

# In Search of the Bottom Line: What Every Youth Serving Organization Needs to Know

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# The agenda

- **Ten things we need to know**
- **Ten things we need to do**
- **What YSO's mean to abused children—  
resiliency research**

# Ten things YSO's need to know



October 13-15, 2013 | Grapevine, Texas

**NATIONAL YOUTH  
PROTECTION  
SYMPOSIUM**



WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

# 1. Sex offenders are drawn to youth serving organizations

**“Any situation that provides ideal conditions for pedophiles will draw them, and it will be very difficult to distinguish them from their nonpedophilic and entirely moral colleagues...boarding schools, overnight camps, male choirs—any setting that puts groups of kids regularly together under the supervision and care of a ‘counselor’ or other adult for overnight trips will draw pedophiles...” Dr. Anna Salter**

## **2. Faith based YSO's may be particularly attractive to sex offenders**

**“If children can be silenced and the average person is easy to fool, many offenders report that religious people are even easier to fool than most people.”**

**Anna Salter** 

# Two cases on point

- **“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.”**
- **The case of the choir director**

# Supported by a number of studies

- 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 maltreatment (**Grossehorne 1989**)

### 3. Sex offenders are manipulative

“Very few of us have ever been suspected of a crime, and fewer still have been interviewed by the police about one. Under such circumstances, detection apprehension would be very high for most of us...But that would change had we practiced lying over serious matters every day, had we lived a double life, had we been questioned by upset parents or by police numerous times in the past. You are never going to run into a child molester who is not a practiced liar, even if he is not a natural one.” (From the book *Predators* page 202)

# 4. Offenders often select the easiest target

- Q. At church, you did not molest all the children. How did you choose?
- A. “First of all you start the grooming process from day one...the children that you’re interested in...You find a child you might be attracted to...For me, it might be nobody fat. It had to be a you know, a nice looking child...You maybe look at a kid that doesn’t have a father image at home, or a father that cares about them...if you’ve got a group of 25 kids, you might find 9 that are appealing...then you start looking at their family backgrounds. You find out all you can...which ones are the most accessible...you get it down to one that is the easiest target, and that’s the one you do.”

## 5. Offenders may act even if others present

- 54.9% of child molesters offended when another child present (The Tricky Part by Martin Moran)
- 23.9% offended when another adult present Underwood, et al, *Do sexual offenders Molest when Other Persons are Present?* 11(3) Journal of Research and Treatment (1999)
- Note—it may be subtle (under the blankets)
- Why? Increases power over child, the chance of getting caught enhances arousal, etc.

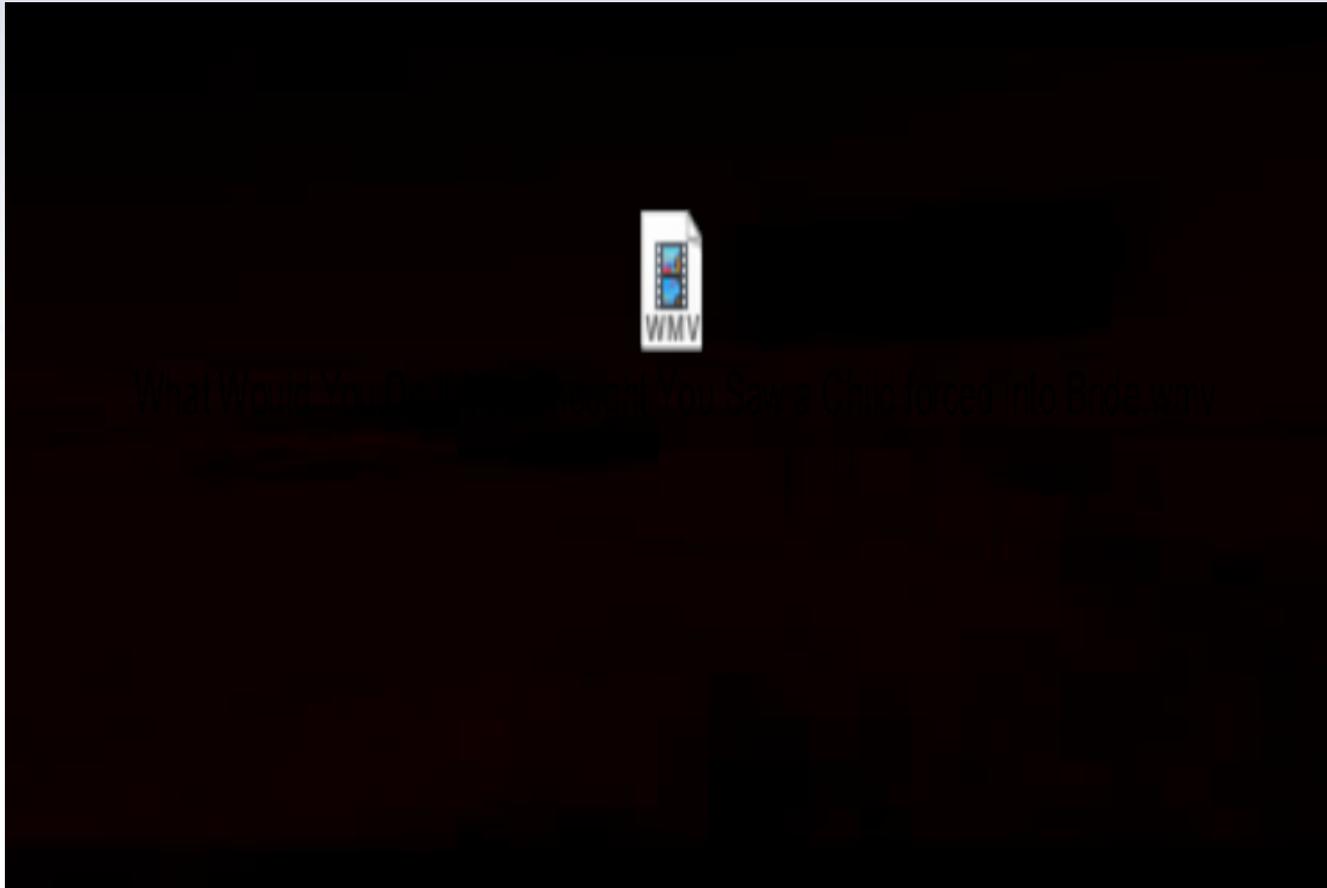
## 6. Most child abuse cases are never reported

