

# THE HOPE OF SURVIVORS

## *A Legacy Continues...* *2021 Annual Report*

Assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to clergy, church leaders and congregations of every denomination and faith community, worldwide.

Celebrating 19 Years of Service 2002-2021

**[www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)**

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## Contact Information

### **The Hope of Survivors—Main Office**

843 Broadway  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
Toll-Free: (866) 260-8958  
Web: [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)  
Email: [Help@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](mailto:Help@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)

### **La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes**

Latino Division  
4245 Redbird Lane East  
Burleson, TX 76028  
Phone: (866) 260-8958 extension 2  
Web:  
[www.LaEsperanzaDeLosSobrevivientes.com](http://www.LaEsperanzaDeLosSobrevivientes.com)  
Email: [Shyleene@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](mailto:Shyleene@TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)

### **The Hope of Survivors—South Africa**

295 Gouritz Avenue  
Sinoville, South Africa 0182  
Phone: 2776258761  
Web: [www.thehopeofsurvivors.co.za](http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.co.za)  
Email: [siyabonga@thehopeofsurvivors.co.za](mailto:siyabonga@thehopeofsurvivors.co.za)

### **The Hope of Survivors—Canada**

Phone: (866) 260-8958 extension 3  
Web: [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)  
Email: [Daniel@TheHopeOfSurvivors.ca](mailto:Daniel@TheHopeOfSurvivors.ca)

### **The Hope of Survivors—Australia**

21 Prescott Avenue  
Dee Why, NSW 2099  
Australia  
Phone: +61 422 409 750  
Web: [www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.org)  
Email: [theresa@thehopeofsurvivors.com.au](mailto:theresa@thehopeofsurvivors.com.au)

### **The Hope of Survivors—Pastors Wives**

Phone (866) 260-8958  
Web: [thehopeofsurvivors.org/pastors-wives](http://thehopeofsurvivors.org/pastors-wives)  
Email: [jackiej@thehopeofsurvivors.org](mailto:jackiej@thehopeofsurvivors.org)

## The History of The Hope of Survivors

The year 2021 marked the 19-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 clergy 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 website 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 website, then it would be well worth the effort and pain they had gone through. While Steve and Samantha’s vision was initially 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)

## About The Hope of Survivors

The Hope of Survivors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct of all denominations and faith communities, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to clergy members, church leaders and congregations worldwide.

The Hope of Survivors is a registered California Public Benefit nonprofit corporation and is authorized to conduct business in the states of Wyoming, Ohio and Texas as a foreign corporation under the same name. *La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes*, the Latino Division of The Hope of Survivors, is registered in the state of Texas. The Hope of Survivors also maintains official offices with volunteer staff in Australia (registered NGO), Canada (registered NGO) and South Africa (registered NPO).

The Hope of Survivors has been recognized as a Platinum Valued Partner by GuideStar Exchange and has received the Top-Rated Nonprofit Award for 2012-2021.



## Why The Hope of Survivors?

Many people wonder if, and why, there is a need for The Hope of Survivors. They tend to see this as a small issue with few victims and, therefore, no need for an organization that addresses such a difficult topic. From our perspective—and from that of the victims we serve around the world—the need for The Hope of Survivors is very great because the prevalence of clergy sexual abuse is also very great.

New victims regularly contact The Hope of Survivors for emotional and spiritual support, either directly through our website, or through Facebook or one of our groups or pages online. Thousands of people visit the website each month. That tells us there are many victims who find the information and support they need directly through the website. Let's allow the victims to speak for themselves about the need for and importance of The Hope of Survivors:

*“I wanted to send you a message of thanks and acknowledgement that your work is important and much needed. I am a Clinical Psychiatrist who has worked with victims of trauma for most of my 21 yr career. I am a Christian, the daughter of a youth leader and evangelist and grew up in the culture of the church with youth groups and retreats. I have certainly seen dozens of women and men in my practice who are survivors of abuse by those in leadership within the church, those who lead double lives proclaiming the freedoms of the Gospel in public and binding those who trust them in a manipulation and abuse in private. It is my firm belief that this is abhorrent to God. With careful trauma-informed therapy and grace these people heal but there is a painful loss of trust in the church and often in God by extension. Thank you for your continued work to stand for the Truth of Christ and to right these wrongs.”—Dr. Heather E. Keizer*

