



THE Hope of Survivors

Reaching the **HURTING...**

Calling the **FAITHFUL...**

Bridging the **GAP...**

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

www.TheHopeofSurvivors.com

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Contact Information

The Hope of Survivors—Main Office

P.O. Box 27
Effingham, IL 62401

Toll-Free: (866) 260-8958

Web: www.TheHopeofSurvivors.com
Email: Help@TheHopeofSurvivors.com

La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes Latino Division

Phone: (866) 260-8958, extension 2

Web: www.LaEsperanzadelosSobrevivientes
Email: Ayuda@LaEsperanzadelosSobrevivientes

The Hope of Survivors—Kenya

Phone: 0733-924051 or (866) 260-8958

Web: www.TheHopeofSurvivors.com
Email: Hephzibah@TheHopeofSurvivors.com

The Hope of Survivors—Australia

Phone: 07-4630-2983 or (866) 260-8958

Web: www.TheHopeofSurvivors.com
Email: Arlagene@TheHopeofSurvivors.org

The Hope of Survivors—Romania & Norway

Web: www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com
Email: Ajutor@TheHopeOfSurvivors.com

Necessity of The Hope of Survivors

Pastoral sexual abuse happens to people of all ages, backgrounds, gender and race. It is a global problem—existing in every denomination around the world. It is a human problem—a sin problem. The Hope of Survivors focuses primarily on assisting adult victims of pastoral sexual abuse, but we also receive requests for help from teens and young people who have been abused by a youth pastor or someone in the role of spiritual authority.

The following is an excerpt from an address given by clinical psychologist Mary Gail Frawley-O’Dea, Ph.D entitled “*The Experience of the Victim of Sexual Abuse: A Reflection,*” as she attempted to lend understanding of the problem and trauma of clergy sexual abuse as experienced by the victim. It puts into words the dynamics of the abusive relationship, which is further complicated when the abuser is a respected pastor and spiritual mentor:

“Sexual abusers ingratiate themselves into the lives of their victims, evoking respect, trust and dependency long before the first touch takes place. The confused child or adolescent is frequently so emotionally entwined with his victimizer... that he readily and silently complies with the sexual activities imposed upon him.

There are those who devalue survivors of childhood and, especially adolescent sexual abuse for not disclosing their victimizations when they were occurring. Secrecy, however, is the acknowledged cornerstone of sexual abuse... Sexual abusers may also blame the victim, accusing her of seducing the predator, thus filling the victim with the shame and self-loathing more appropriately experienced by the victimizer. In a more covert covenant of secrecy, the abuser provides the victim with gifts and special privileges that both silence and instill terrible and long-lasting guilt.

In addition many abused minors maintain silence because they accurately perceive that there is no one in their environment who will help them if they disclose.... Finally, children and teenagers do not disclose the sexual abuse secret because they care for the perpetrator. A central cruelty of sexual abuse, in fact, is the perpetrator’s trampling of the young person’s generously and freely bestowed affection or respect.

It is from this epicenter of betrayed trust that the mind splitting impact of sexual abuse ripples outward.... It is simply too much and the resulting fracture of the victim’s mind and experience often leads to a debilitating post-traumatic stress disorder that affects every domain of the victim’s functioning and lasts for years and years after the abuse has stopped.”



Did you know?

"96%

of sexual exploitation by professionals involves a man in power capitalizing on a woman’s trust. Clergy sexual misconduct happens when a person in a ministerial role engages in sexual contact, threats or sexual behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, colleague or volunteer. Sometimes it’s done once, spontaneously, by a leader who is emotionally vulnerable and lonely. Other times, the abuse happens from a leader who has a pattern of abusing power—a serial abuser who actively looks for opportunities to take advantage of congregants.”

