

My passionate plea on behalf of those who have been victimized.

Please stop the minimizing, downplaying, and covering up by those in power - who have known for decades - the stories of these courageous survivors.

For any that attend one of the listening sessions, a CCF call with others in your states and/or elder/worker meetings, I implore you to start by getting everyone grounded in the reality of the hell on earth survivors have been through. It seems the conversation goes very quickly to the perpetrators — who did or did not do what, when and why — without reverence given to the survivors stories.

My plea stems from my current experience of being crushed every time I open one of the sites and read a new story of a survivors. Who is not heartbroken with every new revelation of assault? For any survivor to share, they have been on a courageous healing journey we can not begin to fathom. Most people will do all they can to avoid intimate knowledge of these realities because it is sickening. Yet for survivors their assault experience affects them at the cellular level for life. Sometimes it seems many are heartbroken by the betrayal of trust by those in power more so than for those victimized. The least we can do is show enough compassion to join survivors on their journey for a bit.

What would happen in any of these sessions if three or four real life stories of devastation were shared? Wouldn't that bring much more focus on the immediate issue? Directly from the survivors would be powerful, however, if they are unable to, someone who feels the weight of their story could stand in the gap to share it for them.

If it were me, I would first share Sheri Jo Vandermyden Autrey's story in depth, sharing all details that are in the pinned post dated 7/17/23. After sitting in that mess of Steve Rohs as a 28-year-old minister assaulting a 13 year old girl as he was "resting" from the ministry, I would share Lauren Rohs story. Bring the reality of how different Lauren's story would be if Steve had been exposed. In my opinion, the violation by a father, who should be the most trusted male relationship in someone's life, is absolutely vile

Next I would share Pam Walton's story of her dad abusing her from 4 to 16 years old. Have everybody in the room sit in Pam's place for a bit. Let the reality sink in of how each would feel if it were their own dad.

Finally, I would read the letter of the girl from Montana who has suffered brain damage as a result of someone gaining their own sexual gratification. These are real life stories. Each of you may have other stories that move you, so use the ones that break your heart.

Be prepared. You could be telling the untold story of someone in the room who as yet has not been able to come forward so please hold sacred space for them as needed.

TW- reference to Christ follows, however it is meant to be a reference to what true compassion is, not a sermon.

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After hearing those stories and sitting in them, any human being with compassion — certainly any true Christ follower — would be crushed to their core. Any who are not moved with love, care and compassion for all victims of sexual assault will have shown their true colors. In the words of the one that they say they are led by “you will know them by their fruits.”

How would outcomes change if all in the fellowship took a stand that any in positions of power who are not crushed and moved with compassion to care for those who have been victimized need to step aside from solving this problem? How does anyone have more compassion for the criminal than the victim?

I will post links to the stories I referenced to get the party started. Also posting a song about human kindness. What would it do for us, for the world, if we leaned deeply into human kindness for each who is on this site?

With special love, care and compassion for every victim survivor.

Rick VanDermyden