THE PORN EPIDEMIC
Facts Stats & Solutions
by: Josh D. McDowell

Jill Manning U.S. Senate Testimony

Josh McDOWELL MINISTRY
Until the whole world hears
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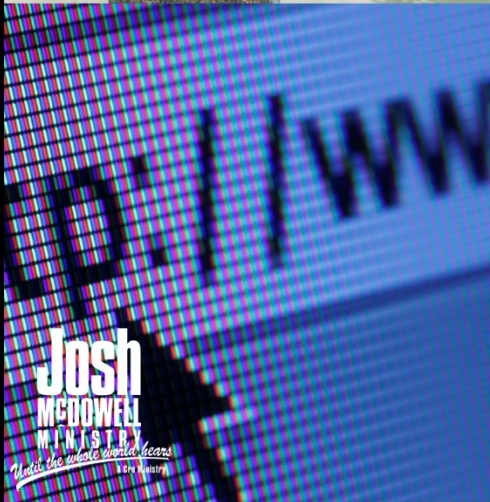
Testimony of Jill C. Manning, M.S.

"The Internet brings the world - the good, the band, and the ugly – to the American family's doorstep. It brings the ruins of ancient Athens to that doorstep, but it also brings the red light district of Bangkok." [2]

"In fact, pornography was one of the early financial engines."[4]

"In speaking to these risks, several experts in the field of mental health contend online sexual pursuits are 'a hidden public health hazard exploding, in part, because very few are recognizing it as such or taking it seriously."[9]

"Empirical findings that examine the relationship between Internet pornography and its impact on marital relationships and families."

"A common challenge when attempting to compare and contrast research findings related to pornography is that diverse definitions and types of pornography exist. Subsequently, different definitions and genres of pornography have been employed in research studies, thereby complicating a coherent synthesis of key findings. In past reviews, the operationalization of terms, or the lack thereof, has been a common critique and limitation of many studies.[12] Furthermore, many agree that 'pornography is an elusive term with a range of meanings, dependent not only on cultural, social, and historical contexts, but also on individuals' own experiences and beliefs'[13] and that trying to find a common definition is only futile, but need not be distinguished from the more positively viewed erotica."[14]

"Internet pornography is distinct from other forms of pornography because of the 'Triple-A Engine' effect of accessibility, affordability and anonymity."[15] [Josh note: addictive, appealing, available = yes before now access]. [Additionally, Delmonico, Griffin and Moriarty refer to the 'Cyberhex of the Internet' which includes intoxicating, isolating, integral, inexpensive, imposing and interactive as characteristics that make the Internet a unique and powerful medium.]" [16]

"The 'Triple-A Engine' effect, in particular, is widely accepted as the primary reason why many pre-existing problems with other forms of pornography have been exacerbated in the last decade, and why many individuals have been drawn into problematic pornography consumption that otherwise would not been involved with this material prior to the advent of the Internet.[17] As Leiblum and Doring state,

> "Personal inhibition levels, social controls, and the lack of willing partners and sexual scenes that may limit sexual activity in everyday contexts are obsolete in cyberspace. It is easy for latent desires to be realized in cyberspace. Internet sexuality may thus serve as a catalyst."[18]

"The other unprecedented characteristic of Internet pornography is the ease with which children and adolescents have access to it – both solicited and unsolicited access. In the past, the adult bookstore or restricted movie theatre was a tangible gatekeeper or buffer to minors being exposed to this material, albeit not impenetrable. Indiscriminating accessibility, Nielsen//NetRatings (2005), now includes children beginning at two years of age in their demographic statistics for so-called 'adult' traffic."[21]

"While the scientific community has not reached a consensus regarding pornography's effect."[25]

Overview of the Negative Effects of General Pornography Consumption

"Prior to the advent of Internet pornography, two of the most frequently cited researchers of pornography's effects were Dolf Zillman and Jennings Bryant. Zillman and Bryant's (1984 and 1988) findings sparked considerable debate and criticism for a number of reasons. The main criticisms pertained to the fact that their research was: (a) limited to experimental situations, (b) lacked real punishment or social controls, (c) used college students as the normative group, and (d) was unable to ethically produce real violence.[28] With that said, many consider their results

to be reliable and valid, and their work has continued to be referenced for nearly two decades."

"For this paper, Zillman and Bryant's (1984 and 1988) work is used to give a general overview of the kinds of effects with which pornography has been associated and those that have fueled debate. Zillman and Bryant found the effects of repeated exposure to standard, non-violent, and commonly available pornography included: (1) increased callousness toward women; (2) trivialization of rape as a criminal offense; (3) distorted perceptions about sexuality; (4) increased appetite for more deviant and bizarre types of pornography (escalation and addiction); (5) devaluation of monogamy; (6) decreased satisfaction with a partner's sexual performance, affection, and physical appearance; (7) doubts about the value of marriage; (8) decreased desire to have children; and (9) viewing non-monogamous relationships as normal and natural behavior."[29]

"Mulac, Jansma, and Linz studied 71 men interacting with women in problem-solving dyads after watching one of three types of films: (1) sexually explicit and degrading to women, (2) sexually explicit but non-degrading, and (3) non-sexual. Results showed that the men who viewed either of the sexually explicit films displayed more dominance and anxiety, ignored the contributions of their partner more often, touched their partner for longer periods of time, and averted gaze more than the participants who had viewed the non-sexual film. The researchers concluded the impact of sexually explicit material on behavior is more complex than is often assumed in pornography research, but that a negative impact exists."

"One of the most comprehensive meta-analyses [examining multiple studies] regarding pornography's effects on individuals is a relatively recent study conducted by Oddone-Paolucci, Genuis, and Violato (2000).[39] For this meta-analysis, 46 studies published in various academic journals were analyzed to determine the effect of pornography on: (a) sexual deviancy (e.g., excessive or ritualistic masturbation); (b) sexual perpetration (e.g., rape); (c) attitudes regarding intimate relationships (e.g., viewing people as sexual objects); and (d) attitudes regarding the rape myth (e.g., believing women cause rape or rapists deserve lenient sentences). In order to be

selected for the meta-analysis, each study had to include a sample size of 12 or greater and include a comparison group. The studies ranged in date from 1962 to 1995 an comprised a total sample of 12,323 people. Eighty-five percent of the studies (39) were conducted in the United States, 11 percent (5) were conducted in Canada, and two studies were conducted in Europe. Table 1 shows the number of studies and sample size for each outcome examined in the meta-analysis."

"One reason this study is particularly useful is that nine different characteristics of the participants and the pornographic material consumed are taken into consideration: age of exposure, gender, socioeconomic status, number of exposure incidents, relation of person who introduced pornography to the user, degree of sexual explicitness, subject of the pornography, medium used to consume pornography, and definition of pornography."

"Oddone-Paolucci, Genuis, and Violato found that exposure to pornographic material puts one a increased risk for developing sexually deviant tendencies, committing sexual offenses, experiencing difficulties in one's intimate relationships, and accepting rape myths. In terms of the degree of risk, the analysis revealed a 31 percent increase in the risk of sexual deviancy, a 22 percent increase in the risk of sexual perpetration, a 20 percent increase in the risk of experiencing negative intimate relationships, and a 31 percent increase in the risk of believing rape myths."[40]

"The researchers acknowledged that while pornography is likely not a solitary influence in people's lives, exposure to pornography is one important factor that contributes directly to the developments of sexually dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors. The researchers concluded, 'In order to promote a healthy and stable society, it is time that we attend to the culmination of sound empirical research."[41]

"One of the most popular research questions related to effects has been whether or not pornography consumption correlates with aggression after exposure. It is therefore important to summarize finding from a meta-

analysis that looked specifically at effects on aggression. A total of 30 studies with a total of 33 effect sizes and a combined total of 2,040 participants were included in the 1995 meta-analysis conducted by Allen, D'Alessio, and Brezgel[42] – a study applauded for meeting rigorous methodological standards.[43] All of the studies in the meta-analysis were conducted between 1971 and 1984, prior to the advent of Internet pornography, and were carried out in experimental laboratory situations, therefore limiting the generalizability of the findings to the outside world. The meta-analysis included film, videotape, written texts, and still pictures as the mediums of pornography and included both male and female participants. The finding indicated:

- "There is a modest correlation between exposure to pornography and subsequent behavioral aggression."[44]
- "Pictorial nudity reduces subsequent aggressive behavior (9 studies) while material depicting nonviolent sexual activity slightly increases aggressive behavior (24 studies)."
- "The strongest correlation exists between depictions of violent sexual activity and aggression (7 studies)."

"Malamuth, Addison, and Koss (2000) took the meta-analytic process one step further when they analyzed a compilation of meta-analyses that looked at pornography and sexual aggression.[47] Their work concluded there are reliable associations between frequent pornography use and sexually aggressive behaviors, and these associations are strongest when violent pornography is viewed and/or when men at high risk for sexual aggression are the consumers."

"Acceptance of rape myths has been a common area of investigation, in part, because violent pornography often promotes and eroticizes rape as a sexual act that is enjoyed and/or desired by females.[48] In 1980, Burt coined the term 'rape myth'[49] to describe beliefs held by a person or persons regarding the act of rape, rapists, and victims of rape.[50] It was theorized that males who subscribed to rape myths would be less tolerant of rape victims and less likely to convict if serving on a rape-trial jury. Similarly,

women who accept rape myths would be less likely to report rape as a crime or offer social support to victims."[51]

"In 1995, Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, and Giery conducted a meta-analysis of 24 rape myth acceptance studies conducted between 1980 and 1993 with a grand total of 4,268 participants. Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, and Giery found experimental investigations positively correlated exposure to nonviolent or violent pornography with increased acceptance of rape myths compared to a control group.[52] Violent pornography was also shown to have a significantly stronger relationship with rape myth acceptance.[53] Although the non-experimental studies in the meta-analysis showed almost no effect on rape myth acceptance, it is important to note that only self-reported data was collected in the methodologies of these studies and the actual behavioral outcomes were not incorporated.[54] Furthermore, three other meta-analyses by Kim and Hunter (1993)[55] and Sheppard, Hartwick, and Warshaw (1998)[56] supported the existence of an attitude-behavior linkage between pornography consumption and acceptance of rape myths."

"While not a meta-analysis, Corne, Briere, and Esses's (1992) study is an important contribution to our understanding of pornography and rape myth acceptance. This study examined women's rape myths as a function of early exposure to pornography.[57] A total of 187 female university students responded to a questionnaire regarding: (a) childhood exposure to pornography, (b) current sexual fantasies, and (c) endorsement of rape-supportive attitudes. Eighty-six (46 percent) of the respondents reported direct exposure to pornography as a child, and statistical analysis showed that this exposure significantly related to rape fantasies and rape-supportive beliefs in adulthood. The researchers suggest early contact with pornography affects female socialization by not only normalizing sexual aggression, but also portraying it as culturally desirable to women."[58]

"Another common research question related to pornography is how pornography consumption and subsequent effects differ between sex-offending and non-criminal populations. Allen, D'Alessio, and Emmers-Sommer (2000) conducted a meta-analysis of 13 studies focusing on this question and examined several dependent measures such as (a) frequency

of pornography use, (b) age of first exposure, (c) the degree to which pornography was a direct prelude to a sexual act, and (d) the degree of sexual arousal evoked by the sexually explicit material.[59] Across the seven studies in which sexual activity after viewing pornography was examined, a relatively strong effect was found. Results revealed that after viewing pornography, criminals were more likely than on-criminals to perform a sex act."

