

THE PORN EPIDEMIC

by: Josh D. McDowell

Facts
Stats &
Solutions

STORIES



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NATALIE'S STORY

"I grew up in a Christian home with amazing, loving parents. From a young age, I had a personal relationship with Christ. As a teenager, I was even given leadership roles in the church. My senior year of high school should have been an exciting time; I had been given solid roots in my upbringing and I had big dreams for the future. This was the point where I would begin to make decisions enabling me to live those dreams." (Luke Gilkerson, "Pornography Among Youth", Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

"Despite all that, it was a horrible year." (Luke Gilkerson, "Pornography Among Youth", Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

"The summer before, I had stumbled across erotic literature on the Internet. My parents, as a safety measure, had installed filtering software on my laptop, but somehow the website got past. Afterwards, I told myself it was a one-time thing. But within weeks, I went back for more. I told myself it was okay. It wasn't real porn; it was just stories. There was nothing wrong with what I was doing." [Josh note: My child won't look for porn] (Luke Gilkerson, "Pornography Among Youth", Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

"Before long, though, I wasn't just reading stories, but watching videos. Yet it was never enough. By winter, I would spend several hours every night watching and reading. When I had seen everything possible without hacking the filter on my laptop, I turned to my phone. By spring, I couldn't stop. [Josh note: Addiction] Even if I was exhausted, I had to go one more story, one more video. I couldn't have enough. Before, I had convinced myself that I wasn't addicted, that I could stop anytime I wanted. Now, I wanted to stop, but I couldn't. My life had no purpose. I felt like I had nowhere to go to for help. I was trapped." [Josh note: 93% of churches have no program to help] (Luke Gilkerson, "Pornography Among Youth", Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

"As time drew near for me to leave for college, I began to get scared. How was I going to live out my dreams if I was chained to this monster called pornography? I realized that in the past year, I had not only become addicted to porn, but I had also grown further away from God than I ever

had before.” (Luke Gilkerson, “Pornography Among Youth”, Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

“Two weeks before leaving for college, I begged God to forgive me and asked Him to help me break the addiction. I knew I could not possibly do it; He had to help me. For the next two weeks, I refused to take my laptop into my bedroom. I spent time praying and reading my Bible every day. Even though it was hard, life began to look hopeful again.” (Luke Gilkerson, “Pornography Among Youth”, Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

“My first night at college, God placed Christ-like friends around me who lifted me up and within a few weeks knew about my problem. They began to keep me accountable. [Josh note: One another] These relationships made it easy to say “no” to porn. Not only would they ask me how I was doing at resisting temptation, but they would also keep my laptop overnight, stop me from beating myself up when I messed up, and, most importantly, pray for me. I would not have been able to make it through fall quarter without depending on them.” (Luke Gilkerson, “Pornography Among Youth”, Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

“Over winter break, being away from my accountability, I slipped up several times. At first, I was mad at myself for returning to my old ways. Then, one of my friends showed me that I was still growing and God had forgiven me.” (Luke Gilkerson, “Pornography Among Youth”, Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

“I was able to find the courage to talk to my parents about the problem. Bringing it up with them was one of the hardest things I have ever done, but also one of the most rewarding. Together, we decided that the Internet filter on my computer was not doing any good and decided to try [Covenant Eyes](#). Now, knowing that my parents can see whatever I do online, resisting temptation is much easier.” (Luke Gilkerson, “Pornography Among Youth”, Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

“Before using Covenant Eyes, I did not think it was possible to have an open relationship with my parents. In the past, bringing up personal issues wasn’t easy. Now, I understand that they really do want the best that God has for me and don’t judge the decisions I make or condemn me when I mess up. Because I understand this now, it’s easy to come to them when I

have problems in other areas. I can ask for their advice and respect it because they've demonstrated that they're willing to do whatever it takes to see me succeed." (Luke Gilkerson, "Pornography Among Youth", Covenant Eyes, 2012, <file:///C:/Users/kim.riley/Downloads/pornography-among-youth.pdf>)

HEARTBREAKING TRUE ACCOUNTS OF PERVERSIVE PORN

Many told to Josh McDowell

YOUTH

Recently I spoke at one of the top three Christian institutions for post-high school education – a school that is biblically-based, theologically-sound, spiritually-alive and mission-oriented (I believe it is one of the finest in the world).

I had just finished speaking on “Pornography & the Church” to 5,000 participants. The next hour was incredibly eye-opening and also a very disheartening experience. I was sitting at the autograph table, and almost every conversation with a student, whether male or female (18-25 years old), was reflected by this 22-year-old’s comments:

“Mr. McDowell, you will never know how your talk tonight impacted my life. Last night on my dorm floor, all the guys got together and I asked them, ‘How many of you are struggling with pornography?’

“Mr. McDowell, there was not one student on our entire floor who was not struggling. They had all watched pornography. Right after your talk, I sent a text to every person on my floor, ‘We must all get together... We have got to hold each other accountable and deal with porn.’”

The next student in line approached me crying in front of everyone and she said,

“Mr. McDowell, I’m twenty-one years old. I’ve never had a boyfriend, never been kissed and never held a boy’s hand. For thirteen years I’ve been struggling with pornography (started out at eight years old). It has destroyed my life.”

The next two girls said “Almost all of our friends are struggling with pornography.”

Recently, a couple came to me to encourage me in carrying out the Set Free Global Summit on Internet Porn and Sexual Addiction. I asked, “Why?” Their response was “Our 17-year-old son has always been a role model to follow. He has led his youth group and read many of your books. However, several months ago his life slowly began to change. He didn’t want to go to church or youth group. He quit reading his Bible and became critical. We tried so hard to encourage him, but nothing helped. He finally confessed to us that since he was eight years old, he has been addicted to porn. Now, he no longer believes, never prays, has become a loner and wants to spend all his time in his room.”

“One boy under the age of 15 told ChildLine that he was ‘always watching porn, and some of it is quite aggressive’. ‘I would like to get married in the future but I’m scared it might never happen if I carry on thinking about girls the way I do.’” (Patrick Howse, “‘Pornography addiction worry’ for tenth of 12 to 13 year-olds”, BBC News, March 31, 2015, http://www.bbc.com/news/education-32115162?ocid=socialflow_facebook)

The University of Montreal was commissioned to study the implications of porn on 18 to 25-year-olds. They had to terminate the study after several months. They couldn’t establish a control group of students in Canada who hadn’t watched it. (Jonathan Liew, “All men watch porn, scientists find”, Telegraph, December 2, 2009, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/sex/6709646/All-men-watch-porn-scientists-find.html>)

Another research scientist cancelled a study on porn and university students. “I could not find a control group who hadn’t seen porn.”

Worldview training seminars attract the finest youth from our churches. Recently, the director of one of the top three seminars told me that through their surveys, they discovered that 70% of guys and 40% of girls watch pornography. He was shocked because they are the top Christian kids.

After one of the above seminars, two teens came up and asked to talk with me.

“We need to talk with you. This afternoon there were twelve of us in our room. After we heard your comments on pornography, we asked the other ten kids in the room if they watched pornography. Eight of ten said ‘yes.’”

What worried these young people was that they didn't know what to say when all eight defended their viewing of pornography. They saw nothing wrong with it.

The director of a youth ministry on East Coast said, “Josh, I need your help. I took my top nine leaders on a leadership weekend. During our conversations the topic of pornography came up. I asked them, ‘How many of you watch porn?’ Josh, I was staggered when eight of the nine said ‘yes.’ What do I say to them?”

Yesterday I talked to three youth leaders of a church with 1,700 in their youth group. I admonished them to address the porn problem with their students. I shared the statistic that up to 75% watch porn on the Internet.

They interrupted me and said, “Oh no, it's more like 90%. It's hard to find a student who doesn't watch pornography.”

All the above 4 incidents happened in just three days.

A representative of a large missionary organization which sends out about 400 short term missionaries (all university students) stated, “Josh, we have to reject 85% of our applicants because of pornography.”

During a large youth convention in Mexico recently, I asked the director of the ministry if they talked to the kids about porn. He replied, “No, but we need to”. I asked why they didn’t and he replied, “We did a survey of all our youth groups and 90%+ of all the students watch porn.”

Recently, when I called a potential presenter for the Set Free Summit, who is extremely accomplished in psychotherapy and the head of the department in a major East Coast university, he told me, “Josh, in our research we almost never come across a teenager who hasn’t watched porn. What we have discovered is that when they reach the first year in the university, their viewing of pornography rapidly increases. It is very difficult to do any scientific studies of university students’ involvement in porn because we can’t find a control group of men and women who don’t watch porn. Josh, porn is now at the level of a tsunami among our youth. I will be at the Set Free Summit ... it is a deep calling in my life. I fear for our youth, our families and our churches.”

Two parents just found out their 28-year-old son had been addicted to porn for years. His wife finally confronted him, but he wouldn’t stop and their divorce was just finalized. It all started when he was 11 years old. He confessed that every night he watched it in his room. It was why he adamantly told his mom and dad to always knock before entering his room.

This is from the associate pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Barrington, IL:

“Well done Sir!!!! I have been sounding the trumpet on this topic for the past ten years. We hit it hard in our confirmation program (sixth through ninth grade). However, in recent years, I have been convicted that our efforts are coming too late. Despite the fact that all of our boys and at least half of our middle school girls report having seen porn, and I mean significantly disgusting porn, the parents are slow to appreciate the dangers. Parents look at me as though I have lobsters coming out of my ears when I call this the decisive battle of the century. (I have been a pastor for 27 years. I am used to that.)

Your address [Moody Talk] has vindicated our efforts, and we will pick up the challenge with greater clarity and zeal. I am sure that you will take heat for this address. God bless you! I also appreciate that you lifted up the relationship you have with your wife! Thank you, thank you, thank you. May God continue to nourish and sustain you!

Mark Rose, author of *The Noah Code*, recalls that time you visited his church and talked about pornography. The son of his secretary came to hear your talk. He had been long-struggling with his faith and nobody could figure out what was wrong with him. When he heard your talk on pornography, he realized that was the problem! This young man was able to get out of pornography and has recovered since then.

March 24, 2016. Testimonies sent to Christy Tiede from Nelu from Josh's speaking in Romania:

The week after [the Josh] events, one of the Christian leaders came to one of our Cru staff and ask him to meet with his son. Because after Josh message at parent's event he talked with his son and discover that his son is deeply involve in pornography. He started to do that at age of 7, and now he has 19 years old. After 2 days he was hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital. When one of his friends find out what happened with him he committed suicide because he had the same problem and he married hopping he will solve the problem but he couldn't. When he saw that his friend was "discover" he decided to commit suicide. Because of that some churches decide to have meeting with teenagers and youth to discuss the subject. They invite one of our Cru staff to talk. He started to share about his life when he was young and about the temptations that he had. When our staff ask them if they have problem with pornography almost all of them say "yes". At that meeting was more than 100 teenagers and youths. Most of them started to be consoler one on one.

MISSION ORGANIZATIONS

A representative of four missionary-sending organizations said to me rather reluctantly that up to 90% of applicants have watched porn.

An executive with a missions organization to students stated: "80% of our applicants watch porn."

A missionary from Asia was talking with me and related that recently when an American pastor arrived to speak to 500 missionaries and their families, he was asked to speak on another topic other than what he had prepared. "They said, "We would like for you to speak on pornography and sexual purity." The visiting pastor asked "Why?" The missionary director of the

conference replied, "Our missionary families are being riddled with porn. It is destroying us."

I was just with a mission organization. Before I spoke to the staff children (ages 12 to 18), I singled out three of the staff kids. I said, "Look me in the eyes ... I want to ask you a question. Do you watch porn on the Internet?" They replied, "No, absolutely not." "Let me ask you another question. Are you lying to me?" "Well maybe I watch it a little." Let me ask you another question, are you lying to me again?" "Well, ah, maybe I watch it a lot." All three were similar conversations. They were between 13 to 16 years old. The sad thing is that I'm sure their missionary parents have absolutely no idea and would vigorously defend that their child would never look at pornography.

We are a small missions organization ... about 200 missionaries (about 100 families). We are being gutted by porn. Last month we had to bring home five families."

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

A mother called me quite upset regarding her 13-year-old son. A girl had approached him to say that a boy in their class wanted to date him. He replied, "I'm not into that ... no." Several days later it was posted on a website under the name of the school that he was gay. Everyone at his school saw it. In the locker room they kept trying to get him to look at porn. He kept saying "no." They started calling him gay. About this time, the parents checked his phone and found porn. They asked him, "Why?" He replied, "I had to." "Why?" the parents replied. He said he had to download pornography to convince the other boys he wasn't gay.

At a Christian school in the Middle East, they took a survey of their 300 middle and high school students. The last two questions were critical. 1) "Do you watch porn on the internet?" "YES" was the answer by all 300. 2) "Do you want to stop...Need help?" The answer was an overwhelming "NO" by all 300.

Last night a grieving mother told me, "My daughter is 18 years old. She has always been a very spiritual girl. However, over the last two years she has lost all interest in spiritual things. She no longer reads her Bible and has lost all interest in church. So we just had a long talk about it. Afterward she came to me and shared that she is addicted to internet porn. It all started at 13 years old through a friend at their Christian school."

While I was visiting in the home of a Christian leader in Alabama, his 15-year-old daughter asked if she could privately ask me a question.

We went into the kitchen where she asked me a very innocuous question. I responded, "What is really in your head?" She broke down crying, "I'm addicted to porn. It totally controls my life".

She is a leader at her Christian school and feels like such a hypocrite. "Can you help me please? I can't tell my parents...it would destroy them." I asked for her email. She responded, "I can't. If I even walk by a computer or iPad, I will look at porn."

