination usually referred to as a church as it relates to (i) information required by the doctrine of the religious organization or denomination to be kept in a confidential manner, or (ii) information that would be subject to § 8.01-4000 or 19.2-271.3 if offered as evidence in court.¹⁴

Statute of Limitations

The statute of limitations, or the time that must expire before legal proceedings can no longer be initiated, differs for each state. In many cases it can be very confusing.

¹⁴ Child Welfare Information Gateway, https://www.childwelfare.gov/emwide/laws_policies/state.

Maryland - Civil Statute of Limitations

Delayed SOL for Actions Based on Child Sexual Abuse (18 + 7 Years); Delayed SOL for Most Other Personal Injury Actions (18 + 3 Years) : Child sexual abuse actions may be brought within 7 years of the date the victim turns 18 years old. Most other claims based on injury caused by sexual acts on a minor that do not constitute sexual abuse fall under the general SOL, which is 3 years, although this period will be tolled until the victim turns 18.

Discovery Rule Possible But Unlikely: While the Maryland Court of Special Appeals has declined to extend the common law discovery rule to child sexual abuse actions, those decisions predate the expansion of the SOL for such actions in 2003 and generally relied, at least in part, on the fact that the Legislature had created no SOL exception for child sexual abuse actions. No Retroactivity: Effective date, October 1, 2003.

Criminal Statute of Limitations

No SOL for Felony Offenses; 1 Year SOL for Misdemeanors: Maryland has no time limitation for prosecutions of felonies. Most sexual offenses are classified as felonies. Misdemeanors may be prosecuted within 1 year.

District of Columbia (D.C.) - Civil Statute of Limitations

Delayed SOL for minors: 21 years old (18 years old + 3 Years). There is no specific SOL for suits based on sexual acts, but the period does not begin tolling until the victim reaches age 18.

Discovery Rule: "The statute of limitations begins to run when a plaintiff either has actual knowledge of a cause of action or is charged with knowledge of that cause of action."

Criminal Statute of Limitations

15 year SOL for child sexual abuse (for first and second degree child sexual abuse it must be prosecuted within 15 years of the date the offense was committed), 10 years for most other child sex offenses (using or promoting a minor in a sexual performance, incest).

Delayed Tolling for Minors: 21 years old plus 15 or 10 Years depending on the act.

Virginia - Civil Statute of Limitations

Delayed Tolling for Minors: Most personal injury claims have SOLs of 2 years after the cause of action accrues or, 2 years from removal of disability, including legal incapacity and minority.

Discovery Rule: 2 year limitation period will run from removal of disability (see above), or when the fact of the injury and its causal connection to the sexual abuse is first communicated to the person by a licensed physical, psychologist or clinical psychologist.

Criminal Statute of Limitations

No SOL for any felony.¹⁵

¹⁵ <http://angelroar.com/foradults/c-child-abuse-resources-adults/childabusestatuteoflimitationsbystate>.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adams, Alison. "Seen But Not heard: Child Sexual Abuse, Incest and the Law in the United States." *Journal of Law & Family Studies* 11, no. 2 (2009): 543-598. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://epubs.utah.edu/index.php/jlfs/article/view/233/0>
- An Offender, The Apology of a Sex Offender by An Offender. Houston, TX: Strategic Book Publishing & Rights Agency, 2014. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.books.google.com>
- Bahroo, Bhagwan A. "Pedophilia." *Psychiatric Insights*. Family Court Review (2003). Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com>
- Bard, Morton and Dawn Sangrey, The Crime Victim's Book. New York, NY: Brunner/Mazel, 1986), 21.
- Becker, Gaven De, Protecting the Gift: Keeping Children and Teenagers Safe (and Parents Sane), New York, NY: Random House Publishing Group, 2013.
- Benish, James D. Protectus Prol: A Handbook. Tempe, AZ: Codefore Publishing, 2009.
- Bernat, Frances P, Human Sex Trafficking. New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.
- Bolen, Rebecca M. "Child Sexual Abuse: Prevention or Promotion?" *Social Work* 48, no. 2 (April 2003): 174-85. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
- Bragg, H. Lein, *Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence*. Child Welfare Information Gateway. [Washington, D.C.]: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau, 2003. http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/domestic_violence/
- Brayford, Jo, Francis Cowe and John Deering, Sex Offenders: Punish, Help, Change or Control?: Theory, Policy and Practice Explored. New York, NY: Routledge Frontiers of Criminal, 2013.
- Bromley, Nicole Braddock, Breathe: Finding Freedom to Thrive in Relationships After Childhood Sexual Abuse. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Brown, Donalee, Sonia Reyes, Brianne Brown, and Et Meredith Gonzenbach. "The Effectiveness of Group Treatment for Female Adult Incest Survivors." *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* 22, no. 2 (February 2013): 143-152. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://eric.ed.gov/?q=%22Child+sexual+abuse%22&ffl=subAdults>
- _____, "Treatment of Sexually Abused Children and Adult Survivors." *Journal of Child*