—Phil Strickland, [excerpt from a letter of introduction for Broken Trust: Confronting Clergy Sexual Misconduct]

Pastoral sexual abuse is damaging in every way—no matter what age one is when the abuse takes place. The destruction in the victim’s life cannot be underestimated. The potential for health problems, suicide risk, breaking up of marriages and families is just the beginning. One of the worst “side effects” of pastoral sexual abuse is the loss of faith, trust and relationship with God. Many victims find it impossible to return to their church—or any church. Yet, that’s not the worst of it. Too often, there are some who never recover from the abuse and remain away from God forever. The responsibility for that victim’s life lies in the hands of the pastor or spiritual leader who committed the abuse.

The Hope of Survivors strives to facilitate healing in victim’s lives by imparting hope, uncovering truth and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Truly, the healing and hope all victims need comes from the One who created them in His image and desires to make them whole. The prayer of each victim can be found in Jeremiah 17:14, *“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.”*

May the Church—the Body of Believers—learn to recognize its responsibility to those who have been harmed by clergy. God is not mocked, and He has given us ample warnings in His Word for situations just like this. 1 Samuel 2:22 states, *“Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”* As Eli speaks to his sons, the priests of the House of God, he makes it clear to them that they are the ones causing the Lord’s people to transgress (verse 24). The pastor (or any spiritual leader) is the one with the responsibility to maintain healthy and appropriate boundaries—at all times.



History of The Hope of Survivors

The year 2008 marked the six-year anniversary of The Hope of Survivors, which was born one evening in December 2002, as Steve and Samantha were reflecting upon their own experience of pastoral sexual abuse and the lack of resources that were available to help them understand and heal at that time. They felt compelled to develop a web site that would provide information and encouragement to anyone who may be searching for answers. Steve and Samantha felt if “just one person” could be helped by the web site, then it would be well worth the effort and pain they had gone through. While Steve and Samantha’s vision was limited in thinking “just one,” the Lord knew how many hurting people there were—suffering all alone and living without hope. As you will see in the remainder of this report, there are many “ones” out there who have been touched and blessed by the ministry of The Hope of Survivors. Truly, God does work all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Did you know?

Steve and Samantha started The Hope of Survivors web site with a vision that if just one person was helped, then it would be worth it. As of December 31, 2008, “just one” now totals 511 personal contacts and hundreds of thousands of web site visitors!

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

“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

About The Hope of Survivors

Originally incorporated in California, and subsequently authorized to conduct affairs in the states of Illinois and Ohio, The Hope of Survivors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct of all denominations, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches worldwide. The Hope of Survivors, in addition to a Latino Division, also has representatives in Australia, Kenya, Romania and Norway. Pastoral care is provided through The Hope of Survivors’ separate pastoral division, *Calling the Faithful*.

AND PROVIDE FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE IN ZION— TO BESTOW
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BE CALLED OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, A PLANTING OF THE
LORD FOR THE DISPLAY OF HIS SPLENDOR.
ISAIAH 61:3

Description of Mission, Services & Programs

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

- (a) Educate the victims, the clergy, the church body and the general public about pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, the frequency of occurrences, the moral and social implications involved and the devastating consequences through national media, by disseminating brochures and other related materials, conducting educational and informational seminars, and by maintaining an up-to-date web site;
- (b) Conduct retreats and seminars specifically for the victims of pastoral sexual abuse and provide one-on-one counsel and support for the purpose of facilitating their healing and recovery, and helping them to gain a greater understanding of what has happened to them, giving them hope and encouragement, and restoring their faith in their Creator;
- (c) Work closely with churches that are dealing with the after-effects of an abuse situation for the purpose of helping them to understand the importance of providing a safe environment for all and for understanding the dynamics of pastoral sexual abuse so that the church and the victim are not further damaged in the after-math;

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

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

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

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

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

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2008

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
1015 — Cash—HOPE Checking	\$ 3,686.33
1025 —Checking	1,268.89
1076 — Cash—Hold for Temp Retr—Kenya	<u>4,000.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>8,955.22</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>8,955.22</u>

