

Betrayed...

Continued from page 4

name stunned his wife of 40 years by revealing he was molested at age nine by his father's friend.

Rev. Ray Pringle, pastor of Calvary Chapel Church of God in northwest Jacksonville, wrote the following in a newsletter to his parishioners:

"I was sexually molested by a predator preacher while Dad was studying at [Bible] College; the predator was attending the same college. I have never spoken of this matter to a soul until now, not even my dad, mom or wife. Dad has [died] and never knew a friend of his was guilty of molesting me. You see, you can never fully trust a person just because he says he is a friend.

"I have been too embarrassed and ashamed to reveal this dark secret I have harbored all these years. Unless you have been a victim, you just cannot imagine what goes on in your mind... [You feel] that you are worthless and your heart just about bursts for fear of that event being revealed. This happened to me in 1949 and I still want to vomit when I think about it... I have lived most of my life wishing I could put an end to that predator, but God has withheld me... I do not think I will ever stop being ashamed, and I think these predators should have a special place set aside for them in hell. I fight bitterness and hate all the time, but I want to go to heaven more than I want to be bitter and hate people."

A co-worker told of being molested when she was seven and again at age 14. She had subconsciously blocked out the earlier incident, but when she told her mother about the second molestation, she was devastated when her mother didn't believe her. While employed as an ER nurse at age 27, she worked with a man who aroused in her an unexplainable antipathy until one day a confrontation jogged her memory – he looked like the man who had fondled her 20 years before. Memories came flooding back and, not knowing how to deal with the pain and shame, she went through a dark period of misery and drug

addiction before finding help and healing at a women's treatment center.

A former co-worker, also a nurse, related a brief encounter with a teenage uncle when she was about five years old. When I asked if his fondling had an impact on her, she replied, "Well, it happened 50

years ago and I remember it as if it were yesterday."

daughter came upstairs and doesn't know what subsequently happened with her sister. (When I read the preceding paragraph to my younger daughter, she told me *just today* that not long ago, from out of nowhere, she suddenly remembered the assault – she

adequately express the rage I feel over this despicable violation of my little girls. The thought of such behavior never crossed my mind, and I want to scream to the world: **"Parents, diligently look after your little kids. Be sure you know exactly what is going on in their lives. Listen to what they tell you.**

of child sexual abuse. In my humble opinion, this can only be effectively achieved by two initiatives: (1) the instilling of a pervasive societal attitude of zero tolerance; and (2) the identification of each and every child molester out there."

The National Foundation to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse states, "...every one of us must accept responsibility for eradicating sexual abuse and insisting on a zero-tolerance attitude. Every person has a part to play in preventing child abuse. Even if your children are not at risk, you should keep a keen eye on events in your neighborhood. If you have a reason to suspect child sexual abuse, do not hesitate to contact the police. You may be the only chance [voice] that child has."

Editor's note: Space in this edition is insufficient to detail all of Leah's story and that of many others or to provide all the available information about this awful scourge on our society. Please visit the website of The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (<http://nccan.ch.afc.hhs.gov>) and other related websites under keyword: child sexual abuse.

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when...

...the child:

- Has difficulty walking or sitting.
- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities.
- Reports nightmares or bedwetting.
- Experiences a sudden change in appetite.
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior.
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14.
- Runs away.
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver.

...the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex.
- Is secretive and isolated.
- Is jealous or controlling with family members.

was molested with the plastic handle of a toilet scrub brush! She says she still can't talk about it, but this information explains a lot of things, including her gynecological problems and her inability to bear children.)

How could I have been so oblivious to this atrocity in my own home? Words can't

And be sure you can trust those who care for them."

Normal people everywhere share my outrage toward the perverted psychopaths who prey on our innocent children. Lloyd Duhaime, Barrister & Solicitor, Victoria, B.C., writes: "There cannot be any more pressing concern than the complete and total eradication

of child sexual abuse. In my humble opinion, this can only be effectively achieved by two initiatives: (1) the instilling of a pervasive societal attitude of zero tolerance; and (2) the identification of each and every child molester out there."

The National Foundation to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse states, "...every one of us must accept responsibility for eradicating sexual abuse and insisting on a zero-tolerance attitude. Every person has a part to play in preventing child abuse. Even if your children are not at risk, you should keep a keen eye on events in your neighborhood. If you have a reason to suspect child sexual abuse, do not hesitate to contact the police. You may be the only chance [voice] that child has."

Editor's note: Space in this edition is insufficient to detail all of Leah's story and that of many others or to provide all the available information about this awful scourge on our society. Please visit the website of The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (<http://nccan.ch.afc.hhs.gov>) and other related websites under keyword: child sexual abuse.

A SAFER COMMUNITY IS A BETTER COMMUNITY.

At McDonald's, we're proud of our involvement with the Justice Coalition. We're offering a

\$10,000 REWARD

for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in an armed robbery in our restaurants. All because our customers and employees deserve a safe environment.



©2004 McDonald's Corporation

JOHNNY
PONS
FOR
SHERIFF
www.PonsForSheriff.com
Leadership You Can Trust!
(904) 298-0090 • 3265 HWY 17 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
Pd.Pol.Ad.Pd.tor & Approved by The Johnny Pons Camp (0)