

# Welcome, This Web Conference Will Begin Soon

## Faith Communities Engaged in Ending Child Sexual Abuse

*Ending Child Sexual Abuse  
Web Conference Series*

**#PowerInPrevention**  
Ending Child Sexual Abuse Web Conference Series



### Ms. Foundation

12 MetroTech Center  
26th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Website: [ms.foundation.org](http://ms.foundation.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MsFoundationforWomen](http://www.facebook.com/MsFoundationforWomen)

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Pinterest: <http://forwomen.org/content/127/en/>

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/msfoundationforwomen](http://www.youtube.com/msfoundationforwomen)

Email: [info@ms.foundation.org](mailto:info@ms.foundation.org)



### PreventConnect

1215 K Street  
Suite 1850  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Website: [preventconnect.org](http://preventconnect.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PreventConnect](http://www.facebook.com/PreventConnect)

Twitter: Follow @PreventConnect

Flickr: [www.flickr.com/people/preventconnect](http://www.flickr.com/people/preventconnect)

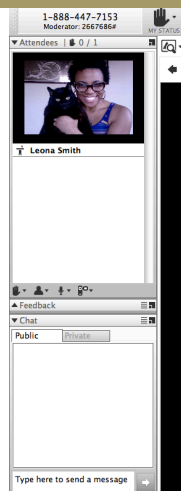
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/CalCASAVideo](http://www.youtube.com/CalCASAVideo)

Email: [info@preventconnect.org](mailto:info@preventconnect.org)

Email Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Prevent-Connect/>



## How to use the technology



- Raise hand
- Text chat & private chat
- PowerPoint slides
- Polling questions
- Phone
- Closed captioning
- Web conference guidelines

Please send a private chat message for help.

Call iLinc Technical Support at 800.799.4510.



PreventConnect is a national project of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault sponsored by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views and information provided in this web conferences do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. government, CDC or CALCASA.



## Ending Child Sexual Abuse Series

- Secret Survivor's Tools for Strengthening your Prevention Efforts (September 17, 2013)
- Power of Organizational Practices: Innovations to Keep Kids Safer (October 15, 2013)
- Statute of Limitations and its Connection to Prevention (November 14, 2013)
- Child Sexual Abuse and Disabilities (January 16, 2014)
- Telling our Stories: Learning as we Build a Movement (March 13, 2014)





Cordelia Anderson



Joan Tabachnick

## Series Co-Hosts



### *Ending Child Sexual Abuse Web Conference Series*



- Have you attended an Ending Child Sexual Abuse webinar in the past?

Answer on  
the left



Feedback

Yes

No

No Answer



# Faith Communities Engaged in Ending Child Sexual Abuse



July 18, 2013  
2 PM EST



- Have you worked with the Faith Communities on Ending Child Sexual Abuse?

Answer on  
the left

A screenshot of a feedback form window titled 'Feedback'. It contains three radio button options: 'Yes' (with a green square), 'No' (with a red square), and 'No Answer' (with a blue square). The 'No Answer' option is selected. To the right of the options is a large empty circle.

## Unique Opportunity for Faith Communities

The conversation begins with VALUES

- **Responsibility to Educate:**
- **Assurance of Safety:**
- **Offer a Congregational Home to All:**
  - Treat every person with worth and dignity.

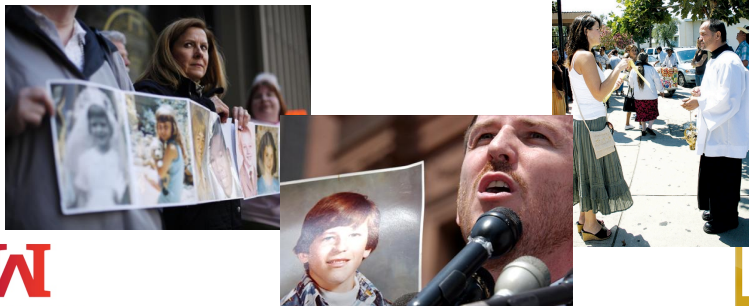


UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF  
CONGREGATIONS



## Valuing Survivor Experiences

- **Foremost in our Minds:**
  - Do no harm to those who have already been sexually abused.
  - Coordinate with efforts to address the experience and needs of victims/survivors and their families



## Not IF but WHEN...

- Every congregation should look at these issues **before** there is a crisis



## Preparation is Key

If the congregation does not address these issues, there is likely to be a sense of panic and crisis when:

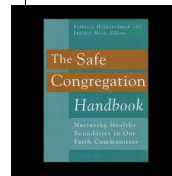
- A known sex offender starts attending activities.
- Someone in the congregation is accused of sexual abuse.
- Someone finds out that a congregant has a history of abusing children or youth.