The story is having a beautiful ending...little by little a real joy is returning to her life and her parents have become a big part of it.

CHURCHES

Today, a pastor, 38 years old, painfully shared, "In our church we have seen so many lives ruined (by porn), and frankly I have felt stunted in my ability to provide real long-term help for the ones who want out."

I have been bombarded with comments like these from the experts (not novices) Christian, Secular, Mormon, etc. It is overwhelming.

The signs are present, and pastors don't seem to be seeing them. We must wake up the church and we don't have much time.

The Set Free Summit can be a lightning bolt for the Christian community, and we must do all we can to get pastors to the event and train them in positive, practical, biblically-based, and culturally-relevant solutions.

I was amazed to learn about this summit. The quote on the front page is powerful and speaks directly to our story: "Nothing erodes a person's faith faster than internet pornography".

I unknowingly married a Christian man with a full blown porn addiction. Half measures availed him nothing. Despite repeated attempts at getting help, the struggle continued. 20 years into vocational ministry as a pastor and 15 years into our marriage, he announced a crisis of faith. June 2012, he resigned as senior pastor at Redeemer Church in La Mirada, CA. During the resignation meeting, the elders assured the congregation "there was no moral failing".

My heart sank because the elders knew of his issues (I broke silence with the elders and their wives 2 years prior when his active addiction reared it's head). No one else seemed to connect his crisis of faith with his porn addiction. Our ties to Biola University made things all the more

complicated. Both of his parents teach at Talbot Seminary. Their conservative fundamental views and closeness to the situation elevated the crisis.

Our life began to unravel and a chasm started growing between us. I couldn't buy the story line or his plans to move on and launch a second career. Something was terribly wrong. I hit my rock bottom and entered recovery. God was faithful. He met me in the crash and directed me to S-Anon and a CSAT therapist for individual and group therapy.

I initiated a move back to TX summer 2013 to be near my family. We moved as a family of 6 (me, him, our 4 kids). Within a few months, it was clear I needed the safety of a separation. One year later, I filed for divorce. It was a battle to come to terms with the reality that he did not choose recovery. It's been a long, painful journey.

In April 2014, I had the opportunity to attend the IACSAS (International Association of Certified Sexual Addiction Specialists) annual conference. That is when I stepped into the professional world of sex addiction recovery. God has equipped and prepared me as a spokesperson, advocate, and social entrepreneur. My mission is to empower partners impacted by porn/sexual addiction and betrayal.

I am in process of launching a non-profit and platform from which to inspire courage, educate, and and connect partners to resources. The media department at my church, Austin Oaks Church, recently filmed a God Story about my journey. You can see it here: <http://www.austinoakschurch.org/stories>. SisterHub is being rebranded and morphing into something bigger and better.

Thank you for planning this Summit!!

GENERAL

We have quite a challenge in front of us. Mark my words, within 3-4 years pornography, including child porn, will not only become culturally acceptable, but there will also be a crusade to legalize all pornography.

You can see right now the winds are blowing that way.

Recently, I was at a hotel in Gilroy, CA. The porter was a sharp young man about 22 years old. I asked him, "Do you watch porn on the Internet?" He responded, "Of course...everyone does." He went on to say, "Why should I quit? I'm not in a relationship." When I shared the consequences for future relationships, he replied, "I will worry about it then."

After asking the same question to a waiter in the same hotel, he replied, "Oh yeah...a whole lot...I don't know anyone who doesn't."

On a recent American Airlines flight there were two young flight attendants interacting with me. One of them, Crystal, 23 years old, listened carefully when I shared, "Be careful when you get married ... Try to find out if he watches porn." She sadly explained, "Sir, I don't think I have ever met a man who doesn't watch pornography."

While Dottie and I were having a great meal at Outback, our waitress was very friendly. She was 21 and came to Christ at a great church near our house. I said, "Amy, when you get serious about a guy, in a relaxed moment, ask him if he watches pornography ..." Her head popped up and she exclaimed "I don't think I know any guys in my church who don't!"

“The thing that struck me was that here are beautiful pictures of nature being posted and labeled ‘earth porn’ – as though the ‘porn’ moniker is a positive thing. That’s how mainstream, acceptable and ‘normalized’ the porn label has become. ‘Porn’ as a term used to be associated with filth, degradation, immorality, etc... Just an observation and another example of how timely Set Free is.”

(E-mail from Josh McDowell – 08.26.15) Several days ago I sat in a coffee shop in Manitou Springs, CO. As I reviewed these stories and the three phone calls I had just received from Christian leadership who have been devastated by porn and lost their families, I began to cry. I couldn't stop. Couldn't figure out what was happening, but then I realized it was an answer to prayer. In my last year of seminary I had prayed, 'God, break my heart with the things that break your heart.' My heart is broken..."

Just had dinner with an executive of large global youth movements. I asked, “How many of the kids you work with globally watch pornography?”. “Wow... I never like to say 100% in anything ... so I will say 99.9%.”

I have two sons that were dedicated to God as babies, raised in a Christian home and attended Christian schools into College (MBA). Zach 30yrs (oldest) told us he was gay last year. He had a short relationship with a male for 7 months and it is now over. We found out he was molested as a young child 2 yrs ago. He dated one girl in high school and she broke his heart. He has not dated another girl since. My son says he is a gay Christian. My (middle) son Jacob 27yrs old was married in 2012. He too was molested as a young child by the same person. Jake says he has battled porn since HS and had an affair in 2013-14. He ended the affair asked for forgiveness from his wife, her parents, us, and sought intense Christian counseling. He wants to restore his marriage. His wife won't

Speak to him only to say God told her to divorce him (final March 11, 2015). My son is now angry with God. My son loves his wife, they grew up together and dated almost 11 yrs (high school sweethearts). They waited till their wedding night to be intimate. Both of these circumstances were happening at about the same time. My children have been deceived by Satan. My husband and I are deeply saddened by both of these situations. We continue to pray for God's will, grace and wisdom. We ask for prayer for my sons, my daughter-in-law (Giselle), her parents, us and for my daughter Sarah. She is struggling with this as well plus she misses her sister-in-law. Giselle refuses to talk with anyone of Jake's family. We are deeply saddened. Thank you for your prayers.

Sunday, May 3 at 6:35 at night, I received a phone call from a desperate mom. She has an incredible marriage and an outstanding Christian family. She called and said, "Josh, I need your help. My son who is 13 years old [we'll call him Bobby] was at school several days ago and a girl approached him representing one of his male classmates and said, "This boy wants to date you. He wants to go out with you."

Her son, Bobby replied, "Well, I'm not into that. I'm not gay."

The girl replied, "Well you must be gay because you're not interested in girls."

Bobby said, "No I'm not interested in girls. I'm 13 years old."

The next day on an Instagram site identified with the school (but not an official school site) they had a picture of Bobby and the boy together as a couple and the entire school was exposed to it.

The parents went through his cell phone and they found pornography and were very concerned but they handled it right. They very calmly sat down with him and said, "Why do you have this pornography on your cell phone?"

He was very hesitant to reply, but finally said, "Because I had to."

“What do you mean because you had to?”

“Well at school at school in the locker room [remember – this is 13 years old – 7th grade] all the guys watch pornography on their cell phones and I don’t watch it and so they told me that because I don’t watch pornography, then you must be gay. So mommy, I downloaded this pornography and I show it to the kids in the locker room to prove to them I’m not gay.”

From the head of a large conservative denomination:

“Josh, we will be at the Set Free Summit. At our national men's meeting I asked how many of you are struggling with pornography? 90% raised their hands.”

“Josh can you help me? My son left for university this year. At Christmas he told us he doesn't believe any more. ‘It's all a lie...a myth. None of it is true.’ It staggered us.”

I asked, “Does he watch porn?”

“Why do you ask?”

“Because it is so often the case in situations like this.”

E673 “Yes he does, he left his computer open and we found layers of porn.”

The pastor of a church (500-700 members), recently came to me and said, “Can you help...I don't know what to do about pornography. I don't know how to research it. I don't know how to talk to me people about it.”

His wife added, “Honey, tell him why we approached him.”

The pastor hesitated, looked around and then leaned in towards me, "Josh, my 22-year- old son, who is a youth pastor, just told me he is addicted to pornography. He can't stop. I don't know what to say. I don't know how to talk about it to my people. Can you help me?"

It was a long walk ... in only four minutes, five different young people at the church approached me and said, "I'm addicted to pornography. Help me...I can't stop!"

Then the father of a 10-year-old son said, "My son just told me he has been watching porn for 3 years (since 7 years old)."

We live in Killeen, Texas and our family has been destroyed by Internet porn. Our teen daughter and I are hurting and there just aren't the needed resources in our area to help with healing. We have a Celebrate Recovery but that's about it. I am a school teacher and would've loved to attend the summit in April along with our daughter.

It would help her understand why her father refused all offers for help/recovery, abandoned our family, filed for divorce, moved out of state and continues to try and push for her to visit him out of state when she doesn't feel safe or comfortable around his porn use (sadly he exposed her to it and so now she knows he has this problem).

I appreciate what your ministry is doing to educate and combat this evil. Even attorneys, judges and others are very ill educated about porn as it has become so pervasive. You are a light in the darkness. Internet porn has become Satan's super weapon and you are correct that's churches aren't doing enough to combat this in the body of Christ.

I was married 23 years. This was my college sweetheart. I did what I could to get him help but he's had this since adolescence (which I learned before he filed for divorce) and he kept it secret. He's a Christian and was raised in church but not raised in Christ. My heart is hurting for our family and our daughter. I have depression and anxiety. I am reaching out for counseling but I'm finding a lack of therapists that understand my trauma. For years I tried to get help and no one even understood what I was up against. I just wanted to reach out and say please keep reaching out to churches and educating them. Families are falling and we need your ministry's work more than ever. Thanks and God bless you.

Story told by Josh. April 2016. Had two evangelistic meetings with 13-17-year olds. 300+ trust Christ. Just received email from director (6weeks later). "Josh, part of our follow up with each student we asked the question: 'What is your greatest barrier in becoming a follower of Christ?' Josh, every single student of the 300 said, 'pornography.' You were a prophet when you spoke here. Please send us material to deal with this."

Story told by Josh. April 2016. I saw this beautiful little girl and said to Matt, "Look over your left shoulder...isn't that little girl beautiful. Makes me miss my grandkids."

We talked to the mother (who was about 35 and beautiful (like she had stepped out of a modeling magazine). We chatted a little bit. Then quietly is said, so her child could not hear, "Be careful about pornography ". Her head snapped up, seemed startled, then with tears said, "It has destroyed almost everything in my life....my husband and his three brothers all became addicted by 10 years old. He no longer desires me. He can't get arouse with me...only with his porn."

She paused and then continued, "I was exposed to porn by my older sister when I was 6 years old....by 8 years old I was addicted. At 23 years I

sought professional counseling. She stared at me for the longest time, "You are the only person I've ever told about my marriage...thank you for listening."

As she walked away, I looked at my assistant. We both experience that sadness that comes from such a heartbreaking story.

STORIES RECEIVED AFTER SET FREE SUMMIT

Do not give up. At the Global Set Free Summit, Josh McDowell urged the attendees to go out and make a difference in the battle against pornography. He said, "One person can make a difference. I would like to share the following testimony.

My wife and I were very "fired up" (we still are) after we returned to South Africa from the Set Free Global Summit. We knew we had to do something to bring the Set Free Message across South Africa and began planning a Set Free Mini Summit. We did not have the finances for a major event and started promoting the event through social media and local newspapers. We expected to be overwhelmed with many people attendance, but it was not to be.

We also wanted to present the event as affordable as possible. In fact, we wanted it to be free of charge, but it seemed impossible. We had limited financial resources so we approached a Bed and Breakfast lodge that had conference facilities. The lodge was located about 2 hours' drive from our home in Pretoria, Gauteng Province in South Africa. The lodge could accommodate 30 people and we expected the group to be that big. We kept the price per person low (\$35) which didn't cover the full amount as we had to subsidize \$15 for each person attending. This price included two nights and meals.

Although, we prayed many prayers to present the Set Free Mini Summit, God had other plans. There was very little response to the marketing. As

the day drew near, we began inviting close friends and family members. Even with that, the response was disappointing. My wife fell ill one week before the Set Free Mini Summit and we had to make a decision as to whether to hold the Summit or not. On the Sunday, one day before I had to inform the lodge about figures on how many people will be attending, God showed me not to cancel, but to facilitate the event at our home. All of the people interested in attending were from Pretoria and it would not cost those attending anything. It would be free of charge.

Everything was arranged and put in place to present the Set Free Mini Summit. The numbers were not great, 9 people in total and that included my wife and I. Six hours before the event, 2 people called and cancelled and the reason was “Personal problems”. I was devastated and asked God, “What now Lord? You need to speak to me, I need a clear indication on what to do?” At that moment a dear friend of mine sent me a text wishing us well and informing us that he and his wife were praying for us. I texted him and told him of my disappointment of the people cancelling and that I do not think it is work continuing. He just replied, “Oh no!!!” and then called me encouraging me not to cancel, but to continue. It was then that I remembered Josh McDowell’s words “One person can make a difference.” I told my friend that no matter what we will continue and present the Set Free Mini Summit. Two hours before the start of the Summit, I received a text from the two people that cancelled informing me that they will be joining us. I was informed that the problem had been lack of money for fuel, but God had provided them with the money.

The Set Free Mini Summit went very well and the real testimony unfolded later. The one person who wanted to cancel called me this past week and told me the Set Free Mini Summit changed his and his family’s lives completely. He testified: “The Mini Summit saved my marriage and restored my family. We have installed Covenant Eyes on all our devices and hold each other accountable. My porn days are over and we want to be more involved in fighting this battle with others and bring purity and promote Godly relationships.”