Fixed Assets

1600 — Equipment	12,712.13
1690 — Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,961.00)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>7,751.13</u>

TOTAL ASSETS 16,706.35

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Credit Cards	
2300 — Credit Card Liability	
2310 — Capital One	10,337.78
2311 — Advanta	<u>13.01</u>
Total 2300 — Credit Card Liability	<u>10,350.79</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>10,350.79</u>

Total Current Liabilities 10,350.79

Equity

3010 — Unrestrict (retained earnings)	6,417.72
3015 — Temporarily Restricted	4,000.00
Net Income	<u>(4,062.16)</u>
Total Equity	<u>6,355.56</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 16,706.35

Organization Funding

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





Did you know?

Did you know the average Hope & Healing conference for victims costs \$3,000-\$5,000?



Statement of Activities

January — December 2008

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

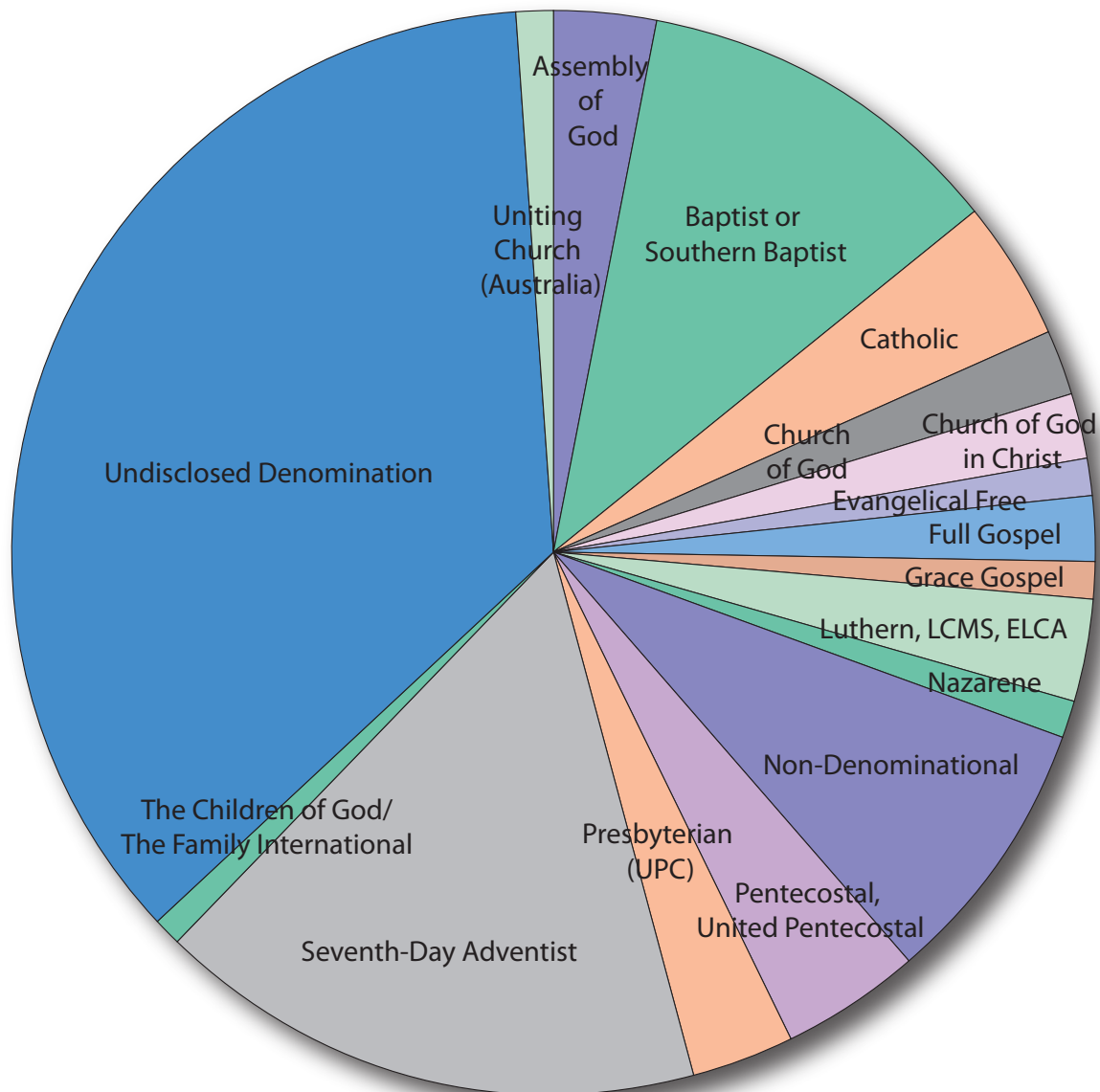
4000—Contributions	43,794.13
4001—Grants	6,000.00
4001—Contributions Temp. Restricted	2,650.00
4100—Sales	811.41
4400—Miscellaneous Income	2,386.74
4500—Interest Income	<u>3.38</u>
Total Income	55,645.66

