

# Chaplains for Children : A Call for Collaboration between Faith and Child Protection Professionals

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

Victor Vieth  
Gundersen Health System's  
National Child Protection Training Center



# Why we need to work together

- ✎ 93% of sex offenders describe themselves as “religious” (Abel study of 3,952 male offenders)
- ✎ In a survey of 2,864 church leaders, 20% knew of a sex offender attending/member of their church (Christianity Today 2010)
- ✎ Hard core offenders maintaining significant involvement with religious institutions “had more sexual offense convictions, more victims, and younger victims.” Eshuys & Smallbone, *Religious Affiliations Among Adult Sexual Offenders* (2006)
- ✎ Church provides “cheap Grace”, gullible religious people, and easy access to children (Vieth 2010)
- ✎ Large numbers of children severely injured or killed in the name of God (Vieth 2014)
- ✎ Few seminaries provide training on child maltreatments (Grossehoeme 1989)

# The agenda

- ✧ Spiritual injuries resulting from sexual abuse
- ✧ Clergy as support person for children who must testify
- ✧ The role of the faith community in providing additional resources for abused children
- ✧ Working together on prevention
- ✧ Addressing vicarious trauma
- ✧ Recognizing and responding to ACEs
- ✧ Reducing child deaths and injuries from abuse
- ✧ The difference clergy can make

# Working together to address spiritual abuse





# Prevalence of spiritual abuse

- ✎ Most offenders use a religious or spiritual theme in the abuse (Vieth 2011)
- ✎ In review of 34 studies of 19,090 adult victims, the majority had spiritual injuries (Walker, et al 2009)

# The impact of abuse on spirituality

- ✎ A study of 527 child abuse victims (physical, sexual or emotional) found these victims had a “significant” spiritual injury
- ✎ The injuries included feelings of guilt, anger, grief, despair, doubt, fear of death and belief God is unfair.
- ✎ However, the victims reported praying more frequently & having a “spiritual experience.”
- ✎ **Lawson, et al, Child Abuse & Neglect (1998)**

## When the perpetrator is clergy, the impact on spirituality is greater

- ✠ Clergy use “religious cover” to justify abuse (i.e. their “good works” overshadow the abuse; God gave this child to me)
- ✠ Clergy often communicate this cover to the victims
- ✠ When this happens, church attendance of these survivors decreases, less likely to trust God, and their relationship with God “ceases to grow.”  
**McLaughlin, Devastated Spirituality: The Impact of Clergy Sexual Abuse on the Survivor’s Relationship with God (1994).**

# Spirituality-Based Blocks to Disclosing Child Abuse

*Vieth, When Faith Hurts: Overcoming Spirituality Based Blocks & Problems Before, During and After the Forensic Interview (Revised & Expanded), 2(10) CenterPiece (2011)*



# Perpetrator Induced

- ✎ Perpetrator manipulates child's faith to convince the child that he/she is sinful (i.e. child's biological reaction means child enjoyed contact as much as perpetrator)
- ✎ The victim who initiated sexual contact as means of “getting it over with.”

# Child induced

- ✠ Even if perpetrator does not manipulate child's faith, the victim's own analysis of a religious doctrine may cause a block
- ✠ Example: my conversation with a 13 year old
- ✠ Seven year old: "Am I still a virgin in God's eyes?"

# Doctrinal induced

- ✠ A child may correctly understand a religious doctrine—and may be tormented by its application
- ✠ The police officer in the back of the room

# Institution induced

- ✂ Many faith institutions are more interested in addressing the spiritual needs of perpetrators than victims
- ✂ Many members of a congregation will rally around the perpetrator
- ✂ Even if a perpetrator confesses, many church leaders urge reconciliation (the Sunday School teacher)
- ✂ The case of the crowded courtroom

# Religious leader induced

- ✠ Numerous studies document that when the perpetrator is a faith leader, the damage to the child's psyche is particularly pronounced
- ✠ One victim's comments about the Eucharist

# Religious leader induced

## Jack Schaap, Indiana Pastor, Claimed Jesus Wanted Him To Have Sex With Teenage Girl

The Huffington Post | By Meredith Bennett-Smith  Posted: 03/14/2013 4:53 pm EDT | Updated: 03/15/2013 12:26 pm EDT 

 Recommend

 11,215 people recommend this.



Jack Schaap, a former megachurch pastor accused of having sex with a teenage girl, gives an animated sermon on "Polishing the Shaft."

YouTube



# Pastor Schaap

- ✠ Schaap's teenage victim "particularly susceptible to this offense due to her mental state." *Probation pre-sentence report*
- ✠ Schaap sees an e-mail the teenager in his church is "frightened, confused, and emotionally traumatized" and was engaging in "self-destructive behaviors."
- ✠ The e-mail notes the child has "a tender heart and...is still very teachable and moldable."

# Pastor Schaap

- ✠ One week later, Schaap begins to “counsel” victim
- ✠ Among the victim’s troubles, she discloses an emotional breakup with boyfriend
- ✠ Schaap transitions from pastor to friend to child molester—sexually assaulting the teenager in 3 states

# Schaap's letter to victim

✎ “You opened your heart wide to me—you made me more than a Pastor/Rescuer—you made me your friend, your confidant, your beloved....In our ‘fantasy talk’ you have affectionately spoken of being ‘my wife.’ That is exactly what Christ desires for us. He wants to marry us & become eternal lovers! I tried to craftily catch your heart...Thank you for the privilege of helping a struggling teenager...You have such a wonderful life ahead of you. I must be careful not to spoil that with my selfish fantasy desires...When we get scared, Jesus sends his spirit to live within us...I must follow the example of Christ. I have espoused you to Him as a chaste virgin...”

# Victim's letter to Schaap

✎ “I was in love with you and I would not admit that I was a victim...I also felt so guilty and partially responsible, like maybe it was my fault....Then I became really angry towards God. For a second I did not believe in God. I thought there can't be a God because he would not let this happen and if there is a God, I hate him because he let this happen because you told me that he was OK with this...”

# Victim's letter to judge

✠ “My entire life the Church has been my universe. Growing up, I watched (Schaap) in Church, listening to his sermons three times a week. I was raised by my parents and teachers to trust and obey my pastor. He was a celebrity to me, a father figure, and a man of God...I felt most safe when I was in Church. I first met (Schaap) when I was in kindergarten, and still had my baby teeth...”

