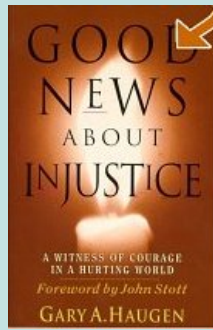


## UPCOMING TRAINING - RESOURCES - SUPPORT



**Good News About Injustice**  
Gary A Haugen

Author Gary A. Haugen is president and CEO of International Justice Mission.

Gary became deeply involved in issues of international justice after participating in the UN investigation of genocide in Rwanda.

Gary's book is a thoroughly Christian look at injustice in our world, the God who hates injustice, and what God's people can do to be a part of the struggle for justice.

### VICTIM ADVOCATE TRAINING

May 3, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
May 17, 8:30 a.m.-3:00p.m.

Calvary Chapel, Boise

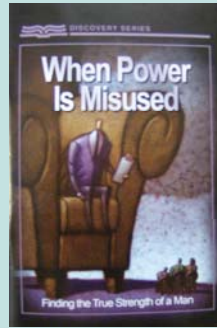
\$40 single registration  
\$10 covers lunch for both dates

This 16-hour training is designed to help equip church and community leaders to understand and support victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.

**For more information or to make reservations please call or e-mail us at**

**323-2169 or [splace@spro.net](mailto:splace@spro.net)**

**When Power is Misused: Finding The True Strength Of a Man**  
Jeff Olson



Beginning with the premise that man's strength is a reflection of God's strength and therefore good, the author looks at the ways men are tempted to misuse their strength and hurt others in the process.

Olson focuses on the need for men to discover and deepen a God-given desire to use their strength in ways that protect and come through for others.

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SPM, P. O. Box 4892, Boise, ID 83711, or call 208-323-2169.

An annual tax deductible gift of \$10.00 is welcome to help cover expenses.

## SAFE PLACE NEWS

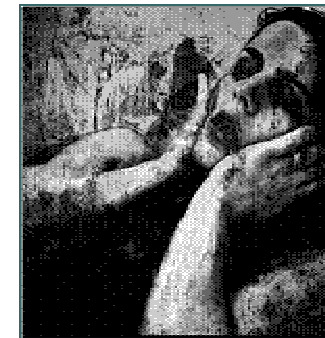
Promoting safe places, consistent with the character of Christ,  
for women and their families to heal and grow.

Issue 33

April 2008

## UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Excerpted from SPM's Introduction to Domestic Abuse for Church Leaders



Domestic abuse is abuse within a home, or within a family. Most of the time, when we speak of domestic abuse, we are referring to abuse between the adult partners in a home. Other terms for domestic abuse include spousal abuse, marital abuse, or intimate partner abuse. In 95% of heterosexual relationships the male is the abuser and the female, the victim.

**Domestic abuse is a pattern of coercive control that one domestic partner exercises over the other in order to dominate and get their own way .**

*It is estimated that one in four women, in each church community, are being, or have been abused by their partners.<sup>1</sup>*

*Research also reveals that Christian homes and marriages mirror the high rates of domestic abuse present in the general society.<sup>2</sup>*

Domestic abuse is about using control, not losing control. While it may seem as though such things as a difficult childhood, substance abuse or stress may be factors leading to abusive behavior, none of these things in fact cause abusive behavior. Exploitive control and domination are at the center of domestic abuse. Beliefs, not internal or external pressures, define and drive the wide variety of abusive behaviors an abuser may use.

Abusers learn the beliefs and behaviors associated with abuse in the society in which they live, in the families they grow up in and through individual experiences.

- Abusers **believe** that other people are responsible for their feelings, behaviors, and problems.
- Abusers **believe** they have the right to overpower other people in order to get their own desires met.
- Abusers often **believe** they are the real victims in the relationship.

While men who abuse their partners have many things in common, they are of course individuals with individual versions of the basic beliefs we have identified, and with many different

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*Ps 55:4,5,12,13,21*

## ANNUAL DESSERT RESULTS

A good time was had at this year's annual dessert by a record breaking number of guests (over 150). Lots of visiting and sharing about SPM was interspersed with silent auction bidding, mini mart purchases, and balloon popping! Over \$8,000 was raised through these fun events and 12 additional donations were made by guests to our Campus Project. This year's lucky winner of the Quilt Raffle was Tessa Lancaster of Ontario, Oregon.

Thanks to all who helped make the Dessert a success and to all who attended.



## GIVING FOR OPERATIONS DOWN IN

Individual donations to our operating budget are down about 30% thus far in 2008. We would appreciate your prayers and support. One easy way to help would be to become an Albertsons' Community Partner.



Safe Place Ministries is an Albertsons' Community Partner. Add Safe Place Ministries to your Preferred Savings Card and earn money for the ministry every time you shop! Simply go to [www.albertsons.com/cp/](http://www.albertsons.com/cp/), select one of the login options, enter your Preferred Savings Card information, click login and then go to My Account. Select Add a Partner and enter the following 11 digit number: 490001219776. You are able to add up to four different Community Partners to your account plus decide the percentage of allocation each Community Partner will receive from your purchases.

