

## Family Violence and Christians

More than half of surveyed Christians report they have been abused by an intimate partner, meaning that Christians experience partner abuse at least as often as the general public. With regard to the mistreatment of children, a survey of members representing one Protestant denomination found that 28 percent had been victims of abuse or neglect during childhood. For both children and adults, examples of abuse include being demeaned, being physically injured, and being forced into unwanted sexual activity.

Violence and abuse in the family are contrary to the message of Jesus. His teachings show that demeaning others, injuring them, or sexually abusing them have no place in the Kingdom of God. Jesus does not want abuse to continue. He wants it to end. He also wants to provide strength in coping with its aftermath.

### Five abuse-defusing beliefs:

1. Every member of a family has a right to be safe.
2. Every member of a family has a right to be listened to and believed.
3. Assigning blame or responsibility is not the issue. The issue is how to go forward in ways that are positive and do not involve abuse.
4. Adults have the ability to make their own decisions. They do not need advice. They do benefit from interacting with someone who listens, who helps them sort through options, and who supports them in implementing their decisions.
5. It makes sense to take advantage of available community resources.

*Prepared by Ken France, Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader. See the October "Connections" for recommended area counseling services.*

## Resources

Throughout October, there will be a resource table in the narthex with helpful literature about domestic violence and peacemaking in the family.

A limited number of copies of *No Place for Abuse: Biblical and Practical Resources to Counteract Domestic Violence*, by Catherine Clark Kroeger and Nancy Nason-Clark, will be available for a suggested donation of \$5.00 (retail price is \$12.00).

## Other Helpful Resources

**Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties**  
800-852-2102; [www.dvscpc.org](http://www.dvscpc.org)

**York County Protection from Abuse Information**  
[www.york-county.org/departments/courts/pfa/s-9.htm](http://www.york-county.org/departments/courts/pfa/s-9.htm)

**ChildLine**, 800-932-0313

**YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, Sexual Assault Services**, 800-654-1211  
[www.ywcahbg.org/vip/sexual%20assault.htm](http://www.ywcahbg.org/vip/sexual%20assault.htm)

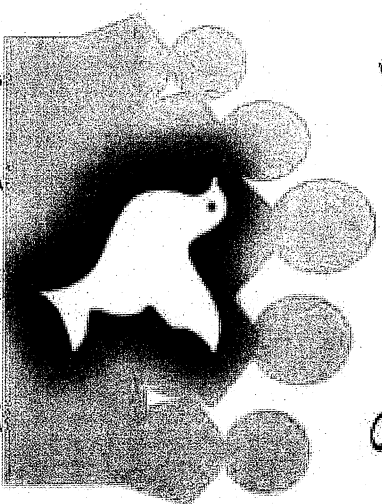
**Centers for Disease Control**  
[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention) (In the purple box on the left, click on "Intimate Partner Violence" to access documents on risk factors, prevention strategies, and a variety of related topics.)

**Child Welfare Information Gateway**  
[www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

*Sponsored by the  
Missions, Peace and Service Commission*

# Join Us in October!

## Peacemaking



## in the Family

*a month-long focus*

*October 2011*

(during Domestic Violence Awareness Month)

sponsored by the  
Missions, Peace and Service Commission

The Grantham Brethren in Christ Church  
421 Grantham Rd.  
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[www.granthamchurch.org](http://www.granthamchurch.org)

## Sermon Series, 10:30 a.m. “Living Peacefully in Our Families”

### October 2, Uncovering the mistreatment of women (2 Sam. 3:12-16, 6:16-23)

Domestic violence is both physical and emotional. Visual images of Queen Michal, the first wife of King David who was a victim of emotional abuse from her father and husband, anticipate tragedies taking place today. *Dr. Susanna Bede Caroselli, Professor of Art History, Messiah College.*

### October 9, Revealing the seeds of domestic violence (Gal. 5:16-26)

The Bible reminds us that the fruit of our behavior stems from the seeds that are often unseen. This message will help you identify some of the seeds of domestic violence as well as the seeds of a peaceful way of life. *Pastor John Reitz.*

### October 16, Relating without manipulating (Eph. 5:21-33)

Whether we use power for good or bad determines the overall health of a relationship. This message will examine one of the most misused biblical teachings that has helped to nurture violence against women. *Pastor John Reitz.*

### October 23, Confronting the abuse of children (Matt. 18:1-6)

Child abuse takes place across every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, and within every religious tradition. This message will bring us face to face with Jesus and his concern for the care and well-being of all children. *Pastor John Reitz.*

### October 30, Facing the realities of rape (2 Sam. 13)

Violence in the form of rape, incest, and parental neglect harms not only the victim but also the entire society. Artwork tells the story of Princess Tamar, abused by one brother and avenged by another. Guest speaker: *Dr. Susanna Bede Caroselli, Messiah College.*

*Note: Due to the subject matter, parents may want to consider how appropriate this series is for their children.*

## Building a Future with Hope Breakfast and Presentation

Sunday, October 16, 8:30-10:15 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Come as you can, starting at 8:30, for a delicious breakfast prepared by Dan Asbury and Carl Rosetto.

Presentation from 9:00-10:15 by Heather Kelly, a local lawyer and co-chair of Brethren Housing Association's 20/20 Vision Campaign; Amanda Cline, a graduate of BHA; and Julia Tilley, a therapist who works closely with BHA's program staff.

## About Brethren Housing Association (BHA)

The mission of Brethren Housing Association is to provide a holistic program of secure housing, supportive services, and loving relationships. BHA helps homeless and low-income individuals and families achieve their God-given potential. Using much volunteer labor, BHA has acquired and rehabilitated almost an entire city block of multi-unit apartment buildings.

Participants in BHA's transitional housing program are single mothers with one to five children living with them. These women have worked hard to keep their families together in light of many challenges, **including domestic violence and abuse.**

More information about BHA  
[www.bha-pa.org](http://www.bha-pa.org)

## Service and Giving Project (How you can help)

October 21-23 (Friday to Sunday)

### 1. Join the work team

A work team from the Grantham Church will help with BHA's newest rehabilitation project: The Diener House. Named for Ray Diener, a supporter of BHA as well as Messiah College's Water for the World project, Diener was tragically murdered in 2007 on the front steps of his Elizabethtown home. When complete, the Diener House will provide housing and the opportunity to build a future with hope for two more families. Participants will also be able to meet and interact with local community folks, including families now living in housing provided by BHA. An application form with more information is available at the MPS bulletin board near C-7, or contact Art Bert, project coordinator, at 432-2653 or [bertwerks@gmail.com](mailto:bertwerks@gmail.com)

### 2. Help provide meals

Several small groups have volunteered to provide meals for the work crew; if you are not a part of one of those small groups and would like to be involved, contact Harriet Bicksler, 795-9151 or [bickhouse@aol.com](mailto:bickhouse@aol.com)

### 3. Give to support BHA

Help cover construction costs and assist BHA in expanding to serve more families in need in this troubled economy with your financial gifts. You're encouraged to give throughout the month of October. On October 16, there will be a special ingathering offering during the morning service. Use the special envelope that will be in your mailbox and available at the welcome centers and resource table.