There is more to come. A Christian Radio station “Radio Pulpit” which broadcasts all over South Africa, called me last week and my wife and I shared our story in a 30 minute broadcast on God’s redeeming work in our lives. I could share my story on How God freed me from porn addiction and Corinne, my wife, shared her story: similar to Vicky Tiede’s story at the Global Set Free Summit.

God is great. To Him all the glory.

MORE STORIES

Please prayerfully read the following situations...unfortunately, they are not unique nor isolated incidents. They are common occurrences in the Church.

1. In an Eastern European country, I spoke to 2,300 high school and college students (ages 16-24). During this talk, 373 indicated they trusted Christ as Savior and Lord. At the follow-up appointment, CRU staff asked each student: “What is the greatest barrier or obstacle for you to follow Jesus?”

Their answer came back to me in an email I received on March 24, 2016:

Josh, you will find this hard to believe: Out of all 373 students, every one of them said, “I have a problem with pornography and I need help”.

2. In a Middle East country, at one of the most prestigious, elite Christian schools, there are 331 students 13- to 15- years old. After I spoke on sex and love, the school designed a survey. Incorporated into the survey were two critical questions:

- a) Do you watch porn on the internet?
- b) If you do, do you want help/counseling to stop?

An email was sent to me stating:

Josh, your stats on our students and pornography staggered us. We didn't think they could be true of our school. So we took a survey. Josh, every one of our Christian students (331), answered "yes" to "Do you watch porn on the internet?" and "no" to "Do you want help/counseling?"

3. Three CRU country leaders from Middle Eastern countries approached me at the Set Free Summit:

Josh, these two days have been eye-openers for us. We now realize that the greatest enemy to our ministry is not ISIS...it is pornography. ISIS can kill our bodies, but porn will destroy our soul and the effectiveness of our ministry.

4. In an Eastern European country, at a CRU meeting for pastors and church leaders, one leader came to me and said:

Josh, you really shook up our church leaders. They all questioned the prevalence of porn in their families and church. The top leader in the country went home to his 19-year-old son. He was shocked and deeply hurt when his son confided that he is addicted to porn...and it all started when he was seven years old. Needless to say, the pastor is shaken up and so sad.

5. Three weeks ago, a lady contacted me pleading for help (a very dear friend to Dottie and me). She wrote:

This young boy is only seven, and he accidentally saw porn on a cell phone. He confessed this to me as a safe person to talk

to (don't know if parents know how bothered he is) that he is obsessed with wanting to see naked bodies.

He also saw some family adults (not completely dressed) when even younger and the images stuck in his mind. The parents are Christian parents and friends of mine. Thank Josh hugely for me. I need to respect the child's trust, but need to give his parents HELP!

Then later she emailed:

I deeply appreciate this help and Josh's recommendations. I don't know of a family who hasn't battled this. Even S's (her daughter) family, as isolated as they are, deals with this threat. It just hit me hard as I was spending time with this child. He slowly and cautiously brought the subject up, then confessed his obsession. He has talked with his mom, and she of course totally restricted the internet, but I'm sure she doesn't know what to do with the damage that has turned into this obsession. He told me he thinks about it all the time, at 7 years old!

What an enemy we face. So proud and thankful for Josh's crusade against it.

(Josh email)

MY JOURNEY FROM ADDICTION, by Brett Butcher with Hope Forrester

I saw hard-core pornography for the first time around first or second grade. The effects in my life were similar to those of abuse. I was reintroduced to porn at a bookstore as a middle-schooler. Those were low years for me, and porn felt like life, something good in the midst of something bad. I got hooked.

I came to Christ at a young age and grew up in church, but there was always this dark side to me. I started to feel guilty in high school, but I learned it was better not to talk about it. I thought I needed to figure it out on my own, just Jesus and me.

Maybe you've fought a similar battle. Maybe you're fighting one now, or know someone who is. You're not alone.

When I was 21, I attended Bible school in Austria and later entered fulltime Christian ministry. I brought my pornography addiction with me. I lived two lives, and my shame started to grow.

I didn't understand why I was powerless over this sexual darkness, so I hid this life at whatever cost. I took a year away from ministry to focus on restoration. It was a great year, but it didn't help with my addiction. I attended counseling, but it didn't help either.

I believed that Jesus wanted to transform me, but why wouldn't He heal this area? I concluded that I was broken beyond repair, or that maybe God wasn't real. I was in despair, completely hopeless. I had tried everything and stopped believing I could be free.

A chance encounter with Ted Roberts, founder of Pure Desire Ministries, resulted in my wife and me beginning his counseling and recovery program. I had finally met a Christian man who could make sense of what was happening in my life. Ted and his wife navigated us through sexual addiction counseling wrapped in a biblical worldview.

I learned that at the core of sexual bondage, there's often an intimacy wound. Now when I struggle, I understand why and have resources to help. My intimacy wounds are healing, and I'm learning how to trust my wife and the Lord with all of me.

I can now say I've had three years of solid sobriety with no acting out. I'm taking what I learned from Ted and teaching others. People are desperate to hear. What's the solution?

Everyone wants a book, and there are some good books. But you can't read or pray your way out of this. You were likely wounded in relationships, and what's where you'll find healing. In the context of safe community groups, you must focus on four areas:

First, you must confront denial. You can go to a group and talk about struggles with work or alcohol, but when you say you struggle with sexual issues, it kind of clears the room. There's so much shame around this topic. We feel the need to hide our sexual struggles, so we learn to hide from and deceive even ourselves. Commit to honesty at all costs.

You also must understand the nature of your battle. There's more knowledge on how the brain works now than ever before. Sexual addiction isn't just a moral problem; it's also a brain problem. We're not merely making a poor moral choice when we choose to indulge in sexual sin. A powerful chemical neurotransmitter called dopamine, or the "gotta have it" molecule, is released in our brains when we view porn or act out sexually. We may develop a brain problem with moral implications that can't be healed by moral solutions alone.

We can't read our Bibles more, pray more or attend more small groups. We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds and we must find healing for our wounds. But where is healing found?

By accessing the wound that drives your need to return to things you know are unhealthy. We live in a broken, fallen world. You can grow up in a perfect family with tons of support and still get hurt. Some people can process their pain relationally with others, but many of us can't do that. We don't know how. We find ways to numb our pain, and that can become addiction, whether sexual or to something else.

Ultimately, you must go on the exploratory journey of your own life and ask, *Where have I been wounded, and how do those wounds affect me today?* Abuse, divorce, high school? If we don't identify these wounds, we'll end up treating the symptoms rather than the root problems. You must go on the journey of your own story with safe people. Discover where you've been

wounded, and allow yourself to process that pain. Then you can find healing.

Finally, you must practice preventative accountability. If you don't know how to do accountability well, you'll find yourself in relapse over and over again. You fail, you confess and pray. You fail, you confess and pray. Eventually, you stop being so transparent because it's simply not helping. Begin to look at the circumstances around you and identify stressors, such as marriage, work or finances. Look for the triggers, and then choose to stay in the pain and process it with others rather than trying to numb it with porn or something else.

Be watchful when you are hungry, angry, lonely or tired (think, H.A.L.T.). Start talking with your accountability group about what you desire when you are in these states. Process together ways you can respond better. Be relational with your pain. The biblical idea of “weeping with those who weep” and “rejoicing with those who rejoice” is a learned skill for many of us. Let others into your pain, celebrations, joy – living life in color with close friends rather than just keeping things on the surface.

There is hope. You can find lasting freedom. But you won't find it alone, just you and Jesus. Breaking isolation and learning to ask for help – that's where trust is built and freedom is found. This journey is difficult, but I'm now walking with integrity and purity, and you can, too.

(Brett Butcher with Hope Forrester, “Purifying Desires”, Worldwide Challenge, May 21, 2015, <http://worldwidechallenge.org/content/purifying-desires>)

A mother called me, she was desperate:

‘Josh, my 7-year-old son accidentally saw a few seconds of porn at my brother’s house. Last night, I went into his room. He was sitting up in bed with his head between his knees crying. I immediately ask him ‘what’s wrong?’ He saidly replied, ‘I can’t get the pictures out of my mind.’ Josh he is only 7 years old.’

AND YOU THINK YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN WON'T SEE IT?

“Wake up!”

“In China, a church of 25,000 has 4,000 active participants in their 24-34-year-old group. During my visit, the two coordinators of this group came to me and were troubled. They said, “Almost 100% of our young adults watch porn on the internet...we can hardly ever find a young adult in our church who does not watch porn.” Have you told the pastor? “Yes, but he doesn’t believe us and says ‘we don’t have that problem...you are not to talk about it.’” (J1CA-Porn Research, “China Porn Question Letter”)

“Let me read you one woman’s story about how harmless this is:”

“My husband began using porn as a teenager. What was once an adolescent hobby became the ‘other woman’ in our marriage. At first it was our intimacy that suffered. Then, his pastime grew into an addiction which then started to include more serious forms like strip bars. He was often late coming home, with poor excuses. I noticed our money disappearing and never suspected he was spending hundreds of dollars a month to feed his addiction.”

“Me? I felt responsible, ugly, ashamed, alone and hopeless. Why would he look at another woman unless I wasn’t pretty or sexy enough? Friends rejected my idea that his porn use was ruining our relationship. They told me to be sexier, more sexually responsive and available so that he wouldn’t look elsewhere. I tried all these things only to find they didn’t work. I ended up feeling like a failure, as a wife and a lover. Now I know, it wasn’t me.”

“When we got help I found out his pornography use began before our marriage, as far back as his youth. Not only was it not my fault -- it had nothing to do with me at all. After much counseling, we both understand

that he entered our marriage thinking I would cure all his sex problems. No wonder he was so disappointed and angry.”

“We’re still together. ‘We are living proof that a pornography or sex addiction does not have to mean the end of your relationship.’” (Ken Ritz, “Overcoming Pornography”, Sermon Central, December 30, 2005, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/overcoming-pornography-ken-ritz-sermon-on-sin-bondage-to-86849?page=3>)

“Like Middleton, David also struggled with an alcohol addiction and other internalized battles. When he decided it was time to get off porn, he had to quit the booze if he was going to commit. But porn proved to be a harder habit to kick. ‘I’ve been sober in all of this time, but the porn site has been a lot of struggle,’ he said. ‘It’s completely different than alcoholism ... [with it] being a substance ... but porn, all the images, the videos, everything, they’re still in my head.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“David started his recovery in January 2012. A few months earlier, he saw the movie ‘Shame,’ about a sex addict, and while David wasn’t sexually active, he felt strangely connected with the main character. It hit him one day when he was driving home on the highway, at 60-70 mph, searching his phone browser to get videos ready to watch when he got home. ‘I could see myself, at the affliction of how obsessed I have become that I don’t care about my own life, anybody’s life, all I want is to have...these videos open the moment I open my door,’ he said. ‘That I would say was a painful moment—the moment of painful realization of how much powerlessness I have. It was just compulsion beyond my comprehension.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“He started seeing a therapist and began 12-step programs in the city for alcoholism and porn addiction. During the therapy process, he discovered that he was sexually abused as a child. Although a gay man, he didn’t

watch gay porn—it was usually with men and women, but moreover, it was an escape. ‘Maybe in a way, I was trying to hide from everybody, and the moment I found porn, I found the one thing which will keep me isolated,’ David said. ‘I was really afraid of people, and I thought that if I can keep everybody away I am safe.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“Today, David doesn’t have Internet access at home. He uses security apps and works with his provider to help foolproof his phone, blocking any pornographic images from the server end. He has friends, goes on dates and has made a commitment to go dancing once a month. He said he feels like a teenager. ‘Most refreshing is I think I may be an extrovert,’ he said. ‘I do like people’s company. ... I am this social being who just never exploded.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“About six weeks ago, a small group from Middleton’s church went over to his house for what he thought was Bible study. By the end of the night, he was in an intervention for his drug and alcohol abuse. That week, he started an intensive outpatient rehab program at a Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation clinic. He goes four days a week for three hours in the evenings. On Facebook, he came across Fight the New Drug, a nonprofit whose mission is to raise awareness of the ‘harmful effects of pornography.’ He said it’s really opened his eyes to get sober. While he values the anonymity of addiction programs, he chooses to be open with friends and family. ‘Every time I take a stand to grab more control over my life and let people in, I feel less shame, and more confidence.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“For Kevin, help was at nofap.com, which has a following on Reddit of more than 160,000 ‘fapstronauts’ (followers). The site refers to recovery from porn addiction as “rebooting” and challenges users to refrain from porn, masturbation and maybe even sex altogether for a period of time. Kevin

started April 7, and already he feels like a different person. He feels more confident, procrastinates less and feels like he has more testosterone. He said he thinks his ED has gone away and described random erections in the middle of the night. However, there have been struggles in his recovery. The hardest part: ‘Dealing with the anger of not finding it before while I was still with the person I really wanted to be with.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“Hussey said it’s important for anyone with an addiction to work with an individual psychotherapist. ‘They need to get to the underlying causes of why they ended up addicted in the first place,’ he said. He also recommends support groups, such as Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, which, he said, takes on ‘healthier attitudes toward sex in general.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“‘You don’t have to be isolated anymore,’ David said. ‘You are a social being, and you deserve a full social life. Come out, ask for help. ... There is help out there. Just opening the door is all it takes.’” (HEATHER SCHROERING, “THE PORN PROBLEM,” CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 14, 2015, www.chicagotribune.com/news/redeye-porn-addiction-20150714-story.html#page=1)

“I had a dad bring his 12-year-old in to see me. The boy had been looking at pornography. I asked when was the first time you saw pornography? ‘Fourth grade.’ Okay. Do you remember what you saw? ‘Yes.’ Do you remember where you were? ‘Yes, I was on the computer.’ Do you remember what it felt like? ‘Yeah, it felt like kind of gross, kinda good.’”