## Benefits of Preparation

Experts agree that a prepared community is in a better position to:

- Prevent abuse before it is perpetrated
- Respond to an allegation of abuse
- Decide how to minister to everyone in the congregation, alleged victim, alleged perpetrator (adult or child) and their families



Victor Vieth  
National Child Protection Training Center

## Faith Communities Engaged in Ending Child Sexual Abuse



July 18, 2013  
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## Potential roles for clergy in addressing child abuse

- Consultant to mental health professionals working with children abused in the name of God or otherwise suffering a spiritual injury
- Providing additional resources to those working with maltreated children
- Prevention, resiliency, and more
- Spirituality and model parenting
- Creating an ethical response to child protection





## Consultant to mental health

- 93% of convicted sex offenders are “religious” (Abel)
- The most egregious sex offenders are active in faith settings (Smallbone 2006)
- Most offenders use a religious or spiritual theme in the abuse (Vieth 2011)
- In review of 34 studies of 19,090 adult victims, the majority had spiritual injuries (Walker, et al 2009).

## The impact of abuse on spirituality

- A study of 527 child abuse victims (physical, sexual or emotional) found these victims had a “significant” spiritual injury
- The injuries included feelings of guilt, anger, grief, despair, doubt, fear of death and belief God is unfair.
- However, the victims reported praying more frequently & having a “spiritual experience.”

Lawson, et al, Child Abuse & Neglect (1998)



## When the perpetrator is clergy, the impact on spirituality is greater

- Clergy use “religious cover” to justify abuse (i.e. their “good works” overshadow the abuse; God gave this child to me)
- Clergy often communicate this cover to the victims
- When this happens, church attendance of these survivors decreases, less likely to trust God, and their relationship with God “ceases to grow.”

McLaughlin, Devastated Spirituality: The Impact of Clergy Sexual Abuse on the Survivor’s Relationship with God (1994).



## How is religion used in the abuse of a child ?

### Jack Schaap, Indiana Pastor, Claimed Jesus Wanted Him To Have Sex With Teenage Girl

The Huffington Post | By Meredith Bennett-Smith | Posted: 03/14/2013 4:53 pm EDT | Updated: 03/15/2013 12:26 pm EDT

Recommend 11,215 people recommend this.



Jack Schaap, a former megachurch pastor accused of having sex with a teenage girl, gives an animated sermon on "Polishing the Shaft."



## Pastor Schaap

- Schaap's teenage victim "particularly susceptible to this offense due to her mental state." *Probation pre-sentence report*
- Schaap sees an e-mail the teenager in his church is "frightened, confused, and emotionally traumatized" and was engaging in "self-destructive behaviors."
- The e-mail notes the child has "a tender heart and...is still very teachable and moldable."



## Pastor Schaap

- One week later, Schaap begins to “counsel” victim
- Among the victim’s troubles, she discloses an emotional breakup with boyfriend
- Schaap transitions from pastor to friend to child molester—sexually assaulting the teenager in 3 states



## Schaap’s letter to victim

- “You opened your heart wide to me—you made me more than a Pastor/Rescuer—you made me your friend, your confidant, your beloved....In our ‘fantasy talk’ you have affectionately spoken of being ‘my wife.’ That is exactly what Christ desires for us. He wants to marry us & become eternal lovers! I tried to craftily catch your heart...Thank you for the privilege of helping a struggling teenager...You have such a wonderful life ahead of you. I must be careful not to spoil that with my selfish fantasy desires...When we get scared, Jesus sends his spirit to live within us...I must follow the example of Christ. I have espoused you to Him as a chaste virgin...”