Expense

6000—Salaries	15,873.45
6010—Payroll Taxes	966.25
6050—Professional Fees	
6052—Accounting	426.70
6050—Other	<u>185.00</u>
Total Professional Fees	611.70
6060—Books & Education	1,363.42
6070—Bank Charges	137.79
6075 — Finance Charges	1,177.76
6080 — Contract Services	503.33
6090 — Donations	215.79
6120 — Telephone	1,255.94
6130 — Dues & Publications	373.00
6150 — Licenses & Fees	386.00
6160 — Insurance	2,614.00
6200 — Office Supplies	2,524.76
6230 — Postage	2,444.42
6245 — Software	1,478.23
6300 — Sales Tax Paid	23.00
6400 — Advertising	3,717.88
6410 — Domain Registration	326.05
6420 — Travel	
6421 — Lodging	6,791.69
6422 — Airfare	7,085.30
6423 — Car Rental & Auto Expenses	2,215.12
6424 — Fuel	<u>2,170.95</u>
Total 6420 — Travel	18,263.06
6430 — Meals & Entertainment	2,207.68
6450 — Fundraising Costs	23.97
6500 — Victim Assistance	1,596.34
6700 — Depreciation Expense	<u>1,624.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>59,707.82</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(4,062.16)</u>
Net Income	<u>(4,062.16)</u>

Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2008 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

