

Collaborations

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Volume 10, April, 2005

Books and Videos on Women's & Children's Victimization Issues and Spirituality

(The following is a brief outline of resources available on "Collaborative project" related topics, compiled by project consultant Janice Lord)

Unless otherwise noted, the materials reviewed below are available from the *FaithTrust Institute* in Seattle Washington, which has been serving religious and community groups throughout the world since 1977. *FaithTrust Institute* works with many cultures, including Asian and Pacific Islander, African American, Latino/a, and Indigenous. A diverse range of faith communities – including Jewish, Roman Catholic Christian, Protestant Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, and Indigenous – utilize their resources.

FaithTrust Institute's vision is that together, we can ensure that:

- Religious institutions are pivotal in creating a climate of intolerance for abuse;
- Our faith communities are sanctuaries of safety worthy of our trust; and that
- Justice and healing are achieved.

The staff at *FaithTrust Institute* is available for training seminars and keynote presentations in your area. Subjects include spiritual aspects of

- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Sexual violence



“One person can make a difference—and every person should try.” Stephanie Roper

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- Sexual abuse by clergy
- Sexual abuse of women and children in Pacific Rim countries
- Asian and Pacific Islander domestic violence and immigration issues
- Domestic violence in Jewish families
- Peaceful Families Project addressing domestic violence in Muslim communities

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Domestic Violence

Multi-Faith Resources

What Every Congregation Needs to Know about Domestic Violence (brochure)

This brochure for Christian and Jewish faith communities, battered women's programs, and human service providers answers basic questions about domestic violence and explains what church and synagogue members can do individually and collectively to address it in their congregations. Sold in packages of 25 for \$12.50 (\$10 for five or more packages), it is available in **English** (Order #TC-303), **Chinese** (Order #TC 303C), **Korean** (Order TC 303K), **Laotian** (Order TC 303L), **Spanish** (Order #TC 303S), and **Vietnamese** (Order # TC 303V). It is also available on disc in English for your own printing for \$100 (Order # TC 303B).

Broken Vows: Religious Perspectives on Domestic Violence (video)

Introduced by a Christian pastor and Jewish rabbi, this color video presents the stories of six battered women – Jewish, Roman Catholic Christian, and Protestant Christian. One woman is a Caucasian professor at a Christian Evangelical college; one was an African-American protestant pastor's wife; one is a Hispanic Catholic; one is a Native American Christian, one is Jewish, and one is Caucasian Protestant. They explain their struggle to remain faithful to their spiritual heritage and, as the same time, learn how to take a stand against what is clearly wrong. Their stories are interspersed with Catholic and Protestant pastors and rabbis who understand that their faiths do not condone violence and offer support to women who experience it. A key point echoed by several of the faith leaders is that violence breaks the covenant of marriage long before separation or divorce is considered. The video includes Part I (37 minutes) and Part II (22 minutes) so it can be used on separate occasions. It is also available in **Spanish** and in **Open Captioned Format**. Order V-300 for \$139 purchase or \$50 rental. This fee includes a 40-page Study/Discussion Guide and a package of 25 *What Every Congregation Needs to Know About Domestic Violence* brochures.

Forgiveness and Abuse: Jewish and Christian Reflections

Edited by Rev. Dr. Marie Fortune and Dr. Joretta Marshall

Recently published in 2004, this book looks deeply and thoroughly into the meaning of forgiveness and what it requires. It explores theological, psychological, and ethical aspects of forgiveness in the Jewish and Christian traditions within the context of abuse. Only 152 pages long, this book will educate the seriously faithful victims of violence about their faith tradition's expectations surrounding the difficult topic of forgiveness. Order # FAA for \$19.95 plus postage and shipping.

Love: All that and More

This product is a set of three videos and a six-session 50-minute each curriculum designed to inform high school and college age youth about what makes healthy relationships. To increase their awareness about abuse, and to motivate them to seek relationships based on equality and mutual respect. The videos include (1) *What Do You Want?* (22 minutes); (2) *Lets Talk about Sex* (19 minutes); and *Putting It All Together* (23 minutes). Separate facilitators' guides are available for Christian youth and Jewish youth. Twenty sets of notebook dividers and handouts for the students are included. Order # VS-400 for a purchase price of \$285 plus shipping and handling.

