

Careline newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MARCH 2019

A Great Sin Sickness Among Us: Addressing Sexual Abuse In The Church

Sexual abuse is a disturbing issue, but even more so when it comes to children and those who we might categorize as belonging to our vulnerable populations. Pastor Dennis speaks out this month on this difficult topic.

In light of all the news reports in recent days about the sexual abuse cases that have happened in Southern Baptist Churches, which harkens everyone's memory immediately back to the Catholic Church scandal, I feel we must talk about this openly and often, or at least as often as needed. Even as late as this week, as I write this article, a Bible Church close by in a neighboring city has experienced the heartbreak of discovering that a Youth Minister has acted inappropriately with 7th & 8th grade boys, and at our own San Marcos High School, a basketball coach has been accused of abusing a 17 year old student. This is happening at an alarming rate and volume, all around us. We cannot be caught unawares or avoid talking about it because it's "icky." Yes, it's uncomfortable, shocking, and disgusting in nature, but I want you to know where we stand on this issue here at Calvary Baptist Church. Rest assured that we are taking every measure to protect our children that we possible can. I pray I will never have to find myself in a position to explain why something like this happened here at our church. However, that being said, I also want

to state very clearly that we have a **ZERO tolerance** policy for this activity in our congregation. This can only be true as long as we all do our part. We have a vetting process in place for those who wish to work with our children and teenagers. This process is part of "gatekeeping" our ministries to vulnerable populations so that our children are not being preyed upon by people wanting to get close to them for nefarious reasons. Every person that works with minors must be vetted and have gone through Ministry Safe training. This valuable training, which many of us have already taken, is designed not only to help all of us recognize behavior that is problematic or potentially harmful, but also to understand our duty to report it, to speak out to someone, to talk about it. It also serves to speak loudly to any potential or latent abuser among us that we are aware, we are watching, and we will not hesitate to take measures to protect our children or take legal action against an abuser that has harmed a child or minor.

Pastor's article continued page 2

Mark Your Calendars

- 03.01—Youth Campout**
- 03.17—Kids Praise Sunday
No PM Activities**
- 03.19—Kids to Rio Vista**
- 03.21—Kids to Glass
Factory & Lunch**
- 03.21—03.23 Youth Spring
Break Trip to
Garner St. Park**
- 03.30— Parents Night Out**
- 03.31—Baptism Sunday AM**



Pastor's article continued

As a father and a grandfather, who has experienced this in my own family, I can tell you that the devastation that occurs in the heart and mind of a victim continues for many years. In most cases, it will skew the victim's view of sexuality, the way they process information about sexual health, and can damage them in other ways psychologically and emotionally beyond just the immediate childhood or adolescent experience of the abuse itself. In Luke 17:1-2, we see that the moral or spiritual downfall we bring on another is often worse than our own sin: "Then He said to the disciples, 'It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.'" While this verse is commonly interpreted to mean "whoa" to anyone who would bring sin or introduce another to immorality that is younger in the faith, I believe this verse can also be readily applied to the situation of an abuser (even if they were once a victim themselves) who introduces a child or a young person to things, particularly sexual in nature, for which the victim is adversely affected. You can see how the Lord Jesus Himself feels (see "millstone around the neck") about sinful behavior being passed on, much like a sickness, from one person to others, particularly those who are vulnerable.

One of the best "immunizations" against this particular sin sickness for our kids is awareness. Parents, grandparents, and guardians of children and teens, must **talk** about this with them. They *must* understand and have a plan, before anything occurs, about where they will draw a line when confronted with this behavior. Talk to your children about inappropriate touch versus appropriate forms of affection or physical touch. We have a pamphlet on this specific topic available to you and your family. If you have specific issues or questions, feel free to talk to me or one of our staff who have been trained. The next level of defense is for all those at CBC who have influence in the lives of our children, teens, and what we call "other vulnerable populations." We must not be afraid to address the issue in situations where it is appropriate to do so with a group of kids or teens. Parents must always be informed when this will happen, or has happened, and if possible, be invited to be present. We say, "if possible," because a child or teen may speak to a ministry leader or staff person here at CBC before they talk to a parent. But we will inform parents immediately when this happens.

In light of this information, I will state here that all those that work with children or teenagers at CBC, **MUST** follow our 4 step vetting process which includes: 1) A screening process comprised of a face to face interview, personal written testimony, and a 6 month period of faithful attendance as a member

in good standing, 2) Ongoing Ministry Safe training courses on sexual abuse and grooming behaviors, 3) Criminal background checks, and 4) Policies and procedural compliance including signing an agreement to abide by our Sexual Abuse Policy Guidelines. This is not a request, it is a **requirement**. We cannot be lax in our duty to preserve the safety of kids and also to keep EVERYTHING we do with children and teens above board, legally, morally, and spiritually. We want the peace of mind that we are at least endeavoring to do all that we can do to protect our children. We do need qualified, vetted, and trained workers that are willing to step up to the plate, go through the process and work with our children and teens. Our latest sermon series, entitled "I WILL," bids us all to step up and out, to elevate serving the Body as paramount in importance to our Christian walk. We are all called to be busy about Kingdom-building. Much of this happens in our day to day lives, but what happens in Kingdom-building here at CBC should never leave people vulnerable to abuse. I hope we are all clear on this point and that we will be unified as a Body on this very crucial issue.

"We are committed to believing victims, advocating for them, and providing resources for support and counseling where needed."