- Sexual Abuse* 22, no. 2 (February 2013): 143-152. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://eric.ed.gov/?q=%22Child+sexual+abuse%22&ffl=subAdults>
- Carfardi, Nicholas P, *Before Dallas: The U.S. Bishops' Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse of Children*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2008.
- Child Sexual Abuse: A Mental Health Issue? The Division of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services, Department for Human Support Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, (August 2005). Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonoyres/0D6B2450-8D63-4853-8BB3-AE33185F9356/0/ChildSexualAbuseAMentalHealthIssue.htm>
- “Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs for Children: Building an Evidence-Informed Approach.” *NSVRC National Sexual Violence Resource Center* (2011). Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.nsvrc.org>
- Clancy, Susan A, *The Trauma Myth: The Truth about the Sexual Abuse of Children—And Its Aftermath*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2009.
- Cole, Barbara. “Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Mental Health Issue.” (2013). “Child Abusers Talk.” *The Daily News* (September 2012). Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.iol.co.za>
- Coleman, Edmond J and Margretta Dwyer, *Sex Offender Treatment: Psychological and Medical Approaches*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2014.
- Daro, Deborah A. “Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.” *The Future of Children, Sexual Abuse of Children* 4, no.2 (Summer/Fall 1994): 198-223. Accessed January 4, 2014.
http://futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/04_02_10.pdf
- Dugard, Jaycee, *A Stolen Life*. New York, NY: Luna Lee, Inc., 2012.
- Duncan, Karen A, *Female Sexual Predators: Understanding Them to Protect Our Children and Youths* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2010), 1.
- Egeland, Byron, Deborah Jacobvitz and L. Alan Sroufe. “Breaking the Cycle of Abuse.” *Child Development* 59, no. 4 (August 1988): 1080-1088. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/1130274>
- Elliot, Michele, K. Browne and J. Kilcoyne. “Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us.” *Child Abuse and Neglect* 19, no. 5 (May 1995): 579-594. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/014521349500017>
- Fenner, J. V, *Sex Offenders: Management, Treatment, and Bibliography*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Publishers, 2008.
- Finkelhor, David. *Child Sexual Abuse: New Theory and Research*. New York, NY: Free Press,

1984. Accessed January 24, 2014. <http://www.scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu>
- _____ and L. Jones, "Have Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse Declined Since the 1990s?" Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire. (November 1, 2012). Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.unh.edu.ccr>
- Flora, Rudy, *How to Work with Sex Offenders: A Handbook for Criminal Justice, Human Service, and Mental Health Professionals*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2014.
- Ford, Hannah, *Women Who Sexually Abuse Children*. West Sussex, EN: Ford, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2006.
- Furniss, Tilman, *The Multiprofessional Handbook of Child Sexual Abuse: Integrated Management, Therapy, and Legal Intervention*. New York, NY: Routledge 2013.
- Giarretto, Henry. "A Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program." *Child Abuse and Neglect* 6, no. 3 (May 2002): 263-278. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0145213482900291>
- Group Publishing, *Group's Emergency Response Handbook for Children's Ministry*. Love Land, CO: Group, 2007.
- Gynakol, Zentralbl. "Genital Findings in Sexually Abused Prepubertal Girls." *PubMed* 123, no. 10 (2001): 562-567. Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11753810>
- Harrell, Margaret C, and Laura Werber Castaneda, *A Compendium of Sexual Assault Research*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2009.
- Harris, Sam, *Free Will* (New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 2012).
- Haskins, Deborah G., Ralph L. Piedmont, Joanne Marie G. Greer, and Beverly E. Eanes. "AfricanAmerican Attitudes Toward Incest and Child Sexual Abuse." *Journal of Religion & Abuse* 2, no.3 (January 2001): 51-80. Accessed January 4, 2014. http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J154v02n03_04
- Heitritter, Lynn, and Jeanette Vought, *Helping Victims of Sexual Abuse: A Sensitive Biblical Guide for Counselors, Victims, and Families*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2006.
- Herman, Judith Lewis, *Father-Daughter Incest*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012.
- Hoertdoerfer, Pat, and Fredric John Muir, *The Safe Congregation Handbook: Nurturing Healthy Boundaries in our Faith Communities*. Boston, MA: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2005)
- Holcomb, Justin S, and Lindsey A. Holcomb, *Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and*

