



E-Quipped for Prevention

Summer 2009

Ideas, resources, and training for
Cherish Our Children Leaders

**Just getting started? Looking for new ideas?
Wanting more support and encouragement?
A Leadership Circle may be just what you need!**

One of the best ways to renew and strengthen your leadership within Cherish Our Children is to join a Leadership Circle. These are monthly conference calls over the course of a year, designed to help you as a leader do your best work.

Because of the generosity of our donors, the cost to you is \$100. We also have forty \$25 scholarships available through funding from the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Department of the ELCA. [Download a registration form and scholarship application.](#) Registration deadline is September 15.

Prayer

Praying for the children in our congregations and communities

✝ **Pray Boldly! Pray First!** (submitted by Dianne Klafehn, Upstate New York Synod)

Prayer warriors in the Upstate New York Synod have joined with Cherish Our Children! Women from several conferences and individual churches across the Synod have begun with prayer within their congregations. Some are reaching out to crisis centers to pray for exploited children. Others are encouraging prayer among all adult members and having seminars on prevention and intervention. Pray boldly! Pray first!

✝ **Tibetan Prayer Flags - Lutheran/Christian style** (submitted by Pastor Tim Ehling, Southwestern Minnesota Synod)

Needed: Multi-colored strips of cloth, permanent markers, rope, and people willing to write their prayers on the cloth. Prayers are tied to the rope and each other, then hung outside to blow in the wind. Nice reminder to pray without ceasing. We used these at our Synod Assembly earlier this year.

✝ [10-Minute Time Outs For Moms](#) (submitted by Amy Hartman, National Director)

Do you ever worry about your kids? Are you sometimes exhausted before the day is

done? Have you wondered if you're up to the task of being a mom? You're not alone! Moms everywhere feel the same way. In just a few minutes each day, you will discover how to:

- Exchange fear for your kids' well-being for confidence in God's sovereignty over their lives.
- Pray effectively on your kids' behalf.
- Enjoy the sweetness of God's presence in the midst of motherhood's demands

† **Cherish Our Children Congregation Manual**

Don't forget this valuable resource for helping you set up your prayer ministry for children in your congregation! It is tried and true! Available through the Cherish Our Children office.

Education

Building awareness of sexual exploitation

† **Poverty and Sexual Violence** (submitted by Amy Hartman, National Director)

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape published a report in 2007 entitled: "[Poverty and Sexual Violence: Building Prevention and Intervention Responses](#)"

Here is the opening paragraph from the Introduction:

Research shows an undeniable link between poverty and sexual violence. Sexual violence can jeopardize a person's economic wellbeing, often leading to homelessness, unemployment, interrupted education and health, mental health, and other daily stressors and struggles. In turn, living without one's basic needs met can increase a person's risk for sexual victimization.

† **Sexual Violence Prevention** (submitted by Amy Hartman, National Director)

The main focus of Cherish Our Children is preventing the sexual exploitation of children. It's useful to understand the various forms of prevention and how Cherish Our Children fits into the overall picture of prevention. Below are two documents worth reading:

[Sexual Violence Prevention: Beginning the Dialogue. Published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004](#)

[The Promise of Prevention: A Five-Year Plan to Prevent Sexual Violence and Exploitation in Minnesota. Published by the Minnesota Department of Health](#)

† **Helpful Websites and Resources** (submitted by Nancy Rogness, Minneapolis Area Synod)

www.talkingwithkids.org Suggestions for talking with kids about tough issues. On this site, is another free guide for parents that can be down-loaded. It is 40 pages long; very readable and insightful. All of the issues kids face are interconnected; so this a great resource.

www.netsmartz.org 800-843-5678. This is a well done site created by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children along with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, and others. Of particular use for congregations are the downloadable Internet training PowerPoint presentations and accompanying guides for kids in Grades K-2, 3-6, Middle School, and High School, as well as training for parents and community members. There are also good on-line games for young children, to reinforce safe internet practices.

www.fwepiscopal.org/SGC Safeguarding God's Children: An Educational Program for Preventing Child Sexual Abuse. Parents, congregations, church leaders and clergy can all benefit from Safeguarding God's Children, a program geared to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in everyday life and in ministry. The training kit includes two videos (DVDs), participant workbooks, and a trainer's manual.

www.1800runaway.org The mission of the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is to help keep America's runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. The organization serves as the federally designated national communication system for runaway and homeless youth. The National Runaway Switchboard produces several publications and materials throughout the year to help get the word out to runaways and at-risk youth and their families. All NRS Materials are free of charge. To order free NRS materials to distribute in your community, please call 1-800-RUNAWAY or download Promotional Materials and order form and return to NRS.