Family Violence and Religion: An Interfaith Resource Guide

Compiled by the Staff of Volcano Press

This 300-page hardback publication (1995) is more an academic resource than a practical tool for victims. The book's value lies in its diversity, with sections on alcohol abuse and domestic violence, domestic violence in rural areas, Asian-American patriarchies, an African-American perspective on domestic violence, cultural issues for Hispanic-American battered women, elderly battered women, and Christian and Jewish perspectives on abuse. One of the most valuable sections of the book for Jews and Christians is a three-page chapter titled "The Rod of Guidance" which explains that, in Hebrew, the "rod" was used by shepherds to care for and guide the sheep – never to hit them. It lists various ways the rod was used to protect the sheep from harm. This book (Order # FVR) is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

Risking Connection: A Training Curriculum for Clergy

Karen W. Saakvitne, Sarah Gamble, Laurie Anne Pearlman, and Beth Tabor Lev

This curriculum for multi-faith clergy is a revision of an earlier curriculum, ***Risking Connection: A Training Curriculum for Working with Survivors of Childhood Abuse***. The curriculum may be ordered or Sidran Institute offers the training which can be tailored to meet the needs of individual agencies. For more information, go to Sidran's website: www.sidran.org

Jewish Resources

You Are Not Alone: Solace and Inspiration for Domestic Violence Survivors Based on Jewish Wisdom

By Toby Landesman

Domestic violence occurs within all streams of Judaism: Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform, Renewal, and among Jews who do not identify with any particular Movement. For Jewish domestic violence victims and the professionals who help them, this book informs about the problem and explains what Judaism says about it. A very useful Appendix informs victims and faith leaders about how to develop a Safety Plan, people and places that can help, and national hotlines, agencies, and websites. Recently published in 2004, the book (Order #YANA) is \$18.00 plus shipping and handling.

To Save a Life: Ending Domestic Violence in Jewish Families (video)

The long tradition of valuing family life in Judaism makes it difficult to believe that the percentage of Jewish women who are abused is as high as in other populations. Designed specifically for abused Jewish women, this 35-minute color video features several Jewish women who share their abuse experiences (one of them, Jae, is also in *Broken Vows*, mentioned above). Five rabbis appear in the video, each one emphasizing that a Jew's primary obligation is to preserve life, including the victim's own life and the lives of her children (*Whoever saves a single life has saved a entire universe*. Talmud) The video provides information about abuse in Jewish families and a comprehensive discussion of theological issues such as *shalom bayit* (household harmony), forgiveness and atonement. It points out that it is not only the wife's responsibility to maintain household harmony, but the husband's as well. It also includes information about the effects of domestic violence on children. Order # V-302 for \$79 purchase or \$30 rental. When purchased with *Broken Vows*, it is \$55. These fees include a 32-page Study/Discussion Guide (recommendations are offered for synagogues when abuse is brought to their attention) and a package of 25 *What Every Congregation Needs to Know About Domestic Violence* brochures.

A Journey Towards Freedom: A Haggadah for Women Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence

This book transforms the traditional Passover Seder into a special service that addresses the oppression and liberation of women journeying from abuse to safety. It is an excellent resource to supplement the Passover Haggadah for congregations and domestic violence programs that serve Jewish women. Order # HGD for \$15.00 plus shipping and handling.

Christian Resources

Keeping the Faith: Guidance for Christian Women Facing Abuse

By Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune

This small, 103-page classic was written in response to Marie Fortune's work with women being abused in Christian homes and women in shelters. She listened to women who had been ostracized by their churches and counseled by their pastors to go home and be a better Christian wife. She also talked with women who found caring support from their pastors and churches. One by one, the book responds to questions Christian women ask about domestic violence. From the Psalms through the Gospels through the letters of Paul, distortions and misconceptions about scriptures sometimes used to excuse abuse are corrected. This inexpensive book is a valuable resource for shelters, counselors, and faith leaders. Quantity discounts are available for this publication which is available in **English** (Order #DV-311), **Korean** (Order #DV-311K), and **Spanish** (Order DV-311S). \$6.99 plus shipping and handling.

Wings Like a Dove: Healing for the Abused Christian Woman (video)

See the description of ***Broken Vows*** in the [Multi-Faith Resources](#) section above. *Wings Like a Dove* includes only the Christian survivor and pastor segments and is intended for Christian audiences. It is in color and is 34 minutes long. Order # V-301. The price is \$79 purchase or \$30 rental. When purchased with *Broken Vows*, it is \$55. These fees include a 32-page Study/Discussion Guide and a package of 25 *What Every Congregation Needs to Know About Domestic Violence* brochures.