*“Your poem (You Knew..., in the newsletter) was composed from the depths of your heart. You put into words what others have experienced but do not have the words to express it. How awful there are church leaders out there who are willing to take whatever they can get for themselves no matter how many lives it affects. The person who tried to take advantage of me told me he “had been through it before and he’d be willing to go through it again.” He nearly lost his wife at one time but it has never stopped him from continuing to seek out sexual relationships with other women. Your poem touched on every aspect of what a woman and her husband go through when something like this happens. It amazes me that, more often than not, the husband stands by his wife and seems to understand her vulnerabilities, and how a person with evil intent took advantage of his wife. Only through the grace of God. The Hope of Survivors has helped so many women and families with situations that could lead to severe depression or suicide. Your staff really does care about other people and it shows in the way they respond to those who reach out to them. Tammy was a great support and I know if I sent her an email or called her today with a problem, she would get right back with me. Thankfully, I don’t need to do that today and I hope I never need to do it. It was a terrible experience and I will do anything not go through it again. We lost our church family but that had to happen in order for us to move forward. It hurt terribly and there were days when I did not want to live but God intervened with the truth every time and Tammy was a huge part of revealing that truth to me. Thank you, Samantha! You and Steve are amazing and much needed in this world.”—MN*

*“Thank you for serving and helping us. You were the first to help us understand what happened. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.”—WI*

As you can see, when you financially support The Hope of Survivors, you are enabling us to produce resources that will help victims recover from the devastating trauma and effects of clergy sexual abuse. You help us to educate clergy and church leaders about the issue and facilitate prevention of the abuse. You save lives and marriages. You help change the faith community by enabling us to bring about greater awareness of this issue through exhibiting at conventions, speaking engagements, etc. Thank you for partnering with The Hope of Survivors as we continue to bind up the brokenhearted and set the captives free (Luke 4:18).

## Description of Mission, Services & Programs

The Hope of Survivors takes a faith-based, scriptural approach to helping victims understand the devastation of clergy sexual abuse and how they can receive healing and wholeness by God's grace. It is our mission and prayer that, through our website, educational seminars, one-to-one communication (phone, email and in person), media, printed resources and occasional in-house programs, you will find answers and the truth about what's happening to you. The Hope of Survivors seeks to:

- (a) Educate the victims, clergy, church body and the general public about clergy 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 seminars, and by maintaining up-to-date websites;
- (b) Conduct retreats and seminars specifically for the victims of clergy sexual abuse and provide one-on-one 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 clergy sexual abuse so that the church and the victim are not further damaged in the aftermath;
- (d) Provide training seminars for clergy and church administrators for the purpose of disseminating prevention information and encouragement, and to work closely with those who have violated their sacred trust.

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

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

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

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

## Organization Funding

The Hope of Survivors is funded by individuals who support the mission and goals of the organization; survivors of clergy 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. Grants previously awarded include: Versacare, The William R. Dally Foundation, the McNabb Foundation, ASI Mid-America and the HOPE Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your support is greatly appreciated. The Hope of Survivors does not receive any denominational subsidies.





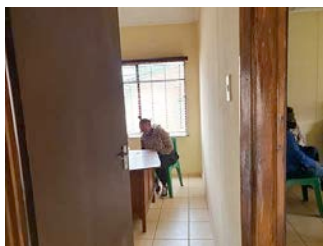
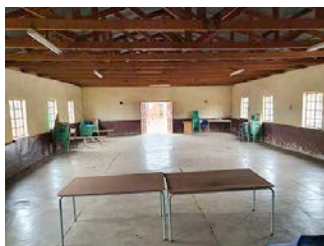
## Statement of Financial Position — As of December 31, 2021

ASSETS	<u>Dec. 31, 2021</u>
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 — Cash — HOPE Checking – US Bank	\$10,639.72
1075 — Cash — Texas Checking	<u>\$623.37</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>\$11,263.09</u>
Total Current Assets	\$11,263.09
Fixed Assets	
1600 — Equipment	\$8,732.29
1690 — Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$4,253.00)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	\$4,479.29
Other Assets	
1810 — Start-up Expenses	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$17,742.38</u></b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3010 — Unrestricted (retained earnings)	\$8,082.67
Net Income	<u>\$9,659.71</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$17,742.38</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>\$17,742.38</u></b>

## The Hope of Survivors—South Africa Update

God has opened doors for The Hope of Survivors-South Africa (THOS-SA) to occupy an entire school building that consists of two classrooms, a large hall (auditorium), restroom facilities and a kitchen—FREE of charge! THOS-SA only needs to pay for electricity and to provide a meal for those who come from far away. The local Police Station Commander and the Tribal Chief are very supportive of THOS-SA!