If you have encountered sexual abuse, I want to encourage you to get some help. If you can't afford it or aren't sure where to start, feel free to contact us and we will help. If you have encountered sexual abuse here at Calvary, **we need to know about it!** Please, *please* report it to someone. To not report something you know to have happened or something that you experienced yourself is to pass it along to another victim. We are committed to believing victims, advocating for them, and providing resources for support and counseling where needed. Feel free to contact me or one of the staff members at anytime. If you see something suspicious as you observe someone who works with or interacts with children or teens here at Calvary, *please* let us know so the matter can be addressed and dealt with swiftly.

Lastly, if you are a person who has a sexual dysfunction toward children or teens, perhaps because you were victimized at one time, perhaps for other reasons, PLEASE know that we believe God has grace for you too. Although our priority is the safety and well-being of our vulnerable populations, we want you to know firstly, that you need to face the consequences of any damage you have caused. Help others keep children safe by confessing your problem, and get help. There may be legal consequences to your actions, but the Lord can love you and redeem your life anywhere and anytime. The most important thing is that you stop damaging others, immediately.

Lord, give us Your wisdom as we teach, train and reach people for Christ. We pray Your hand of protection upon our young, and help us to be the gate keepers we need to be here at Calvary. Amen.

Because of Christ,
Bro. Dennis

Acts 20:28

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

Resources for Families

www.d2l.org

www.stopitnow.org

www.RAINN.org

www.focusonthefamily.com

www.nctsn.org

Resources listed do not necessarily hold Christian/Biblical worldview. Parents must check the information on these sites themselves.



**ONE IN 10 CHILDREN
WILL BE SEXUALLY ABUSED
BEFORE AGE 18**



Of children who are
SEXUALLY ABUSED

20% are
abused
before
the
age
of



Statistics are taken from a non-profit organization called Darkness to Light.

www.d2l.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Julie Harris 8 AM Fisher of Men Breakfast-Solid Rock
3 Mikki Boswell Regular AM & PM Schedule	4 2 PM Life Care Creations 7 PM Outreach/Visitation	5 <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	6 Regular Schedule	7 Jessica Sandoval 6:30 PM Praise Team & Band Rehearsal	8	9
10 Suzanne Pagan Harold Scroggins Regular AM & PM Schedule	11 Rhonda Emrick 7 PM Outreach/Visitation	12 <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	13 Briella McDaris Regular Schedule	14 6:30 PM Praise Team & Band Rehearsal	15	16 7:30 AM CBC Men's Breakfast
17  KP Sunday Regular AM Schedule NO PM ACTIVITIES	18 2 PM Life Care Creations 7 PM Outreach/Visitation	19 Aimee Doring Calvary Kids to Rio Vista <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	20 Regular Schedule	21 Daniel Montemayer Diana Turnini Calvary Kids to Glass Factory And Lunch	22 Youth Spring Break Trip Garner State Park	
24 Regular AM/PM Schedule	25 7 PM Outreach/Visitation	26 <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	27 Regular Schedule	28 Eric Sandoval 6:30 PM Praise Team & Band Rehearsal	29 Bill Lyon Fredrick Edison Rusty Emrick	30 5—9 PM Parents Night Out
31  Baptism Sunday Regular AM/PM Schedule						

UPCOMING ...

2019 Easter Initiative

The Spring/Lent/Easter/Passover season approaches! As the season comes into swing, we are mobilizing to use fliers, posters, invite cards, and even lawn signs to advertise and invite neighbors, co-workers, and friends to join us for Good Friday evening and Easter Sunday morning services. When you see these materials set out for you to take, grab them and hit the streets! Let's be ready and equipped to invite those whom God sends our way! These materials will be available March 10 at Kiosk #1.



Parents' Night Out 3.30 5-9 PM

Parents, enjoy a night out or some time to yourselves knowing your children are well-cared for and having fun! FREE! Food will be provided.

This event is limited to church members and VIPS invited as guests by church members. For our planning, please sign up on Sign-up sheets placed in Children's Areas. Please notify us if your child has food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Contact Church Office @ 512-353-8540

TUESDAYS - 6 PM

CR | CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Contact Bob Moe
at bob@calvarysanmarcos.com



LifeCare Creations is in need of Artisans, Craftsman, Artists, and those willing to make beautiful and useful things for individuals & families facing unplanned pregnancy.

Check out KIOSK #3 in the auditorium to see examples of what's been made.

Join us! 1st and 3rd Mondays @ 2:00 PM
Contact Diana Owen @ 512-787-8497



RightNow Media is a library of Bible teaching by trusted sources, family-friendly programs, and so much more! We subscribe to this incredibly useful and educational resource. If you have not yet received an invitation via email, or have lost track of your invitation, contact rosanna@calvarysanmarcos.com so we can get you connected!

All Men Welcome

FISHERS OF MEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 @ 8:00 AM

Meeting at Solid Rock Church

COMMUNITY-WIDE MEN'S BREAKFAST

MIEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Third Saturday of the Month

FAITH, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Cafe de Lorenzo's, 3/16 @ 7:30 AM



Wednesdays

Dinner service is from 5:30—6:30 PM
Adults—\$4.00 Kids—\$2.00
Students—\$2.00
\$10.00 maximum for families

NEW MENU EVERY WEEK
(Take-Out Boxes Available)



Nursery Ministry Volunteers Needed

Looking for a place to serve? Calvary Kids has lots of ways you can serve to be a part of making a difference in a child's life. There is a vetting process for this ministry. If you're feeling called to work in this area, please contact Emma McDaris @ 210-557-2340 or emma@calvarysanmarcos.com