## Victim's letter to Schaap

- “I was in love with you and I would not admit that I was a victim...I also felt so guilty and partially responsible, like maybe it was my fault....Then I became really angry towards God. For a second I did not believe in God. I thought there can't be a God because he would not let this happen and if there is a God, I hate him because he let this happen because you told me that he was OK with this...”



## If you were on the MDT...

- **Would Schaap's victim benefit from medical care?**
- **From psychological care?**
- **From Spiritual care?**



## The role of spirituality in 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)



## Types of Collaboration

- Minister as consultant
- Therapist as consultant
- Referrals
- Limited collaboration
- Full collaboration
  - Therapy and spiritual guidance offered as integrated whole

(Bilich et al, 2000)





## Additional Resources: Adopt a Social Worker





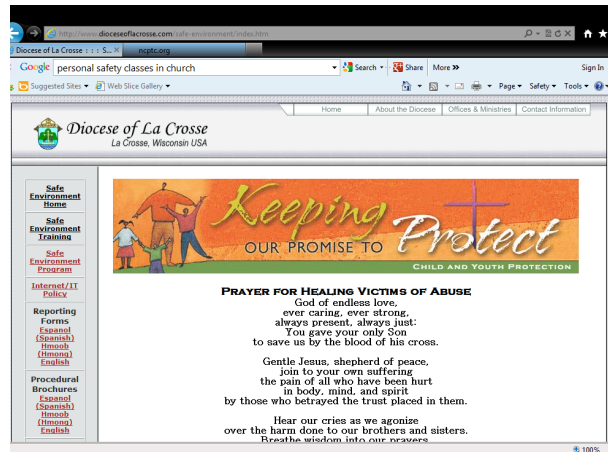
## Prevention: Church Policies

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the cover of the "JACOB'S HOPE" newsletter. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://www.ncpc.org/external/Client/708834441\_4AD2\_4361\_8C0D\_50C7B3304117070/uploads/jacobshope/6\_8\_11.pdf. The newsletter cover features a photograph of a group of diverse children smiling. The title "JACOB'S HOPE" is prominently displayed in large white letters on a purple background. Below the title, it says "A NEWSLETTER OF THE JACOB WETTERLING RESOURCE CENTER" and "VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 • JUNE 2011". At the bottom of the cover, the article title "SUFFER THE CHILDREN: DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE CHURCH POLICIES ON CHILD MALTREATMENT" is shown, along with the author "By: Victor I. Vieth" and a quote: "This quest may be attempted by the weak with as much hope as the strong. Yet such is oft the course of deeds that move the wheels of the world: small". Logos for JWRC and NCPCTC are also visible on the cover.





## Prevention: Personal safety classes



## Youth serving organizations and child resilience

- Community characteristics
  - Positive relationship with caring, nonabusive adult
  - Adults or peers who disapprove of antisocial behavior
  - Involvement with religious community
  - Peer support
  - Safety of community
  - Access to health care

(Herrenkohl et al, 2008)





## Religion and parenting

- **Parents for whom religion has an intrinsic value (defines who they are) as opposed to parents with an extrinsic view (religion serves their needs) are less likely to abuse their children.**

Dysen & Thomsen, *Religiosity & Risk of Perpetrating Child Physical Abuse* (2005)

- **Very religious parents may be more involved with their children, use more praise & hugging, and yell less.**

(Bartowski 2000)

## An example of intrinsic religious parenting

- “O God...I confess to Thee that I am not worthy to rock the little babe or wash its diapers, or to be entrusted with the care of the child and its mother... Neither frost nor heat, neither drudgery nor labor will distress or dissuade me, for I am certain that it is pleasing in Thy sight.”