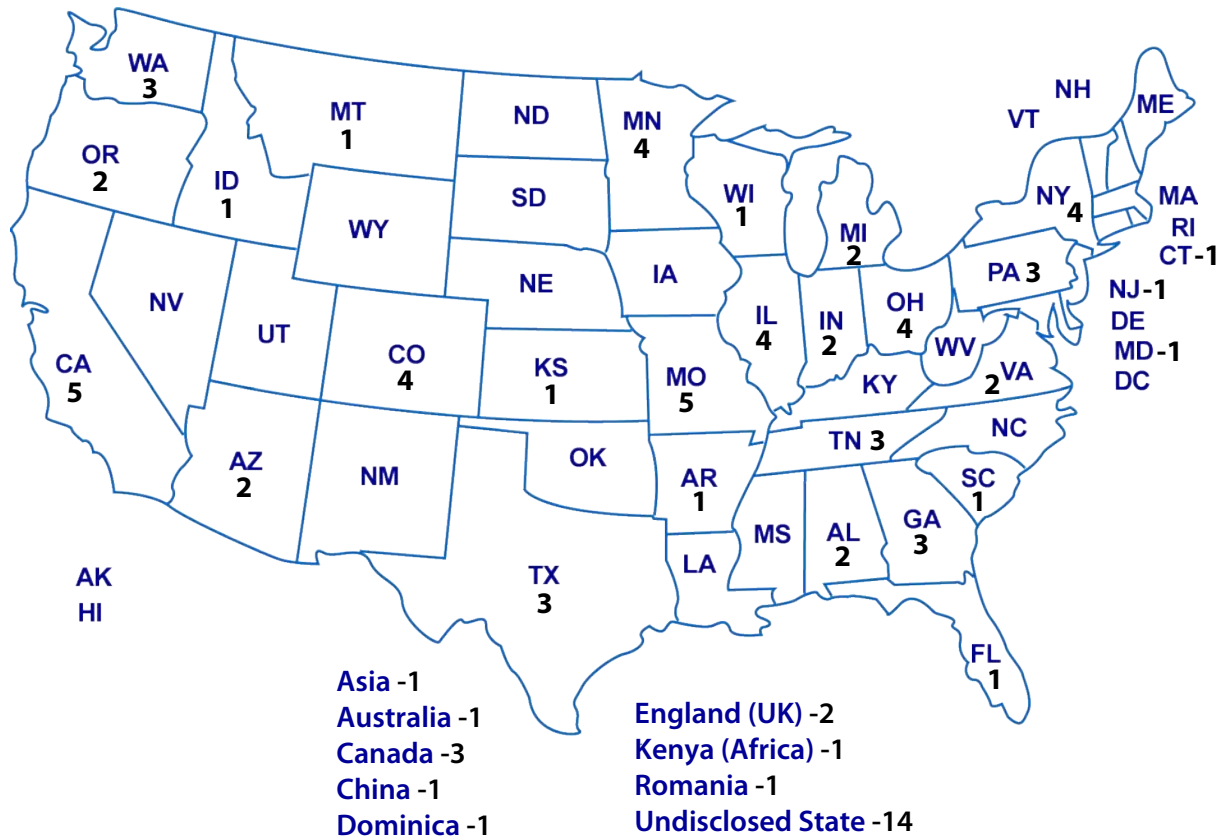


Notes:

- (1) These demographics do **not** include clients from previous years.
- (2) These demographics do **not** include secondary victims such as spouses, children, friends or relatives of the affected individual who contacted The Hope of Survivors, or the other victims of the same pastor of which the client was aware and made known to The Hope of Survivors.
- (3) These figures also do **not** include known cases where The Hope of Survivors has been consulted but has had no direct contact with the client.
- (4) The year 2008 averaged nearly 2 new clients per week (92 total).

Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below reveals the 2008 demographics based on the state/country where the client resides. There were 28 known states and 8 known countries (other than U.S.) as of 12/31/08.