If you have any questions about Albertsons' Community Partner program you can visit their information center.

## RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE Some Guidelines For Church Leaders

1. Be prepared to get involved.
2. Provide **safety** and support for the victim.
3. Provide **accountability** and support for the abuser.
4. Network with other resources.
5. Follow through.

**Do not attempt to counsel the abuser and his partner together.** His partner will not feel safe enough to be honest. The abuser will not be honest and he will tend to use what he hears in counseling against his partner after they leave.

**Do listen to her story and validate her feelings.** Even if you know her partner and have a hard time believing he would do what she is telling you, keep an open mind and give her an opportunity to tell her story.

**Do not tell an abuser what his partner has shared** or confront an abuser without making sure that his partner and family are safe.

**Do be supportive but do not tell the victim what to do.** Give her options and information that will help her to make decisions on her own.

**Do not directly or indirectly blame the victim** for the abuser's behavior (pray more, be more submissive, not provoke him).

**Do encourage and help the victim to be safe** whether she stays with the abuser or decides to leave.

**Do tell the abuser that you care about him,** that you want to support him, and that it is unacceptable for him to continue to abuse his partner in any way.

**Do refer the abuser to a professional** who understands and is experienced in the field of domestic abuse.

**Do not be confused by the abuser's promises to change.** Be patient and wait for him to demonstrate genuine changes in attitudes and behavior over an extended period of time.

**Do not encourage reconciliation too soon.** If the abuser has truly changed and wants to do what is necessary to restore the relationship, he will be willing to wait as long as it takes to rebuild trust and prove himself.

## Understanding Domestic Abuse *continued from page 1*

combinations of behaviors that they choose to use in order to control/dominate their partners. Abusers may use anger, blaming, name calling, put downs, manipulation, threats, humiliation, coercion, physical violence, sexual abuse, spiritual abuse, and many other techniques to control their partner and get their own way.

Domestic abuse typically, but not always, follows a **pattern** referred to as "**The Cycle of Violence**". This cycle is identified by three phases that tend to repeat themselves, with some variation, over and over. The *first* phase is the tension-building phase, a time when the abuser becomes more irritable, impatient and blaming, and his partner feels she is "walking on eggshells". Phase *two* is the acute phase. This phase is characterized by an increase in the severity of the abuse. During this phase the victim may flee, seek medical care or tell someone about the abuse. The *third* phase is usually called the "honeymoon phase". It is characterized by relative calm and sometimes apologies and promises by the abuser. But the intent of the "honeymoon phase" is to maintain the relationship as it is, and to keep the woman from leaving or changing. It's no wonder the victim feels both relief and confusion.

**Patterns** in abusive relationships do vary and are connected to the abusers beliefs, their individual versions of what it means to get their own way, and the degree to which they lack a sense of personal well-being, for which they usually blame their partners.

If and when an abuser includes physical assault, sexual assault or "forced imprisonment" in the tactics that he uses to control his partner, he is not only guilty of domestic abuse, he is also guilty of the crime of "**domestic violence**". In Idaho, the legal definition of domestic violence involves two components: first, a domestic relationship (spouse, former spouse, persons related by blood or marriage, persons living together, or who have lived together, couples who have a child together, and minors in dating relationships), and secondly, the act or threat of physical injury, sexual assault, or forced imprisonment. Forced imprisonment includes such things as restricting someone's movement, locking them in a room, blocking a doorway or taking away car keys.

- 75% of all violence in America occurs in the home.<sup>3</sup>
- Abuse by a husband or partner is the leading cause of injury to American women between the ages of 15 and 45.

Any abusive relationship can become physically or sexually violent. It is important when dealing with domestic abuse to keep this in mind and take appropriate measures to insure the safety of any vulnerable women and/or children.

It is also important to remember that while the threat of physical violence increases the need for physical safety, physical violence is not the only variable involved in assessing the seriousness of a situation. Many women claim that the wounds that go unseen hurt the most. These involve the sting of betrayal, feelings of powerlessness, a loss of freedom, and a suppression of dignity.<sup>4</sup> Domestic abuse is serious and destructive with or without the presence of physical violence.

<sup>1</sup>Domestic Violence Among Believers, Branson and Silva, Christian Counseling Today, 2005 Vol. 13 No. 3

<sup>2</sup>Mending the Soul, by Steven Tracy, pg 14

<sup>3</sup>Primary Prevention of Child Abuse, American Family Physician, March 15, 1999

<sup>4</sup>When Violence Comes Home, RBC Booklet, pg 8

*Denial of abuse in the family is widespread; people prefer to cling to the image of the family as an institution representing the best of human interaction: nurturance, love, support, protection, and comfort among family members. It is painful to admit that the home is a dangerous place and that people have a greater chance of being assaulted and battered, sexually abused, raped, or killed in the home by other family members than by strangers on the streets. This is perhaps especially painful for deeply religious people to admit to themselves or others.*

**Abuse and Religion**  
Horton/Williamson

*Then I looked again at all the acts of oppression which were being done under the sun. And behold I saw the tears of the oppressed and that they had no one to comfort them; and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they had no one to comfort them.*

**Ecclesiastes 4:1**