# Victim's letter to judge

✎ “As my pastor, I sought guidance and counseling when I was in need of help. He told me to confide in him...He told me I was special, that he loved me, and that he wanted to marry me. He told me that I was his precious gift from God...he made me believe what we were doing was okay and right in the eyes of God. I felt so special when he texted me from the holy alter during his sermons...”



# Would Schaap's victim...

- ✎ Benefit from medical care?
- ✎ From psychological care?
- ✎ Spiritual care?

# The role of spirituality in coping with abuse

- ✎ Researchers have found a victim's "spiritual coping behavior" may play a positive or negative role in the ability to cope with the abuse
- ✎ Victims of severe abuse and very young victims are more likely to remain "stuck" in their spiritual development (i.e. remain angry with God)
- ✎ Nonetheless many victims reporting "greater resolution" of childhood abuse were able to "actively turn to their spirituality to cope...rather than attempt to cope on their own." **Gall, *Spirituality and Coping with Life Stress Among Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse*, 30 Child Abuse & Neglect 829 (2006)**
- ✎ "Comforted by Velvet Paws"

# Mental health professional may need clergy

- ✠ Clinicians lack knowledge or training to deal w/ spiritual issues
  - Survey of 400+ clinical psychologists – only 5% had training on religious or spiritual issues (Shafranske & Malony, 1990)

# Clergy may need mental health professional

- ✠ Clergy more likely to have congregant seek help from them than clinician (Hohmann & Larson, 1993)
- ✠ Clergy not prepared to deal with serious abuse or mental illness (Vieth 2012)
- ✠ Clergy may fail to recognize suicide risk (Domino, 1985)

# Types of Collaboration

(Bilich et al, 2000)

- ✎ Minister as consultant
- ✎ Therapist as consultant
- ✎ Referrals
- ✎ Limited collaboration
- ✎ Full collaboration
  - Therapy and spiritual guidance offered as integrated whole

# Clergy as support person at trial





# Support person

- ✎ Presence of support person helps children respond to questions at trial (Myers 2005)
- ✎ Legislation and case law supportive
- ✎ Basic kindness

# Clergy as support person

- ✠ The case of the crowded courtroom
- ✠ The case of Father Murphy
- ✠ The case of Pastor Schaap—141 letters from parishioners supporting Schaap, victim forced out of church
- ✠ Can you think of cases where this may be helpful?

Clergy providing additional resources



# Additional Resources

## Adopt a Social Worker

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the HALOS website. The browser's address bar shows a Google search. The website's header features the HALOS logo with the tagline "Turning help into hope." and a navigation menu with links: Home, Make a Difference, About Halos, Programs, and Donate. Below the navigation bar is a large image of four diverse children lying on their stomachs, smiling, with their feet raised in the air. A quote is overlaid on the bottom left of the image: "Never in our wildest dreams, could I have ever expected to have such a wonderful time". On the right side of the page, there are two call-to-action buttons: "CLICK HERE" and "DONATE NOW".

Google Search Share More >> Sign In

Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery

HALOS  
Turning help into hope.

Home Make a Difference About Halos Programs Donate

"Never in our wildest dreams, could I have ever expected to have such a wonderful time"

CLICK HERE

DONATE NOW

CLICK HERE



# Clergy as leaders in prevention



# Prevention

## Church policies



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a Google search bar at the top. Below the search bar, there are links for 'Suggested Sites' and 'Web Slice Gallery'. The main content area displays the cover of the 'JACOB'S HOPE' newsletter. The cover features a photograph of five diverse children lying on grass, smiling. To the right of the photo, the title 'JACOB'S HOPE' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, it says 'A NEWSLETTER OF THE JACOB WETTERLING RESOURCE CENTER' and 'VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 • JUNE 2011'. At the bottom left of the cover, there are logos for 'JWRC' (Jacob Wetterling Resource Center) and 'N.C.P.T.C.' (National Child Protection Training Center).

JWRC  
JACOB WETTERLING  
RESOURCE CENTER  
www.jwrc.org

N.C.P.T.C.  
NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION  
TRAINING CENTER  
www.ncptc.org

**JACOB'S  
HOPE**

A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
JACOB WETTERLING RESOURCE CENTER

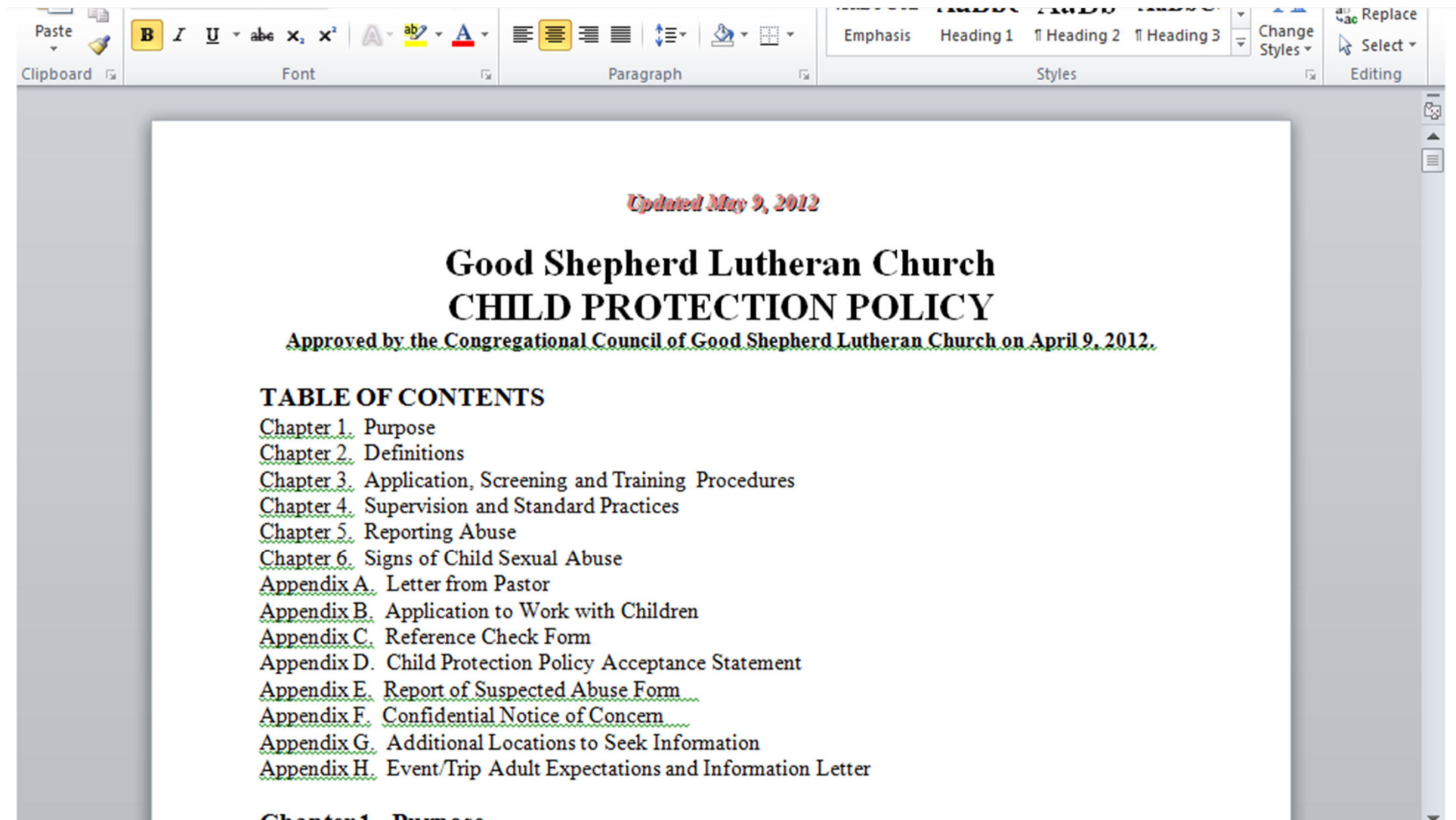
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 • JUNE 2011