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

Conferences/Programs

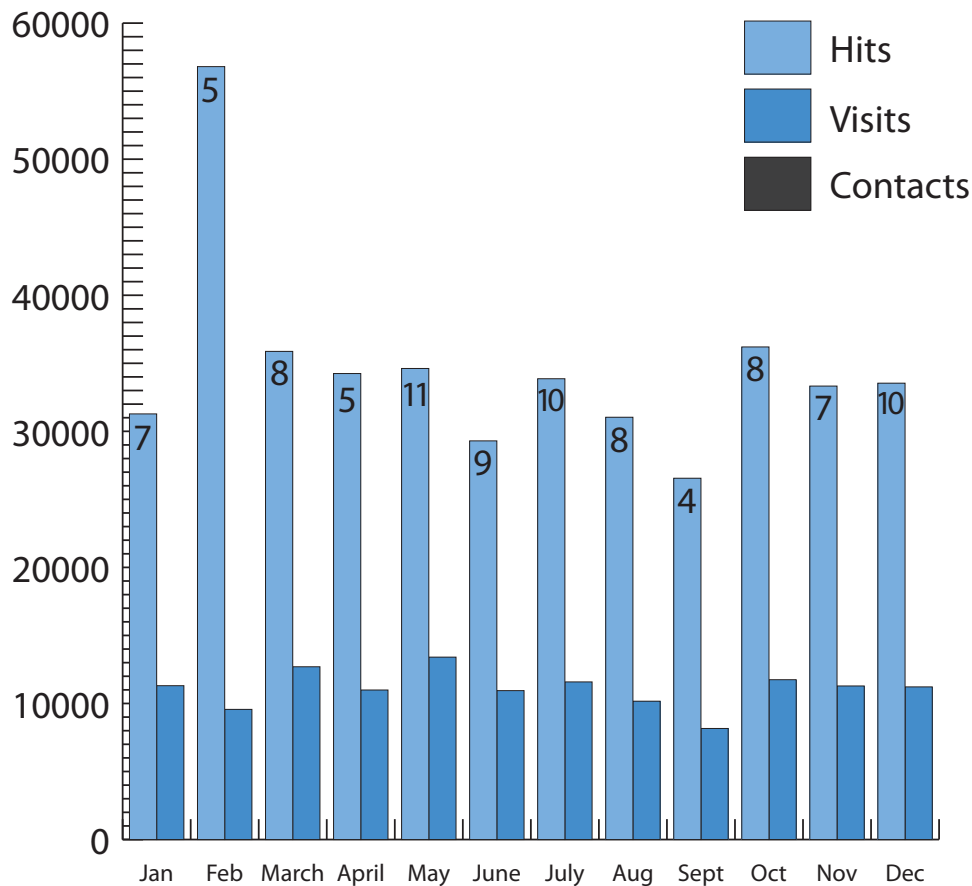
The Hope of Survivors conducted the following conferences and programs during 2008:

- Women's Ministry Camp (Shyleene Rosado, Latino Division, spoke about La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes in Florida, Puerto Rico in January)
- Church Presentation (Shyleene Rosado, Latino Division, spoke about La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes in Maricao, Puerto Rico in February)
- Radio Paraiso Interview (Shyleene Rosado, Latino Division, interview about Reaching the Hurting book and principles of healing from abuse in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in February)
- Abuse Prevention Emphasis Program (Shyleene Rosado, Latino Division, spoke about La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes and pastoral sexual abuse in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in February)
- *Trust & Truth* Conference (Shyleene Rosado, Latino Division, spoke about La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes and pastoral sexual abuse in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in February)
- 3ABN Spring Camp Meeting in Thompsonville, IL, in May (exhibit)
- *Hope & Healing* Conference for victims and their families (Bloomington, MN, in June)
- *Faith & Fidelity* Conference for MN Conf. pastors (Maple Grove, MN, in August)
- ASI International Convention in Tampa, FL, in August (exhibit)
- Abuse Prevention Emphasis Program (Thompsonville, IL, in September)
- Benefit Concert (Thompsonville, IL, in September)
- *Faith & Fidelity* Conference & Counseling (Surrey, BC, in November)
- *Trust & Truth* Conference at Cincinnati Christian University (Cincinnati, OH, in November)

The Hope of Survivors also conducted several in-house and on-site counseling sessions at various times throughout 2008.

Web Site Traffic Statistics

The chart below shows the traffic The Hope of Survivors' web site received during 2008. Most of the people who viewed the web site found it by searching on Google®, Yahoo!®, Amazon.com® or a similar search engine. These figures attest to the growing number of victims of pastoral sexual abuse who are seeking information and assistance through the Internet. The Hope of Survivors is a valuable tool for them.



Notes:

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

Domain Name Assets

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

CALLINGTHEFAITHFUL.COM
 HEALCLERGYABUSE.COM
 HEALCLERGYSEXUALABUSE.COM
 HOPEOFSURVIVORS.COM
 HOPE SPEAK.COM
 PASTORALABUSE.COM
 PASTORALMISCONDUCT.COM
 PASTORALSEXUALABUSE.COM

PASTORALSEXUALMISCONDUCT.COM
 PASTORSWHOPRAY.COM
 PASTORSWHOPRAY.NET
 PASTORSWHOPRAY.ORG
 PASTORSWHOPREY.ORG
 THEHOPEOFSURVIVORS.COM
 THEHOPEOFSURVIVORS.ORG
 THETRUTHHEALS.COM