“Then I asked him this question: What if Jesus came into your room the day you saw pornography, the very first time? What do you think he would do? And he said: ‘Oh my gosh, I don’t even want to think about that.’ No, really, what would he say? ‘Well, he would tell me how bad it is for me. He would tell me how disappointed he is in me. He would tell me that I should know better than that.’”

“He’s parroting all the things he’s heard. And then he said, ‘It’s just like I’m taking the nails and nailing them into Jesus’ hands. I’m hurting Jesus.’ And I looked at this boy and said: You were a kid! You’re just a kid. Jesus says whoever causes one of these little ones to sin; it would be better for them if a millstone were put around their neck and be thrown into the sea. Our Lord would come in the room and he would probably be angry but he would be angry at pornography, not at you.”

-Father Sean Kilcawley

(Source: Father Sean Kilcawley, Set Free Global Summit speaker, Greensboro, NC, April 4-7, 2016)

“A few years ago a friend of mine told me of a small men’s retreat he attended in Idaho. When the men were challenged in the area of sexual purity, the biggest, toughest looking guy in the room stood up and said ‘I’m struggling with porn and I know some of you guys are too, so stand up if you are and let’s deal with this!’”

“Half of the forty men in the room came to their feet.” -Mike Genung

(Source: Mike Genung, “How Many Porn Addicts are in Your Church?” Crosswalk, June 17, 2005, <http://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/how-many-porn-addicts-are-in-your-church-1336107.html>)

“Earlier this month, the Witherspoon Institute released a report examining ‘the social costs of pornography,’ signed by more than 50 scholars representing a wide array of professions, academic disciplines, and political views. The report details the considerable social costs that pornography exacts upon men, women, and children.” (Anonymous, “National Review: Getting Serious on Pornography,” NPR, March 31, 2010, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125382361>)

“The findings of the report hit particularly close to home for me. By his own account, my husband of 13 years and high-school sweetheart, was first exposed to pornography around age ten. He viewed it regularly during high school and college — and, although he tried hard to stop, continued to do so throughout the course of our marriage. For the past few years he had taken to sleeping in the basement, distancing himself from me, emotionally and physically. Recently he began to reject my sexual advances outright, claiming he just didn’t ‘feel love’ for me like he used to, and lamenting that

he thought of me ‘more as the mother of our children’ than as a sexual partner.” (Anonymous, “National Review: Getting Serious on Pornography,” NPR, March 31, 2010, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125382361>)

“Then one morning around 2AM he called, intoxicated, from his office to announce that he had ‘developed feelings’ for someone new. The woman he became involved with was an unemployed alcoholic with all the physical qualities of a porn star — bleached blond hair, heavy makeup, provocative clothing, and large breasts. After the revelation, my husband tried to break off his relationship with this woman. But his remorse was short-lived. Within a few months he had moved permanently out of the home he shared with me and our five young children. In retrospect, I believe he succumbed to the allure of the secret fantasy life he had been indulging since his adolescence.” (Anonymous, “National Review: Getting Serious on Pornography,” NPR, March 31, 2010, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125382361>)

“My husband is not alone. According to Dr. Victor Cline, a nationally renowned clinical psychologist who specializes in sexual addiction, pornography addiction is a process that undergoes four phases. First, addiction, resulting from early and repeated exposure accompanied by masturbation. Second, escalation, during which the addict requires more frequent porn exposure to achieve the same ‘highs’ and may learn to prefer porn to sexual intercourse. Third, desensitization, during which the addict views as normal what was once considered repulsive or immoral. And finally, the acting-out phase, during which the addict runs an increased risk of making the leap from screen to real life.” (Anonymous, “National Review: Getting Serious on Pornography,” NPR, March 31, 2010, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125382361>)

“I started watching porn at 10 years old. This continued past my childhood into my teenage years, of course with the help of a smartphone later on.”

“I felt horrible every time I watched porn.”

“At 20 I started dating my now wife and hid the fact that I watched it from her. She eventually caught me watching it after we got married and she

was pregnant with our son. It broke her heart. She felt like I was choosing porn over her, and I was.”

“So I stopped watching porn. I got rid of my smartphone, it was my #1 trigger. And haven’t watched porn in 1 year and 7 months.”

“I am so much happier and my relationship with my wife is so much stronger.”

(A recovery testimony you need to hear-CRU Mail-This is a personal testimony submitted to NCOSE to be shared, 6.28.2017)

- Lyn – “Pornography is so harmful. It destroyed my husband. He took his life 3 years ago because it had so overtaken his life and mind.”
- Joyce – Married for 59 years. Husband has been involved in pornography since before their marriage, but he denies he has a problem.
- Nita – Porn has ruined her family. She has depression and anxiety. Her husband filed for divorce, refused all offers of help, exposed their daughter to porn. Now he can’t understand why his daughter doesn’t want to visit him.
- Marco – He is desperate to be delivered from porn addiction; unable to find determination to overcome. Feels utterly hopeless and wife doesn’t know.
- Daniel – “My addiction to pornography destroyed my life. I used to be a music and education minister in a Baptist church, but that is gone now. My wife refuses to forgive me, filing for separation. My daughter, who said that she forgave me, has suddenly broken off all contact with me. I am 62 years old trying to desperately to rebuild some kind of life.”

“These are real people sharing real issues about the devastation consequences of pornography.”

(Dave & Diane Bottorff, “April Newsletter” quotes, From Email, April, 2016)

“Always on: Therapist Hugh Martin believes the internet has made pornography much more problematic than it was in the past.”

“Andrew was only eight years old when he first saw online pornography, but even then he knew there was no going back.”

“I was sort of shocked – but I was fascinated by it as well,” the 23-year-old (who did not want his surname published) recalls of the hardcore film he watched on a computer at a friend's house.”

“It just seemed so real. I'd never really seen people naked before and here they were naked and doing things to each other ... I knew I could never tell my parents, but once I first saw it I knew there was no going back.”

“By the time Andrew was 14 watching porn had become his favourite past-time, constantly searching for something new on the internet which would give him a bigger high.”

“He gave up playing footy and stopped seeing his mates, preferring to stay up all night watching pornography instead. To make the porn feel more real he would seek out women on chat sites to act out scenarios with him.”

“I couldn't get up in the morning, and couldn't concentrate in school,” Andrew explains. “All I was thinking about was getting back into a chatroom or something like that.”

“Andrew's parents grew so worried about their lethargic son that they took him to the doctor for blood tests, convinced he had glandular fever. They still have no idea what was really affecting him.”

“Andrew's pornography habit became so bad in his late teens that it started to damage his ability to have relationships with girls in real life. “I used to

ask girls to do things and get off on that, rather than enjoying the pleasure of sex." Eventually he couldn't get aroused by girls anymore."

"Therapist Hugh Martin, who specialises in helping men break their pornography habit, said Andrew's story was typical of many of his clients. A recovering pornography addict himself, Martin said most users had low self-esteem, were highly critical of themselves and lacked an emotional connection to their parents."

"He believes the internet has made pornography much more problematic than it was in the past, and far more addictive than drugs or alcohol. "It makes it very real, very available, and very affordable. You get very physically and mentally engaged with the content." He said extreme practices like bestiality and gang rape had become mainstream thanks to the internet."

"Experts are growing increasingly concerned that the widespread use of online pornography among adolescents is skewing expectations about sex and relationships, especially as it does not depict any concept of consent. They say users find it hard to distinguish between what they see in pornography and what happens in real life."

"When you're dealing with children looking at it, highly vulnerable people without any understanding or guidance, it becomes very dangerous," Martin said. Boys aged 14-17 are the most frequent underage consumers of pornographic material."

"In therapy sessions Martin helps clients understand their pornography use is a symptom of a deeper problem. They then work to resolve the "real" problem in their lives, and identify what they seek from porn such as stress relief, a self-esteem boost or reducing their anxiety. Martin helps his clients understand their porn triggers, and find healthy alternatives that give them better highs, like playing sport."

"Andrew says he suffers from low self-esteem, depression and anxiety, and that watching porn gave him a sense of power. "I've always felt pretty

powerless because of being bullied pretty badly." Yet the guilt and shame he felt about his porn use ultimately made him feel even worse."

"In the moment I did feel nice but it was afterwards that I felt bad about myself. The feeling of feeling bad only seemed to get worse which is one of the reasons I wanted help."

"It is only through therapy that Andrew has been able to break his addiction in the last year, and focus instead on his relationship with his girlfriend. He is now studying to be a youth worker."

"Once I started to deal with things like my low self-esteem, anxiety and self-loathing I could start to work towards what I really wanted for myself," he says. "I had nothing to lose and I feel like I gained my self back."

(Cosima Marriner, Stuff, July 17, 2016, "How internet pornography took over one teenager's life", <http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/parenting/big-kids/tweens-to-teens/82191036/How-internet-pornography-took-over-one-teenagers-life>)

"I've always been a church girl. Most of my earliest memories are tied to the people and the small churches my dad pastored in San Diego, California. I remember feeling the pressure to be the perfect pastor's kid who knew all the right answers to Bible trivia questions. I recall the heavy pressure to be a model for other people and especially the pressure not to embarrass or cause shame to my parents by exposing our family flaws."

(Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, "Kay Warren: 'We Were In Marital Hell'", <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

"Many of my experiences are probably common to others who grew up in a Pastor's home, but a few incidents weren't related to my dad's job, and they marked me in ways that have taken me years to overcome. I was molested by the son of the church janitor when I was four or five. I remember not telling my parents because it was 'bad' and because as a young child I didn't have the language to express what had happened." (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, "Kay Warren: 'We Were In Marital Hell'", <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“The deepest place of confusion and internal struggle for me as a teenager was finding pornography at the home of neighbors where I babysat. I was both fascinated and repelled by this forbidden material. It was clearly taboo for a Christian young woman who sincerely wanted to live a pure and holy life for Jesus, but somehow one night I picked it up and looked at it. Instant self-loathing, guilt, and remorse. *How can I look at pornography? I love Jesus! I want to be a missionary! I’ll never look at it again*, I told myself. And I didn’t. Until the next time I babysat. And the time after that. And the time after that. And before long, I was hooked. The good girl who loved Jesus with all her heart had a secret fascination with pornography, and the shame about killed me. I couldn’t reconcile my temptations and my faith; I was torn apart on the inside. Worst of all, I couldn’t tell anyone about it.”

(Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“Love and marriage”

“I continued in this state of internal conflict and failure, all the while knowing I was in deep trouble. I wanted out but didn’t have a clue how to change. Then I met Rick Warren when I was 17 at a training to be part of a summer youth evangelism team that would travel to Baptist churches in the cities and towns of California. We reconnected a year later as freshmen at California Baptist College, a small liberal arts college in Riverside, California, and became casual friends.”

(Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“He asked me out to Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlour in the fall of 1973, and I grudgingly went. A week later – eight days to be precise – he accompanied me to a revival. When we got back to campus, we prayed together to close out the evening. Sitting in the dark, I heard him say, ‘Will you marry me?’ I recall instantly praying and asking the Lord what I should do. I heard God respond, *Say yes. I’ll bring the feelings*. And so with my 19-year-old understanding of life, romance, God, his will, faith, and my desire to be obedient to him, I said yes. Kay Lewis and Rick Warren got engaged.” (Kay

Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“Not ‘the perfect couple’”

“As I walked down the aisle and stared into the shining eyes of the earnest, kind young man who had asked me to marry him, I knew I was loved. The way he looked at me on our wedding day became an anchor I would hold on to during the darker times when I wasn’t sure we were going to survive the mess our marriage had become.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“Our brand-new marriage took an instant nosedive. We didn’t even make it to the end of our two-week honeymoon to British Columbia before we knew our relationship was in serious trouble. We had been warned about five areas of potential conflict all couples have to deal with, and we immediately jumped into all five of them: sex, communication, money, children, and in-laws. We were so young – barely 21- and inexperienced, and when sex didn’t work and we argued about sex, and then argued about our arguments and began to layer resentment on top of resentment, it was a perfect setup for misery and disenchantment.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“What made it worse was that everyone considered us the perfect couple. When we returned from the honeymoon, already miserable and shocked at the depth of our unhappiness, we felt like we had nowhere to go with our wretched pain and marital failures. I had told Rick about being molested as a little girl—he was the first person I ever told—but because I was so unemotional about it, he figured it wasn’t that significant an incident to me and basically forgot about it. I kept my occasional ventures into pornography a complete secret. Between the effects of the unaddressed molestation, the resulting brokenness in my sexuality, and the off-and-on pornography fascination, it shouldn’t have been a surprise that sex didn’t

work.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“The weight of misery”

“Rick and I managed to limp our way through our first year of marriage, all the while he was a youth pastor to a vibrant group of kids who filled our small apartment at all hours of the day and night. We were young enough and naïve enough—and thoroughly conditioned by our strict upbringing—to not recognize the damage we were causing to ourselves by hiding and pretending everything was okay.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“On our second wedding anniversary, we moved for Rick to pursue a master’s degree in theology so that he could become a senior pastor. We still had massive problems with sex, communication, and money, and we were in marital hell. The common understanding of the day was if you love Jesus enough, your marriage will be happy. What was so confusing was that we loved Jesus with all our hearts and were committed to the local church. How could things be so bad?” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“The fact that we were miserable weighed on both of us like a giant boulder, but we didn’t see any way out. I think we hoped that one morning we would just wake up and find it was all a bad dream and that somehow all our problems would simply vanish. We wanted to honor the sacred wedding vows we had made before God and our loved ones, so divorce wasn’t on our radar. But neither could we visualize living in such pain for the rest of our lives. We just didn’t know what to do or how to create a healthy marriage out of the shattered pieces of conflict, disappointment, dysfunction, and resentment.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“Sticking it out”