Circles of Healing

Designed to complement ***Wings Like a Dove***, this is a 3-session support group curriculum for abused Christian women. Each session includes worship materials, scripture reflections, discussion questions, and closing prayers. Order # COH for \$10.00.

Domestic Violence: What Churches Can Do (video)

This 20-minute color video is an edited version of ***Broken Vows*** and includes worship materials, background information on domestic violence, discussion questions, and practical steps Christian congregations can take to prevent domestic violence. The materials are sufficient for a one-hour presentation. Order # V-303 for \$45. When purchased with ***Broken Vows***, it is \$30. These fees include a 24-page Study/discussion Guide and a package of 25 *What Every Congregation Needs to Know About Domestic Violence* brochures.

God's Reconciling Love: A Pastor's Handbook on Domestic Violence

By Nancy A. Murphy, M.A.

In his foreword, Dr. Dan Allender, President of Mars Hill Graduate School, points out that "this well-designed manual, written by a wise and amazing woman, will not only answer the majority of questions Christian pastors ask about domestic violence, but embolden them to make the path safe for both victim and perpetrator." Short and very readable (less than 100 pages), the book informs about domestic violence but also presents pastors' perspectives and presents workable solutions. One of the most useful sections of the book is "One Couple's Story" by Rev. Dr. Randy Bridges, a Baptist pastor who recounts his experience of learning to deal appropriately with domestic violence in his congregation. It also includes a fine resource list at the back. Quantity discounts are available, but the regular price (order #GRL) is \$16.00 plus shipping and handling.

Islam Resources

What Islam Says About Domestic Violence

By Zainab Alwani and Salma Abugideira

This short (60 pages), practical guide for helping Muslim victims of domestic violence also is a valuable resource for shelters, Imams, and others who serve Muslim victims. It is also recommended for *all* those who serve these victims in order to dismiss rampant myths about violence among Muslims. In Islam, spouses are inherently equal. Cultural groups who proclaim inequality are speaking more from a cultural than spiritual perspective. The foundation of Islamic marriage is described in the Qur'an: *And among His signs is this: that He created for you mates from among yourselves that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts)* (30:21). Because Islam and Middle Eastern culture are relatively unfamiliar to many in this country, this book was designed offer information and answers to frequently asked questions. Copies are available from Foundation for Appropriate and Immediate Temporary Help, 500 Grove Street, Ste. 210, Herndon, VA 20172. www.faithus.org. E-mail info@faithus.org.

Child Abuse

Multi-Faith Resources

What You Need to Know if a Child is Being Abused or Neglected (brochure)

This brochure for Christian and Jewish faith communities answers basic questions about child abuse and neglect explains what church and synagogue members can do individually and collectively to address it in their congregations. Sold in packages of 25 for \$12.50 (\$10 for five or more packages), it is available in **English** (Order #TC-203), **C Korean** (Order TC 203K), and **Spanish** (Order #TC 203S). It is also available on disc in English for your own printing for \$100 (Order # TC 203B).

Hear Their Cries (video)

This 48-minute, color video, introduced by a Christian pastor and a rabbi, defines physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and includes the stories of numerous adult survivors of child abuse. Pastors and rabbis discuss theological issues such as forgiveness and confidentiality within the context of child abuse. They point out that the goal of any faith community should be to (1) protect the child, (2) stop the abuse, and (3) attempt to reunite the family although that may not be possible. Guidelines are given about how to respond when a child discloses abuse. While a very valuable tool for congregations, the inclusion of material on the long-term emotional consequences of spanking that does not leave marks would make it stronger. Order # V-200 for \$129 purchase or \$40 rental. May be ordered with *Bless Our Children* for \$185 purchase and \$60 rental (for both) plus shipping and handling. These fees include a 24-page Study/Discussion Guide and a package of 25 *What You Need to Know if a Child is Being Abused or Neglected* brochures.

The Healing Years: A Documentary About Surviving Incest and Child Sexual Abuse (video)

This 52-minute, color video profiles the painful journey of three women as they seek healing and recovery from incest as children. *Marilyn Van Derbur*, a former Miss America opens the video by revealing that she and her three sisters survived the incest of their father, but she eventually became physically paralyzed as a means of psychologically coping between the ages of 45 and 51. She says,

I believed I was bad and dirty for 53 years... It just underscores what happens in a child's mind when her young body is pried open and violated. It is our belief systems that are shattered. It isn't just the physical invasion of our bodies. It's the trauma that it does to our entire belief system... You are not allowed to hate your violator – because he's your father.