"In 1995, Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, and Giery looked at the levels of physiological arousal in sex offenders versus non-criminal populations after viewing pornography.[60] After analyzing 32 studies comprising a total of 2,099 participants, it was concluded that sex offenders were more aroused than non-criminals while viewing pornographic material and that sex offenders were more aroused by violent sex than on-criminal consumers. In contrast, sex offenders were less aroused by depictions of consensual sex that the non-criminal population."

"Although Internet pornography is commonly consumed by one household member in a solitary, secret fashion, the impact of sexually explicit material is being felt by entire family systems."

"Research further clarifies marriage as a priority in the pornography debate. For instance, when one consider: (a) the magnitude and growth of online sexual activity based on multiple Internet traffic measurements, [61] (b) that the majority of Internet users in the United States are married males,[62] (c) that more than half of Americans (172 million) use the Internet and 20 to 33 percent of users go online for sexual purposes,[63] and (d) that the majority of people struggling with sexual addictions and compulsivity involving the Internet are married, heterosexual males."[64]

"In North American culture, it is most common for people to select a marriage partner according to romantic love as opposed to family arrangement or economic necessity. Research by Roberts (1982),[66] Davis and Todd (1982), [67] Davis (1985),[68] and Bergner (2000)[69] is useful in clarifying what romantic love entails from a social science perspective. They found that romantic love embodies the following characteristics: (a)

investment in the well-being of the beloved, (b) respect, (c) admiration, (d) sexual desire, (e) intimacy, (f) commitment, (g) exclusivity, and (h) understanding."[70]

"The researchers found that when these characteristics are present in a romantic relationship, people tend to feel fully loved. On the other hand, when there are violations to these characteristics and the violations are sufficient in magnitude, partners will commonly conclude that they are no longer loved as they once were and re-evaluates their place in their partners' world. As Bergner and Bridges (2002) point out, many women who discover a partner's intense involvement with pornography engage in just such a reappraisal of their relationship."[71]

"Maurer's work also helps clarify what satisfying sexual relationships entail. Maurer found three common traits that distinguish sexually satisfied couples from unsatisfied couples: (1) acceptance of one's own sexuality, (2) listening to one's partner and being aware of a partner's likes and dislikes, and (3) open and honest communication."[73]

"Moreover, according to data from the General Social Survey in 2000 (N = 531), people who report being happily married are 61 percent less likely to report using Internet pornography compared to those who also used the Internet and who had completed the General Social Survey in 2000.[74] As Stack, Wasserman, and Kern (2004) conclude, 'The strengthening of adult social bonds, especially those to religion and marriage, might reduce the attraction to cyberpornography in general."[75]

"Survey research conducted by Bridges, Bergner and Hesson-McInnis (2203)[76] found married women are significantly more distressed by a partner's online pornography consumption than women in dating relationships, and that Internet pornography consumption is viewed as a threat to the relationship.[77] This study included a non-clinical sample (N – 100) who were 18 years of age or older and who had a partner involved in Internet pornography. The distress reported by the women increased according to the perceived frequency of online sexual activities and, surprisingly, was not as strongly influenced by religious beliefs. Therefore,

married women who perceived greater levels in Internet pornography consumption tended to have the greatest levels of distress than any other group of women. Bridges, Bergner and Hesson-McInnis' (2003) research is significant because it supports the assertion that married women generally are distressed by their husbands use of sexually explicit material and that this may threaten the stability of the marital bond."

"Looking to more extreme situations, a 2000 study by Schneider found that cybersex addiction was a major contributing factor to separation and divorce for affected couples.[78] This study analyzed survey responses from94 individuals (91 women, 3 men) who (a) ranged in age from 24 to 57, (b) had been in a relationship for an average of 12.6 years (range of 0.5 to 39 years), and (c) were seeking therapy to copy with a partner's Internet involvement. The sample was recruited through 20 therapists who were treating sex addicts and who were aware of individuals who would be interested in participating in this research. Although a range of online sexual activities were listed, viewing and/or downloading pornography accompanied by masturbation was present in 100 percent of the cases."

"Although not a formal study, important survey data was collected at the November 2002 meeting of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in Chicago, Illinois, regarding the impact of Internet usage on marriages.[79] This professional organization comprises the nation's top 1,600 divorce and matrimonial law attorneys who specialize in matrimonial law, including divorce and legal separation. At this meeting, 62 percent of the 350 attendees said the Internet had been a significant factor in divorces they had handled during the last year. Additionally, the following observations were made by the lawyers polled with regard to why the Internet had played a role in divorces that year:

- "68 percent of the divorce cases involved one party meeting a new love interest over the Internet.
- "56 percent of the divorce cases involved one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites."
- "47 percent of the divorce cases involved one party spending excessive time on the computer."

- "33 percent of the divorce cases cited excessive time communicating in chat rooms (a commonly sexualized forum)."

"In response to this survey data, J. Lindsey Short, Jr., then president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, poignantly stated, 'While I don't think you can say the Internet is causing more divorces, it does make it easier to engage in the sorts of behaviors that traditionally lead to divorce.'"[80]

"As one participant stated, 'I am no longer sexually attractive or desirable to him. He's more attracted to the women depicted in his movies, magazines, and websites than he is to me, and I feel completely unable to compete with these women.'"[86]

"One woman stated, 'I am no longer a sexual person or partner to him, but a sexual object. He is not really with me, not really making love to me….He seems to be thinking about something or someone else – likely those porn women….He is just using me as a warm body.'"[87]

"Schneider's 2000 study involving the spouses of cybersex addicts is another study that supports Zillman and Bryant's 1988 findings regarding decreased sexual satisfaction.[88] Schneider's work revealed that compulsive cybersex has several adverse effects on the conjugal sexual relationship, including decreased sexual intimacy.[89] Schneider collected data from 94 respondents who were in different types of committed relationships to individuals struggling with cybersex addictions.[90] Two-thirds (68 percent) of the respondents experienced decreased sexual intimacy with their partner. Moreover, the participants reported that these difficulties coincided with the beginning of the cybersex activities – a point that is important to highlight for those who wish to limit the findings to those who have dealt with chronic sexually addictive or compulsive behavior."

"More than half (52.1 percent) of the cybersex users had lost interest in relational sex, as had one-third of the partners. Furthermore, in 18.1 percent of the relationships surveyed, both partners had decreased interest in sex. Schneider also points out that spouses of pornography users often

report being repulsed by the user's sexual pursuits. For the cybersex users who have already substituted online sexual activity for relational sexual intimacy, their partner's repulsion and loss of interest is not as problematic or distressing."

"Schneider outlined the following recurrent themes in the survey data:

- "The user makes excuses to avoid sexual intimacy with the partner (e.g., not in the mood or too tired)."
- "The partner feels hurt, angry, sexually rejected, inadequate, and unable to compete with computer images and sexy online women (or men) who are willing to do 'anything.'"
- "During relational sex, the cybersex user appears distant, emotionally detached, and interested only in his/her own pleasure."
- "The partner ends up doing most or all of the initiating, either to get her/his own needs met or as an attempt to get the user to decrease the online activities."
- "The user blames the partner for their sexual problems."
- "The user wants the partner to participate in sexual activities that she or he finds objectionable."[91]

"For those who may argue decreased sexual intimacy is an effect liked soley with cybersex addicts, Bergner and Bridges' 2002 study supports the fact that women in relationships (married, engaged, or dating) with men perceived as heavy pornography consumers report decreased and altered sexual intimacy as a common symptom."[92]

"An example of what the researchers categorized as decreased intimacy included statements such as, 'I have been excluded, isolated, barred from intimacy with him. I have lost someone whom I thought was my best friend and most intimate companion in life. He now has a whole secret life from which I am completely excluded and about which he continually lies to me.'"[93]

"From a male perspective, Cooper, Galbreath, and Becker's 2004 study of men with online sexual problems revealed two important subgroups with

regard to the impact on sexual activity with a committed partner.[94] The researchers found that sexual activity with a partner increased for men who used the Internet to: (a) educate themselves, (b) meet people to date and/or with whom to have offline sexual relations, and (c) socialize as compared to men who do not go online for these reasons. In contrast, participants who turned to online sexual activity to deal with stress had increases problems in their real-time relationships and received complaints from others about this involvement. These finding corroborate earlier research[95] and support Schneider's claim[96] that the emotional distance online sexual problems foster can be just as damaging to the relationship as real-life sexual infidelity."

"To put Cooper, Galbreath, and Becker's results in context, it is important to keep in mind that being in a marital relationship was not a criterion for the study, so the results reflect the general impact on various levels of commitment. Sixty percent of the 384 male participants were in 'some kind of a committed relationship,' 51 percent indicated they were married and 88 percent indicated being heterosexual. The results are further put into perspective when we consider that the majority of the participants fell into the second subgroup – the group that experienced problems in their real-time relationships. Results showed that:

- "80.5 percent used online sexual activity (OSA) to distract themselves or take a break"
- "56.5 percent used OSA to deal with stress"
- "43.0 percent used OSA to engage in sexual activities they would not do in real life"
- "25.3 percent used OSA to educate themselves"
- "16.1 percent used OSA to meet people with whom to have offline sexual activities"
- "11.7 percent used OSA to meet people to date, and"
- "9.1 percent used OSA to get support with sexual matters."

"The group who used online sexual activity to deal with stress also reported having increased masturbatory activity, 'thus engaging in what might be a

long-term pattern of turning inward and away from others as a primary coping strategy'[97] of which decreased marital intimacy would be a part."

"Stack, Wasserman, and Kern (2004) found individuals who had an extramarital affair were 3.18 times more likely to have used Internet pornography than individuals who had not had an affair (N = 531).[99] What cannot be determined, however, is what comes first. Does Internet pornography influence unfaithful behavior or does unfaithful behavior coincide with pre-existing traits that predispose someone to normalize Internet pornography viewing?"

"At least three studies support the fact that women view cybersex and/or pornography consumption as a form of infidelity that reduces the exclusivity of the relationship."[100]

"Women commonly report feelings of betrayal, loss, mistrust, devastation, and anger as responses to the discovery or disclosure of a partner's pornography use and/or online sexual activity."[102]

"Bergner and Bridges' (2002) qualitative research found that the majority of women in their study used the words 'betrayal,' 'cheating,' and 'affair,' to describe the significance their partner's pornography use had for them."

"As the researchers describe, a consistent theme surfaces in these women's experiences, in that their partner 'has taken the most intimate aspect of the relationship, sexuality, which is supposed to express the bond of love between the couple and be confined exclusively to the relationship, and shared it with countless fantasy women."[104]

"With global profits for sexually explicit material estimated at $57 billion dollars and Internet pornography generating approximately $2.5 billion alone."[105]

"Decreased Job Security – Job security is also jeopardized when online sexual activity is occurring in the workplace or excessive computer usage elsewhere is affecting daytime productivity.[110] When one considers that approximately 70 percent of all adult content traffic occurs during the 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m. workday,[111] the risk of financial and employment ramifications becomes more apparent."

"A survey conducted by SurfControl (2000) revealed 59 percent of Internet use at the office is not work related,[113] and Goldberg's work (1998) revealed adult content websites were the fourth most visited category on the Internet while at work during the month of April 1998."[114]

"While the marital bond may be the most vulnerable relationship to online sexual activity, children and adolescents are considered the most vulnerable audience of sexually explicit material. Youth are considered a vulnerable audience because the: (a) can be easily coerced into viewing pornography or manipulated into the production of it; (b) have limited ability to emotionally, cognitively, and physiologically process obscene material they encounter voluntarily or involuntarily; (c) can be the victims of another's pornography consumption in ways adults are often more resilient to; (d) can have their sexual and social development negatively impacted through exposure to fraudulent and/or traumatic messages regarding sexuality and relationships; and (e) can develop unrealistic expectations about their future sexual relationship through repeated exposure to fantasy-based templates. For these reasons and others, it is illegal to knowingly display or distribute obscenity or pornography defined as harmful to minors. However, this legal reality is rapidly losing momentum as widespread availability and accessibility or pornography normalizes illegal exposure."

"There are obvious ethical barriers to studying the impact of Internet pornography on unaffected youth.[116] After the United States, Sweden has the second highest Internet use and Australia has the third highest Internet use."[117]

"Schneider's 2000 study examined the effects of cybersex addiction on the family (N = 91), including the impact on children (N = 70).[119] While her work focused on families severely affected by online sexual activity, it provides one of the most ethical and credible indicators available for how online sexual activity, including pornography, can affect youth."

"Schneider found that the following negative effects could impact children in homes where a parent's compulsive and/or addictive sexual behavior is occurring:

- "Decreased parental time and attention (from the consumer and the parent preoccupied with the consumer);"
- "Encountering pornographic material a parent has acquired;"
- "Encountering a parent masturbating;"
- "Overhearing a parent engaged in phone sex;"
- "Increased risk of parental separation and divorce;"
- "Increased risk of parental job loss and financial strain;"
- "Increased risk for consuming pornography themselves;"
- "Exposure to the objectification of human beings, especially women;"
- "Witnessing and/or being involved in parental conflict; and"
- "Witnessing and/or experiencing stress in the home related to online sexual activities."

"Premature sexual dialogue between parent and child is another effect of problematic sexual behavior in the home that researchers Black, Dillon, and Carnes (2003) brought forth.[120] Black, Dillon, and Carnes found dialogue about sexuality may surface before the parent and especially the child is ready.[121] For example, if there is a chance a child will learn about a parent's online or offline sexual activity from another source (e.g., television, church, friends, or family), it may be necessary to discuss sexual problems prior to the recommended age of mid-adolescence."[122]

"Black, Dillon, and Carnes also examined adolescents' experiences and reactions to being told of a parent's struggle with online sexual activity (N = 89, 13 years of age or older). [123] Prior to formal disclosure by a parent, 60 out of 89 respondents reported already knowing of their parent's behavior. As one respondent stated, 'I was surprised that my mother was not aware that I knew. I carried this secret with me my entire adolescence and no one knew!'"[124]

"The Internet is a powerful resource through which youth can access information, entertainment, and social connection.[125] While it is important to

ensure our youth have access to this increasingly important medium, it is equally important to minimize the associated risks of sexual solicitation, abuse, harassment, and exposure to obscenity[126] in the virtual square."

"A 2002 Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Report found that 70 percent of youth ages 15 to 17 reported accidentally coming across pornography online, and 23 percent of those youth said this happens 'very' or 'somewhat' often."[132]

"Viewers of all ages are commonly greeted with 'Click here if you are 18 years of age or older' prior to entering a sexually explicit website.[133] However, this farcical honor system fails at protecting youth from inappropriate material because: (a) approximately 75 percent of pornographic websites display visual teasers on their homepages before asking if viewers are of legal age,[134] (b) only 3 percent of pornographic websites require proof of age before granting access to sexually explicit material,[135] and (c) two-thirds of pornographic websites do not include adult content warnings.[136] Although age verification measures are readily available through the use of credit cards, adult access codes, and/or personal identification numbers, the pornography industry has neglected to implement these measure even half-heartedly."

"To make matters worse, unsuspecting youth are commonly tricked into opening pornographic websites by attaching misspelled words to pornographic pages[137] or by making it difficult to shut down or get out of a site once opened, a strategy referred to as 'mouse trapping.' In fact, Mitchell, Finkelhor, and Wolak found that in 26 percent of unwanted exposure incidents, youth reported being exposed to another sex site while they were trying to exit another."[138]

"According to figures from Nielsen//NetRatings,[139] during the month of April 2005 in the United States alone, children and adolescents between the ages of 2 and 17 had access to 'adult' websites. This age group represented 13.97 percent of all online pornography consumption."

"Challenging the prevalent assumption that young people are motivated to actively seek out pornography, the Youth Internet Safety Survey (2000) found that in a nationally representative sample of 1,501 youth ages 10 to 17 (796 boys and 705 girls), 25 percent reported unwanted wxposure to sexual material, 19 percent reported unwanted sexual solicitation, and 6 percent had been harassed online."[140]

"Patricia M. Greenfield, a researcher with the Children's Digital Media Center and the Department of Psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles reviewed finding related to developmental effects and media. She concluded from her analysis of online communications in chat rooms that the following effects would likely occur for youth regularly involved in this mode of social interaction:

1. "Disinhibition in sexuality, aggression, and race relations [e.g., making inappropriate comments about sexual activity or race that would be considered anti-social in other contexts or acting out sexually in risky, maladaptive, or illegal ways (e.g., with children)]."
2. "Early sexual priming."
3. "Modeling of racism, negative attitudes toward women, and homophobia."
4. "Breeding of personal and social irresponsibility due to anonymity."[150]

"Greenfield concludes, 'We often consider the Internet to be a repository of information; my experience in the chat room led to the conclusion that we had better also think of the Internet in terms of the values that we wish to socialize."[151]

"Children and adolescents can receive conflicted messages about sexuality from the adult society around them,[153] and because parents often remain reluctant to discuss sexual topics with their children,[154] today's youth are often left to their own devices to navigate the complex task of developing beliefs about sexuality and maintaining reproductive health."[155]

"Studies have also shown that while there is an abundance of sexual content in the media, little is shown regarding sexual responsibility and the

consequences of risky sexual behaviors, thereby complicating this developmental task further.[156] Dolf Zillman, Dean Emeritus for Graduate Research in the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama, even went so far as to suggest that sexualized media is serving as 'the primary agent of sexual socialization' despite finding that show young adults prefer to learn about sexuality from peers, using pornography primarily to learn about anal and oral sex,[157] while adolescents prefer parents as their primary source of information (N =672)."[158]

"Some have argued that restricting access to Internet pornography would negatively impact youths' access to health-related topics (e.g., pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and birth control) that could assist their sexual development and understanding.[159] Given that the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation's 2001 report indicated 70 percent of youth ages 15 to 17 have used the Internet to look up general health information and that 40 percent of adolescents have specifically looked up sexual health topics (e.g., pregnancy, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases), it is important to ascertain how efforts to increase Internet safety may unwittingly hinder access to useful information.[160] Furthermore, because of concerns about confidentiality and the fact that many teens do not have their own health provider, access to the Internet for health information is even more critical for certain adolescents."[161]

"In response to this quandary of access, Richardson, Resnick, Hansen, Derry and Rideout (2002) examined how pornography-blocking software affected access to health informationonline.[162] These researchers found that pornography-blocking software has a minimal impact on one's access to information about sexual and reproductive health.[163] For example, they found blocking software seta moderate settings blocked 90 percent of the pornographic content online while blocking only 5 percent of health information."[164]

"According to research with first-year college students, the following effects and/or risks are associated with frequent exposure to erotica. These effects

and/or risks are listed here because of the potential they have for shaping sexual development as well as future marital and familial relationships:[165]

- "Normalization of adverse reactions to offensive material;"
- "Developing tolerance toward sexually explicit material, thereby requiring more novel or bizarre material to achieve the same level of arousal or interest;"
- "Misperceptions of exaggerated sexual activity I the general populace;"
- "Overestimating the prevalence of less common sexual practices (e.g., group sex, bestiality, and sadomasochistic activity);"
- "Diminished trust in intimate partners;"
- "Abandoning the goal of sexual exclusivity with a partner;"
- "Perceiving promiscuity as a normal state of interaction;"
- "Perceiving sexual inactivity as constituting a health risk;"
- "Developing cynical attitudes about love;"
- "Believing superior sexual satisfaction is attainable without having affection for one's partner;"
- "Believing marriage is sexually confining;"
- "Believing that raising children and having a family is as an unattractive prospect; and"
- "Developing a negative body image, especially for women."[166]

"Robert E. Freeman-Longo, an expert in sexual abuse assessment, prevention, and treatment, adds to the list:[167]

- "Increased risk for developing sexual compulsions;"
- "Increased risk for developing a sexual addiction;"
- "Increased risk of exposure to incorrect information about human sexual behavior (e.g., bestiality or sex with children); and"
- "Exposure to age-inappropriate sexual material"

"Compared to past generations, today's youth are reaching puberty earlier, engaging in sexual intercourse earlier, and getting married significantly later.[168] Exactly how exposure to pornography is impacting these trends, if

at all, is still unclear; however; research indicates that pornography consumption is affecting sexual behavior in youth."

"A group of Swedish researchers (2005) recently examined the association between pornography consumption and sexual practices among 718 high school students from 47 different high school classes.[169] They found that:

- "Internet and cable television were the most common sources of pornography."
- "83 percent of the youth watched pornography at home."
- "71 percent believed pornography influenced others' sexual behavior."
- "29 percent reported pornography had influenced their own sexual behavior. However, in a previous Swedish study (2004), 53 percent of young men reported that pornography had impacted their sexual behavior by 'inspiring' them."[170]
- "Males considered 'high pornography consumers' and men with an early age of first sexual intercourse (15 years) were more likely than low male consumers and women to engage in sexual activities such as oral sex, group sex, and anal intercourse."
- "Engaging in anal intercourse was significantly associated with high consumption of pornography."
- "Engaging in sexual intercourse with a friend (i.e., someone with whom they were not having a loving relationship) was also significantly associated with high consumption of pornography.

Sexual Aggression

"In recent years, an Australian Child at Risk Assessment Unit in Canberra, New South Wales, noticed a disturbing increase in the number of sexually abusive or aggressive children under the age of 10 who were being referred to their services. In the early 1990s, approximately 3 children per year were being referred for sexually aggressive behavior. However, by 2003, approximately 70 children per year were being referred, many of whom had preyed on other children by forcing them to take part in sexual acts."

"To determine why this increase was occurring, the National Child Protection Clearinghouse and the Canberra Hospital conducted a retroactive study on case files. The review revealed, among other commonalities, a pattern between such sexually abusive children and their access to sexually explicit material on the Internet.[171] Social worker, Cassandra Tinning, stated,

> "We noticed a number of really interesting issues. Of course, this primary issue is around the use of the Internet. Almost all of the children who accessed our services in the last three years in relation to sexually harmful behaviors, almost all those children had accessed the Internet and specifically had accessed the Internet for pornographic material."[172]

"Victor B. Cline, a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Utah, has made clinical observations that support the Australian findings. For example, he stated:

> "I have also interviewed some children, were as a result of hearing Dial-A-Porn messages, they engaged in sexual assaults on other children. One 12 year-old boy in Hayward, California listened to Dial-A-Porn for nearly two hours on the phone….A few days later he sexually assaulted a four-year-old girl in his mother's day care center. He had never been exposed to pornography before. He had never acted out sexually before and was not a behavior problem in the home. He had never heard or knew of oral sex before listening to Dial-A-Porn. And this was how he assaulted the girl, forcing oral sex on her in direct imitation of what he had heard on the phone."[173]

"Additionally, Malamuth, Addison, and Koss (2000) found that very frequent pornography use was associated with much higher rates of sexual aggression among older adolescent boys and young men already at high risk for aggressive behavior.[174] High risk factors that were taken into consideration for this study included impulsivity, hostility toward women, and promiscuity. Youth who had the same risk levels of aggressive

behavior, but who consumed pornography 'somewhat,' 'seldom,' or 'never' did not show the same levels of sexual aggression."

(Jill Manning, Hearing on Pornographys Impact on Marriage and The Family, November 10, 2005, Testimony of Jill C. Manning, M.S., https://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2010/pdf/ManningTST.pdf)

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Ben Bennett

BEN BENNETT
SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Ben grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia and met Christ at an early age. After being heavily involved in Cru throughout college, and developing a great desire to see college students transformed by the gospel, he joined their staff in 2011.

For over 10 years of his life, Ben battled a porn addiction and other forms of habitual sexual sin before coming to lasting freedom through a Biblical and clinical approach to sexual addiction recovery.

Ben currently resides in Dallas, Texas and serves with Josh McDowell Ministry as an author, speaker, and evangelist supporting the health and restoration of men and women struggling with woundedness, habitual sin, and sexual brokenness.

For more than fifty years, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry. Ben will serve alongside Josh, writing, speaking and shining the light of Christ into the darkest places, and helping believers be prepared to share with confidence, knowing the reason why Christianity is reliable, relational and relevant to our lives.

Ben is available to speak on:

iGen for Jesus | Overcoming Sin & Setbacks | You, Me, We | Wholeness In A Sex Saturated World | Relevant, Reliable, Relational: The Bible?

WHO'S TALKING ABOUT BEN?

"Ben speaks from personal experience of the freedom Christ offers each and every troubled heart. It is such a delight for me to hear Ben speak for his generation in such a relevant, reliable, and relational way."

-Dr. Ted Roberts // Pastor, Counselor, and Founder of Pure Desire Ministries

"While many young people today struggle with hurt, mental health issues, and addictions, few have a story of freedom to share like Ben's that renews hope, gives a roadmap to healing, and inspires next steps. I've personally benefited greatly from what Ben has to share and I think many people in all walks of life will too."

-Karl Armentrout // Cru National Conference and Events Director

"My hidden sin had me imprisoned in silence, guilt, and secrets for years. When I attended Ben's session, he shared his journey of liberty from sin, and I felt the Holy Spirit moving and convicting me. Through Ben's personal encouragement and passion for sharing the love of God, I shared my darkest sin with others and began the journey of healing and freedom through Jesus and His wonderful people. Thank you Ben."

–Marylyn // Texas College Student

Ben is the author of:

Living Free
FLESH SERIES: Sex, Lust, Porn and The Christian

Josh, Ben, and Jake are launching a movement focused on speaking, equipping, and connecting individuals to solutions to overcoming unwanted struggles.

Through interactive speaking, digital content, and practical next step resources, God is raising up a generation of young people who are passionate about following Jesus wholeheartedly and working through the setbacks and sin that hinder them.

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Jake Kissack

JAKE KISSACK
SPEAKER

Jake was raised where the buffalo still do roam. His family owns a 3000 acre cattle ranch in Wyoming. His adventurous heart was pursued and captivated by Jesus as far back as memory serves. His passion to see Jesus bring life to all was bolstered in his master's degree thesis work on how pornography negatively affects the church.

His 13 year journey with a porn addiction crushed his passion and compelled him to seek true freedom, which was found through Christian sexual addiction recovery.

Jake resides in Dallas, Texas and serves with the Josh McDowell ministry as a developing author, speaker, storyteller and evangelist, supporting the health and restoration of men and women struggling with porn and sexual brokenness.

For more than fifty years, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry. Jake will serve alongside Josh, writing, speaking and shining the light of Christ into the darkest places, and helping believers be prepared to share with confidence, knowing the reason why Christianity is reliable, relational and relevant to our lives.

Jake is available to speak on:

When God Talks | Empowered to Live Life Fully Alive | Connections that Count
Wholeness in A Sex Saturated World | Unshakable Truth // Live for Love
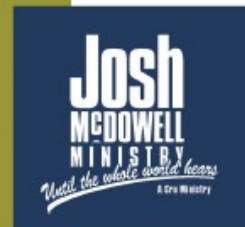
WHO'S TALKING ABOUT JAKE?

Jake is wholesome, invigorating and smart. His ability to speak is only surpassed by his contagious love for Christ and the Scripture. He wins the hearts and minds of students through stories."

-Josh D. McDowell // Author/Speaker

Jake communicates with compassion for the wounded and broken and has an authentic desire to see people healed and set free. God's work through his message has been a beacon of hope that has empowered struggling students to find freedom and live wholehearted.

-Sherry Broesamle // Field Director of People & Culture, CRU

Jake's heart and passion is to participate in and see God heal wounds and restore people.

-Austin Adams // Family Pastor, Crossroads Community Church

Jake passionately plants seeds of gospel hope and invites people to live whole heartedly for the glory of God. His message is culturally relevant, Gospel focused, and needed wherever young people are gathering!

-Kurt Sauder // Author, Speaker, Radio Host, Further Still Ministries

Josh, Ben, and Jake are launching a movement focused on speaking, equipping, and connecting individuals to solutions to overcoming unwanted struggles.

Through interactive speaking, digital content, and practical next step resources, God is raising up a generation of young people who are passionate about following Jesus wholeheartedly and working through the setbacks and sin that hinder them.

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ALEX McLELLAN
SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Alex McLellan serves with Josh McDowell Ministry, a Cru ministry (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ). An effective communicator with international experience, Alex is passionate about engaging others with the gospel, and he has joined our team to share the truth of Christ – until the whole world hears.

For more than fifty years, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry. Alex will serve alongside Josh, writing, speaking and shining the light of Christ into the darkest places, and helping believers be prepared to share with confidence, knowing the reason why Christianity is reliable, relational and relevant to our lives.

Alex is available to speak on:

You Can Handle the Truth! | How To Find The Meaning Of Life Reasons To Believe In The Resurrection | Will The Real Jesus Please Stand Up | How Do You Make Sense of Suffering? | Can We Trust The Bible? | Be Prepared to Share (1 Peter 3) | Be Prepared to Shine (Matthew 5) and more . . .
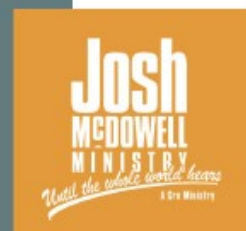
WHO'S TALKING ABOUT ALEX?

"Alex is a winsome and effective communicator who understands how skeptics view the gospel and the questions they raise...I enthusiastically recommend his work."

—Ravi Zacharias, Ravi Zacharias International Ministry

"Alex's ministry has been immensely beneficial to the church in helping to train, equip and prepare God's people for the task of bringing the gospel to the world and the world to Christ."

—Wayne Sutton, Senior Pastor, Carrubbers Christian Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Alex is gifted in providing a strong intellectual and culturally relevant expression of the Christian faith and this has been a powerful way for our students to build their own foundation in Christ and His Word."

—Peter Thomas, National Director, Capernwray Bible School, Australia

Alex is the author of:

A Jigsaw Guide to Making Sense of the World (InterVarsity Press, 2012)
A Jigsaw Guide to the Meaning of Life (JG2P, 2016)
A Jigsaw Guide to Sharing Your Faith (JG2P, 2016)

Alex and Sheryl have been married for over twenty years and have three children: Sophia, Moriah and Asher. The family lived in Scotland, UK, before relocating to the USA, and they currently reside in San Diego, California.

For more information and to book Alex please contact:

Alex@josh.org

www.josh.org/Alex

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Josh McDowell

JOSH McDOWELL
SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry for more than 54 years. He shares the essentials of the Christian faith in everyday language so that people of all ages and stages can know Christ, understand what they believe and why it is true, and learn how to live, share and defend their faith.

Well known as an articulate speaker, Josh has spoken to approximately 35 million people, in 140 countries. Josh has written or co-authored more than 150 books in over 100 languages including *More Thank a Carpenter* with over 27 million copies distributed and *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, named one of the twentieth centry's top 40 books and one of the thirteen most influential books of the last 50 years on Christian thought by World Magazine. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* also just won the 2018 Evangelical Christain Publishers Association award in the Bible Reference Book category.

Josh is available to speak on:

**Relationships | Parenting | Reliability of Scripture | My Journey
Self Image | Sexual Integrity | Truth in Today's Culture**
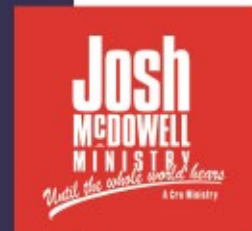
WHO'S TALKING ABOUT JOSH?

"This has helped me more thatn any other kind of seminar on speaking"
-Cru Staff Member, Young Communicators Seminar

"His message spoke to all of us but certainly impacted the hearts and minds of the teens the most."
-Alpha Women's Center of Grand Rapids Staff Member

"Youth leaders and teachers spoke to us for weeks after the dinner telling us his message opened paths to discussion of needs with their groups."
- Ministry Leader and Event Host

"Josh's message was a deep examination of God's truth made relevant for your contemporary, apathetic youth culture."
-Tim Rickman, High School Principal, Wesleyan Education Center

Josh McDowell is an award-winning author and international speaker. He has written or co-written more than 150 books--some in over 100 languages--and has spoken to approximately 35 million people in 140 countries.

Josh and his wife Dottie have been married 46 years. They have four children and ten grandchildren.

For more information and to book Josh please contact:

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