† **Books and Videos** (submitted by Pastor Tim Ehling, Southwestern Minnesota Synod)

[Price of Pleasure: Pornography, Sexuality, and Relationships](#). Once relegated to the margins of society, pornography has emerged as one of the most visible and profitable sectors of the cultural industries, assuming an unprecedented role in the mainstream of our popular culture at the same time that its content has become more extreme and harsh, more overtly sexist and racist. This eye-opening and disturbing film tackles the complexity behind this seeming paradox, placing the voices of critics, producers, and performers alongside the observations of men and women as they candidly discuss the role pornography has played in shaping their sexual imaginations and relationships. Viewer discretion advised.

"Sex has a Price Tag" and "Take a Look in the Mirror" (for girls only), videos by [Pam Stenzel](#).

[Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity](#) a book by Professor Robert Jensen, University of Texas at Austin.

[Sex God: Exploring the endless connections between sexuality and spirituality](#) a book by Rob Bell.

† **Task Force/Ministry Team Tip** (submitted by Pastor Tim Ehling, Southwestern Minnesota Synod)

It has been helpful for our Ministry Team to frame the education part of our meetings with a discussion over these two questions:

1. What have you been learning about sexual exploitation from resources and the culture?
2. What have you been teaching?

Relationship-Building

Connecting with other groups to prevent exploitation

✝ **Two Possibilities** (submitted by Pastor Tim Ehling, Southwestern Minnesota Synod)

1. [Breaking Free](#) was established in October 1996 as a non-profit organization serving women and girls involved in systems of prostitution/sex trafficking and other battered women who have been involved in the criminal justice system. Phone: 651-645-6557.

2. Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust- ELCA Social Statement on Sexuality found at www.elca.org

✝ **A Helpful Resource** (submitted by the Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop's Task Force)

[Congregational Resource List for the Minneapolis Area Synod](#) which provides ideas for education and relationship-building. Created by a Bishop's Task Force member. A good model for other synods.

Action

God's people in action to prevent exploitation

✝ **[Clean Hotels Initiative](#)** (submitted by Amy Hartman, National Director)

This is a collaborative initiative between the Minnesota Department of Health - Sexual Violence Prevention Program and the Minnesota Men's Action Network: Alliance to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence. They are asking that businesses, public/private organizations, and municipalities modify their **meeting facility policy** so that meetings and conferences will be held in facilities that do not offer in-room adult pay-per-view pornography.

✝ **Tassa Tag** (Submitted by Amy Hartman, National Director. Received from the ELCA Office of Corporate Responsibility.)

The mission of [ECPAT USA](#), a non-profit children's rights organization, is to protect all children from commercial sexual exploitation. ECPAT has created a way through [TassaTag](#) to help raise awareness to the trafficking of children. Learn how to "reclaim children's lives while claiming your luggage" with [TassaTag](#).

Heart-full Giving

Aligning our giving with our values

[The Soul of Money](#) by Lynne Twist and Teresa Barker (submitted by Amy Hartman)

This compelling and fundamentally liberating book shows us that examining our attitudes toward money - earning it, spending it, and giving it away - offer an surprising insight into our lives, our values, and the essence of prosperity. Through personal stories and practical advice, the author demonstrates how we can replace feelings of scarcity, guilt, and burden with experiences of sufficiency, freedom, and purpose.

Minneapolis Area Synod Preachers

You are invited to participate in a year-long, monthly series of Leadership Circles, designed to support you in preaching about sexual exploitation. You, along with four of your peers, will study Scripture, share ideas, navigate pastoral care, and pray for one another as you strengthen your preaching on this topic

Due to the generosity of our donors, the cost is \$100/person. Ten \$50 scholarships are also available through funding we received from the Minneapolis Area Synod Leadership Table. [Download a registration form and scholarship application.](#) Registration deadline is September 15.

First Annual Sermon Contest

Cherish Our Children is sponsoring its **First Annual Sermon Contest!** Eligible sermons:

1. are focused on the Cherish Our Children ministry and themes related to preventing child sexual exploitation.
2. must have been publicly preached during Year B to a congregation or other group.
3. must be based upon Scripture; Year B lectionary texts are encouraged but not required.
4. must be an original work, with documented quotations.

To enter, send a transcript of your sermon along with the Bible text used, the date preached, audience/congregation preached to, and any significant background information. Entries are due January 1, 2010 and should be mailed to Cherish Our Children (see address below).

The author of the winning sermon will receive a free registration to the 2010 National Gathering of Cherish Our Children, with the opportunity to preach the sermon during the Gathering. The top five sermons will be published on the Cherish Our Children website.

Have ideas, resources, trainings to share?

Send them to ahartman@cherishchildren.org by October 1 for the Fall 2009 issue of "Equipped for Prevention."

Cherish Our Children

Cherish Our Children is a national Lutheran ministry of prayer, education, relationship-building, and action to prevent child sexual exploitation.

We believe that "Love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us all to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation"
([ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#), pg. 1.)

You are invited to [give financially](#) to support this ministry. Gifts from Thrivent members may be matched through the GivingPlus program. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Cherish Our Children
704 11th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55415
612.280.1259
www.cherishchildren.org