Janice Mirikitani, wife of the pastor of Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco, speaks of her long-term substance abuse as a means of escaping the pain of incest by her step-father from the time she was 5 until she was 16. *Barbara Hamilton*, at age 79, continues to work on her incest issues from her father, as do her children whom he also abused. She finally broke the silence, ending three generations of incest.

The video shows how Janice Mirikitani now facilitates incest and substance abuse recovery groups at her church where 90% of female substance abusers are also incest survivors. The accompanying Study/Discussion Guide includes a section on Christian issues surrounding incest. Order # V-203 for \$99 purchase plus shipping and handling.

Jewish Resources

Shine the Light: Sexual Abuse and Healing in the Jewish Community

By Rachel Lev

This book, published in 2003, was written by a woman who is an incest survivor and a therapist. She tells the story of numerous Jewish incest survivors as they reflect on their personal relationships with the Jewish community. In some cases it discouraged denial; in others it was a source of healing. She reveals Judaism to be rich in resources for healing as she explores Jewish law, tradition, and rituals including the thoughts of rabbis and Jewish community leaders. Order # STL for \$26.95 plus shipping and handling.

Christian Resources

Bless Our Children: Preventing Sexual Abuse (video)

This 40-minute, color video is the story of how a Christian church struggled with the decision about introducing a curriculum to prevent sexual abuse. Some opposed it because they didn't think it happened in their congregation. Others didn't want to upset children with the topic. Still others didn't want to interrupt regular programming to address it. However, they eventually reviewed a children's Sunday School curriculum published by the United Church Press (see below) and realized that it was very tastefully done and interwoven around traditional Bible stories. Actual classroom segments are included. In the end, they know what to do when a child discloses that she is being fondled by a tutor. This video could be very effective for clergy continuing education or seminary classes. Order # V-201 for \$99 purchase and \$40 rental. May be ordered with *Hear Their Cries* for \$185 purchase and \$60 rental (for both) plus shipping and handling. These fees include a 24-page Study/Discussion Guide and a package of 25 *What You Need to Know if a Child is Being Abused or Neglected* brochures.

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Program (Sunday School Curriculum)

Published by The United Church Press

Separate curricula are available for three age groups. The curriculum for 5-8-year-olds includes 10 sessions and is \$13.00 (Order # CM-212). The curriculum for 9-12-year-olds includes 13 sessions and is \$12.00 (Order # CM-211). The curriculum for Teenagers includes 6 sessions and is \$9.00 (Order # CM-210). Postage and handling will be added.

Sexual Abuse of Adult Women by Clergy

It is not uncommon for clergy to misuse their power and engage congregants in sexual relationships. While these relationships do not represent a breaking of the law, as do the forms of abuse noted above, they represent clear ethical violations. Obtaining justice is a prerequisite to healing. When exploitation occurs, the following materials establish elements for achieving justice: (1) victim truth-telling, (2) acknowledgment of the violation by the clergy and the faith community, (3) compassion for the victim, (4) protection of the vulnerable, (5) accountability of the clergy abuser, and (6) vindication. Basic components of policies and procedures to handle these situations are recommended for churches and synagogues.

Book:

- *Is Nothing Sacred? The Story of a Pastor, the Women He Sexually Abused, and the Congregation He Nearly Destroyed* by Marie M. Fortune. Order #INS for \$17.

Videos:

- *Not in My Church*, a 45-minute color video for Christian audiences. #V-100, \$149 purchase; \$60 rental.
- *Not in My Congregation*, a 48-minute color video for Jewish audiences. #V-101, \$149 purchase; \$60 rental.
- *Once You Cross the Line*, a 50-minute, six-segment video on preventing clergy misconduct and sexual abuse in ministerial relationships. This video is not available alone but is included with *Not in My Church* or *Not in My Congregation*, along with a detailed trainer's notebook, workshop manual, and 25 educational brochures for \$375 (#TC-100).
- *A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers* includes four 22-minute videos with a curriculum. It includes specific Appendices on boundary issues for African American communities, Asian and Pacific Islander communities, Jewish communities, Latina and Latino communities, and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual and Transgendered clergy or spiritual teachers. Meditations and prayers are included in the Buddhist, Jewish, and Christian traditions. Order #VS-500 for \$300.

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