## SUFFER THE CHILDREN: DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE CHURCH POLICIES ON CHILD MALTREATMENT

By: Victor I. Vieth<sup>1</sup>

# Prevention

# Policies



The image shows a screenshot of a Microsoft Word document. The ribbon at the top includes the 'Clipboard' group with a 'Paste' button, the 'Font' group with options for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), and color, the 'Paragraph' group with alignment and bullet point options, the 'Styles' group with 'Emphasis', 'Heading 1', 'Heading 2', and 'Heading 3', and the 'Editing' group with 'Replace' and 'Select'. The document content is centered and includes the following text:

*Updated May 9, 2012*

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Approved by the Congregational Council of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on April 9, 2012.

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Appendix G. Additional Locations to Seek Information

Appendix H. Event/Trip Adult Expectations and Information Letter

**Chapter 1 Purpose**




# Prevention

## Personal safety classes


Google personal safety classes in church Search Share More » Sign In

Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery

Home About the Diocese Offices & Ministries Contact Information

 **Diocese of La Crosse**  
La Crosse, Wisconsin USA

[Safe Environment Home](#)  
[Safe Environment Training](#)  
[Safe Environment Program](#)  
[Internet/IT Policy](#)  
[Reporting Forms](#)  
[Espanol \(Spanish\)](#)  
[Hmoob \(Hmong\)](#)  
[English](#)  
[Procedural Brochures](#)  
[Espanol \(Spanish\)](#)

  
**Keeping Protect**  
OUR PROMISE TO  
CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

**PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE**

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

# Church Prevention works

- ✠ Personal safety classes—a lesson from Milwaukee
- ✠ Respite care—a lesson from Virginia

# Clergy addressing vicarious trauma



# Religion and well-being

- ✧ Even when controlling for age, race, ethnicity, region, socio-economic status, marital and child bearing status, “very religious” people scored higher than “moderately religious” or “non-religious” on Gallup’s “well-being index”
- ✧ This index measures life evaluation, physical health, emotional health, healthy behaviors, and work environment.
- ✧ Why?
  - Religions promote healthy behavior
  - Belief in God provides unique comfort in times of sorrow
  - Religion provides “super-charged” friends (Newport 2012)
- ✧ Helps cope with trauma



# Military chaplains

Screenshot of the GoArmy website (http://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/about.html) displaying information about the Army Chaplain Corps.

The browser address bar shows the URL: <http://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/about.html>. The search bar contains the text "chaplains".

The website header includes the U.S. Army logo and the slogan "ARMY STRONG:". Navigation links include: TALK TO US, REQUEST INFO, LOCATE US, LEARN HOW TO JOIN, APPLY ONLINE, LOG IN, REGISTER, and ASK SGT STAR. A site search bar is also present.

The main content area is titled "ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS". Below the title is a large photograph of several Army Chaplains in uniform standing outdoors.

The left sidebar contains a list of links under the heading "Army Chaplain Corps":

- About Army Chaplains (expanded)
  - Requirements
  - Benefits & Incentives
  - Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course
  - Chaplain Assistant Program
- Chaplain Candidate Program
- Corps Careers & Jobs
- Chaplain Profiles

The bottom right corner of the browser window shows a zoom level of 100%.

# Hospital chaplains

Screenshot of the Gundersen Lutheran Pastoral Care website.

**Browser Address Bar:** <http://www.gundluth.org/pastoral>

**Search Bar:** gundersen lutheran pastoral care

**Website Header:**

- Gundersen Lutheran**  
A Personal Relationship with Medical Excellence
- MyCare Access • Contact Us • For Clinicians • For Employees • For Employers
- Follow Us: YouTube, Facebook
- SHOP
- Site Search:  Go

**Navigation Menu:** Our Services | Health Information | Education & Research | Employment | About Us | Make a Gift

**Main Banner:** Pastoral Care (Image of a pastor and a patient)

**Find a Doctor:**

- Search by Last Name:
- Search by Specialty:
- Search  Advanced Search

**Quick Links:**

- I Want To...

**Pastoral Care Section:**

**Pastoral Care**

- About Us
- Spiritual Needs
- Pastoral Care Staff
- Clinical Pastoral Education
- Pastoral Stories

**Pastoral Care Text:**

Gundersen Lutheran Pastoral Care and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) are an important part of Gundersen Lutheran's history of caring for mind, body, and spirit. Our staff has a deep respect and commitment to serve people of all faith traditions.