- **Only 40% of maltreatment cases and 35% of the most serious cases known to mandated reporters are reported (Finkelhor 1990)**
- **65% of social workers, 53% of physicians and 58% of physicians assistants do not report all cases of suspected abuse (Delaronde, et al, 2000)**

# Most child abuse cases not reported

- **Study of 57 tribes (21 states): 62% of known child abuse cases were not reported to federal government (Fox 2003)**
- **Study of 197 teachers: only 26% would report familial sexual abuse & only 11% sexual abuse at hands of a fellow teacher (Kenny 2001)**

**If you don't believe the research, will you believe you own eyes?**



## 7. Even when reported, most cases not investigated

- Only 50% of the nation's *identified* abused children received child protection investigation and only 30% of the children suffering “serious harm” received child protection investigation (NIS-4 2010)
- NIS-4 researchers labeled “serious harm” as child abuse or neglect cases in which “an act or omission result in demonstrable harm.”

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Seeking solutions to improve Colorado's child welfare system

By Jennifer Brown, Christopher N. Osher and Jordan Steffen The Denver Post

POSTED: 11/18/2012 12:01:00 AM MST

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# focus on CSA

- Pressure from parents
- Pressure from the media
- Pressure from lawyers
- Its less messy to focus on CSA by coaches, volunteers, employees than abuse in the home

## Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations:

*Getting Started on Policies  
and Procedures*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## 9. If we primarily focus on CSA, we won't protect the majority of abused children

- **Neglect – 78.3%**
- **Physical Abuse – 17.8%**
- **Sexual Abuse – 9.5%**
- **Psychological maltreatment – 17.6%**
- **Medical neglect - 2.4 %**

**Percentages exceed 100% because report may have more than one type of maltreatment**

U.S. Dept. Health & Human Services, Children's Bureau, Child Maltreatment Report 2009, (last visited 8/2011)

# Most children are abused in the home

- **Percentage of children abused by biological parents or non-biological parent or partner**
  - 100% of neglected children
  - 93% of emotionally abused children
  - 91% of physically abused children
  - 60% of sexually abused children
- **NIS 4 (2010)**
- **22% of sexually abused children were abused by someone in authority (clergy, teacher, YSO) (Huot 1999)**

# 10. Most children abused in more than one way

- “In abusive homes, children are rarely subject to one form of abuse. They often endure multiple forms of abuse at once.” ASCA (emphasis added)
- In ACE studies, 26% had ACE score of 1 but 37.9% had ACE score of 2 or more (12.5% had ACE score of 4 or more)

# **If we don't know this, our assistance to children will be limited**

- Exposure to multiple forms of victimization was common.
- Almost 66% of the sample was exposed to more than one type of victimization, 30% experienced five or more types, and 10% experienced 11 or more different forms of victimization in their lifetimes.
- Poly-victims comprise a substantial portion of the children who would be identified by screening for an individual victimization type, such as sexual assault or witnessing parental violence.
- Poly-victimization is more highly related to trauma symptoms than experiencing repeated victimizations of a single type and explains a large part of the associations between individual forms of victimization and symptom levels.
  - (Turner, Finkelhor, et al, 2010)

# Most offenders are in the child's home

- 79.4% parents
- 6.8% other relatives
- 3.8% unmarried partner of parent (e.g. Adrian Peterson case)
- 3.6% perpetrators missing or unknown
- 4.1 % other perpetrators
- <1% perpetrator was a foster parent, residential facility staff, the child's daycare provider, a legal guardian, friends or neighbors, or other professionals (USDHHS, 2007)

# Ten things YSO's need to do



October 13-15, 2013 | Grapevine, Texas

## NATIONAL YOUTH PROTECTION SYMPOSIUM



WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

# 1. Broaden training to include physical abuse



# Why this is important

- **Physical signs of abuse may be easier to detect—particularly in YSO's where much of the child's body is visible (swimming, gymnastics, track, etc)**
- **If we detect physical abuse and report it, evidence of other forms of abuse may be discovered by the authorities**

# Hitting children and the law

- **Parents can use “reasonable force”**
- **What is unreasonable?  
(blows that leave marks,  
blows to vital organs, blows  
to the head, blows that are  
clearly not discipline)**

# Location of injuries

- Children are forward moving and frontal explorers, most accidental injuries are to “frontal” locations (forehead, nose, chin, palms, elbows, shins)
- Injuries to buttocks, genitalia, abdomen, back, lateral areas of body more likely to indicate abuse
- Does child’s description make sense? (the coffee table account)

# Suspicious injuries

- **Always bruised—particularly in unlikely areas**
- **“Control” injuries (hair, arms, etc)**
- **“Patterned” injuries (hand slap —2 or 3 lines)**









# Hand Print on face



## 2. Broaden training on emotional abuse



# Why this is important



# The Impact of Emotional Maltreatment

- **Verbal abuse was more detrimental than physical or sexual abuse in terms of victims' self-directed anger and pessimism about their futures**  
(Ney, 1986, Child Abuse & Neglect)
- **“Recent research has implicated emotional abuse as a strong, possibly stronger, predictor than physical abuse of internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders, social impairment, low self-esteem, suicidal behavior, psychiatric diagnoses, psychiatric hospitalizations, and long-term psychological functioning.”**  
(Hamarman, 2002, Child Maltreatment)

# The Five Types of Psychological Maltreatment

The Psychologically Battered Child  
(Garbarino, et al.)