Aside from the incredible space for operations and counseling, there is already a waiting list of 65 people who are in need of THOS-SA's services! Praise God for providing the support these precious souls need! Abram Nkomo, a social worker and the newest member of THOS-SA team, will be at the location full time to assist victims and the police station is nearby, making it easier for victims to file for restraining orders, etc. Many thanks to the team in South Africa for all the effort they have put into making this a reality.



## Statement of Activities — January through December 2021

Ordinary Income/Expense	<u>Jan – Dec 2021</u>
<b>Income</b>	
4000 — Contributions	\$44,274.70
4001 — Grants	\$12,000.00
4002 — Contributions — Temp Restricted	\$0.00
4050 — Fundraising Income	\$22.00
4100 — Sales	\$216.75
4400 — Miscellaneous Income	\$68.69
4500 — Interest Income	<u>\$0.14</u>
Total Income	\$56,582.28
<b>Expense</b>	
6000 — Salaries	\$29,166.69
6010 — Payroll Taxes	\$2,231.25
6050 — Professional Fees	\$0.00
6060 — Books & Education	(\$3,160.00)
6070 — Bank Charges	\$120.30
6075 — Finance Charges	\$670.52
6080 — Contract Services	\$933.00
6090 — Donations	(\$17.00)
6120 — Telephone & Internet Services	\$1,888.74
6130 — Dues & Publications	\$259.83
6150 — Licenses & Fees	\$832.00
6160 — Insurance	\$725.00
6200 — Office Supplies	\$746.31
6220 — Collection Service	\$698.08
6230 — Postage	\$2,804.31
6240 — Printing & Publishing	\$986.64
6245 — Software	\$0.00
6400 — Advertising	\$4,174.83
6410 — Domain Registration/Hosting	\$627.94
6420 — Travel	
6421 — Lodging	\$1,025.82
6422 — Airfare	\$390.80
6423 — Car Rental & Other Auto Expense	\$324.20
6424 — Fuel	\$389.35
6425 — Other Travel Expenses	<u>\$25.56</u>
Total 6420 — Travel	\$2,155.73
6430 — Meals & Entertainment — Other	\$34.19
6440 — Conference Expenses	(\$350.00)
6500 — Victim Assistance	
6500 — Victim Assistance	\$0.00
6501 — Victim Assistance — Other	\$578.44
6502 — Gothard Victim Assistance	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total 6500 Victim Assistance	\$578.44
6510 — Gifts	\$352.37
6560 — Payroll Expenses	\$390.00
6700 — Depreciation Expense	<u>\$441.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$47,290.17</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$9,292.11
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other Income	
6850 — Gain (Loss) on Assets Disposals	<u>\$367.60</u>
Total Other Income	<u>\$367.60</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>\$9,659.71</u></b>

## Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2021 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation. Contacts through Facebook and other social media sites have not provided demographic data and are not included in this report.

#	<b>Denominational Demographics</b>
1	Baptist Church
1	Church of Christ
1	Church of God
1	Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
1	Presbyterian Church
3	Seventh-day Adventist Church
1	Tibetan Buddhist
1	Trinity Church
25	Undisclosed
1	United Methodist Church
<b>36</b>	<b>Total from 1/1/21 to 12/31/21</b>

### Notes:

- (1) These demographics do **not** include clients from previous years, who may still be receiving ongoing support from The Hope of Survivors, which happens often.
- (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. Thus, the total number served is **much greater** than these statistics cited.
- (4) The year 2021 averaged approximately 3 new, direct-contact clients per month (36 total). This figure is down due to the shift in how clients reach out to The Hope of Survivors. More now come in contact with us through social media sites, than directly through our website as in the past.
- (5) These figures do **not** include Facebook members who seek help through our private support group online. In 2021, there were 178 members in the private support group, plus another 1,191 members/followers in the group page, which is not private. Additionally, THOS-SA page had 198 members; THOS-CA page had 19 members; THOS-AU page had 67 members; and the CSAAP page had 548 members.
- (6) Same notes apply as stated above on following page.



## Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below reveals the 2021 demographics based on the state/country where the client resides. Throughout just 2021 there were **11** known states and **5** known countries (other than the U.S.) represented as of 12/31/21. Contacts through Facebook and other social media sites have not provided demographic data and are not included in this report.

<u>State</u>	<u>#</u>
<b>Africa</b>	1
Alabama	1
<b>Australia</b>	5
<b>Canada</b>	1
Colorado	1
Florida	1
Illinois	2
Kansas	1
Missouri	1
Oregon	2
Pennsylvania	2
South Dakota	1
<b>Togo</b>	1
Texas	1
<b>United Kingdom</b>	2
Undisclosed	12
Wisconsin	1
<b>Total from 1/1/21 to 12/31/21</b>	<b>36</b>



### Notes:

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- (5) These figures do **not** include Facebook members who seek help through our private support group online. In 2021, there were 178 members in the private support group, plus another 1,191 members/followers in the group page, which is not private. Additionally, THOS-SA page had 198 members; THOS-CA page had 19 members; THOS-AU page had 67 members; and the CSAAP page had 548 members.

## The Hope of Survivors' Officers, Directors & Staff

With heartfelt gratitude and praise, we acknowledge our year-end 2021 Board of Directors and Volunteers for their immensely sacrificial service:

### Board of Directors

Steve Nelson, President & Chairman (since 2002)  
Samantha Nelson, V.P. & CEO (since 2002)  
Martin Weber (since 2008)

### Advisory Panel

Tom Lemon (since 2004)  
Sandy Kirkham (since 2006)  
Ted Vanderlaan (since 2011)

### Volunteers (Main U.S. Volunteers)

Robert & Debbie Withrow (since 2004)—Accounting  
Gail & Elgin Jenkins (since 2010)—Exhibitors/Speakers  
Mary Jo Noworyta (since 2014)—OpEd Writer  
Tammy Landry (since 2016)—Victim Support Services  
Kyoko Sears (since 2017)—Exhibitor/Speaker  
Tracye Brewer (2013-14 and 2017-Present)—Exhibitor/Speaker  
Raquel Mallett (since 2018)—Victim Support Services  
Kia Hiepler (since 2019)—Exhibitor/Speaker  
Kim Erickson (since 2019)—Victim Support Services  
Andrea Caouette (since 2021)—Victim Support Services



### Latino Division

Shyleene Rosado (since 2007)

### South Africa Division

Siyabonga Magadla (since 2019)  
Nicola Magadla (since 2020)  
Shalitha Magerman (since 2020)  
Dr. Mbuyiselo Mbava (since 2020)  
Philisiwe Mbava (since 2020)  
Cordelia DeWaal (since 2020)

### Australia Division

Theresa Redden (since 2020)  
Darren Tappouras (since 2011)

### Prayer Warriors

Dana Wimmer (since 2017)  
Cristina Constantin (since 2018)

### Canada Division

Daniel Saugh (since 2018)  
Theresa McMaster (since 2018)  
Rose Rogers (since 2018)  
Nina Lim (since 2018)

### Pastors' Wives Division

Jackie Jeldwyn (since 2017)



### Operations

Day-to-day operations are primarily the responsibility of the CEO; however, each Director and Volunteer has a vital role in the ongoing development and advancement of the ministry and its goals. The Hope of Survivors is indeed indebted and greatly blessed by the involvement of each Director and Volunteer.

## Exposure Information—Editorial / Media / Advertising

- *Adventist Today* Magazine (February 2021 & March 2021)  
(<https://atoday.org/sexual-sins-in-the-clergy-why-we-shouldnt-restore-fallen-pastors>)  
(<https://atoday.org/spiritual-leaders-are-accountable-for-their-actions>)
- Rocky Mountain Conference *News Nuggets* (July 2021)  
(<https://www.rmcsda.org/change-of-guard-at-the-hope-of-survivors>)
- And others!



Additionally, The Hope of Survivors continued to publish and distribute its quarterly newsletter, *HopeSpeak*, to approximately 2,500 individuals, and distributed materials through various avenues, including online orders, direct requests, conventions, conferences and other venues.