Each hospital unit has a chaplain assigned to visit you and there is an on-call

**Image:** A photograph showing a pastor and a patient in a hospital setting.

**Footer:** 100%

# Fire department chaplains

Browser address bar: <http://firechaplains.org/>

Search bar:  Search Share More >> Sign In

Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Page Safety Tools



## Federation of Fire Chaplains



Email   
Password   
☐ Remember me  
 [Forgot password](#)

Home About Us Membership Regions Training & Resources Events 2013 FFC Conference

### Welcome to the new FFC Site

We are an international fellowship of Fire-Rescue Chaplains. From here you can learn about us, check out the news of the FFC, explore membership, and investigate our training. Members can sign in to access the [FFC directory](#), participate in a blog, view articles, update your profile, and renew your membership. We encourage contact to our officers and regional directors.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Federation of Fire Chaplains is to bring together persons interested in providing an effective Chaplain Service to

### Upcoming Events

- [FFC Chaplain Training/Leesville, LA](#)  
22 Mar 2013 • St Michael's Catholic Church
- [FFC Training/Kamloops BC](#)  
04 Apr 2013 • Kamloops Fire/Rescue Training Centre
- [FFC Training/Moncton, New Brunswick](#)  
12 Apr 2013 (EDT) • Moncton FD
- [FFC Chaplain Training/Ft. Worth, Texas](#)  
19 Apr 2013 • Riley Conference Center, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX

100%



# Law enforcement chaplains

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the homepage of the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC). The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.icpc4cops.org/>. The search bar contains the text "police chaplains". The website's header features the ICPC logo on the left, which is a circular emblem with a cross and the text "ICPC" and "CHAPLAINS". To the right of the logo, the text "International Conference of Police Chaplains" is displayed in a large, bold font, followed by the tagline "Serving all law enforcement chaplains". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, About Us, Membership, Chaplaincy Intro, Credentialing, Regions, ATS, and News & Views. On the left side of the page, there is a "QUICKLINKS" section with a list of links: How to Join ICPC, Regional Information, Regional RTS Brochures, Regional News & Links, Members Only Section, ICPC Store, and Journal Publications. On the right side, there is a collage of four photographs. The first photo shows a man in a blue shirt. The second photo shows a group of people in uniform standing in front of a building. The third photo shows a man in a dark uniform with a white cross on his chest, holding a small flag. The fourth photo shows a man in a dark uniform with a white cross on his chest, standing at a podium. The bottom right corner of the browser window shows a zoom level of 100%.

International Conference of Police Chaplains  
Serving all law enforcement chaplains

Home About Us Membership Chaplaincy Intro Credentialing Regions ATS News & Views

**QUICKLINKS**

- How to Join ICPC
- Regional Information
- Regional RTS Brochures
- Regional News & Links
- Members Only Section
- ICPC Store
- Journal Publications

100%

# Corporate chaplains

Corporate Chaplains of America

Corporate Chaplains International

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Select Language

Serving companies coast to coast since 1996.

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Offering Meaningful Hope

The CCA Story from the Founder/CEO, Dr. Mark Cress

Are you a business owner considering Corporate Chaplains?

Frequently asked questions from HR managers about chaplaincy

75%

# How about...

✠ Chaplains for Children?

✠ Chaplains for Child Protection Professionals?

- A detective's question about fairness
- The child or children that got away
- “I said the wrong thing”
- Drip, drip, drip



We need to work together in understanding  
and responding to the impact of Adverse  
Childhood Experiences



# Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) : A Preview

- ✎ Over 17,000 men and women surveyed on 10 types of adverse childhood experiences (sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, witness of domestic violence, etc)
- ✎ Now over 25 ACE studies (1998 to present) (Kaiser Permanente, CDC)

# 1 or more ACE increases risk of:

- ✎ Cancer
- ✎ Heart disease
- ✎ STDs
- ✎ Liver disease
- ✎ Smoking
- ✎ Alcohol abuse
- ✎ Obesity
- ✎ Drug dependence
- ✎ IV Drug Use
- ✎ Early intercourse, pregnancy
- ✎ Depression
- ✎ Anxiety disorders
- ✎ Hallucinations
- ✎ Sleep disturbances
- ✎ Memory disturbances
- ✎ Anger problems
- ✎ Domestic violence risk
- ✎ Job problems
- ✎ Relationship problems

# Effects of Exposure to DV

## (Summers, 2006)

	Infants	Preschool Age	School Age	Adolescents
Behavioral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Fussy</li> <li>•Decreased responsiveness</li> <li>•Trouble sleeping</li> <li>•Trouble eating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Aggression</li> <li>•Behavior problems</li> <li>•Regressive behavior</li> <li>•Yelling, irritability</li> <li>•Trouble sleeping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Aggression</li> <li>•Conduct problems</li> <li>•Disobedience</li> <li>•Regressive behavior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Dating violence</li> <li>•Delinquency</li> <li>•Running away</li> <li>•Truancy</li> <li>•Early sexual activity</li> </ul>
Social		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Trouble interacting with peers</li> <li>•Stranger anxiety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Few and low quality peer relations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Dating violence (victim or perpetrator)</li> <li>•Increased risk for teen pregnancy</li> </ul>



# Effects of Exposure to DV

## (Summers, 2006)

	Infants	Preschool Age	School Age	Adolescents
Emotional/ Psychological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Attachment needs not met</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Fear/anxiety, sadness, worry</li> <li>•PTSD</li> <li>•Negative affect</li> <li>•Feeling unsafe</li> <li>•Separation anxiety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Somatic complaints</li> <li>•Fear &amp; anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, shame</li> <li>•PTSD</li> <li>•Limited emotional response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Substance abuse</li> <li>•Depression</li> <li>•Suicidal ideation</li> <li>•PTSD</li> <li>•Feeling rage, shame</li> <li>•Unresponsiveness</li> </ul>
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Inability to understand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Self-blame</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Self-blame</li> <li>•Distracted, inattentive</li> <li>•Pro-violent attitude</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Short attention span</li> <li>•Pro-violent attitude</li> <li>•Defensive</li> </ul>

## Understand effects of DV on children through drawings

An eight-year-old was asked to draw a picture of his father. He wrote in Spanish:

“This is how I see my father because he often gets angry and drunk and his eyes turn red.”

© CONNECT – Family Violence Prevention Fund



asi veo a mi papá  
Porque es muy enojon  
y se pone borracho  
y se le ponen los ojos rojos

# ACE and Law & Gospel

- ✠ If we don't understand ACE, we apply the law to victims and gospel to offenders
- ✠ "I consider 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." Salter, Predators.