# Rejection (1)

- **Rejection takes place when the parent “refuses to acknowledge the child’s worth and the legitimacy of the child’s needs.”**
- **Winston Churchill’s father thought “Winston was retarded, rarely talked to him, and regularly vented his mounting rage on the child.” Stephen Mansfield**
- **Example: Babe Ruth, Johnny Cash**

# Emotional Maltreatment in the Life of Johnny Cash

- Cash said his father never even spanked him
- After Cash's dog had a litter of puppies, his father made him watch while he put the puppies in a bag with a rock and drowned them...then he shot the dog.
- After his brother Jack's death, Johnny's father blamed him for going fishing and bluntly said Johnny should have died instead (Show Clip)
- "It's impossible to imagine what these accusations did to Cash's tender psyche. To lose a brother he idealized and loved, only then to be blamed for the death, had to be...too much to bear." (Turner, *The Man Called Cash*, p. 23)

# Emotional Maltreatment in the Life of Johnny Cash

- In his first autobiography, Cash spoke lovingly about his father and yet dedicated the book to his father in law.
- In his second autobiography, after his father's death, Cash questioned his father's faith.
- Cash was reluctant to sign-off on the script to *Walk the Line*.
- My letter from the “Man in Black”

# Isolation (2)

- Occurs when child is cut off from friendships
- Close confinement (Dog Cage Case)
- The missing-child question?
- Can home-schooling be isolation? (Childproof Case)
- The case of Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone

# Terrorized (3)

- **The adult “verbally assaults the child, creates a climate of fear, bullies and frightens the child, and makes the child believe that the world is capricious and hostile.” (The Case of the Chainsaw)**
- **Torturing a child’s pet (The Turtle Case)**
- **Destroying possessions (Cutting up the Baseball Cards Case)**

# Ignoring a Child (4)

- The adult “deprives the child of essential stimulation and responsiveness, stifling emotional growth and intellectual development.”
- Examples:
  - Churchill & Cash, perhaps
- What about depression?

# Corrupting a Child (5)

- Parent “stimulates the child to engage in destructive antisocial behavior, reinforces that deviance, and makes the child unfit for normal social experience.”
- Encouraging drug or alcohol usage (Giving beer to 2YO)
- The Parental Orgy Case
- Exposing a child to drug sales, prostitution, pornography, etc.

# 3. Expand or implement ACE training

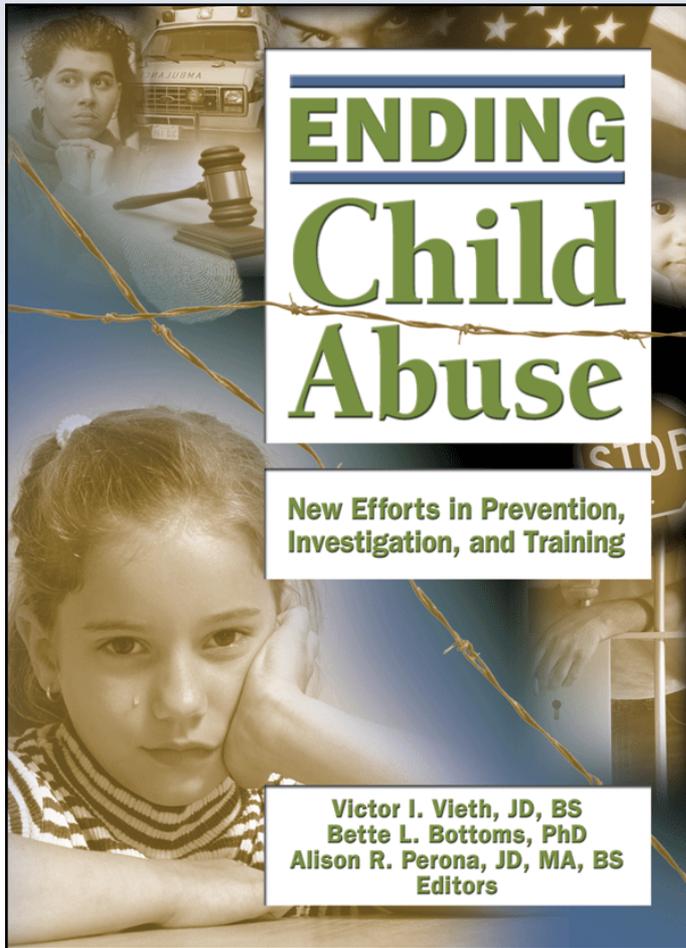


# Why this is important

- In the absence of an outcry from a child, or witnessing abuse, or a confession from an offender, the clearest manifestation of abuse may come through ACE characteristics.
- What if we saw ACE characteristics, and then asked?

# How much is at stake

ACE research tells us our past—and shows us how to change the future



# Adverse Childhood Experience Research

- **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)**

# 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

# ACE and life expectancy

**“...individuals with ACE Score 6 and higher had a lifespan almost two decades shorter than seen in those with an ACE Score 0 but otherwise similar characteristics.” (Felitti 2010)**

## The significance of the population studied

**“This is a solidly middle class group... it is not a group that can be dismissed as atypical, aberrant or ‘not in my practice.’ Disturbingly, it is us—a point not to be overlooked when considering the problems of translating the ACE Study’s findings into action.” (Felitti 2010)**

# Effects of Exposure to IPV

(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 IPV

(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>

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# Have thorough knowledge of normal sexual behaviors

- Birth to 3 may touch genitals, though “rhythmic manipulation with hand” doesn’t occur until at least 3
- May show genitals, interested in bathroom functions, use dirty language for bathroom functions, might insert something in body cavities but will stop if pain, may play house or doctor but play will mimic only what they’ve seen Toni Cavanaugh Johnson, Sexualized Children