“Over time, as we both grew as individuals and as we sought counseling together, we began to experience healing in our marriage. Yes, we faced many rough patches over the decades of our marriage, but I’m so glad we stuck it out through our painful first few years. God has worked in our life together—and he’s used our marriage struggles and failures to draw us closer to him and to each other.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“Through my decades of ministry, I’ve talked to hundreds of women and couples who were in lonely, unfulfilling marriages—marriages in which their dreams had turned to dust. Where the passion had long since been buried under the daily grind of careers, children, pressure, stress, and unfulfilled longings. Some of these marriages ended with a loud bang as anger and bitterness corroded any sense of decency and humanity and compassion for the other. Some ended with shock, soul-shattering pain, and disillusionment as betrayal made a mockery of the vows of faithfulness. Some ended with a quiet whisper—silence—as boredom, illness, financial struggles, or any other of myriad issues made even dry, brown grass on the other side of the fence look so much greener than the barren wasteland on their side of the fence.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“From the trenches”

“I don’t approach this subject from the Hallmark-card version of marriage but from the blood, sweat, and tears of the trenches where our marriage was forged and is sustained. I know what it’s like to choose to build our relationship; to seek marriage counseling again and again; to allow our small group and our family into the struggle; to determine one more time to say, “Let’s start over” and “Please forgive me, I was wrong” and “I forgive you.” I know what it’s like to admit that my way isn’t the only way to see the world and to try to imagine what it’s like to be on the other side of me; to

choose to focus on what is good and right and honorable in my husband instead of what drives me crazy; to turn attraction to another man into attraction to my husband.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“I know what it’s like to have vastly opposing opinions on how to handle and cope with a mentally ill child; to have fear and anxiety and panic threaten to swallow up normal life; to become consumed with the needs of one member of the family. I know what it’s like to be cracked open by catastrophic grief and to share it with your spouse when you’re so different; to figure out how to grieve and mourn together when your mentally ill child takes his life in a violent way and your grief is public because you’re in ministry and your glass-house, fishbowl existence is fodder for scrolling headlines on CNN.” (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June 2017, “Kay Warren: ‘We Were In Marital Hell’”, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

“We’ve beaten the odds that divorce would be the outcome of our ill-advised union. We’ve weathered my breast cancer and melanoma. We’ve survived the mental illness and suicide of our son Matthew. And now we know. We know we are the best thing that has ever happened to each other. I am in love with the man God brought into my life so many years ago. Each of us is not who the other was looking for, but each of us is who the other desperately needed to become the person we each are today. Yet, it’s also been the very best thing that has ever happened to either of us. We wouldn’t be who we are today without each other. I’m a better Christian, a better woman, a better mother, a better friend, and a better minister because of Rick. He says he’s a better Christian, a better man, a better father, a better friend, and a better minister because of me. The shrieks of iron sharpening iron have often sounded like gears grinding on bare metal, but the result has been profound personal growth in both of us.” (Kay Warren is the cofounder of Saddleback Church with her husband Rick Warren and the author of [Sacred Privilege: Your Life and Ministry as a Pastor’s Wife](#). She is a Bible teacher and an advocate for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, as well as orphaned and vulnerable children. Adapted from Sacred Privilege © Kay Warren, 2017. Published by Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group. Used by permission.) (Kay Warren, Christianity Today, June

2017, "Kay Warren: 'We Were In Marital Hell'",
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/june/sacred-privilege-kay-rick-warren-we-were-in-marital-hell.html>)

KAY WARREN TALKS 'VERY CONSERVATIVE' UPBRINGING, MOLESTATION AND PORN MAGAZINES

"Evangelist Kay Warren , an author and co-founder of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, has said that her very conservative upbringing, combined with being molested as a little girl and being exposed to pornographic magazines, led to a good deal of sexual confusion in her youth."

"Warren, who is promoting her book, Sacred Privilege, opened up in an interview with [Christian Today](#) about some of the dark experiences she had growing up."

"'I was molested as a little girl. I can't hide behind that and I am the one that has to take responsibility,' said Warren, who joined the #MeToo conversation in October, when many other Christian women shared their [stories of sexual assault](#) and abuse on social media."

"She said that she learned resilience, however, and the ability to 'hold on in the harder times,' as it 'allows me to be a much more effective minister for Christ when I am spiritually healthy. Ministry is hard and if we are going to last we have to look in the mirror and take responsibility for growing close to Jesus."

"Warren, who is the wife of megachurch pastor Rick Warren, talked about growing up with 'very conservative' parents."

"'Conservative in every way that was possible in the U.S. in the 1960s and '70s to the place of if a Christian family came to our church and wanted to join, if they came from another denomination, they had to be re-baptized...Just a very, very narrow definition of everything,' she described."

“But on the positive side they loved Jesus and they lived out their faith in front of me. They made God winsome, they made God attractive. I wanted a relationship with God in spite of all the rules and no dancing and not two-piece swim suits and so on.”

“At the age of 12 or 13, she found pornographic magazines at the homes of family friends she was babysitting for, which she said led to both ‘repulsion and fascination’ with sex.”

“It is impossible to overestimate the effect of discovering pornographic magazines in a neighbor’s home when I was babysitting, partially because we didn’t talk about sex in our conservative home, plus the expectations to be perfect, not to stumble in any way...it all came together in a very toxic way that left me divided, two different people: there was the good girl who loved Jesus and wanted to be a missionary, and the girl who was a complete and utter embarrassment to Jesus...there was a fear of being disqualified from serving Jesus or even being a Christian,’ Warren said.”

“The Christian author said that the lowest point in her life was the death of her son, Matthew, who committed suicide in April 2013 after battling mental illness.”

“This was one of the things that led her to question whether God is really good or not.”

“The real struggle for me is around God’s goodness,’ she said.”

“It is a much more painful struggle for me than questioning His existence. It feels like there have been many opportunities, many circumstances in my life that bring me back to that question: ‘God, are you good, and if you’re not, why would I want to trust you, and if you are how do I trust you when it feels like what happened is too painful to endure?’ Warren wondered.”

“The evangelist has become a strong advocate for mental health support in the church, and argued that unlike what some Christians believe, going

through depression or anxiety does not mean that one doesn't love Jesus, or that they aren't praying enough."

"There has been a misbelief over the years that any emotional pain is somehow demonic: jst the opposite is true. Science is catching up with what the Bible has said, htat we are complex people – and the brain is part of our body,' she added."

"It's a misunderstanding of what mental illness is. Even though I think there's progress I do see it today."

(Stoyan Zaimov, Christian Post Reporter, December 19, 2017, "Kay Warren Talks 'Very Conservative' Upbringing, Molestation and Porn Magazines," <https://www.christianpost.com/news/kay-warren-talks-very-conservative-upbringing-molestation-and-porn-magazines-210662/>)

SLAYING PORN THROUGH CHRIST: A TESTIMONY OF HOPE

"When a dear friend asked me to write an article about my journey to sustained victory over pornography, I must admit I didn't want to do it. Excuses filled my head. *What will people think about me? What would I say about such a complicated issue?* But at the forefront of my mind was simply this thought: *Am I even victorious enough to write such an article?* My so-called victory, after all, has been sloppy. Desires didn't magically disappear. The temptation to succumb has, at times, felt inordinate. But I can honestly look back and bear witness that God's grace is training me to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions ([Titus 2:11-12](#))."

"When I think about my journey, the path has been marked by months of prayer, meditation, conversations with God and others, and some despair along the way. If you're currently struggling between the desire to please God or to please self, take it from someone who has been in your shoes: God is faithful to forgive and to give grace to help you. As I look back, here are two threads of thinking that run through the entire process."

REMEMBER THE GOSPEL

“The first thread comes at the risk of sounding cliché, but I couldn’t be more serious: *remember the breadth and magnitude of the gospel*. For years my struggle with pornography was merely an annoying habit I wanted to fix, like biting my nails or saying “um” when speaking. But it kept me from being an effective leader in the church, and it kept me from being normal. I needed a fresh vision of what I was actually doing: I was grieving the Holy Spirit and participating in the very things that stored up wrath against me before I was in Christ ([Eph. 4:30](#); [Rom. 2:5](#)). When the Lord brought a season of gospel renewal to my life, I came to understand that my sin was far more serious than I knew.”

“Thankfully, when the Lord brings gospel renewal he doesn’t just show us how bad we are—he shows us how incredible he is. His mercies, his attributes, and his gospel became to me far sweeter than I’d ever imagined. Hour by hour I reminded myself that just as Christ’s death called me to die, his resurrection called me to new life. I often stumbled and clawed my way back to these deep pools of water. When I sat down to pray, I felt like a child just learning to utter his first words. But I didn’t give up. If you’re struggling with pornography, fight to remember the life-changing truth of the gospel. Let that truth drive you moment by moment to confession and repentance. Practice it often. Don’t be like the rich young ruler who wanted an easy formula for eternal life. Be instead like the woman who wept at Jesus’ feet because she knew her sin was great but knew her Savior was better.”

REMEMBER COMMON GRACE

“The second thread of thinking flows from the first: *remember the common grace gifts God has given us to fight pornography*. Without the first thread, the second would be legalism; without the second, however, the first would be impractical. In order for gospel fruit to grow, I had to put myself in an environment where the fruit wouldn’t be scorched before it could blossom. That meant I had to flee temptation by cutting off access to it. I had to use

computer software, accountability partners, and daily reminders that I'd disqualify myself from ministry if I persisted in this sin. Even more, I had to visualize my wife's face each time I confessed it wasn't going well."

"Because of our necessary and helpful focus on heart idolatry, we can be afraid of putting "eye-gouging" measures into our lives to fight sin. *Computer software can't change my heart*, we think. And that's true. But we should recognize these practical safeguards as common grace gifts from God to help us in our fight against our heart's idols. The path to sustained victory in my life is filled with earthly motivations. I didn't want to hurt anyone by derailing my life with pornography. I urge you to think about the same things. If the look of brokenness on your wife's face or an uncomfortable conversation with an accountability partner motivates you to resist porn, rejoice. Then, remember the gospel."

"There are many helpful materials available on the subject of lust and pornography. You can read about the effects pornography has on the brain, or you can read about the "sin behind the sin" of control or ungodly pleasure. All of this information is vital to digest and understand. But let's never forget the most important thing to consult when thinking about these issues—God's own words:"

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." ([Rom. 6:12-14](#))

"May the grace of God remind us of who we are and who he is in our fight against sin—and may that grace also empower to obey in moments of intense temptation. He is faithful."

(Dane Hays, "Slaying Porn Through Christ: A Testimony of Hope", The Gospel Coalition, April 29, 2013,

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/slaying-porn-through-christ-a-testimony-of-hope/>)

FAMED LIBERAL NOVELIST VISITED PORN SETS – WHAT HE SAW LEFT HIM IN DISBELIEF

“Pornography, the famed British novelist Martin Amis told his interviewer, was going to ‘change human nature.’”

“...will change the nature of sexuality from here on. ... Pornography is ‘widening the chasm between sex and love,’ ... ‘Pornography *must* set itself against significance in sex.’”

“...the average age of first exposure is now nine—and it is serving as their sex education. ... pornography will often determine the nature of their sexual interactions...”

“Gonzo, ten years later, is now mainstream porn—and as one porn producer put it: ‘The future of American porn is pain.’ Amis met this ugly reality face to face. ‘Some girls are used in nine months or a year,’ one producer told him. ‘An 18-year-old, sweet young thing, signs with an agency, makes five films in her first week. Five directors, five actors, five times five: she gets phone calls. A hundred movies in four months. She’s not a fresh face any more. Her price slips and she stops getting phone calls. Then it’s, ‘Okay, will you do anal? Will you do gangbangs?’ Then they’re used up. They can’t even get a phone call. The market forces of this industry use them up.’”

*“‘I got the S*** kicked out of me,’ she said. ‘I was told before the video—and they said this very proudly, mind you—that in this line of work most of the girls start crying because they’re hurting so bad...I couldn’t breathe. I was being hit and choked. I was really upset, and they didn’t stop. They kept filming. You can hear me say, ‘Turn the...camera off,’ and they kept going.’”*

“Porn, as Dr. Gail Dines often says, is the destroyer of culture.”

“It is also a destroyer of porn stars. ‘I have herpes,’ Amis records one girl telling him. ‘After you’ve been in the business for awhile, you have herpes. Everyone has herpes.’ It’s a little-known fact that condoms do nothing to prevent herpes, and often, don’t even prevent HIV. Amis notes that one male actor infected six girls before he was caught. He was barely punished. They got a life sentence.”

“I would say that it’s an attack on love and on significance in relationships, significance in sex. Years and years ago, someone defined pornography as a hatred of significance in sex. That’s what pornography does. There’s not more talk about love in pornography than there is about having babies, is there? It doesn’t come up. It’s as if you made babies some other way, like sneezing at each other or something, but certainly not with sex; that has nothing to do with it at all. And I think that’s a big disconnection for human beings. It wouldn’t have occurred to anyone 30 years ago that sex wasn’t connected with reproduction. But now, the chasm between the two is huge.”

“Pornography has normalized virtually every sex act, ..., and groomed women for sexual violence...”