Officers, Directors & Staff

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

The Hope of Survivors could not have accomplished as much during 2008 without the assistance of the many volunteers who gave freely of their time and abilities to assist where needed. We are deeply grateful for those who help to make The Hope of Survivors what it is. The Volunteer staff during 2008 included:

Robert & Debbie Withrow—Accounting
Peggy & Dave Mahrt—PR/Marketing
Coralie Roll—Australia Division/Victim Support Services
Jill Morikone—Executive Assistant
Sandy Kirkham—Interdenominational Spokesperson/Victim Support Services
Alina & Gabriel Ciur—Scandinavia & Romania Divisions/ Victim Support Services
Arlagene Groves—Australia Division/Victim Support Services
Shyleene Rosado—Latino Division Vice President/Victim Support Services
Karen Danka—Design Assistant
Hephzibah Akunga—Kenya Division/Victim Support Services
Buffy Halvorsen—Victim Support Services

Day-to-day operations are primarily the responsibility of Steve and Samantha Nelson; however, each Director and Volunteer played a vital role in the ongoing development and advancement of the ministry and its goals. Directors were actively involved in Board meetings, major decision-making, literature review, accounting, prayer, travel for meetings and many other activities. The Hope of Survivors is indeed indebted and greatly blessed by the involvement of each Director and Volunteer.

Did you know?

The Hope of Survivors was assisted by 27 volunteers who gave an estimated 4,229 hours of service in 2008.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008

Steve Nelson, BCBC, CBT,
President/CEO

Samantha Nelson, BCBC, CBT,
Vice President/COO

Tom Lemon,
Chairman
Vice President for Administration, Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Irma Murray,
Director, Latino Division

C.A. Murray,
Director
Producer, 3ABN

Steven Grabiner,
Director
Vice President, Outpost Centers International

Jennifer Schwirzer, MS, NCC
Director
*Mental Health Counselor
Founder, Michael Ministries*

James L. Marcum, M.D.
Director
*Cardiologist,
Speaker & Director of Heartwise Ministries*

Martin Weber, D.Min.
Director
*Vice President of Pastoral Education Division and Communications Director, Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists,
Editor, Outlook magazine*

Ray Hartwell,
Director
President, Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Charles Burkeen,
Director
Associate Ministerial Director, Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Herb Douglass, Th.D.,
Director
Theologian, Author, Consultant

Special thanks to Rena Majors and Doug Kilcher who also served partial terms as members of the Board during 2008.

Exposure Information

Advertising

- Google AdWords™ (key words for search results – monthly)
- Facebook® online fundraiser (January 2008)

Editorial / Media

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

- Multiple interviews on KBLN-TV (taped May 27, 2008; aired later in 2008-09)
- *Murphysboro American* article (July 10, 2008)
- *LifeTalk* Radio interview with Steve Nelson (August 7, 2008)
- *Exposed* Radio interview with host Chyna and the Nelson's (October 14, 2008)
- *Heartland Women* article (November 3, 2008)



Distribution of Brochures/DVDs/Educational Materials

The Hope of Survivors continued to distribute materials through various avenues, including online orders, direct requests that came to the ministry, conventions, conferences and many other outlets.

Newsletter

The Hope of Survivors continued to publish and send out its quarterly newsletter, *HopeSpeak*, to over 1,000 individuals.

Special Thanks...

The Hope of Survivors is especially thankful to its Directors, Officers and Volunteers (listed on page 11) who served and supported the ministry in 2008. It is difficult to list the names of every individual or organization that has had a part in supporting or assisting the ministry in some way. There are many individuals who faithfully support this ministry, and we are very grateful for you. Thank you all for your support and prayers!

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

THE
Hope
of Survivors

P.O. Box 27

Effingham, IL 62401

(866) 260-8958

www.TheHopeofSurvivors.com