## Conferences / Programs / Projects

There were few options to conduct conferences or exhibit at conventions in 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, however, The Hope of Survivors did exhibit at the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC) World Conference in Orlando, Florida. While we were unable to exhibit at the Pastoral Evangelism & Leadership Council (PELC) this year, like usual, we hope to be back in 2022!



Additionally, *Forever Free*, a new book written by Steve Nelson, was sent to press and will be available as a new resource in 2022. Below is an excerpt from the back cover:

*“Is your journey through life blocked by unresolved pain, abuse, or scars that won’t heal? Perhaps you long to be free and you’re urgently asking God to heal your brokenness. I believe God’s plan for you is to experience the freedom, joy and peace Jesus died to give. If that is your desire too, then you are invited to journey with Jesus as He heals a woman who is seriously broken and destined to die—until the very moment Jesus sets her free.”*

## Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention™ Day Campaign

The Hope of Survivors conducted its 11th annual Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention (CSAAP) campaign (<http://www.clergysexualabuseawarenessday.com>) by conducting daily social media awareness campaigns. This year the walkathons to raise awareness and funds were canceled due to COVID-19. Although CSAAP was initiated by The Hope of Survivors, many other individuals and organizations are part of this campaign to raise awareness of the issue of clergy sexual abuse and to fight to stop its prevalence among churches of all denominations. Several endorsements have been garnered from leaders in the fields of advocacy, research, law and social work, which helped lend additional credibility to the significance of the campaign.



It is the goal of The Hope of Survivors to see CSAAP become to clergy sexual abuse what pink ribbons have become to Breast Cancer Awareness. You can help us make that happen by sponsoring or hosting an event in your area, writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper, as well as mainstream media outlets. Just be sure to let us know your plans so we can assist you with promotion and materials!

### Special Thanks...

The Hope of Survivors is deeply indebted and thankful to its Directors, Officers and Volunteers (listed on page 10) who served and supported the ministry in 2021. 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 in some way, and we are very grateful for you. Thank you all for your support and prayers!

We'd also like to say "Thank You" to our donors and 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.



*“Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name,  
make known his deeds among the people.”*

—1 Chronicles 16:8



## Founders Steve & Samantha Nelson Announce Retirement

*Dear Friends,*

*Nearly 20 years ago, Samantha and I were discussing how we could help others who had been victimized by a predatory pastor. We did not know it at the time, but the decision to create a web presence to help people like us find the answers we had searched for—but couldn't find—would forever change the course of our lives. It has been an amazing and challenging journey. One that has taken us around the globe and connected our hearts with many whom we have come to love and walk beside. But now our part in leading The Hope of Survivors ministry is coming to an end.*



*Due to multiple health challenges, Samantha and I will be handing over the leadership reins to another team. We have not made this decision quickly and have agonized and prayed about it for many months. So, with confidence in God's leading, we will both be retiring from our leadership positions at The Hope of Survivors effective December 31, 2021. It has been a difficult decision to make, but the time has come. Samantha's ill health demands a great reduction in her workload and stress in order to slow down the progression of the diseases that afflict her.*

*Over the past several months, we have been working hard to make sure the services and operations of The Hope of Survivors will continue after we leave. As such, Martin Weber will become the Board Chairman and President effective 1/1/22.*

*Shyleene Rosado and her husband Carlos Rosero, who currently lead the Latino Division, will take on the roles of CEO and Treasurer, respectively, on 1/1/22. They, along with Martin, have been with The Hope of Survivors for the past 14 years, and we are confident they will maintain the standard of excellence in victim care and in the production of resources and educational materials we have sought to provide all these years.*

*Our current volunteer team has been notified and each one has agreed to remain actively involved in The Hope of Survivors' ministry, so we are confident, by God's grace, this transition will go smoothly.*

*We are trusting and praying each of you will continue to support The Hope of Survivors with your prayers and donations through this transition and beyond. The work of The Hope of Survivors must go on, and every victim of clergy sexual abuse desperately needs the support and resources The Hope of Survivors provides.*

*Thank you for your support and understanding. We know this is a major announcement for many of you to process. We pray for each of you and wish The Hope of Survivors all the best and all the blessings God has in store for the organization, the directors, volunteers, donors and, especially, all the victims of clergy sexual abuse we serve globally.*

*God bless you,  
Steve & Samantha Nelson, Co-Founders*