(Jonathon van Maren, “Famed liberal novelist visited porn sets: what he saw left him in disbelief”, Life Site News, October 31, 2016, <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/famed-liberal-novelist-visited-porn-sets-what-he-saw-left-him-in-disbelief>)

“One of the greatest speakers of our day, I remember a phone call from his wife. He was suicidal because he had moved on into child pornography and bestiality and there, on a child porn site, was an FBI label and it said this has been monitored; you will be contacted and you will be prosecuted. He wanted to kill himself because of the public shame that was coming. Wife called me. He came to our workshop, Every Man’s Battle.” (Steve Arterburn, Josh McDowell Ministry Set Free Summit 2016 Transcript)

“We asked them, and they said on that day they were installing the queen. Well, we didn’t know that Canada had a queen and installation or anything

like that. And we discovered they were standing in front of a was museum, and they were installing a wax queen in the wax museum that day. Well, Dave and I were kind of curious. Why is it that there is even an industry that exists turning people into candles? We didn't understand how that could even work. We didn't know." (Steve Arterburn, Josh McDowell Ministry Set Free Summit 2016 Transcript)

"And so we did a little research, and we discovered why people will pay to go see the fake thing, the exact replica, the counterfeit. It turns out that every person wants to be close to something more powerful or bigger than themselves. And for most people, that isn't possible. And in absence of the real thing, a person will seek out the exact replica, the perfect counterfeit, and they will find some satisfaction in being near that exact replica, even though it isn't the real thing." (Steve Arterburn, Josh McDowell Ministry Set Free Summit 2016 Transcript)

"That is what pornography does to sex. Rather than experience the real thing, it's the counterfeit. It provides some satisfaction for a while. But people miss what God has intended. That, perhaps, is the biggest corrosion in the Christian faith that couples no longer come together. The interest in sex is dying. Marriages are dead because of the erosion due to pornography. Also, there is nothing that causes an erosion of a system of right and wrong more than pornography. People that constantly view pornography tend to think that all things are okay. One person asked me, what do you think is the next big problem that's coming down the pike?" (Steve Arterburn, Josh McDowell Ministry Set Free Summit 2016 Transcript)

"Back in the 1950s, two researchers named Tinbergen and Magnus played a trick on butterflies.^A After figuring out which marks on female butterfly wings were most eye-catching to males, the researchers created their own cardboard butterfly models. They exaggerated the patterns on the wings to make them brighter and flashier than would ever be found in nature. Essentially, they created the world's first butterfly supermodels."

“And the male butterflies fell for it. They went straight for the cardboard mock-ups and tried to mate with them. Ignoring the real female butterflies that were right there in plain sight, the males gave all their attention to the exaggerated pictures.”^B

“Sound familiar?”

“Like the duped butterflies, porn consumers can get so obsessed chasing flashy fantasies that they miss out on real life and real relationships. Call it the first great lie of porn.”

(“Why Porn is Full of Lies”, Fight the New Drug, August 23, 2017, <https://fightthenewdrug.org/why-porn-is-full-of-lies/>)

- A. (Magnus, D. B. E. (1958). Experimental Analysis Of Some ‘Over-Optimal’ Sign-Stimuli In The Mating Behavior Of The Fritillary Butterfly. *Argynnis Paphia. Proceedings Of The 10th International Congress On Entomology*, 2, 405-418; Tinbergen, N. (1951). *The Study Of Instinct*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.)
- B. (Magnus, D. B. E. (1958). Experimental Analysis Of Some ‘Over-Optimal’ Sign-Stimuli In The Mating Behavior Of The Fritillary Butterfly. *Argynnis Paphia. Proceedings Of The 10th International Congress On Entomology*, 2, 405-418; Tinbergen, N. (1951). *The Study Of Instinct*. Oxford: Clarendon Press; Hilton, D. L. (2013). Pornography Addiction—A Supranormal Stimulus Considered In The Context Of Neuroplasticity. *Socioaffective Neuroscience & Psychology*, 3, 20767; Paul, Pamela. (2007). *Pornified: How Pornography Is Transforming Our Lives, Our Relationships, And Our Families*. New York: Henry Holt And Co., 145.) (Wolf, N. (2003). *The Porn Myth*. New York Magazine. June 14. Retrieved From [Http://Nymag.Com/Nymetro/News/Trends/N_9437/](http://nymag.Com/Nymetro/News/Trends/N_9437/))

MTAC SAVES DRUG DEALER

“As an innocent 12-year-old boy in 1994, the Russian government placed Dmitry in an orphanage because his parents were severe alcoholics. At 13, he began drinking. At 14, Dmitry got in trouble for stealing supplies to buy vodka and cigarettes. He then began a 10 year “career” in and out of prison. At 24, he was homeless, an alcoholic and relying on crime as a way of life. Dmitry entered a church based alcohol and drug rehab and vocational training center where God began to change his life! He learned about the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Now, Dmitry is married and pastors a small church in Kondrovo, Russia, the only church in this town!”

“Dmitry shared that in 1995 Americans from Josh McDowell Ministry visited his orphanage, played with him, brought gifts and shared the message of Jesus. And Dmitry remembers that this day planted a seed in his young heart. In 2008, Dmitry was in rehab again, Americans from Josh McDowell Ministry came and ministered to him just as he was going through his journey to become sober and find Christ!”

“Natasha, Dmitry’s wife, is a former drug addict. She found a book by Josh McDowell in a drug dealer’s apartment in St. Petersburg. (This book had been distributed by one of our mission teams). Pages from this book were being torn out and used to crush pills to make crystal meth. Natasha began to read the pages while she made drugs. She became intrigued about Jesus and read the rest of the book. She then found a Bible and gave her life to Christ!”

“Dmitry and Natasha lives were changed by Christ and now God is using them as pastors in Russia to help change more lives!”

(From a letter from Stas and Christy)

THE PORN INDUSTRY’S DARK SECRETS

“Would you support a business if you knew that they abused some (but not all) of their female employees? Pornographers don’t want you to think about it, but even if some of the humiliation, degradation, and sexual violence you see in porn is consensual, some is not.”

“I got the &*%\$ kicked out of me Most of the girls start crying because they’re hurting so bad I couldn’t breathe. I was being hit and choked. I was really upset and they didn’t stop. They kept filming. [I asked them to turn the camera off] and they kept going.”^A

“In the spring of 2004, during the American occupation of Iraq, the world was shocked to learn that US soldiers were abusing prisoners in Abu Ghraib. Hundreds of leaked photos showed Iraqi prisoners being made to

crawl on the floor wearing leashes, wear panties on their heads, masturbate for the camera, touch other men's naked bodies, and even more degrading behaviors that we are not comfortable mentioning here. What horrified the public was not only the human rights violations themselves, but the fact that the soldiers recorded the abuse with obvious glee. In many of the photos, soldiers grinned and flashed a 'thumbs up' to the camera as they stood over their victims. After an investigation, several soldiers were dishonorably discharged from the military and others served time in prison for what they had done at Abu Ghraib."^B

"That same year, pornographers video-recorded and photographed thousands of women enduring nearly identical treatment and worse. Those images were published on the internet and viewed by millions of porn consumers. There was no public outcry."

"Comparing porn to what happened in Abu Ghraib will ruffle some people's feathers. A knee-jerk reaction is to say, 'Those are totally different! In porn, women give their consent!'"

"There is a tendency to believe that 'human trafficking' refers to a Third World problem: forced prostitution or child pornography rings in some far-off, developing country. The truth is, sex trafficking is officially defined as a 'modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years.'^C That means any instance in which the individual on screen was forced, tricked, or pressured. By that definition, human trafficking is everywhere"^D

("The Porn Industry's Dark Secrets", Fight the New Drug, August 23, 2017, <https://fightthenewdrug.org/the-porn-industrys-dark-secrets/>)

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- B. (Whisnant, R. (2016). Pornography, Humiliation, And Consent. Sexualization, Media, & Society, 2(3), 1-7. Doi:10.1177/2374623816662876)
- C. (Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) Of 2000. Pub. L. No. 106-386, Section 103 (8) (A).)
- D. (Peters, R. W., Lederer, L. J., And Kelly, S. (2012). The Slave And The Porn Star: Sexual Trafficking And Pornography. In M. Mattar & J. Braunmiller (Eds.) Journal Of Human Rights And

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DR. JAYSON GRAVES

<http://healingforthesoul.org/>

"For me, the main source of pain were my relationship with parents and peers. My parents loved me and I knew that, however, they were limited in what they could give me and sometimes what they gave me was harmful. My perception of my dad was that he was a bit relationally stunted and passive: he was very fun and likeable but unable to connect on a heart-to-heart level with me or show me how that was done as a male. My mother, also fun-loving and caring, had an anger issue and would sometimes get controlling and violent. My peers were merciless from 6th grade through 10th when I was bullied and called names that were terribly emasculating and confusing."

"The net effect was that I had a love-hate relationship with men, looking for them to rescue me, while waning in my ability to respect them. When it came to women, I was subconsciously not interested in anything other than friendships because that felt like healing and not something that would consume or violate me. And as far as peers were concerned, I've had to work through trust issues and take risks to be 'fully-know and fully accepted' (the definition of healthy intimacy)."

"Furthermore, the confusing attractions towards men came from my need to be affirmed in my own masculinity and have a sense of mastery over life – something that good looks, bug muscles, a sense of freedom and adventure and all the other things I was attracted to in males was trying to give me in a false or counterfeit way."

“Part of this root came also by way of comparison/contrast in my relationship with peers and being a ‘late-bloomer.’ Puberty came later than normal for me and this, coupled with having to shower after gym class every day in 7th and 8th grade, created a sense of inferiority, jealousy and strife around things sexual and anatomical. The mix of this psychological deficit and the regular practice of masturbation with the images of the other, more developed boys, made for a very powerful longing for that which I didn’t seem to have and an attachment to what they appeared to possess.”

“The Trauma Factor”

“The third most common type of sexual addiction is called Trauma-Induced and is the result of sexual trauma. Sexual trauma means ‘any event that alters or damages a person’s self-perception or understanding of healthy sexuality.’ This can range from normal childhood experiences like ‘playing doctor’ or exploring to actual acts of rape, incest or molestation.”

“Something can become traumatic when there is either a power differential or emotional distress in the experience: either someone else initiated it, they were bigger or stronger or older or simply more experienced than you or you felt scared, guilty or shameful during or as a result. The addiction lies in the compulsion to repeat the trauma so if you can look at your ‘acting-out’ behaviors and see patterns that are similar to sexual or quasi-sexual experiences in your younger, more impressionable years (often into early adulthood), there may be some trauma to address.”

“I can see this in my own story in that not only was I molested by a male scout leader and a female babysitter around 8-10 years old but I began being sexual with boys and girls in the neighborhood shortly thereafter on a daily basis until I was about 15 or 16. This tapered down in late high school and early college but while the behaviors became more sporadic, I was still trying to recreate the same things from childhood as an adult in an attempt to feel like I was in control or to give me the illusion of power, affirmation and value.”

“About Jayson”

“Jayson Graves, M.MFT, husband of Susan and father to Selah Rae & Asabella, is a Christian Psychotherapist specializing in sexual addictions recovery and unwanted same-sex attractions. He enjoys helping his clients from both a clinical and personal frame as a person in recovery himself.”

“He is the founder and director of international counseling ministry ‘healing for the Soul Counseling & Coaching’ (www.healingforthesoul.org) offering telephone therapy and his first original idea: Teleconference Recovery Groups for men and for wives in recovery worldwide.”

“Jayson has served as a speaker for Focus of the Family’s Love Won Our conferences and the New Life Ministry’s Every Man’s Battle intensive workshops, as the founder and host of The Blazing Grace Show radio program, and hosted the PurePassion TV show. He designed and teaches the ‘Biblical Sexuality in the 21st Century’ course for Christian Life School of Theology online (www.clstglobal.org) and live worldwide.”

(info@healingforthesoul.org, Phone: 719.590.7685, PO Box 25314, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80936)

“A message from HFTS founder Jayson Graves:

“You’ve landed. You’ve arrived at a site dedicated to Sexual Addiction Recovery and help for Unwanted Same Sex Attraction.”

“You’ve probably got a sick feeling in your stomach. Or you may be scared, lonely, and ashamed, feeling sure no one can help. Maybe you’ve hit rock bottom and you feel no one can understand.”

“From the pain in your heart and mind you may be screaming, ‘Can anybody help me? Is there a way out?’”

“Yes there is. There is hope.”

“There is hope for recovery. There is hope for growth. God can redeem your past and you can live a life a victory in the midst of and beyond your struggles. God can help you change your life and we’re here to help you with that.”

“How do I know? Because I’ve been there. I’ve felt your pain. But I’ve seen God do amazing things in my life. I’ve seen God do amazing things in the life of many others. If any of these categories apply to your situation, I invite you to give us a call or send an email & consider having us partner with you on your healing journey.”

“Thanks again for finding us! We specialize in two main issues: sexual addictions and unwanted same sex attractions. My team and I serve a local, national, and international clientele using an innovative, faith-based approach that can involve individual, couples, and/or group therapy, all over the telephone or private teleconference. We would be honored to serve you and hope to hear from you soon!”

Sincerely,
Jayson Graves, M.MFT, Sexual Addiction Specialist

MARK LAASER TESTIMONY

<https://faithfulandtrue.com/>

“Mark Laaser, author of Faithful & True: Sexual Integrity in a Fallen World, has been a friend of the NACR since it’s inception. He understands sexual addiction from both personal experience and from working with sex addicts in several treatment programs. In his books and seminars Mark has offered hope and healing to thousands of co-strugglers. We interviewed him recently by phone from his home near Minneapolis, Minnesota.”

“Offenders are only 1 percent or less of the people who struggle with sexual addiction.”

“There have been a couple of studies that have suggested that among incarcerated sexual offenders, people in jail for their actions, only about 50% are sexual addicts.”