Martin Luther



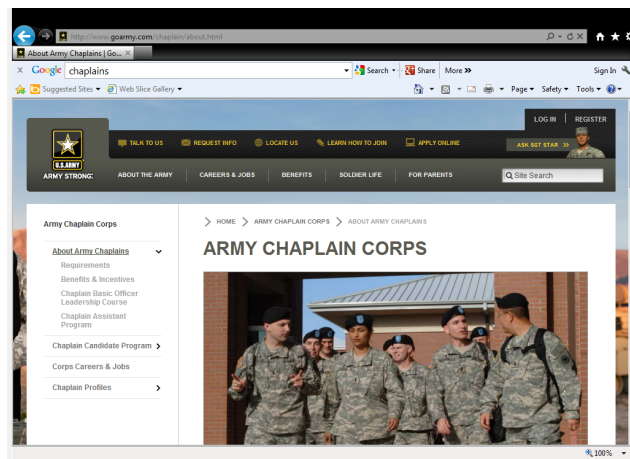
## Religion and well-being

- 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)



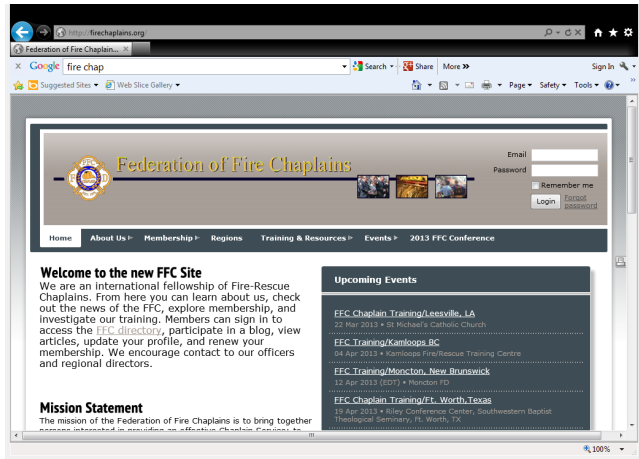
## Military chaplains



# Hospital chaplains



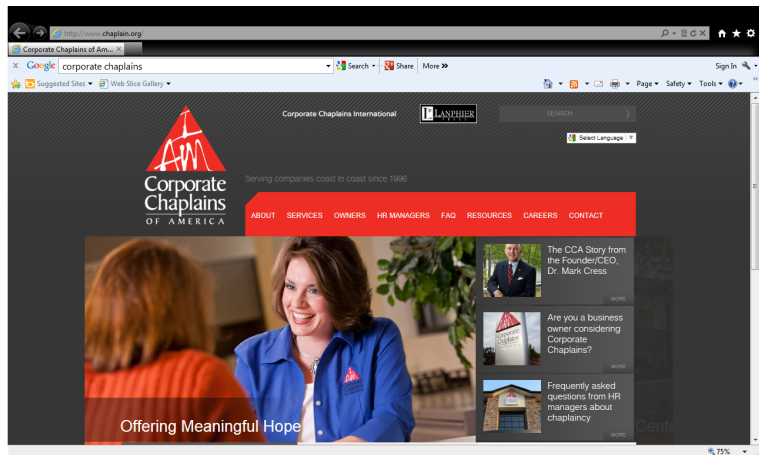
# Fire department chaplains



# Law enforcement chaplains



# Corporate chaplains



## 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



## CLERGY AS ETHICAL ADVISORS



## President Barack Obama

- “When we ignore the debate about what it means to be a good Christian or Muslim or Jew; when we discuss religion only in the negative sense of where or how it should not be practiced, rather than in the positive sense of what it tells us about our obligations toward one another...others will fill the vacuum...(T)he discomfort of some progressives with any hint of religiosity has often inhibited us from addressing issues in moral terms...



## President Barack Obama

- “...Scrub language of all religious content and we forfeit the imagery and terminology through which millions of Americans understand both their personal morality and social justice...Of course organized religion doesn’t have a monopoly on virtue...But we should not avoid making such claims or appeals—or abandon any reference to our rich religious traditions—in order to avoid giving offense.”

*The Audacity of Hope*





## Connecticut shooting and Mr. Rogers

### Mr. Rogers' words of comfort revived in wake of tragedy

December 18, 2012 12:18 am



Click image to enlarge



Jim Judkis/courtesy of the Washington Post  
The 1978 photo of Fred Rogers and the unnamed little boy at Pittsburgh's Children's Institute.

Share with others:



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Related Media:


Previous story: [The Pittsburgh story behind the Mr. Rogers 'helpers' photo](#)



## Mister Rogers

- “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words and I am always comforted that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in the world.”
- Mister Rogers was a theologian and a helper
- And I know at least one more
- Till the night be passed





What other related research are you aware of?