# Advice for theologians

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <http://journals.biola.edu/jpt/assets/16/40-257.pdf>. The browser's search bar contains the text "journal of psychology and theology". The page content includes the journal title "JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY & THEOLOGY", the issue information "2012, Vol. 40, No. 4, 257-273", and the copyright notice "Copyright 2012 by Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University, 0091-6471/410-730". The main title of the article is "What Would Walther Do? Applying Law and Gospel to Victims and Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse", authored by Victor I. Vieth, who is affiliated with the National Child Protection Training Center. The article's abstract begins with the text: "Counselors and theologians failing to understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse cases often apply the concept of sexual abuse. Partly as a result of ignorance of the dynamics involved in these cases, Christians often apply..."

http://journals.biola.edu/jpt/assets/16/40-257.pdf

journal of psychology and theology

JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY & THEOLOGY  
2012, Vol. 40, No. 4, 257-273

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Biola University, 0091-6471/410-730

## What Would Walther Do? Applying Law and Gospel to Victims and Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse

Victor I. Vieth  
*National Child Protection Training Center*

Counselors and theologians failing to understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse cases often apply the concept of sexual abuse. Partly as a result of ignorance of the dynamics involved in these cases, Christians often apply

Done

# When an offender confesses

- ∞ Inform him that sexual abuse contributes to significant health risks and that he should fully disclose his conduct to a medical care provider to ensure the child's physical well-being (Centers for Disease Control, ACE studies)
- ∞ Inform him that sexual abuse has a significant impact on a child's mental health and therefore the victim should be referred to an appropriate mental health provider (CDC, ACE studies)

# When an offender confesses

- ✧ Inform him that SA results in significant spiritual damage and, in consultation with a religious counselor and pastor, we will need to address this issue. **Diane Langberg, *Counseling Survivors of Sexual Abuse* (2003)**
- ✧ Inform him he has committed a serious crime and that he should turn himself in to the police and be assessed by and follow the recommendations of a sex offender treatment provider
- ✧ If he refuses any of the above, his “repentance” should be questioned and the church should exercise appropriate discipline **(Vieth 2012)**

# Assessing a perpetrator's “repentance” (Vieth 2012)

- ✎ Have you informed your spouse? If your spouse wants you to move out, are you willing to do so? If your child victim(s) want you to move out, are you willing to do so?
- ✎ Have you informed your child's medical provider? Have you referred your child to a therapist?
- ✎ Do you hold yourself fully responsible—or do you believe your child in some way contributed to the abuse?
- ✎ Have you turned yourself into the police? Will you be confessing and pleading guilty or will you make the government “prove it”? Will you allow your attorney to grill your victim at trial?
- ✎ Are you willing to enroll in a sex offender treatment program?



# Managing sex offenders in church

**In a survey of 2,864 church leaders,  
20% knew of a sex offender  
attending/member of their church  
(Christianity Today 2010)**

# Managing sex offenders in church

1. Compliance with the law. Speak to the offender's probation officer and/or the local prosecutor.
2. Consultation with the sex offender's treatment provider. This will determine potential dangers and help the church in meeting the offender's needs.
3. Review court and investigative records. What charges were dismissed? What did the offender confess to?
4. Determine level of supervision necessary. Low risk may require a shadow, high risk separate services.

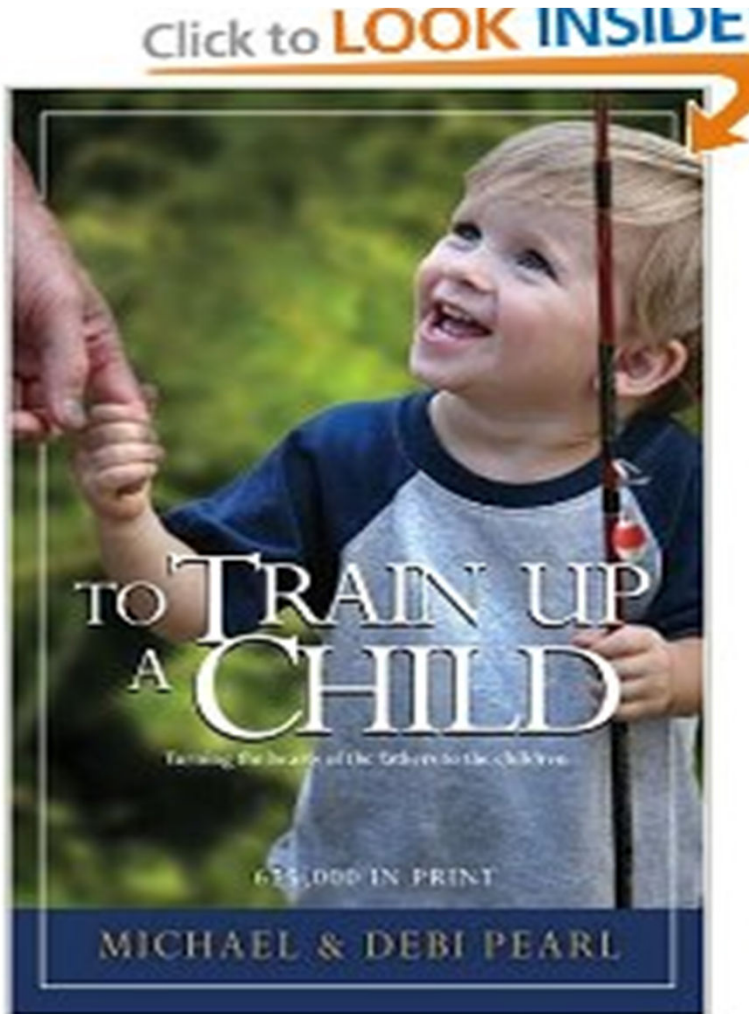
# Managing sex offenders in church

1. Sex offender should not be allowed to attend services with victim. This is true even if low risk.
2. If SO goes to different congregation—let them know of risks.
3. Be sensitive to the fears of parents and the emotions of all survivors.
4. Have a public congregational meeting.