# **Abnormal Sexual Behavior**

**(CSBI, Wm. Friedrich, Mayo Clinic)**

- **Placing child's mouth on sex part**
- **asking to engage in sex acts**
- **masturbating with object**
- **inserting objects in vagina/anus**
- **imitating intercourse**
- **making sexual sounds**
- **french kissing**

- undressing other people
- asking to watch sexually explicit television
- imitating sexual behavior with dolls

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## VIOLENCE AND ABUSE RELATED NEWS

[National Academies Release Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Report and Video](#) Posted by Karla Vaughn on 09/26/2013

# 4. MR training works



# Reasons for failure to report

- **Insufficient evidence**
- **Lack of certainty**
- **Belief report will cause additional harm**
- **Need to maintain good relationship with patients, clients, parents**
- **Ambiguity in some reporting laws**
- **Ignorance of the law**
- **Fear of retaliation**
- **Fear reporter's name will be revealed**
  - **(Kenny 2001; Bailey 1982)**

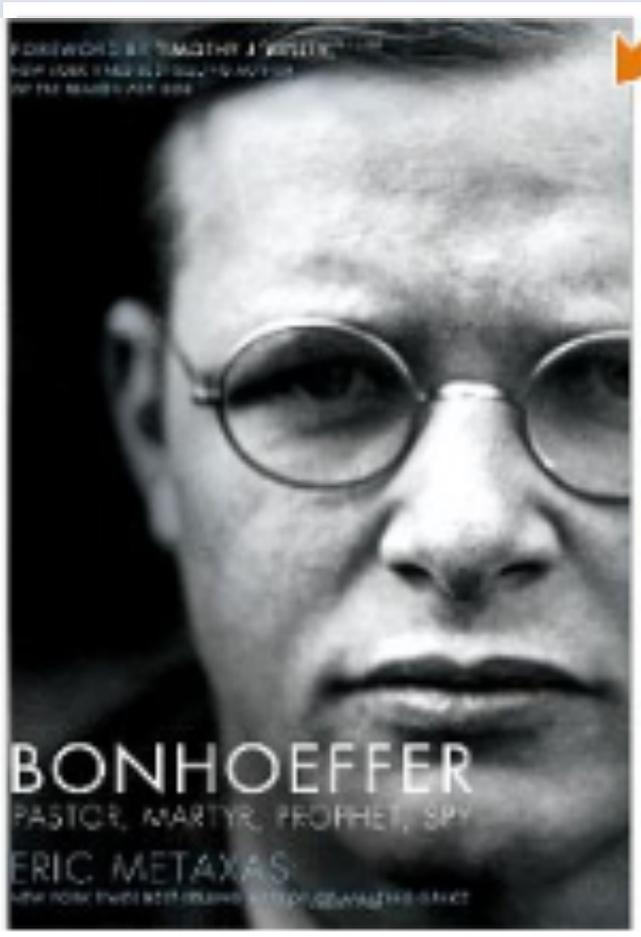
# Inadequate training at the heart of problem

- **57% of master's level social workers, pediatricians, physicians, & physicians assistants received less than 10 hours of training on mandated reporting**  
**(Delaronde, et. al. 2000)**
- **74% of teachers describe “minimal” or “inadequate” training in college and 58% claim “minimal” or “inadequate” training in the field**  
**(Kenny 2001)**
- **24% of reporters received no training; clear correlation between training and reporting.**  
**(NIS-4 2010)**

# Inadequate training in Pennsylvania

- **In a survey of 1,400 mandated reporters from 54 counties:**
    - **14% had never been trained**
    - **24% had not been trained in five years**
    - **80% suggested training received was inadequate (not approved for CEUs or not sure)**
- (Mandated Reporter Survey, Protect Our Children Committee)**

## 5. Make Everyone in a YSO a mandated reporter



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

**– Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer**

# Why this is important

- Those who abuse children count on our silence and they know most adults will look for any excuse not to make a report.
- For example, consider this recent e-mail:

# A recent e-mail

- **“A fellow youth worker confessed to me that, years ago, he had sexually abused a child and was investigated but no charges were brought. I told him I would have to tell our supervisor but he pointed out I was not a mandated reporter, that he would deny our conversation, and sue me for any consequences of such a disclosure. I’m worried he will abuse another child, but I don’t want to be sued or otherwise castigated. He is very popular with the children and the parents.”**
- **Perhaps if this worker were required by her organization to report, no matter what, she would be able to overcome her fears.**
- **If YSOs don’t report, what chance do children have?**

# BSA Mandated Reporting Policies

- “All persons involved in Scouting must report to local authorities any good faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. This duty cannot be delegated to any other person.” (emphasis added)
- “Immediately notify the Scout Executive of this report, or of any violation of BSA’s Youth Protection policies, so he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts, make appropriate notifications, and follow-up with investigating agencies.”

## **6. Faith based YSOs should take a lead in addressing spiritual abuse**

- This is because child abusers in these organizations frequently use a religious theme in the abuse of a child**
- Whether or not religion is overtly used, these children do not cope very well physically or emotionally unless they cope spiritually.**