Linda Crockett  
Samaritan Safe Church Project

## Faith Communities Engaged in Ending Child Sexual Abuse

July 18, 2013  
2 PM EST







## The Safe Church Project: Engaging Faith Communities in Ending CSA




### What is a Safe Church?

- A Safe Church environment is one that provides for the protection of the physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well being of each person.
- A Safe Church sees itself as a sanctuary, where one finds protection, security, support, guidance and the presence of God.

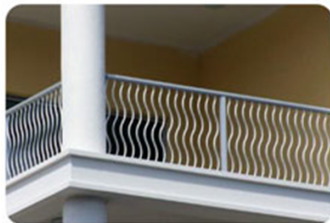
## Project Focus:

Preventing and responding to sexual abuse of children and youth

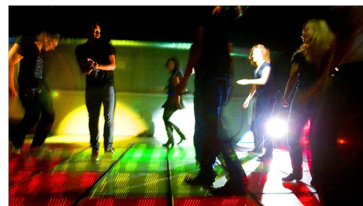


## A systems approach...to shifting congregational culture

**Balcony**



**Dance Floor**



## Core aspects of a Safe Church

- 1) **Integrate** CSA practices into congregations is a core theological commitment and community covenant
- 2) **Educate and Empower** every congregant to prevent CSA in the broader context of a child's "safe world"
- 3) **Lift up and Empower** adult survivors in congregations to become leaders



## Ecumenical "Clusters" of 7-10 Congregations..

Engage in a one year process of learning about CSA..



To inspire and equip adults to take action to prevent CSA.



## Living into the vision....

*No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin and destruction within your borders. You will call your walls Salvation, and your gates, Praise.*

Isaiah 60: 18



## Some important numbers!

We have:

- Directly impacted >3,000 children
- Introduced >3,800 adults to CSA prevention education and material



## What does the project involve?

- Development** of a policy with “best practices”
- Training** for staff and volunteers
- Education** for parents and other congregants
- Honoring** adult survivors
- Utilizing resources** for congregational awareness
- Curriculums** for children and teens



## Project Scope for 11 month period

- 21 hours of training for core team
  - *Policy making + education about CSA*
  - Interactive policy template developed by Samaritan
- 2 hours congregational education at each church
  - *Provided by Samaritan staff/professionals*
- One day retreat for adult survivors
- 4 hours training for staff/volunteers
- Circle of Grace curriculum & teacher training



## The Covenant: What churches promise if accepted into Cluster

- Form a Safe Church team
  - Send at least 3 people to each of 6 Cluster meetings
  - Commitment to do policy and awareness raising “homework” between Cluster meetings
- Submit of draft policy to their leadership for “affirmation”
- Submit state screening clearance forms for all staff/ volunteers working with children



## The Covenant (continued)

New or refined policy will include:

- Form Child Protection Committee
- Train everyone working with children
- Conduct annual CSA prevention education
- Create guidelines for mandated reporting
- Set a “2 adult” rule for working with children
- Consider guidelines for including a “known” sex offender
- Teach CSA prevention curriculums to children & teens





## The Covenant (continued)

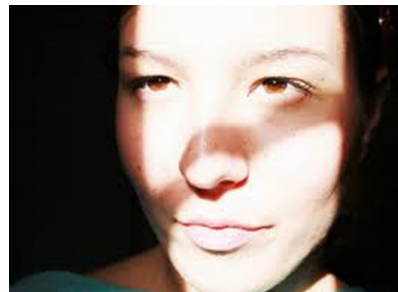
- New or refined policy will include:
  - Promote 2 one hour congregational education sessions
  - Hold a Survivors Retreat
  - Use awareness raising resources in worship