Working together to reduce death, injury and  
spiritual harm from physical abuse



# To Train Up a Child



✠ Michael and  
Debi Pearl

✠ Sold more  
than 650,000  
copies



# “Putting a rag doll to bed”

“ When your baby is tired and sleepy enough to become irritable, don’t reinforce irritability by allowing the cause and effect to continue...Get tough. Be firm with him. Never put him down and then allow him to get up. For the sake of consistency in training, you must follow through. He may not be able to sleep, but he can be trained to lie there quietly. He will very quickly come to know that any time he is laid down there is no alternative but to stay put. To get up is to be on the firing line and get switched back down. It will become as easy as putting a rag doll to bed.” The Pearls

# “Ungodly Discipline”



# Disciplined to death

## DA: Kevin and Elizabeth Schatz Killed Daughter With "Religious Whips" for Mispronouncing Word

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By Edecio Martinez Topics Daily Blotter



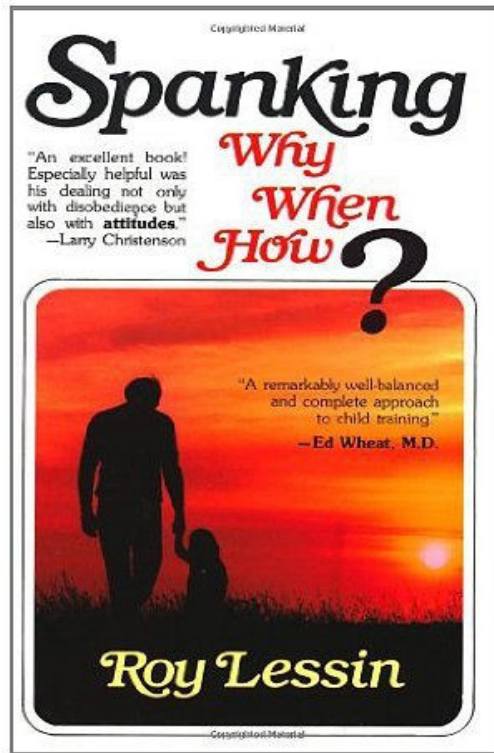
(CBS/KOVR)

**CHICO, Calif. (CBS/KOVR)** Three years ago, Kevin Schatz and his wife Elizabeth did something so noble, a local television station featured them; the pair decided to adopt three children from Liberia. Now, they're accused of killing one of the children because she mispronounced a word.

# Spiritual damage

Roy Lessin, Spanking: Why, When & How (1979).

Photo from Lessin's book



## A Roy Lessin Spanking: a child's perspective

“My first spanking was when I was six months old. My mother spanked me for crying after she put me to bed. She had to spank me repeatedly to teach me not to cry when she put me down. I know about this incident because my mother used to tell all the new mothers about how young I was when she started spanking me. My last spanking occurred when I was thirteen years old...”



## A Roy Lessin Spanking: a child's perspective

“The Roy Lessin spankings that I remember most vividly took place between the ages of three and seven...My father would explain the reason for the spanking...I had already developed irritable bowel syndrome and would feel my guts cramp up with anxiety during his speech. Then he would ask me to take off my pants and underwear. I would feel deeply embarrassed because my father was not supposed to see me naked....”

## A Roy Lessin Spanking: a child's perspective

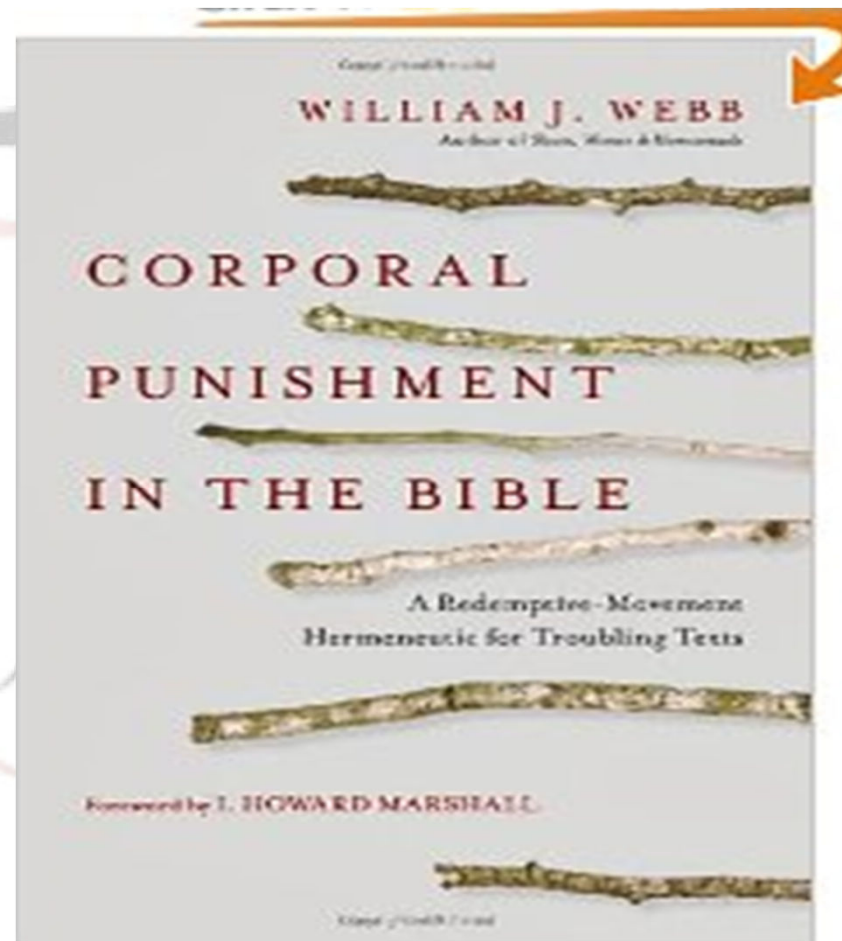
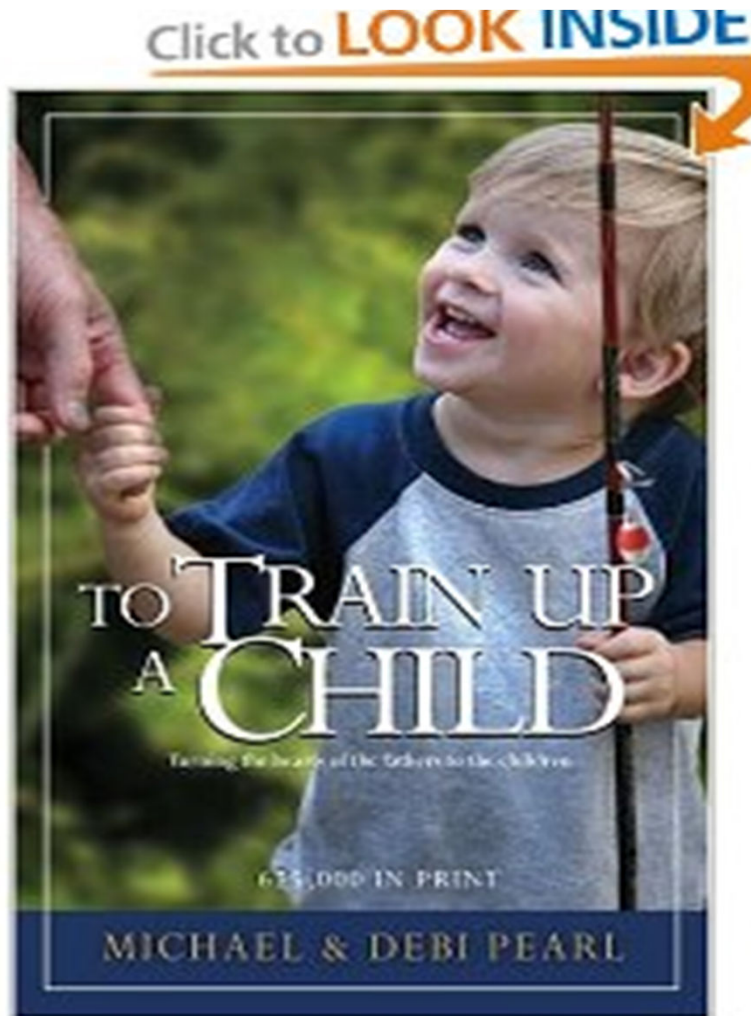
✎ “The stick, paddle inscribed with Bible verses, or belt would swish violently through the air before slapping painfully...I would scream in pain and anguish...My parents were never concerned about the marks they left on my body...Pulling up my pants was incredibly painful...After we prayed, it was time for me to be happy. But my insides would be a mess...It would be a lesson I'd learn for life—being falsely happy regardless of how my body felt...