# Faith and coping with abuse

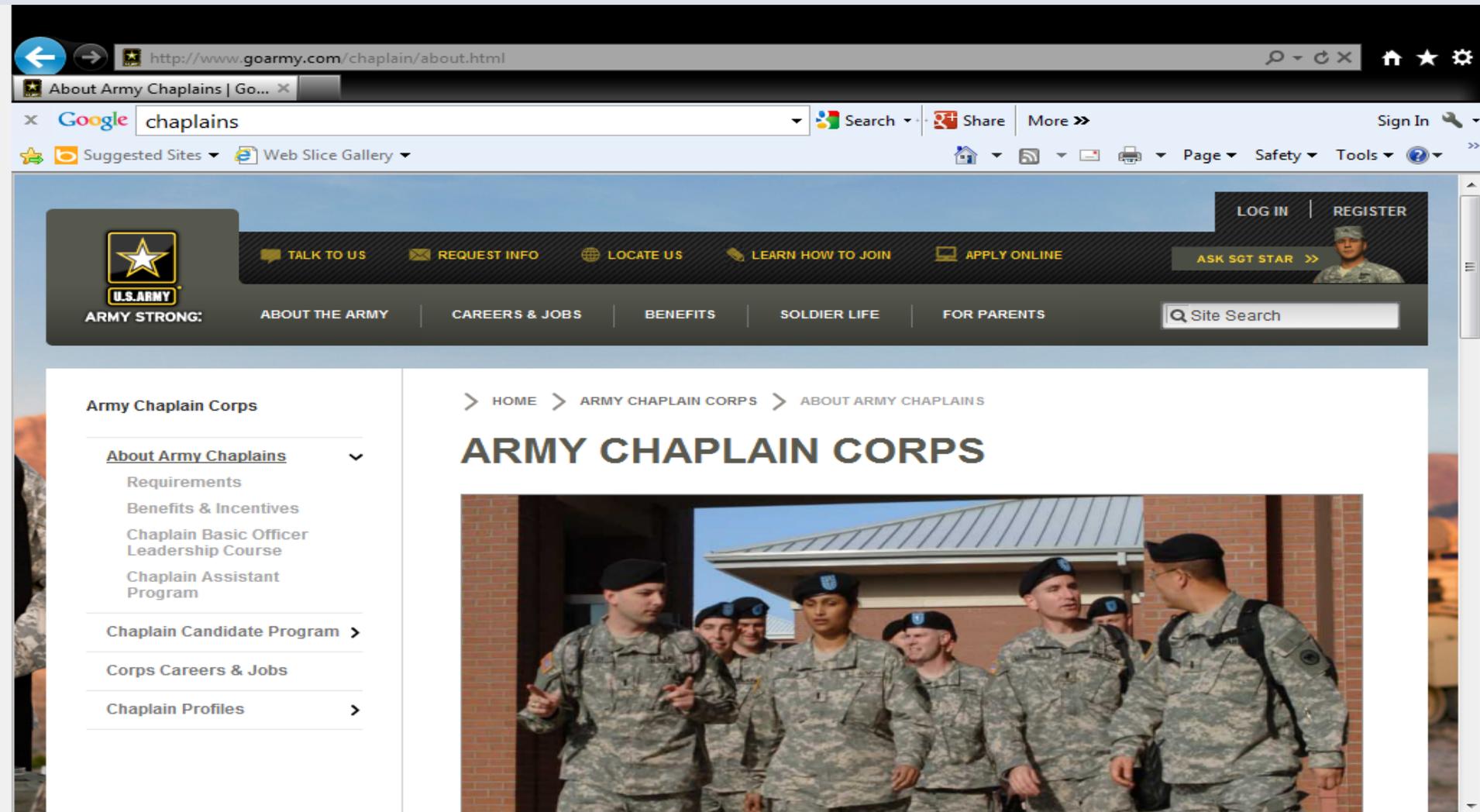
- Researchers have found a victim's "spiritual coping behavior" may play a positive or negative role in the ability to cope with the abuse
- Victims of severe abuse and very young victims are more likely to remain "stuck" in their spiritual development (i.e. remain angry with God)
- Nonetheless many 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)**

# 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



The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'About Army Chaplains' page on the goarmy.com website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/about.html'. The search bar contains the word 'chaplains'. The website's header features the U.S. Army logo and the slogan 'ARMY STRONG:'. Navigation links include 'TALK TO US', 'REQUEST INFO', 'LOCATE US', 'LEARN HOW TO JOIN', and 'APPLY ONLINE'. A 'Site Search' box is also present. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: '> HOME > ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS > ABOUT ARMY CHAPLAINS'. The title 'ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS' is prominently displayed above a large photograph of several Army chaplains in uniform standing in front of a brick building. A left-hand sidebar contains a menu for 'Army Chaplain Corps' with sub-items: 'About Army Chaplains' (expanded), 'Requirements', 'Benefits & Incentives', 'Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course', 'Chaplain Assistant Program', 'Chaplain Candidate Program', 'Corps Careers & Jobs', and 'Chaplain Profiles'.

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## ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS



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# Hospital chaplains

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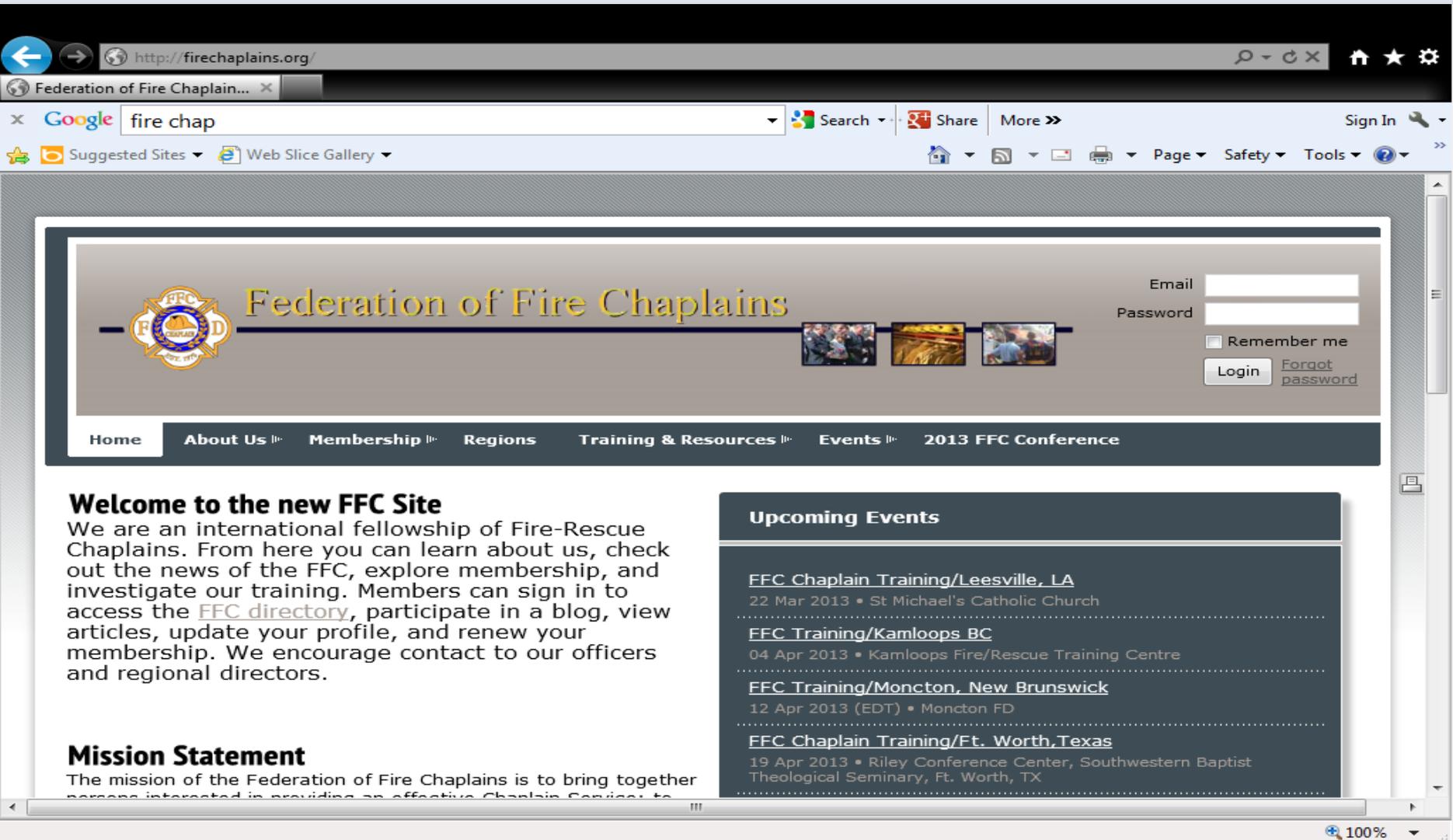
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# Fire department chaplains



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website for the Federation of Fire Chaplains. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://firechaplains.org/>. The search bar contains the text "fire chap". The website header features the FFC logo on the left, the title "Federation of Fire Chaplains" in the center, and a login form on the right with fields for "Email" and "Password", a "Remember me" checkbox, and "Login" and "Forgot password" buttons. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About Us", "Membership", "Regions", "Training & Resources", "Events", and "2013 FFC Conference". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a section titled "Welcome to the new FFC Site" with a paragraph of text, followed by a "Mission Statement" section. The right column has a section titled "Upcoming Events" with a list of three events, each with a date, location, and host.

**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

# Law enforcement chaplains

International Conference of... x

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## QUICKLINKS

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

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# Corporate chaplains

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Corporate Chaplains of America website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.chaplain.org/>. The search bar contains the text "corporate chaplains". The website header features the Corporate Chaplains International logo, a search bar, and a "Select Language" dropdown menu. A red navigation bar contains the following links: ABOUT, SERVICES, OWNERS, HR MANAGERS, FAQ, RESOURCES, CAREERS, and CONTACT. The main content area includes a large image of a woman in a blue shirt with the CCA logo, and three smaller featured articles:

- The CCA Story from the Founder/CEO, Dr. Mark Cress** (with a "MORE" link)
- Are you a business owner considering Corporate Chaplains?** (with a "MORE" link)
- Frequently asked questions from HR managers about chaplaincy** (with a "MORE" link)

The text "Offering Meaningful Hope" is overlaid on the bottom left of the main image. The browser's status bar at the bottom right shows a zoom level of 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**

## 8. Implement a “no hit zone” in all YSO facilities



# **Most children are hit (Gershoff 2008)**

- 85% of children physically punished prior to high school**
- 51% of all children have been hit with instruments**
- Approximately 2/3rds of parents report hitting children below the age of two (e.g. AP's son)**

# Let's remember how little these kids are



# **Harsher discipline is a significant risk factor**

- Harsh physical discipline (pushing, grabbing, shoving, slapping, and hitting) even in the absence of more severe maltreatment (broken bones, sexual abuse, etc) is associated with higher risks of cardiovascular disease, arthritis, obesity, history of family dysfunction, and mental disorders (Afifi, et al, 2013).**

# Some children die

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

comments 22

Like 684

Tweet 46

+1 18

Share 4

More +

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.

# **Even “mild” hitting is a risk factor**

**“Recent studies have suggested that a host of potentially harmful behavioral and psychological consequences may result from so-called ‘ordinary’ physical punishment. These negative outcomes include alcohol abuse, depression, suicidal thoughts, behavioral problems, low achievement, and future economic insecurity.” (Flynn 1996).**

# Many children are hit out of frustration

- 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

# The best that can be said about CP

- **“At its worst corporal punishment may have negative effects on children and at its best has no effects, positive or negative.” (Gershoff 2002)**

# Organizations discouraging CP

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Medical Association
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Academy on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Academy on Violence & Abuse (AVA)
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)
- Gundersen Health System