*A covenant is a sacred promise,  
more binding than a "contract"*



## Honoring Adult Survivors

***Tamar Speaks***  
**Retreat**



**April 6, 2013**  
**Black Rock Retreat Center**  
**8:30 AM – 3:00 PM**



## Amnon and Tamar



## Shards of pain...our “wailing wall”



## Frameworks we use

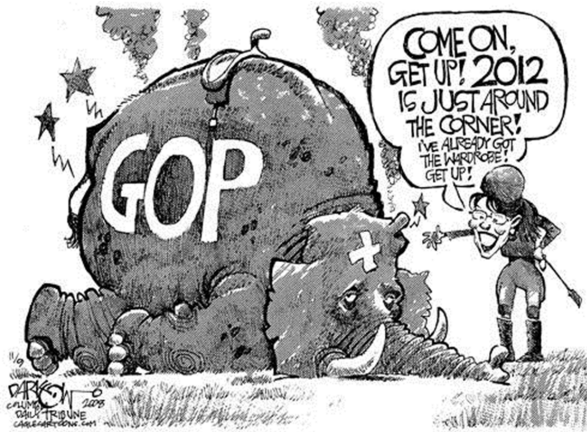
- Narrative
- Missional ▶ culture shifting ▶ movement building
- Abuse of Power
- Prophetic
- Theological according to each congregations' tradition



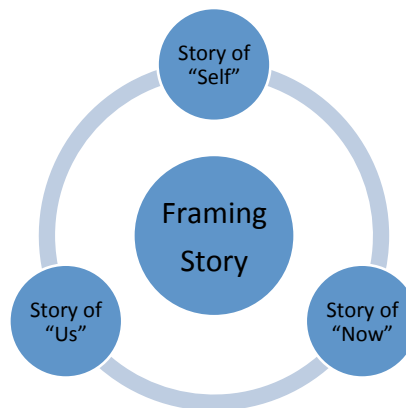
Words have meanings within contexts.



## Frameworks matter



## Narrative Framework for Faith Communities (example)



## A Narrative Framework Responds to these questions...then, and now

- Why me?
- Who – or what – is calling me?
- Why these people?
- Who are they, anyway?
- Why here, NOW, in this place?



## Missional Framework. Strategic. Movement Building.



## Congregational education session #1 SAFE CHURCH 101

### ***What is a Safe Church? Why are we doing this?!***

- Prevalence & impacts of CSA
- Abuse of power as a theological problem
- How this fits with theology/mission
- Religious response to disclosure of CSA

### **GOING MISSIONAL!**



## Our “Big” Vision....

- To have multiple clusters of “safe churches” in relationship with local organizations working to end CSA within geographically defined communities across the country to ignite a faith-based movement within the larger stream beginning to coalesce around this issue.



## Why engage congregations in ending CSA movement building

- Opportunity to impact large numbers of people
- Calling on common Christian values to inspire people of faith to become proactive in preventing CSA
- When faith grounds a commitment to social change, significant 'staying power' is available for long-term work.



## National Pilot Program 2013-2015 Funded by the Ms. Foundation

- 3 day training to equip leaders to facilitate this process
- Utilize a mix of didactic; experiential work; and administrative guidance.
- Training organized & hosted **by local organizations** to foster/strengthen secular & faith community connections.



Stay tuned.....we may be coming to a city near YOU!



What signs show the culture has shifted?

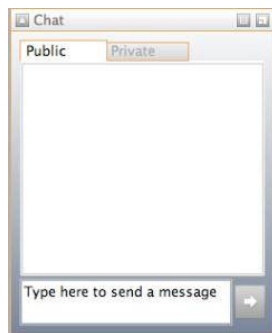




## Discussion with Speakers



## ONE Action



**What is ONE action  
you can suggest for  
others to prevent  
child sexual abuse?**





## Speaker Contacts

### **Linda Crockett**

*Director of Education & Consultation  
Safe Church Developer/Facilitator  
Samaritan Counseling Center  
Lancaster, PA  
[www.sclanc.org](http://www.sclanc.org)*



### **Victor Vieth**

*Executive Director  
National Child Protection Training Center  
Gundersen Health System  
Winona, MN  
[www.ncptc.org](http://www.ncptc.org)*



## Next Web Conference

### **Secret Survivor's Tools for Strengthening your Prevention Efforts**

September 17, 2013

2pm Eastern Time



## Ending Child Sexual Abuse Series

- Power of Organizational Practices: Innovations to Keep Kids Safer (October 15, 2013)
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Thank you