- Healing for Victims of Sexual Assault. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.
- Johnson, Charles Felzen. "Child Sexual Abuse." *Lancet* 364, (July 2004): 462-70.
- Jones, Adele D, Understanding Child Sexual Abuse: Perspectives from the Caribbean. London, N1: Palgrave McMillian, 2013.
- Karkoskova, Slavka. Phd. "Complex Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Offender: Pastoral Perspective." *Slovakia E-Theologos*, 3, no. 1 (May 2013): 82-95. Accessed January 4, 2014. [http://www.degruyter.com/dg/viewarticle.fullcontentlink:pdfeventlink/\\$002...](http://www.degruyter.com/dg/viewarticle.fullcontentlink:pdfeventlink/$002...)
- Kendall, Virginia M, and T. Markus Funk, Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining the Global Challenges and U.S. Responses. Guilford, CT: Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.
- Kittleson, Mark J, John Haley and Wendy Stein, The Truth About Abuse. New York, NY: Book Builders LLC, 2005.
- La Fond, John Q, Preventing Sexual Violence How Society Should Cope With Sex Offenders. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2005.
- Lau, Kenneth, Kathryn Krase, and Richard H. Morse, Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse And Neglect: A Practical Guide for Social Workers. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2008.
- Lee, Rosalyn D., Terence P. Thornberry, Kimberly L. Henry, Carolyn A. Smith, Timothy O. Ireland, and Sarah J. Greenman. "Breaking the Cycle of Maltreatment: The Role of Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationships." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 53 (October 2013): 25-31. Accessed January 4, 2014. http://www.ncdsv.org/images/JAH_Breaking-the-cycle-of-maltreatment-the-role-of-safe-stable-and-nurturing-relationships_10-2013.pdf
- Maier, Shana L, Rape, Victims and Investigation: Experiences and Perceptions of Law Enforcement Officers Responding to Reported Rapes, New York: Routledge, 2014.
- Malekoff, Andrew, Group Work with Adolescents: Principles and Practice. New York, NY: Guilford Press, 2014.
- Marshall, William L., Liam E. Marshall, Gerris A. Serran, and Matt D. O'Brien. "Sexual Offender Treatment: A Positive Approach." *Psychiatric Clinics of North America* 31, no. 4 (December 2008): 681-696. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0193953X08000762>
- McNamara, Roger N, Child Safety Guidelines for Local Churches. Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2010.
- Mejia, Pamela, Andrew Cheyne, and Lori Dorfman. "News Coverage of Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention, 2007–2009." *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* 21, no. 4 (July 2012): 470-487.

- Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ973327>
- Miller-Perrin, Cindy L, and Robin G. Perrin, *Child Maltreatment: An Introduction*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 2012.
- Moody, Christopher W., "Male Child Sexual Abuse," *Journal of Pediatric Health Care* 13, no. 3 Part 1 (May/June 1999): 112-119. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S089152459990072X>
- Nason-Clark, Nancy, Barbara Fisher-Townsend and Victoria Fahlberg, *Strengthening Families and Ending Abuse: Churches and Their Leaders Look to the Future*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013.
- NEWSRX. "Sexual Abuse: Stereotypes and Attitudes about Child Sexual Abusers were Examined." *Medical Letter on the CDC & FDA* (Nov 5, 2006): 103. Accessed January 12, 2014. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1348/135532505X68818/abstract>
- Niebuhr, H. Richard, "The Responsibility of the Church for Society" and Other Essays. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.
- Nipier-Heny, John, "When Males Have Been Sexually Abused as Children: A Guide for Men." Public Health Agency of Canada, Vancouver, BC, (July 2008): 14. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sfv-avf/sourcesnfnts/nfnts-visac-nale/index-eng.php>
- Office of the Attorney General, State of California, Department of Justice. "Megan's Law – Facts about Sex Offenders." (2001). Accessed February 7, 2015. <http://meganslaw.ca.gov/facts.htm>.
- Ogilvie, Beverly, *Mother-Daughter Incest: A Guide for Helping Professionals*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2012.
- O'Meara, Sara, Yvonne Fedderson. *Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse*. National Child Abuse Statistics and Facts. (1959). Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.childhelp.org>
- O'Reilly, James T, and Margaret S.P. Chalmers, *The Clergy Sex Abuse Crisis and the Legal Responses*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Peters, Jay and Lenard W. Kaye. "Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Review of Its Impact on Older Women Entering Institutional Settings." *Clinical Gerontologist* 26, no. 3-4 (2003): 29-53. Accessed January 4, 2014. http://www.researchgate.net/publication/242597049_Childhood_Sexual_Abuse_A_Review_of_Its_Impact_on_Older_Women_Entering_Institutional_Settings
- Pitts, Margaret A, *The Silent Cry: Lost Among the Hearing*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2003.
- Ray, Susan L. "Male Survivor's Perspective of Incest/Sexual Abuse." *Perspectives in*