## A Roy Lessin Spanking: a child's perspective

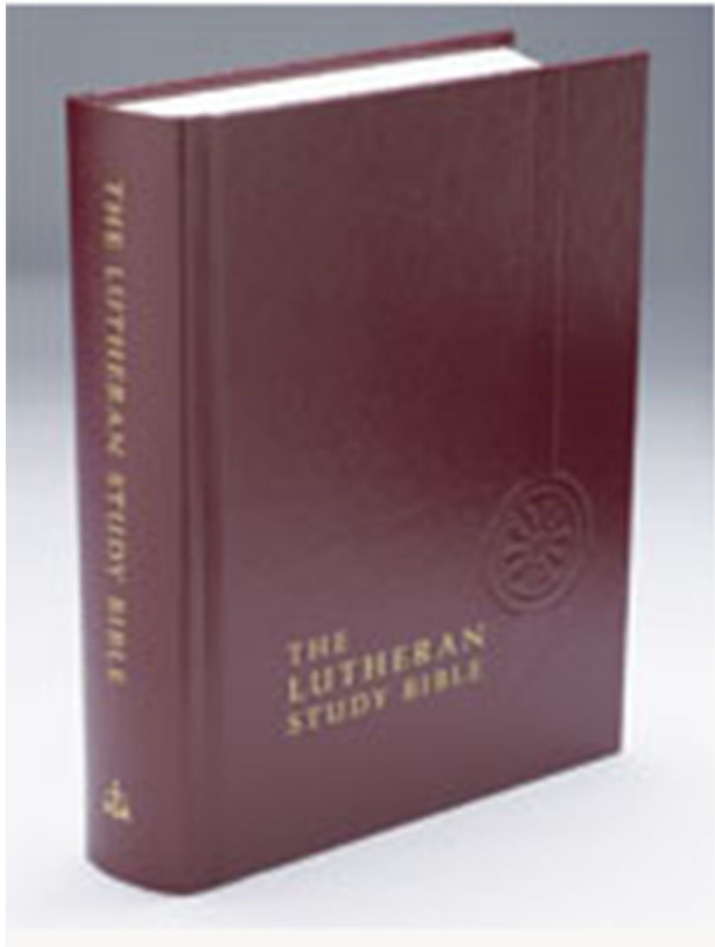
✎ For almost every day of my life, I fear people...I especially fear men in authority roles. I occasionally look even at people I know, and who I know to be safe, with terror just because they've spoken in a tone that reminds me of those early times. I fear making mistakes. I choose not to have children of my own because a child's screams scramble my insides. ..I now fight for my physical and mental health...I can't imagine God would condone such behavior in people who claim to be loving parents.”

- Beth Finimore, How Spanking Changed My Life, [www.DrMomma.org](http://www.DrMomma.org)

# Some clergy are responding



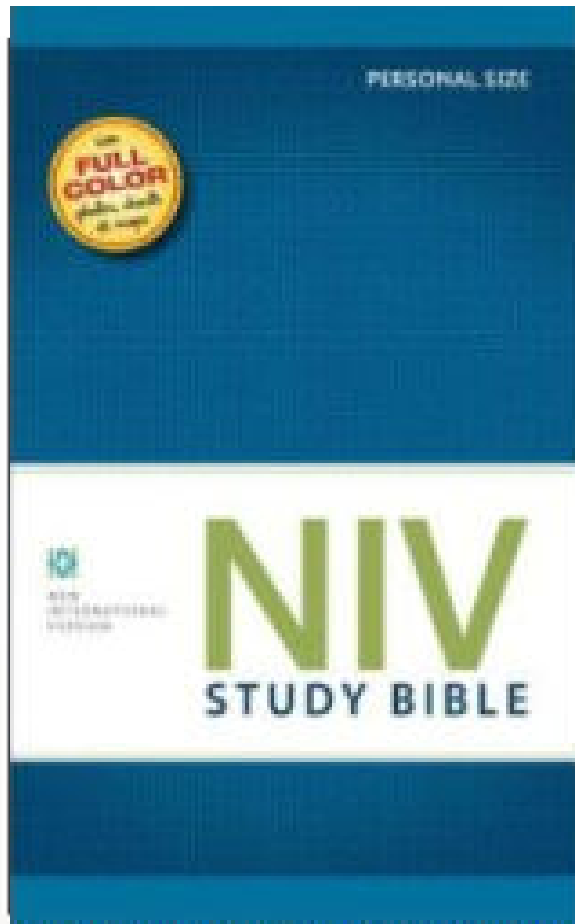
# Some conservative commentators agree



✠ “Flogging was a common form of punishment. The ceremonial scepter held by rulers symbolized their authority to judge and discipline. Children are best ‘trained with kindness and delight. For children who must be forced with rods and blows will not develop into a good generation.’” The Lutheran Study Bible p. 1015 (Concordia 2009) (quoting Martin Luther’s Large Catechism).



