

Compassionate Cup Ministries: A Voice for the Voiceless

Newsletter Number One

Located at Kerr House, Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, Annapolis Royal, NS



Are you a pastor who feels out of your depth when church members come to you with certain difficult issues?

Are you being abused and frightened and are desperately seeking a Christian response to your situation?

Did you go to your church for help but felt judged and condemned instead?



Do you have church leaders who are well trained in crisis intervention of domestic violence and abuse issues? Would you recommend others to come to your church for help?

Are you needing a safe, confidential place to talk?



Do you feel that no-one in your church understands what you are going through?

Do you feel cut off and abandoned by your Church?



Do you feel that God has abandoned you?

This non-profit agency is an Interdenominational Christian Resource for the deeply hurting. We are also part of the Church. Each of our Board of Directors is a faithful member of their own denominational church. As Missionaries of Compassion, the Church is called to care for the unwanted, the unloved and the lonely. Too often, however, unscrupulous church communities take Scriptures out of context and apply them simplistically to sensitive and complex situations in such a way as people are hurt instead of helped, thus causing, what is called in the counselling world, "Secondary Trauma." There is a fear about certain issues that cause churches to shy away from dealing with them, then people are left sitting in their pain, feeling dismissed and negated. The issue doesn't go away, but festers 'under the carpet' of the church and throughout the surrounding community. The church is now the only public institution in North America that does NOT have mandatory Child Abuse Prevention implementation, and still only a very, VERY few churches of ANY denomination have this in place and PREDATORS KNOW THIS! We should NOT be surprised when abuse is disclosed, but instead be intent on living up to our responsibility, as people of God, to maintain our places of worship as a place of refuge for all, according to Isaiah 61:1, 2. This agency is intent on being part of dispelling any fear that pastors or church communities may have around the difficult issues of life, by offering educational, therapeutic and spiritually reconciliatory support for all who apply. This front-line worker is affiliated with professional ethics and is listed on www.ccpa.ca. We are not about re-inventing the wheel but about utilising God-given knowledge that has been readily available for years. In this day and age of scandal in the Roman Catholic Church around abuse issues, none of us can afford to be complacent in any area of human suffering. Abuse is NOT just a problem of the Roman Catholic Church but is present in ALL denominations. Situations of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other grief and loss issues are continuing to be suffered by men and women who so desperately need a sensitive, Christian response to their situation. This can be a way for hurting people to meet Christ for the first time, IF a church community has knowledgeably prepared themselves, but can just as adversely be the reason why a person chooses NEVER to step inside a church, or to allow God into their life ever again. There is no one denomination which deals with this better or worse than another because it depends ENTIRELY on whether the church leadership feels it is necessary to receive training. Let us all, as Children of God, support and encourage our church leaders to acquire training that will keep them and the churches safe. Let us humbly and prayerfully ask for God's direction in our hearts and remain teachable, for the sake of the vulnerable.

Blessings,

Pastor Marion Duncan B.Ed., M.Ed., C.C.C., M. Div.

ONGOING SUPPORTS AND UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Unless otherwise stated, all sessions are held at the Kerr House, Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens Complex. There are no set fees, however a contribution to offset expenses would be accepted but is not solicited.

One-on-one counselling is available on an ongoing basis, by request. Telephone or email at:
Tel: 902 526 3742
Email:marion.duncan@gmail.com

Pastoral support , prayer and worship groups in a confidential setting for men and women who have experienced or are still experiencing abuse. Tel:526 3742

**Tuesday and Wednesday
30th Nov. & 1st Dec. 2010**

Child Abuse Prevention Strategies for Churches

This is put together by experts in Risk Management, fully explaining a church's responsibility to keep children safe and to keep churches safe from litigation. This is a two day workshop for all interested church leaders, elders, deacons, church teachers, and members. We will be reviewing a training DVD and instruction booklets especially designed for a Christian Church setting. This is your chance to find out exactly what Child Abuse Prevention involves in a confidential, safe, and discussion friendly atmosphere. No explicit of child abuse are cited. Child abuse is talked about in general terms, so there is no fear of vicarious trauma. **Attendance by registration.** Please email, or phone, giving name, organisation and contact information.

Starting Tues. March 1st 2011,9.30am-1200

Second Chance at Healthy Living: Looking at Addictions

This is an informative set of sessions that are suitable for Church leaders or anyone who wants to get a handle on this very difficult issue. This model takes the stand that it is the whole family that is affected by the addiction and therefore the whole family needs to learn how to have a second chance at healthy living. Most of us know someone who is experiencing or is affected by addictions. **Attendance by registration.**

**Tuesday 23rd November 2010, 9:00 am -12:00 noon
followed by a pot luck lunch WHAT HAS DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE TO DO WITH THE CHURCH?** This is a 30 minute

presentation followed by questions and discussions then a refreshment break before the CRISIS INTERVENTION STRATEGIES described in (B) below. This presentation deals with issues that are important to Bible believing faith communities. This may be particularly interesting for those secular helping agencies who are interested in the needs of their Christian clients.

**(B) PASTORAL CRISIS INTERVENTION OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE for WOMEN AND MEN** THIS IS NOT A THERAPY MODEL. WE RECOGNISE THAT PASTORS ARE NOT THERAPISTS. These are a tools for when situations land on a pastor's doorstep and you have no choice but to deal with it. Interaction WILL take place and something WILL happen one way or another. It is our duty as the shepherd of the flock to ensure that what happens is life-giving. **Attendance by registration.** Email/phone with contact info.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR NON-OFFENDING PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED, and have chosen separation from the offender

Registration and Screening required in order to ensure confidentiality and safety. Do not be alone in this. We are here to travel through this difficult journey with you. This is a non-proselytising organisation that abides by ethics found on www.ccpa.ca .

Starting Tues. December 7th 2010, 9.30 am-12.00

Understanding and Healing Abuse

These sessions are specifically for church leaders who are endeavouring to truly understand the depth and nature of damage endured by persons who have been abused and the wealth of Biblical knowledge to apply in a life-giving way in such difficult circumstances. Participants need to be aware that real life Pastoral interventions will be examined, which will necessarily include some sensitive material, but not deep explicit of abuse. A general introductory session and the second session will be before Christmas and another seven, after Christmas starting January 11th **Attendance by registration.** Email/phone. giving contact info. .

Pastor Marion can be contacted at

Tel: 902 526 3742

Email:marion.duncan@gmail.com

Website:www.compassionatecupministries.ca