- Psychiatric Care* 37, no. 2 (April-June 2001): 49-59. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-75608414/male-survivors-perspectives-of-incest-sexual-abuse>
- Reddington, Frances P, and Betsy Wright Kreisel, *Sexual Assault: The Victims, the Perpetrators, and the Criminal Justice System*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005.
- Rose, Debra PhD, MSN, RN, IBCLC, A.H.N.-B.C., C. "Health Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse." *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care* 46, no. 1 (01, 2010): 56-64. Accessed January 4, 2014.
http://www.researchgate.net/publication/40849936_Health_consequences_of_childhood_sexual_abuse
- Shaw, Jon A, John E. Lewis, Andrea Loeb, James Rosado and Rosemarie A. Rodriquez. "Child on Child Sexual Abuse: Psychological Perspectives." *Child Abuse & Neglect* 24, no. 12 (April 2000): 1591-1600. Accessed January 4, 2014.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S014521340000212X>
- Shelly, Judith Allen, and Sandra D. John, *Spiritual Dimensions of Mental Health*. Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Steven, Tracy. "Sexual abuse and forgiveness." *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 27, no. 3 (Fall 1999): 219. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://library.harvest.edu.au/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?>
- Steven R. Tracy, *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
- Stryker, Paul, *Confessions of a Sex Offender*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2014.
- Swain, Schnell. "About Molestors. Endchildmolestation" (2009). Accessed January 4, 2014.
http://www.endchildmolestation.com/mainsite/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=125
- Thoburn, John, *Clergy Sexual Misconduct* (Sudbury, MA: eBookIt.com, 2012).
http://www.books.google.com/books?id=6x1aFoSidHUC&pg=PT5&lpg=PT5&dq=john+thoburn+clergy+sexual+misconduct&source=bl&ots=cejMV4inXW&sig=82e-ki5ifFbBEiF_HD6bYwxwz68Yg&hl=en&sa=X&ei=BWk9VezqDoGUNoDTgdAD&ved=0CCkQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=john%20thoburn%20clergy%20sexual%20misconduct&f=false
- Umbriet, Mark, and Marilyn Peterson Armour, *Restorative Justice Dialogue: An Essential Guide for Research and Practice*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2010.
- Van Dam, Carla, *Identifying Child Molesters: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse by Recognizing the Patterns of the Offenders*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.

- Villarosa, Linda. "To Prevent Sexual Abuse, Abusers Step Forward." *New York Times* (December 2002). Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/03/health/to-pevent-sexual-abuse-abusers-step-forward.html>
- Vogelstein, Rachel B, *Ending Child Marriage: How Elevating the Status of Girls Advances U.S. Foreign Policy Objectives*. New York, NY: Council on Foreign Relations, 2013.
- Walsh, K. and L. Brandon. "Their Children's First Educators: Parents' Views About Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education." *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 21, no. 5 (October 2012): 734-746. Accessed January 4, 2014. <http://eprints.qut.edu.au/49416/>
- Wilson, Debra Rose. "Health Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse." *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care* 46, no. 1 (January 2010): 56-64. Accessed January 7, 2014. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1744-6163.2009.00238.x/abstract>
- Witherow, Dick. *The Modern Day Leper*. Charleston, SC: Booksurge Publishing, 2009.
- Wright, Richard G, *Sex Offender Laws: Failed Policies, New Directions*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2009.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY[®]

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

October 15, 2014

Teresa S. Johnson

IRB Exemption 1984.101514: Sexual Abuse, the Unspoken Truth: A Practical Guide for Pastors Helping Abusers Break the Cycle

Dear Teresa,

The Liberty University Institutional Review Board has reviewed your application in accordance with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations and finds your study to be exempt from further IRB review. This means you may begin your research with the data safeguarding methods mentioned in your approved application, and that no further IRB oversight is required.

Your study falls under exemption category 46.101 (b)(2), which identifies specific situations in which human participants research is exempt from the policy set forth in 45 CFR 46:

- (2) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless:
 - (i) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (ii) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation.

Please note that this exemption only applies to your current research application, and that any changes to your protocol must be reported to the Liberty IRB for verification of continued exemption status. You may report these changes by submitting a change in protocol form or a new application to the IRB and referencing the above IRB Exemption number.

If you have any questions about this exemption, or need assistance in determining whether possible changes to your protocol would change your exemption status, please email us at irb@liberty.edu.

Sincerely,

**Fernando
Garzon, Psy.D.**
*Professor, IRB
Chair Counseling*

(434) 592-4054

Liberty University | Training Champions for Christ since 1971