# And still more...



[Click product image for larger view](#)

- ✠ “Discipline is rooted in love...rod...is probably a figure of speech for discipline of any kind.” (NIV Study Bible)
- ✠ 7 million copies sold

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

## Thou Shalt Not Abuse: Reconsidering Spanking

Misuse of biblical teaching on discipline can have deadly consequences.

**A Christianity Today editorial** [ posted 1/16/2012 10:16AM ]

**D**ead children have a way of shocking the conscience and making us angry. Especially a dead child like Hana Grace -Rose Williams, a 13-year-old adopted from Ethiopia by Washington State parents.

Police found Hana's body starved and naked, wrapped in a sheet in her adoptive parents' backyard. They had denied her food for days, locked her in a closet, forced her to sleep in a barn, and required her to use a Porta-Potty



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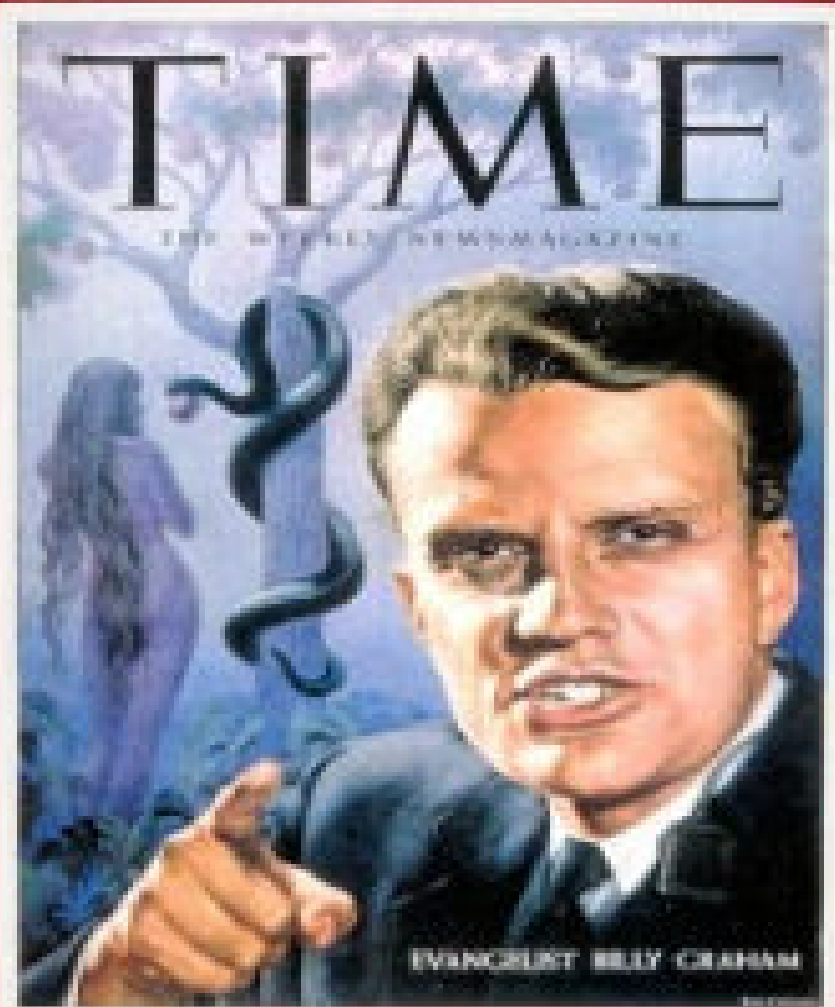


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# The moderate mainstream



**“Children are more impressed by the conduct of others than by lectures or spanking.”**

**--Billy Graham**

# Why is this significant?

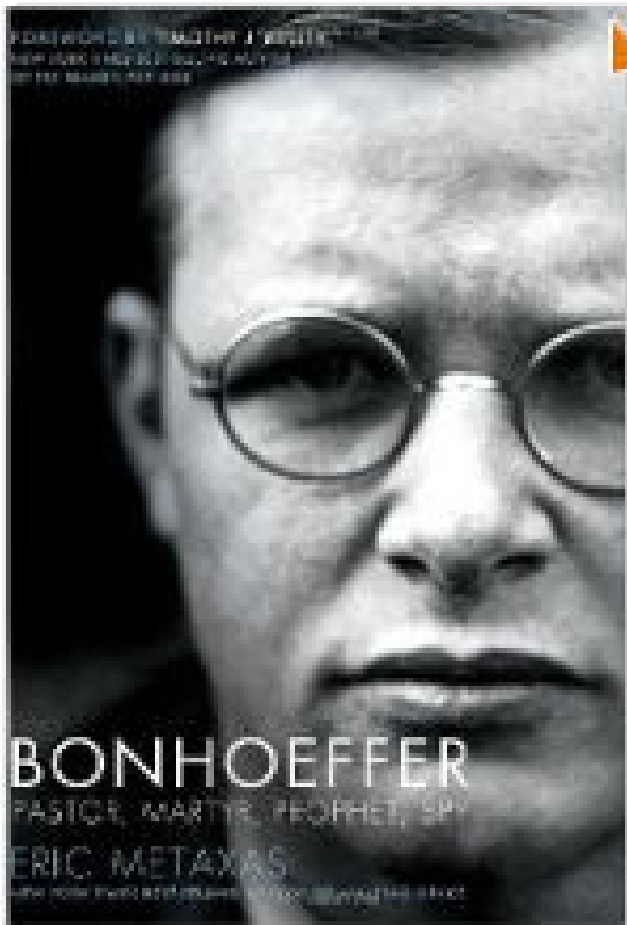
- ✎ Spankers more likely to use other forms of CP
- ✎ Aversive discipline more likely when parent is angry, depressed, fatigued, stressed
- ✎ 1003 Minnesota moms: 44% spanked most often when they had “lost it.” *See Gershoff, Report on Physical Punishment in the United States: What Research Tells us About its Effects on Children*

# Can clergy make a difference?

∞ My Mom's minister



# “Till the night be passed”



“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to act is to act.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer