

THE
HOPE
OF SURVIVORS

Reaching the
HURTING
Calling the
FAITHFUL
Bridging the
GAP

ANNUAL

2009

REPORT

www.TheHopeofSurvivors.com

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Contact Information

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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
P.O. Box 833
Crowley, TX 76036

Phone: (866) 260-8958, extension 2

Web: www.LaEsperanzadelosSobrevivientes
Email: Ayuda@LaEsperanzadelosSobrevivientes

The Hope of Survivors—Australia

Phone: 07-4630-2983 or (866) 260-8958
P.O. Box 466
Drayton North, QLD 4350 Australia

Web: www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com
Email: Arlagene@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org
(Counseling)
Email: Coralie@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org
(Administration)

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. Perpetrators are most commonly male and victims generally tend to be female, but that is not always the case. At The Hope of Survivors, we have also counseled male victims of both male and female offenders, and female victims of female offenders. Abuse knows no restriction!



In 2009, The Hope of Survivors played a key role in the **Baylor University research study** (the first nationwide study of its kind) conducted by Dr. Diana Garland on clergy sexual misconduct (CSM). The Hope of Survivors aided the study by connecting several hundred victims, which the organization had assisted over the past seven years, with the study. The Co-Founder and Vice President of The Hope of Survivors was also one of the five women chosen to represent the innumerable victims of this crime and to participate in a “developing and launching community education and policy strategies for prevention of clergy sexual misconduct” media training program held in Waco, TX. The study defined **clergy sexual misconduct** (also referred to as pastoral sexual abuse or misconduct) as “*Ministers, priests, rabbis, or other clergypersons or religious leaders who make sexual advances or propositions to persons in the congregations they serve who are not their spouses or significant others.*”^{*} Below are some important data^{*} obtained from the study (based upon those victims surveyed).

- More than 3% of women who had attended a congregation in the past month reported that they had been the object of CSM at some time in their adult lives;
- 92% of these sexual advances had been made in secret, not in open dating relationships; and
- 67% of the offenders were married to someone else at the time of the advance.
- In the average American congregation of 400 persons, with women representing, on average, 60% of the congregation, there are, on average, 7 women who have experienced clergy sexual misconduct.
- Of the entire sample, 8% report having known about CSM occurring in a congregation they have attended. **Therefore, in the average American congregation of 400 congregants, there are, on average, 32 persons who have experienced CSM in their community of faith.**

Common themes and factors were also identified in the Baylor research study. They are^{*}:

1. **Family members, friends, and victims ignored warning signs:** Religious leaders acted inappropriately in public as well as private settings, but in a culture that has no cognitive categories for understanding or explaining clergy misconduct as anything other than an “affair,” observers mistrusted their own judgment, perhaps considering themselves “hypersensitive,” particularly since the behavior was committed by a trusted leader. First indicators of CSM were thus ignored.

2. **Niceness culture:** American culture expects persons to be “nice” to one another, particularly those we know and respect, and particularly in a congregation. “Nice” means not being confrontational, giving the other the “benefit of the doubt,” and overlooking social indiscretions in order to avoid embarrassment. Even when family members, friends, and victims knew about or suspected CSM or behavior leading to CSM, they did not speak about their observations.

3. **Ease of private communication:** E-mail and cell phones have replaced mailed letters and phone calls to the family household. An intimate relationship between leader and congregant can develop via e-mail and cell phones with complete invisibility to family and community.

4. **No oversight:** Religious leaders often answer to no one about their daily activities and are free to move about the community and to maintain an office that is isolated from observation.

5. **Multiple roles:** Religious leaders engage in multiple roles with congregants in addition to their role as leader, including counselor and personal friend. They obtain knowledge about congregants’ personal lives and struggles that can make the congregant vulnerable and dependent.

6. **Trust in the sanctuary:** Congregations are considered sanctuaries—safe places—where normal attentiveness to self-protection is not considered necessary. Because of this perceived sanctuary, congregants share life experiences and private information with religious leaders that they would not share with others.

*Source: <http://www.baylor.edu/clergysexualmisconduct/index.php?id=67406>

** *The co-investigators of this study are Diana R. Garland, LCSW, Ph.D., Dean and Professor of Social Work, Baylor University; and Mark Chaves, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Religion, and Divinity, Duke University. The study is reported in two forthcoming articles. Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion will publish Chaves and Garland, “The Prevalence of Clergy Sexual Advances towards Adults in their Congregations”; and the journal Social Work and Christianity will publish Garland and Argueta, “How Clergy Sexual Misconduct Happens: A Qualitative Study of First-Hand Accounts.”*



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 2009 marked the seven-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)



The Hope of Survivors has grown rapidly in its services since it began. It has an active and growing Board of Directors, Officers and Volunteer staff. It often serves as the only available, unbiased liaison between victims and appropriate civil, public or religious assistance. Its documents, including a series of informational brochures (in Spanish and English) and DVDs, are circulated worldwide. The Hope of Survivors is unique, as a multitude of national web sites 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, England, Romania and Norway. Pastoral care is provided through The Hope of Survivors’ separate pastoral division, *Calling the Faithful.*

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, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
1035 — Cash — Fifth Third Bank	\$3,362.65
Total Checking/Savings	\$3,362.65
Other Current Assets	
1078 — Hold for brochure printing	\$2,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$2,000.00
Total Current Assets	<u>\$5,362.65</u>

Fixed Assets

1600 — Equipment	\$14,062.11
1690 — Accumulated Depreciation	(\$7751.00)
Total Fixed Assets	<u>6,311.11</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

11,673.76

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Credit Cards	
2300 — Credit Card Liability	
2310 — Company Credit Card—Capital One	12,329.10
Total 2300 — Credit Card Liability	12,329.10
Total Credit Cards	12,329.10
Total Current Liabilities	<u>12,329.10</u>

Equity

3010 — Unrestrict (retained earnings)	2,355.56
Net Income	(\$3010.90)
Total Equity	<u>(\$655.34)</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

11,673.76

Organization Funding

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



Statement of Activities

January — December 2009

Ordinary Income/Expense

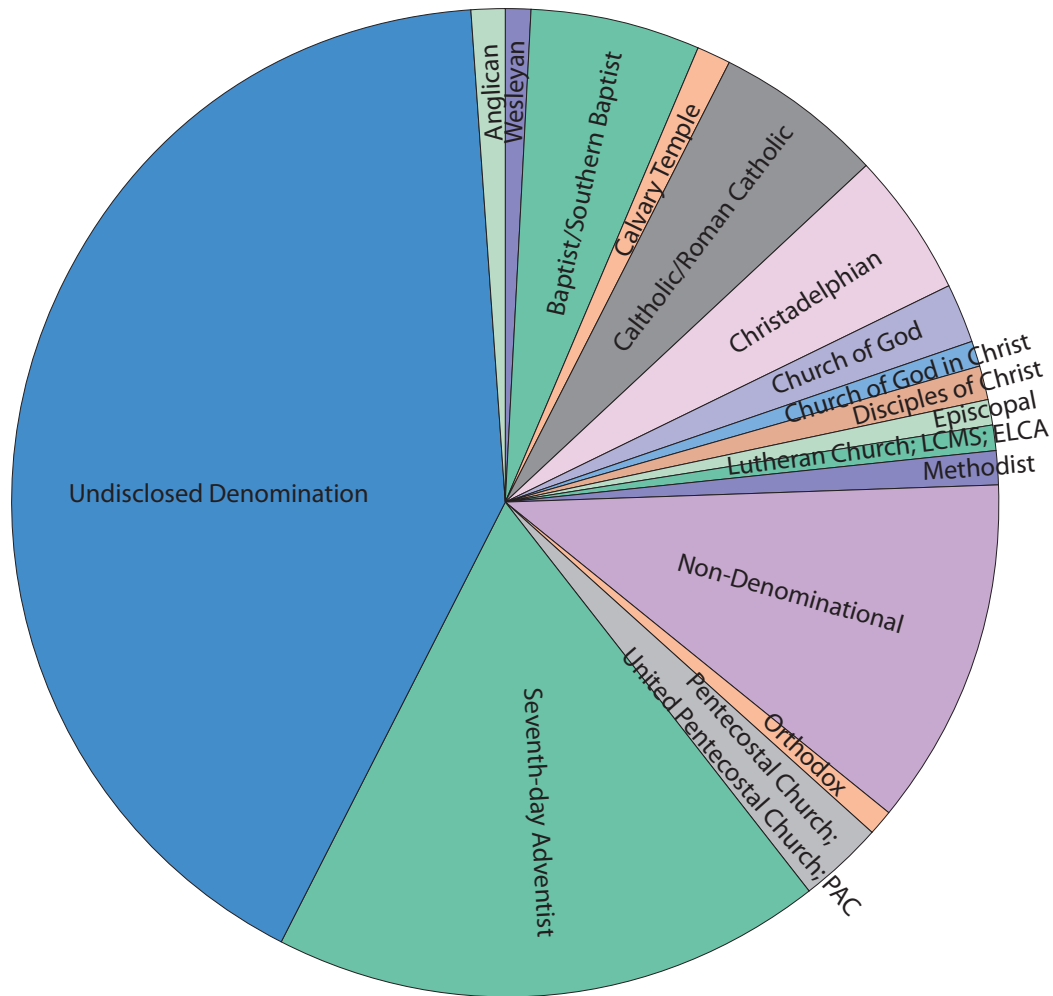
Income	
4000—Contributions	23,352.51
4001—Grants	5,000.00
4001—Contributions Temp. Restricted	4,000.00
4050—Fundraising Income	664.75
4100—Sales	433.20
4400—Miscellaneous Income	744.81
4500—Interest Income	<u>0.67</u>
Total Income	34,195.94

Expense

6000—Salaries	9,614.95
6010—Payroll Taxes	735.88
6050—Professional Fees	
6052—Accounting	311.35
6060—Books & Education	209.93
6070—Bank Charges	157.11
6075—Finance Charges	179.62
6080—Contract Services	600.00
6090—Donations	94.50
6120—Telephone & Internet Services	1,436.59
6130—Dues & Publications	603.00
6150—Licenses & Fees	137.50
6200—Office Supplies	1,807.92
6220—Collection Service (Fee charged for using online payment systems.)	27.82
6230—Postage	1,418.81
6240—Printing & Publishing	1,294.26
6245—Software	258.77
6300—Sales Tax Paid	53.00
6400—Advertising	1,101.31
6410—Domain Registration	594.97
6420—Travel	
6421—Lodging	3,523.84
6422—Airfare	3,109.07
6423—Car Rental & Auto Expenses	1,039.71
6424—Fuel	818.16
6420—Travel Other	<u>1,444.85</u>
Total 6420—Travel	9,935.63
6430—Meals & Entertainment	1,582.36
6440—Conference Expense	1,104.84
6450—Fundraising Costs	433.38
6500—Victim Assistance	723.34
6700—Depreciation Expense	<u>2,790.00</u>
Total Expense	37,206.84
Net Ordinary Income	(3,010.90)
Net Income	(3,010.90)

Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2009 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

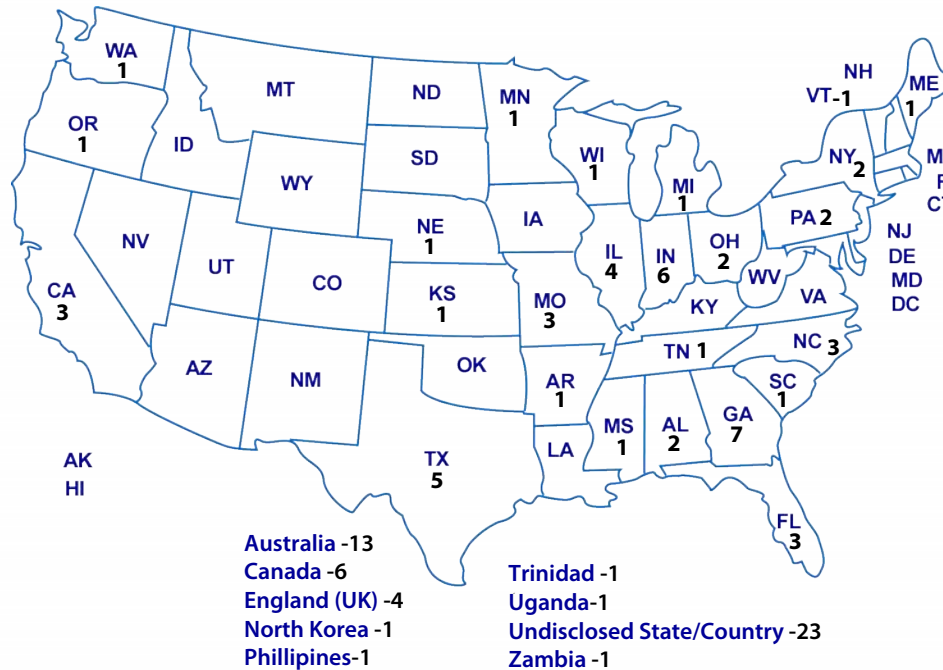


Notes:

- (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 2009 averaged slightly more than 2 new clients per week (106 total).

Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below reveals the 2009 demographics based on the state/country where the client resides. There were 25 known states and 8 known countries (other than U.S.) as of 12/31/09.



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

Conferences/Programs

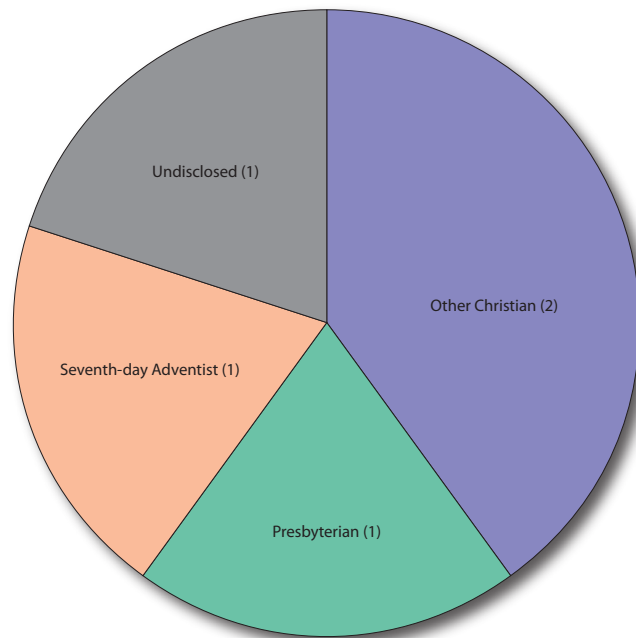
The Hope of Survivors conducted the following conferences and programs during 2009:

