

Domestic Abuse & The Church's Response

Presented by *Counseling Associates of Greater Manchester*

Hosted by the Londonderry Clergy's Association

Date: Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 9am until 12:15pm

Location: United Methodist Church, 258 Mammoth Rd, Londonderry

Cost: \$50 per church for up to three attendees

Registration: Contact Michelle Wright, MA at Counseling Associates via phone (603-471-0811) or email (mwright@nlcounselingassociates.com)

Overview: Research tells us that abuse occurs within one out of every four committed, romantic relationships. Whether married or not, whether church affiliated or not, whether heterosexual or homosexual, 25% of intimate partnerships will experience abuse. Some of the abuse wounds the body and threatens physical death. All of the abuse wounds the spirit and threatens emotional, relational, and spiritual death. God cares deeply when those He dearly loves are abused and mistreated. (Is 61:1-3; Lk 4:18-19; Mt 25:34-46) He expects his church to respond. Understanding the dynamics of domestic abuse is a critical first step to preventing, responding to, and, with God's help, eliminating abuse in couples and families. The church is uniquely positioned to engage in this work.

Seminar Topics:

1. Dynamics of Domestic Abuse--Perspective of a Survivor and a Domestic Violence Specialist. Topics include
 - ▷ Personal testimony including teen dating violence, "date rape", stalking, domestic violence and child abuse
 - ▷ Vocabulary and Definitions critical to know when researching and discussing the topic
 - ▷ Statistics surrounding the who, what, where, when, and how of domestic abuse to help portray a picture based on the current reality of our society
 - ▷ Dynamics of abusive relationships and personalities—once we understand the dynamics of an issue, we address it more effectively
2. The Church's Response--Perspective of a Mental Health Counselor and Marriage & Family Therapist trained in the Integration of Christian Theology with Psychology. Topics include
 - ▷ Theological considerations—Is it possible that certain theological perspectives can encourage abuse while others discourage it?
 - ▷ Practical considerations—Dos and Don'ts that can either help or hinder
 - ▷ Proactive steps and interventions churches can take now
 - ▷ Treatment Considerations—what churches need to know to facilitate the process

Resources provided to each attendee

- ▷ Shades of Gray: The Many Faces of Abuse
- ▷ The Batterer as Partner and Parent
- ▷ Children Who Witness Domestic Violence
- ▷ Why Doesn't She Just Leave
- ▷ List and contact information for local resources and services

Presenters

Michelle Wright, MA in Counseling and recent Graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, will act as your host as well as one of the two seminar presenters. Michelle is an employee of Counseling Associates and a candidate for licensure in New Hampshire as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor. She has specialized training in Marriage & Family therapy, the integration of Christian faith within the counseling relationship and supporting victims (and their families) of domestic abuse. Michelle earned her Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Michelle is passionate about helping strengthen marriages; equipping parents with effective skills; encouraging men, women, and adolescents in identity development; supporting those faced with infertility, bereavement, loss, or trauma; and partnering with those wounded in faith-based environments.

Counseling Associates has invited **Kathy Jones**, a sought after speaker on the topic of Intimate Partner Violence, to bring her unique perspective as a Domestic Abuse Survivor as well as a Domestic Violence Specialist. As a mature, committed Christian who suffered abuse while active in a local congregation, Kathy's viewpoint and experiences provide a unique learning opportunity for the church. Kathy has been with A Safe Place for 12 years as a Domestic Violence Specialist acting as a liaison to the Division of Children, Youth and Families in Salem as well as performing a variety of other roles from victim advocacy and community education to statistics research and policy writing. In 2006, she was co-awarded a grant through the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women to develop a six-part "best Practice" series of trainings to educate child protection workers about domestic violence.