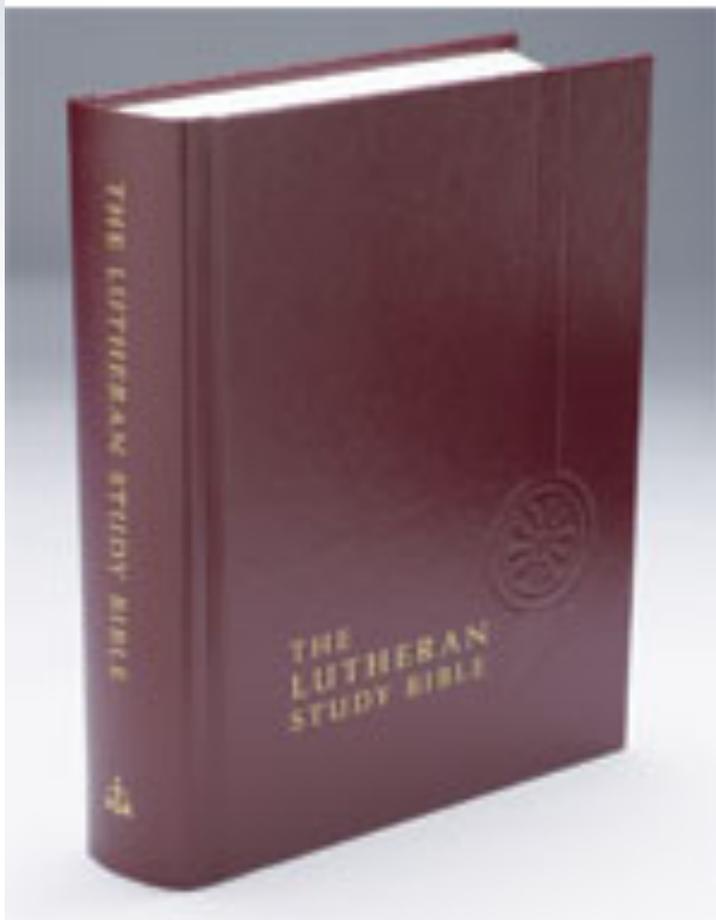
# Most YSOs prohibit CP

- **A no hit zone would create a conversation with parents as to why any form of hitting can be harmful and offer alternatives**
- **A no hit zone also applies to children hitting children and adults hitting adults (fits well with bullying policies)**
- **A no hit zone also educates our volunteers and workers about the impact of any form of violence**
- **Must be accompanied with training on how to intervene when violence is occurring or threatened**

# The resistance you will get

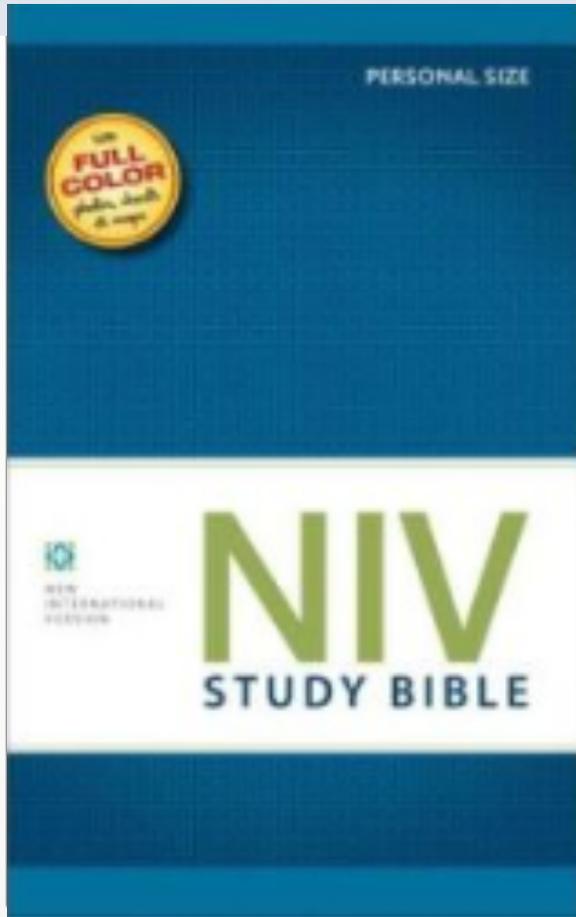
- “My parents hit me and I turned out just fine.”
  - Sometimes we didn’t turn out fine
  - If we did, it was mild CP and/or there were resiliency factors built into our life (i.e. self esteem)
  - It doesn’t mean our parents were abusive (bicycle helmets, seat belts, smoking, etc)
- “Spare the rod spoil the child”
  - Augustine, Martin Luther, D.L. Moody, Martin Luther King, numerous Jewish authorities discouraged the practice of hitting children

# Even conservative commentaries discourage the practice



“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 **GUNDERSEN** Large Catechism).