- Classroom presentations at European Bible School (Norway)
- Revival series at Skotselv Seventh-day Adventist Church (Skotselv, Norway)
- Q&A Session on pastoral sexual abuse at Popa Tatu Seventh-day Adventist Church (Popa Tatu, Romania)
- Launching of Romanian edition of *Reaching the Hurting* book (Puterea de a Mangaia) at Balta Alba Seventh-day Adventist Church (Bucharest, Romania)
- Revival series at Cazaci and Popa Tatu Seventh-day Adventist Churches (Cazaci and Popa Tatu, Romania)
- Meetings with Romanian Union Conference officials regarding pastoral sexual abuse
- Abuse Prevention Emphasis Programs (Mattoon, Stewardson, Noble & Fairfield, IL)
- Meeting with Adventist Risk Management to discuss collaboration on prevention and recovery strategies (Sacramento, CA)
- *Hope & Healing* Conference for victims and their families (St. Louis, MO)
- Evening meeting at Avondale College (Cooranbong, Australia)
- Revival series at Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church (Hamilton, Australia)
- *Hope & Healing* Conference for victims and their families (Newcastle, Australia)
- *Faith & Fidelity* Conference (Newcastle, Australia)
- *Faith & Fidelity* Conference for theology students at Avondale College (Cooranbong, Australia)
- Meeting with Adventist Safe Place Services (Sydney, Australia)
- Revival series at Mt. Gravatt Seventh-day Adventist Church (Brisbane, Australia)
- *Hope & Healing* Conference for victims and their families (Brisbane, Australia)
- *Trust & Truth* Conference at Cincinnati Christian University (Cincinnati, OH)

The Hope of Survivors also conducted several in-house and on-site counseling sessions at various times throughout 2009.

Latino Division Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2009 Latino Division demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

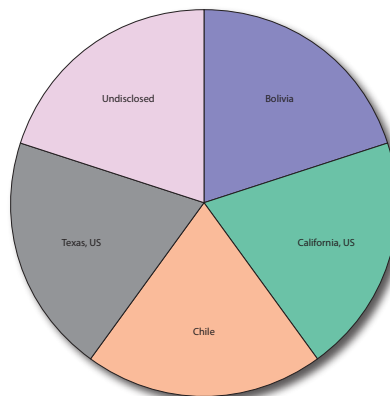


Notes:

- (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 La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes, or the other victims of the same pastor of which the client was aware and made known to La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes.
- (3) These figures also do not include known cases where La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes has been consulted but has had no direct contact with the client.

Latino Division Demographic Information By Country/State

The chart below reveals the 2009 Latino Division demographics based on the country/state where the client resides.



Total from 1/1/09 to 12/31/09 5

Notes: (1) Same notes apply as above.

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 2009 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 2009 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
Josephine Mweu—Victim Support Services
Heather & Brad Brown—Victim Support Services
Heather Brockett—Executive Assistant

Day-to-day operations are primarily the responsibility of 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.

Total Volunteer Hours 2009 **3,594***

*Estimates based on tasks undertaken by individual volunteers. Not all volunteers reported hours, even though they performed work on behalf of The Hope of Survivors. The total hours represents a low estimate of the number of volunteer hours required during 2009.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

Steve Nelson, BCBC, CBT,
Co-Founder, President

Samantha Nelson, BCBC, CBT,
Co-Founder, Vice President, CEO

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

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

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*

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

Exposure Information

Advertising

Google AdWords (key words for search results – monthly)

Editorial / Media

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

BibleRx—Aired on RetroTV and Dish Network/SkyAngel

At the Heart of Health—Aired on RetroTV and Dish Network/SkyAngel

3ABN Today—Aired repeatedly throughout 2009 on 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network)

InFocus TV Interview (Australia)

Heartwise: Mind, Body & Spirit Radio Program

Talking Life Radio Interview on 96five with host Peter Janetski (Australia)

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 may other outlets.

Newsletter

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

THANK YOU!

The Hope of Survivors is especially thankful to its Directors, Officers and Volunteers (listed on page 11) who served and supported the ministry in 2009. 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 would not be able to continue its operations and services for victims and churches if it were not for you.

THE HOPE OF SURVIVORS

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