

This is a letter to all friends, elders, workers, and overseers regarding the treatment of child sexual abuse victims and sexual abuse victims in the past and present. If you are in meetings, you need to read this and believe it. Not because I say so, but because Jesus said so.

We know the story of the good Samaritan in Luke 10. Jesus is asked by a lawyer, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?", and Jesus asked him what he thought. The lawyer answered well, "to love God and to love my neighbor", but then he attempted to justify himself by asking, "Who is my neighbor?" We know the story that follows, where the Samaritan is the only person in three that was willing to help the Jewish man. Which is crazy, because he had absolutely no obligation to take care of some random beat up dude in the ditch. Jesus said, "Which one of them was his neighbor?" and the lawyer said, "The one who had mercy".

Right now, there are many children, adults, professing and non-professing, and non-Christian people in the ditch that have been ravaged by this organization we are a part of. They are broken and bleeding, their lives torn apart by merciless wolves. They are hurting and dying. And many of you are passing by, waiting for someone else to help them because it's "not your problem". Who is your neighbor? Where is your love? This isn't about why it happened, or when, or how, or whether they are "in or out". This is about YOUR NEIGHBORS suffering and desperately needing your help. Have mercy, have compassion, and help your neighbor in the ditch.

1 John 4:12-21

"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

We know these verses well. In recent weeks it was made poignantly clear to me by a friend that how I treat my brother is how I'm treating Jesus. How would you treat Jesus if he was bleeding in the ditch, stripped and ravaged?

Matthew 25:38, 45-46

“When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?”

“Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Your neighbor, your brother, the stranger crying on your doorstep. Pleading for your acknowledgement, your help, your love. This isn't a petty nuisance that someone else needs to deal with, this is a call to care for everyone the way Jesus called us to. If I may be so bold, how we respond to this crisis is a salvation issue. If you can't love these people, where is your love?

Matthew 6:22-23

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

You claim to love Jesus, you claim to walk in the light, but if you look the other way because it's too hard and messy to love the least of these, the love of God is not in you.

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If you would like to help victims get therapy, and help abusers be convicted, there are two primary funds that you can donate to. Funding to aid 3,000+ survivors, and continue filing charges against 500+ abusers is the main need right now.

Donate towards victims' recovery:

<https://fundraising.idonate.com/fund-recovery/truth/campaign?edit=true&fundraising=ecc93c02-b44f-41f7-858d-0fe294c056b5&program=undefined>

Donate to fund investigation and prosecution: <https://buy.stripe.com/bIY4iR21c01EfEQ8ww>

If you need to report a crime you can reach out to local law enforcement in your area, local FBI, or the private investigators at Advocates for the Truth.

<https://www.advocatesforthetruth.com/contact>

There is also a need for convention owners and homeowners/elders to advocate for victims and not allow abusers in meetings.

Pray on other ways to help victims. Everyone has a role to play in helping victims get help, be supported, and be a part of making meetings a safer place in the future.

Pray that the ministry can be purged of corruption. Prayer is a mighty source of power.

Pray that eyes will be opened and hearts will be softened to know the truth, even though it's ugly right now.

Small steps that can make a big difference even if you don't have money or power are:

- A word in season - reaching out to people who seem like they are hurting
- Spend time gathering your own bread so that you have something to share with others
- Be honest and open in your interactions with those around you

Some victims just need a listening ear, some need a helping hand going to law enforcement to press

charges.

If you know something, report it. If you see something, say something. No more secrets, no more lies, no more complicity in these crimes.

Love your stranger, your neighbor, your brother, your friend.

## On behalf of many members of the church:

Ryan Jelinek, North Dakota  
Lillymae Ford, Alaska  
Shane Garner, Wisconsin  
Shanna Smidt, Illinois  
Katria Shindoll, Montana  
Leah Pflaum, Alaska  
Kendra Shaw, Illinois  
Eric Shaw, Illinois  
Leona Banfield, Ontario, Canada  
Joann Miller, Oregon  
Joan Kircher, Nebraska  
Joanna Elliott, Delta bc canada  
Glen Zahorka, Colorado & AZ  
Garrett and Sarah Lepak Georgia  
Brandon and Mikaela Hellevang, Nebraska  
Tammara Anderson - Oregon

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Jeanie Smith, Texas  
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