# And still more...

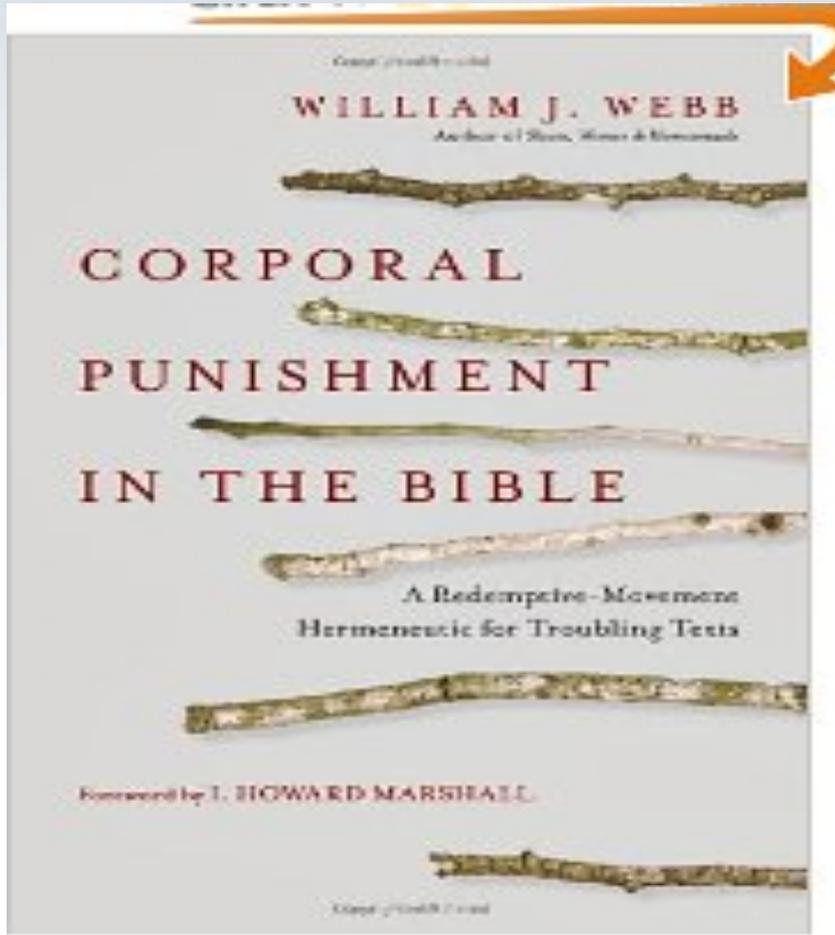


[Click product image for Larger View](#)

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

# William J. Webb

Many more verses about corporal punishment of adults (e.g. “A rod is for the back of a fool”) than children and yet we don’t advocate for the corporal punishment of adults.



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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

 SINGLE PAGE

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# 9. Research the children in our YSO



# The MN student survey

- All public school 9<sup>th</sup> graders were asked about various ACE experiences and characteristics
- What if we asked, in a confidential survey, all of the children in our organizations about possible ACE characteristics (smoking, alcohol or drug use, depression, etc) and asked them if they had endured various types of trauma and by who?
- We would perhaps have concrete data as to the prevalence of abuse among the children we serve, and could better target policies and training.
- Subsequent surveys, in turn, could measure

# 10. YSOs can build resilience



# What is resilience?

- Resilience has been used to describe behavior, intellect, emotional well-being, social functioning or all of the above (Houshyar, 2005)
- Between a third to half of all individuals who have experienced sexual abuse do not (or at least no longer) exhibit adult psychiatric or psychological problems and can therefore be referred to as 'resilient' (Fergusson & Mullen, 1999; McGloin & Widom, 2001)

# What makes a child resilient?

- **Perceived social support and social reactions to abuse can influence mental health outcomes and recovery from trauma (Futa et al, 2003; Krause, Kaltman, Goodman, & Dutton, 2008; Ullman, Filipas, Townsend, & Starzynski, 2007)**
- **Accordingly, if a YSO is supportive of a child making an outcry, this may build resiliency**

# Healthy relationships & emotional support

- The ability to find supportive relationships outside of the family helps overcome the aftermath of abuse (Lauterbach et al., 2007)
- The availability of emotional support at the time of the abuse will strengthen the ability of an individual to draw support from others in adulthood, thereby engendering resilient functioning (Collishaw et al., 2007)
- If YSO's respond compassionately to an abused child, and provide one or more healthy relationships with adults or peers, this builds resiliency

# Strong family dynamics

- A study with hundreds of university students who had experienced childhood abuse found that family characteristics (family conflict or cohesion) affected resilience in adult life far more than the length or type of abuse people had suffered (McClure, Chavez, Agars, Peacock, & Matosian, 2007)
- To the extent YSOs build stronger family dynamics, we are also building

# Laughter and imagination

- **Outgoing personality, good sense of humor, strong intellect, an active imagination decrease risk factors (Pickering, Farmer, & McGuffin, 2004).**
- **To the extent YSO's make a child's personality stronger or encourage his or her imagination and intellect, even humor, we are building resiliency.**

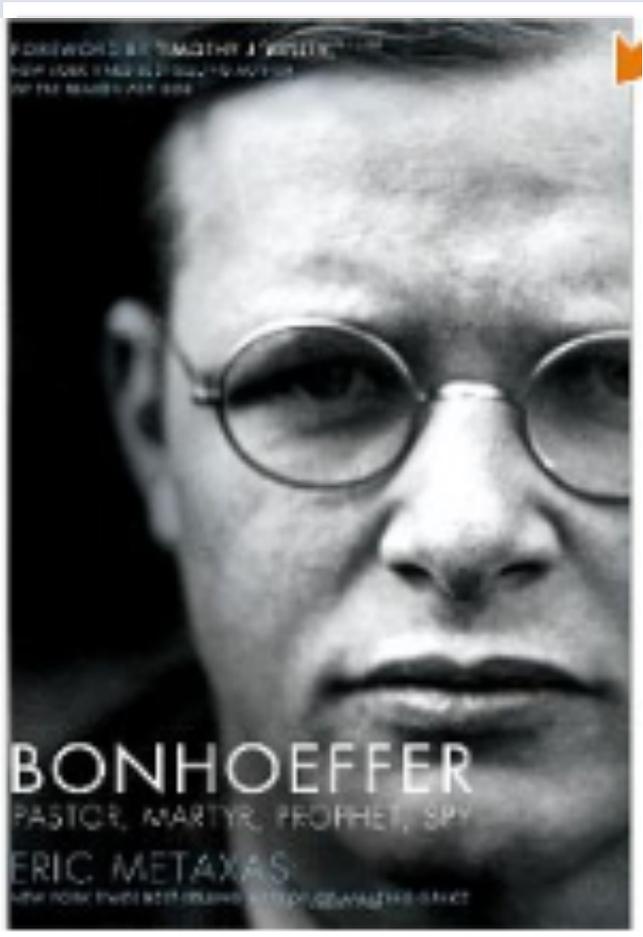
# Boy's Life Magazine

- What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
- Snowflakes

# Self esteem

- **Research suggests that high self-esteem, external attributions of blame, and individuals' coping strategies all predict more positive outcomes (see Collishaw et al., 2007).**
- **To the extent YSOs build self esteem and coping strategies, and reinforce that children are not to be blamed for abuse, we are building resiliency**

**“Till the night be passed”**



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

**– Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer**

***Together, we can  
end child abuse***

*Embracing Hope*