“I worked with a man recently whose family owns one of the largest production companies for pornographic movies in the country. He has been involved in the production of every kind of film imaginable and consequently has been involved in every kind of sexual activity you might dream of. After 20 years of this kind of life he said that what he is really longing for now is a committed, normal relationship with one woman. He would trade all of his experiences to be able to find the simple joys of faithful, heterosexual monogamy. Like all of us who struggle with sexual addiction, he did not look back over his years of addiction with fondness. They are lost years. Years of emptiness and pain.”

“Sexual addiction does not discriminate with respect to gender. It’s an equal opportunity addiction.”

“I think that there is a general attitude in the Christian community that addicts have a moral problem – an unwillingness to really repent and turn your life over to God. Unfortunately, this really misses the point. Most importantly it misses how desperately most addicts have sought salvation, have tried to repent, have tried diligently what their pastors have told them to do but still found their lives to be unmanageable. Most Christian sex addicts have repented sincerely – usually many times. They have turned their lives over to God – usually many times. But the problem remains.”

“81% of all sex addicts were sexually abused as children.” It is not just a spiritual problem. Sex addicts are often dealing with traumatic memories.”

“My own story illustrates that. When I came into recovery I was a minister. I’d been saved since I was a child and I felt like I had surrendered my life to God. But as I look back on it, some of the spiritual stuff that I was doing was an attempt to try to manipulate God. One of the things I desperately wanted God to do was to remove all my lust. I wanted God to take away the problem completely so that I’d never have to struggle with it again. And I became angry with God that he wouldn’t do that. That’s part of the nature of the spiritual problem. Many addicts when they come to the Lord have an

agenda for what they want the Lord to do. That's why the first step is to admit that I have no control over my life, or over God or over my addiction."

"STEPS: What kind of advise would you give to someone who knows that something about their sexual life is not working? Suppose someone is anxious about their sexual behaviors, they have heard about the concept of sexual addiction and they want to figure out if that is the problem."

"Mark: I would say ideally what you would like to do is to get a very thorough assessment of your situation by a Christian counselor competent enough to be able to do this. I would not try to just read about it or to take my own inventory. I'd try to find someone who could help me figure out what's going on."

"STEPS: It's a serious problem but not sexual addiction. What are the features which help you to distinguish between an addiction and other problems?"

"Mark: Well, the classic features which apply to any addiction would also apply to sexual addiction. First, addictions are 'unmanageable.' This means that there have been numerous attempts to stop in a variety of ways that have been unsuccessful. This implies a repetitive behavior over time – usually over several years. If you look at pornography just once or twice – that may be a problem but it's not sexual addiction. If you have an ongoing relationship with pornography, have tried to stop and been unable to – then we're getting into the territory of sexual addictions. Now, the repetition doesn't have to be every day or every week or every month. Some addicts have a binge type use where they are out-of-control for a day or two or a week and then they stop for a while and then come back to it. So repetitive doesn't mean that you have a daily habit, it means that over time you have repeatedly come back to it."

"Another feature of addictions is that it is destructive over time. There are consequences. Since all addiction are attempts to medicate some unwanted emotional realities, the first consequence is often an emotional

numbness. But the consequences cover a huge range – from shame to physical diseases. If it's an addiction, there will be negative consequences.”

“A third feature is an increase in the severity of the activity over time. For example, if you masturbate once every couple of months, over time you may see that increase to once a week and then every day and then some people I see in treatment re up to multiple times a day. The progressive nature of the problem doesn't necessarily mean that you will graduate to new activities or to more serious activities. It might involve that, but it might also mean that you stay with a certain activity, like using pornography, but that you need more and more of it, using it more frequently or spending more money on it.”

“And then a final feature is that we know that an addict is trying somehow to medicate or escape unwanted feelings. Because sex addicts can't tolerate painful feelings, they seek to escape the feelings through sexual activity. Research has shown that sexual activity and sexual fantasy can alter brain chemistry and produce profound feelings of pleasure. This can be a beautiful experience between two committed people. Sex addicts, however, are in the business of altering their brain chemistry, and thereby their mood, all the time. They use sex like a drug to produce a high. As the disease progresses, the sex addict cares less and less who the sexual partner is. The main pursuit is the high. Sometimes the danger inherent in promiscuous sexual activity will produce adrenaline that can also be addicting. Sex addicts may pursue dangerous sexual liaisons, such as men who have sex with married women when her husband is due home shortly. They get a high from the sex, from a new partner, and from the danger. In their excitement, they temporarily forget their anxieties, fears, sadness, loneliness or anger.”

“STEPS: So sexual addiction has a lot in common with substance addiction. It must be really common for people to be cross addicted – to be addicted to both alcohol and sex for example.”

“Mark: Yes. The research we’ve seen suggests that half of all alcoholic’s struggle with sexual behaviors and many of them are sexual addicts. The percentages are higher for some other drugs. For example, there have been two studies with inpatient cocaine addicts and roughly 80% of them have been shown to have sexual addiction. So that’s a huge correlation. If you look at the neurochemistry of cocaine it effects the same centers in the brain that are involved in sexual pleasure. So, it’s not too surprising in that sense. There are a lot of other cross addiction as well. Eating disorders are, for example, very common among sex addicts.”

“STEPS: I remember in your book that you mention Pat Carnes’ comparison of eating disorders and sexual addiction.”

“Mark: The comparison is basically that there are two opposite extremes with addiction. One is ...well Pat’s newest book that just came out recently is called Sexual Anorexia. He talks about the fact that there are people who in an attempt to control their sexuality often turn their sexuality off completely. That’s no different than the food addict who is desperately trying to control something by not eating. At the other side of the spectrum is the overeater who just can’t stop eating. Just like the sexual addict who is unable to stop engaging in sexual behaviors. A special case of this extreme would be the food addict who after acting out does something to get rid of the food – purging. This is just like the sex addict who acts out sexually and then does something either to punish themselves or, more commonly in the Christian community and I was in this category, I would do ten wonderfully Christian things to try to make up to the acting out. Addiction is about extremes. Normal healthy eating and normal healthy sexuality lies in the middle somewhere between these extreme options.”

“STEPS: Talk to us more about the progressiveness of sexual addiction. The image on the cover of this issue of STEPS is of a man climbing a ladder and he’s broken every rung so far but he still keeps climbing.”

“Mark: I think there are a lot of dimensions to the progression. The climbing up image captures the need for more and more to cause the same effect as

well as the futility of the process. And the unmanageability of it all – continuing the same behaviors thinking that the results will be different. But you could also have a climbing down image which captures the spiral down into more degradation and hopelessness. Both are powerful images. Once you have sinned it becomes easier to do it again. That's one element of the progression. Once you've crossed a certain barrier it's easier to cross others. Once you've broken a taboo it becomes easier to break. The other factor is that there is an excitement that sexual activity produces. Just like your first kiss may have totally exhilarated you and then later on you need to kiss for a little longer to get the same effect. That's the same kind of entrapment that sexual addicts experience in a magnified way. We need more and more and more to just get the same 'hit.' Addicts have a very deep connection to 'if some is good more must be better.' The neurochemistry of sexuality accounts in part for this because the brain adapts. Just like in alcoholism there is a tolerance factor because the body adapts to exposure."

"Sometimes the progressive nature of the problem expresses itself in strange ways. One man I worked with recently started out picking up people for anonymous sex in relatively tame bars. But he got dull and boring after a while. Gradually he moved from bars in the west part of town to bars in the downtown area that were a little more dangerous. By the time he got into recovery he was going to bars in the middle of a most dangerous part of town. He was still basically into one-night stands but you could see the progressive nature of the illness and even graph it out on a local street map. He needed increasingly more dangerous situations to get the stimulation he needed."

"STEPS: You've made the point that progression doesn't always mean changing behaviors but isn't it true that many sex addicts also find themselves moving along a path that leads from fantasy to pornography to affairs?"

"Mark: For most sex addicts there are some basic themes. I think that fantasy is basic for all sex addicts. As a result, one of the central tasks in

therapy for sex addicts if to ask what the roots of these fantasies are. What do they point to? Where did they start? What are the basic themes of these fantasies and what do they mean about the emotional and spiritual health of the person. But fantasy is always a corner stone or main building block of sexual addiction. Masturbation is closely connected to fantasy. And pornography is a common element as well for most sex addicts.”

“In the workshops I’m doing now with the American Family Association this is what we’re mostly seeing. Some people ‘graduate’ to prostitution or being a prostitute or having multiple affairs or on up the ladder of behaviors. Usually there are other underlying problems with people who move on to exhibitionism or what Pat Carnes calls “Level 2’ behaviors. Many people never move beyond the basics of fantasy, pornography and masturbation.”

“STEPS: The level of harm done by those basics can be quite staggering though.”

“Mark: Absolutely. All these basic elements of sexual addiction are what keep people from facing the underlying problems in their emotional and spiritual life. They are part of a process of not feeling. And the numbness can be devastating emotionally, spiritually and relationally.”

“STEPS: I know a lot of people when they start to educate themselves about sexual addiction feel a kind of heaviness or hopelessness about these kinds of problems so I want to talk about reasons for hope. There really is help available, isn’t there? This is not a hopeless kind of problem, is it?”

“Mark: Absolutely not. We have learned a lot over the last 20 years about sexual addiction and how to deal with it. Treatment for sexual addiction really began in the late 1970’s. We really didn’t have much to offer sexual addicts before that. So we’re really only 20 or so years into developing helpful strategies but a lot has emerged. Today there are a variety of 12 Step fellowships available, there are a number of high quality inpatient treatment programs, there are a number of organizations that do outpatient

intensive workshop programs and there are also many more therapists qualified to work in this area than has been the case in the past. When I went into treatment there was really only one facility available in the nation, Golden Valley Treatment Center in Minneapolis. It has since closed but that place trained many different clinicians that have fanned out across the country to start new programs.”

“STEPS: Any advice on how to find a counselor who understands these issues?”

“Mark: Yeah, I’d first call the National Council on Sexual Addiction. They maintain a list of therapists around the country [770-989-9754]. Also the Outreach Division of the American Family Association has a list of Christian counselors that might be helpful. (601-844-5128).

“STEPS: There are also a number of 12 step fellowships available for sex addicts. Any advice about finding a support group or about the differences between the kinds of support groups which are out there?”

“Mark: “The main distinction between any of these groups is in the specifics of how they define sobriety. Remember that the definition of sobriety for sexual addiction is more complicated than it is for alcohol addiction. You can abstain from alcohol for the rest of your life, but it’s not necessarily the goal for sex addicts to abstain from sex for the rest of their life. This is another way in which sexual addiction is like food addiction. Food addicts can’t stop eating forever, but they can learn to eat when their body is hungry to nourish themselves. Married sex addicts, likewise, will learn that sex with their spouse is appropriate and beautiful when, instead of being a way to avoid intimacy or escape negative feelings, it expresses the intimacy of the marriage.”

SURVIVOR OF PORN INDUSTRY ON MISSION TO WARN OTHERS ABOUT THE DANGERS

“Denver (CBS4) – The pornography industry is worth billions of dollars yearly. CBS4’s Jennifer Brice took a rare look into the world of porn and human trafficking happening in Denver. She met a woman who used to be in the sex trade and now speaks out against it.”

“Jessica Neely is a survivor of the porn industry. Her life, however, started on a very different path from the world of pornography.”

“‘I didn’t know anything else but my relationship with God,’ said the now 35-year old woman who grew up a pastor’s daughter between Cedaredge and Colorado Springs.”

“Neely also became a woman of the cloth herself, following in the family footsteps. When she was a 22-year-old, and still a virgin, Neely was living in Estes Park. It’s there that she was working as a youth minister when her life turned upside down.”

“‘I was going out to my car to warm it up when my head was slammed against my car,’ she said. ‘I fell on to the ground.’”

“Neely was raped by a stranger.”

“‘I wasn’t angry at the person; I was angry at God.’”

“That’s when Neely’s life changed, radically.”

“‘I am going to choose who I have sex with,’ Neely recalled about her mindset. ‘I am going to choose to get up, put my clothes on and walk away.’”

“Promiscuous, she said, became a sex addiction. Sex graduated to professional porn. Porn then fueled prostitution.”

“Her insights to the porn industry is eye opening. She said when a person consumes a scene they are watching the woman and men of that industry

self-destruct. Neely said many people in that industry are victims of some kind of abuse. She also said porn is a breeding ground for the human trafficking world.”

“Every single person in pornography escorts. It is human trafficking.”

“To keep her escorting rate competitive, Neely said, she would sign up for as many porn scenes as possible.”

“And before she knew it, the Pastor’s daughter would eventually become a madam with a brothel out of the Denver Tech Center.”

“I was a madam based on what I learned in pornography.”

“According to Neely, social media sites are ripe with women of all ages that she would turn into escorts. She targeted women ranging from 18-35 years old. She said those women were everything from college students, models, and single mom. Neely would ‘groom’ them the same way, appealing to their needs, weaknesses and financial woes.”

“Her pitch: ‘You’re already having sex for free,’ Neely recited. ‘Why don’t you join me?’”

“Neely says she would zone in on the girls posting provocative pictures on social media sites. She said she knew by the way they portrayed themselves online that they needed attention for a reason.”

“The quest for attention is what Neely preyed upon.”

“‘I’m not going for modest girls because I don’t need to go through their morals.’”

“Neely said she didn’t have time for anyone’s morals.”

“‘It would take less than three days to groom a girl,’ Neely said.”

“She would take the women escort prospects to expensive dinners at Shanahan’s and Elway’s.”

“When I toted this lifestyle in front of them, seduction was so easy,’ admitted Neely. ‘To go after their college debt, I’m like, ‘I can cure that in less than a month.’”

“Neely said she would even set the girls up with various plastic surgery appointments within weeks of bringing them onboard.”

“The women, Neely said, were more challenging to get onboard, but ‘clinets’ were in abundance.”

“They were your politicians, your sports teams, any gentleman with some extra dollars.”

“At best, Neely made 10,000 a day between porn and human trafficking, but money was the only thing she had.”

“I didn’t have my frineds; I didn’t have my dreams.”

“It took 10 years for Neely to get out of the sex trade. She is now an advocate who speaks out against the pitfalls of porn. She travels to schools and churches across the country and tells parents and students how porn kills love.”

“The night CBS4’s Brice met Neely she was speaking at a conference called ‘Not for Sale’ across Colorado. At Roca Fuerte High School Brice watched her preach aobut he porn to a group of teenage boys. She told them they would never be satidfied with the path of porn, ‘Or with the woman God gives you if you are entangled in porn.’”

“After the conference Brice spoke with several teenage boys who attended. Christian Salcedo, a junior, said that the conference made him realize how much porn is a problem in our community.”

“‘Society has normalized it,’ said Salcedo. ‘But just because it’s normalized doesn’t make it okay.’”

“Jeriel Jimnez said that on his Facebook and Snapchat accounts, even his friends are provocative I how they portrait themselves.”

“‘They post very sexual posts and it’s become a norm,’ Jimnez said.”

“Neely says technology now gives porn addictions a place to form, right in the palms of our hands. The addiction, she said, is starting very young. Her advice to people aobut porn is simple but sobering.”

“‘One scene is one too many and a thousand is never enough,’ said Neely. ‘This is something that can never ever be satisfied.’”

“To learn more about the effects of pornography, please visit the following links: [Fight The New Drug/PornKills Love](#) | [Refuge For Women](#)

(Jennifer Brice, CBS4 Denver, November 22, 2016, “Survivor of Porn Industry on Mission To Warn Others About The Dangers”, <http://denver.cbslocal.com/2016/11/22/pornography-industry-jessica-neely-human-trafficking/>)

(Jennifer Brice is a reporter with CBS4 focuing on crime and courts. Follow her on Facebook or on Twitter @CBS4Jenn.)

STORY OF A PORN ACTRESS

Excerpts from, ‘Truth Behind the Fantasy of Porn,’ by Shelley Lubben

“Sex-packed porn films featuring freshly-dyed blondes whose evocative eyes say “I want you” are quite possibly one of the greatest deceptions of all time. Trust me, I know. I did it all the time and I did it for the lust of power and the love of money. I never liked sex. I never wanted sex and in fact I was more apt to spend time with Jack Daniels than some of the studs I was paid to “fake it” with. That’s right none of us freshly-dyed blondes like doing porn. In fact, we hate it. We hate being touched by strangers who care nothing about us. We hate being degraded with their foul smells and sweaty bodies. Some

women hate it so much you can hear them vomiting in the bathroom between scenes. Others can be found outside smoking an endless chain of Marlboro lights...”

“But the porn industry wants YOU to think we porn actresses love sex. They want you to think we enjoy being degraded by all kinds of repulsive acts. The truth, porn actresses have showed up on the set not knowing about certain requirements and were told by porn producers to do it or leave without being paid. Work or never work again. Yes, we made the choice. Some of us needed the money. But we were manipulated and coerced and even threatened. Some of us caught HIV from that coercion. I personally caught Herpes, a non-curable sexually transmitted disease. Another porn actress went home after a long night of numbing her pain and put a pistol to her head and pulled the trigger. Now she’s dead.”

“It’s safe to say most women who turn to porn acting as a money-making enterprise, probably didn’t grow up in healthy childhoods either. Indeed, many actresses admit they’ve experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, verbal abuse and neglect by parents. Some were raped by relatives and molested by neighbors. When we were little girls we wanted to play with dollies and be mommies, not have big scary men get on top of us. So we were taught at a young age that sex made us valuable. The same horrible violations we experienced then, we relive through as we perform our tricks for you in front of the camera. And we hate every minute of it. We’re traumatized little girls living on anti-depressants, drugs and alcohol acting out our pain in front of YOU who continue to abuse us.”

“As we continue to traumatize ourselves by making more adult films, we use more and more drugs and alcohol. We live in constant fear of catching AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Every time there’s an HIV scare we race to the nearest clinic for an emergency checkup. Pornographers insist giving viewers the fantasy sex they demand all the while sacrificing the very ones who make it happen. In other words, no condoms allowed. Herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, and other diseases are the normal anxieties we walk around with daily. We get tested monthly but we know testing isn’t

prevention. Besides worrying about catching diseases from porn sex, there are other harmful activities we engage in that are also very dangerous. Some of us have had physical tearing and damage to internal body parts.”

“When porn actresses call it a day and head home we attempt to have normal healthy relationships but some of our boyfriends get jealous and physically abuse us. So instead we marry our porn directors while others of us prefer lesbian relationships. It’s a real memory making moment when our daughter accidentally walks out and sees mommy kissing another girl. My daughter will vouch for that one.”

“On our days off we walk around like zombies with a beer in one hand and a shot of whiskey in the other. We aren’t up to cleaning so we live in filth most of the time or we hire a sweet foreign lady to come in and clean up our mess. Porn Actresses aren’t the best cooks either. Ordering food in is normal for us and most of the time we throw up after we eat because we’re bulimic.”

“For porn actresses who have children, we are the world’s WORST mothers. We yell and scream and hit our kids for no reason. Most of the time we are intoxicated or high and our four year olds are the ones picking us up off the floor. When clients come over for sex, we lock our children in their rooms and tell them to be quiet. I use to give my daughter a beeper and tell her to wait at the park until I was finished.”

“The truth is there IS NO fantasy in porn. It’s all a lie. A closer look into the scenes of a porn star’s life will show you a movie porn doesn’t want you to see. The real truth is we porn actresses want to end the shame and trauma of our lives but we can’t do it alone. We need you men to fight for our freedom and give us back our honor. We need you to hold us in your strong arms while we sob tears over our deep wounds and begin to heal. We want you throw out our movies and help piece together the shattered fragments of our lives. We need you to pray for us the next fifteen years so God will hear and repair our ruined lives.”

“So don’t believe the lie anymore. Porn is nothing more than fake sex and lies on videotape. Trust me, I know.”

“Dedicated to all the porn actresses who caught HIV, died from drug overdose and committed suicide.”

“Poof, He’s Here!”

“Chapter Fourteen”

“I was so bored. I had no car. I couldn’t drive anywhere and I was sick of asking sugar daddies to drive me around. They couldn’t keep their hands off of me. I was so sick of men.”

“During my ‘off’ time I pulled out my New Age books and practiced my psychic techniques. I figured God was trying to talk to me so I should try to go to the other side. At least that’s what the ‘voice’ told me.”

“I believed in Jesus and God and remembered when Jesus told me I was special. I was only six years old but I never forgot the vision I saw of me preaching to a crowd of thousands of people. Maybe there was still a chance? I mean, He did just save my life from a near fatal car accident.”

“I got really good at my powers. I practiced them all day long where I sat on the floor surrounded by white candles. I loved candles. Of course, I did, I was a creature of the dark!”

“At first the voice seemed friendly and I was sure the Holy Spirit was talking to me. Even the Ouija Board told me my spirit guide was Jesus Christ. It also told me I was a Chosen One and had been given great healing powers. Of course, my ego loved to hear how special I was.”

“From mind over matter to energy manipulation, I used my powers for everything. If I wanted the phone to ring, poof it rang. If I wanted a curtain to move, poof it moved. I was moving and manipulating things left and right. In fact, I even poofed my four-year-old daughter who fell over on the other side of the room! Everything in the psychic world came so easy to me. Of course, I was already a master manipulator.”

“After about six weeks of being locked up in a New Age world, I finally got my car back and wanted to mess with peo-ples’ minds. I was also low on cash and needed to pull a few deals. I ended up at a bar in Covina where a couple of bands were playing.”

“Minding my own business at the bar someone tapped my shoulder. I turned around to a tall American apple pie looking guy who asked me if I wanted to play pool.”

“I coolly replied, ‘For drinks, sure.’”

“I knew I could beat him. He obviously didn’t know who he was messing with. He was just a little boy to me. He looked no older than 23.”

“Probably lived with his parents, I thought.”

“When he popped a quarter in and racked the balls tightly within a minute, I started to worry. This guy was no stranger to the pool table. The hustler in me quickly rose up. I didn’t lose well and I certainly wasn’t about to lose to this guy. That’s when I started poofing.”

“‘POOF!’ I said while I aimed my hands at his pool stick. He looked at me like I was crazy, laughed and then made the shot perfectly. This guy wasn’t even bothered by any of my poofs. I downed a shot of Bacardi and resorted to other means of manipulation: I pulled my top down. That’s when he missed the shot.”

“We ended up downing Kamikaze shots – on him, of course. That’s when he asked me to play darts. Okay, darts was for nerds. But I was bored, he offered me free drinks and besides he was a nice guy. He didn’t once talk to my boobs.”

“That was different.”

“As he was sharing his personal information, which I didn’t listen to any of it, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that he was hitting the bull’s-eye almost every time! This guy was a hustler or something. He intrigued me.

But of course, I wasn't interested in love or anything. I was interested in his skills and especially his wallet. Maybe behind this smart guy was a rich guy. A diseased prostitute could only dream."

"Tall, blonde and not very handsome, he was only 22 years old and worked at a box plant. Okay, he doesn't have money. Forget it, I told myself."

"Hey what's your number?' he asked me."

"Um, I don't date for free. I'm a stripper. Cash only.' My eyes zeroed in on his pocket. He realized I was all about the money and so he lied and said he needed a stripper for a bachelor's party."

"Right,' I told him. This little boy would probably pee his pants if he ever saw a naked woman, I snickered. I handed him my card just in case he really needed a stripper."

"Three hundred an hour, babe. See ya,' and I walked out of his life forever."

"A week later the phone rang."

"God, I hope it's not someone from the porn industry, I worried."

"I answered the phone in a fake English accent, 'E-Ilo?'"

"Hey um, Giovanni, you wanna play pool tonight?'"

"Who is this?' I asked in an irritated English accent."

"This is Gary. We met at the bar a couple weeks ago."

"Okay, I had to think about this one. Everywhere I went I met guys. I paused a second to try and remember. Okay, I gave up."

"No, I don't remember you.' I went back to my regular voice."

"I'm the guy you played pool with at Boar's Head and shot dart with."

“Ohhh, okay I think I remember you. Um, well, it’s Friday night. I have to work tonight.”

“‘I have to work too,’ he said. ‘I just thought we could hang out a few hours before I go to work at ten.’”

“‘No, not tonight, but thanks.’ I hung up the phone. I didn’t have time for little boys. I need to make some money.”

“But the guy kept calling me! Over the next month I told him, ‘no thanks’ repeatedly and that I needed to work. I mean, he could have offered me money. I hinted enough.”

“Finally on another Friday night he called me again. This time I was sitting home alone tired of trying to figure out if I was officially back in prostitution or not. I hated stripping. I hated prostitution. Maybe this guy called me on the right night.”

“‘Okay, I’ll play pool with you but you buy the drinks,’ I told him bluntly. I figured I would at least get something out of it. Not to mention, maybe make some ‘deals’ at the bar. I could pull a trick anywhere.”

“‘Sure, see you soon!’ He sounded like a giddy school boy.”

“What have I gotten myself into, I thought.”

“We met at the bar and the guy totally surprised me that night. Not only did he drive like a speed demon but at one of the bars we stopped off at, he walked right up to the pool table and lined it with speed.”

“‘Holy shit!’ I exclaimed. ‘Where the hell did you get all of that meth?’ I looked up at apple pie guy in shock.”

“‘I always have it. You like to fly?’”

“Well, of course I like to fly, I thought. I missed my speed. The porn industry was my main drug supplier so it had been a little while.”

“Wow, I thought. This could be the beginning of a beautiful long lasting relationship.”

“If only I had known.”

“Gary started coming over with his meth. We snorted. WE talked. WE stayed up all night and laughed. He was really a nice guy. He never tried to make a single move on me.”

“A burned out prostitute could get used to this, I thought.”

“One night he brought over checkers.”

“‘Um, what are the checkers for?’ I said with a funny look.”

“‘They’re to play with, silly.’”

“‘Um, I don’t play checkers.’ He laughed and set the game up. When he said he could beat ma at any game, that’s when he pushed the right button. I was extremely competitive not to mention a major control freak. No one dared me to a game and won. No one!”

“The creep beat me. I hated him. Of course, I wanted to play again and again and again. No way could I let this guy win.”

“We played Gin Rummy, 5 Card Stud Poker, Texas Hold’em, and more. We just played games. It had been years since I played games with anyone.”

“I still hadn’t told Gary my past or even my horrible present. I was hoping we could just stay ‘game’ friends for a while. But one night he came to my house and saw me signing an autographed picture for the security guards.”

“‘What is that?’ he asked.”

“‘Well, um, I was a porn star.’”

“‘Oh, okay,’ He just walked into the house and set up checkers. That was weird.”

“I marched right into the house and blurted out, ‘Don’t you know what kind of woman I am? I’m a hooker, a prostitute, a stripper and I worked in porno movies!’”

“Unaffected he asked me, ‘How did you get into stripping?’ I couldn’t believe it. Most men would have asked me to have sex by now. Not Gary. He really wanted to know what happened to me. So, I told him how I got kicked out the house at 18 and ended up on the streets of the San Fernando Valley. I told him a pimp lured me in and offered me money when I was homeless. He was shocked, even appalled by my tragic story. His whole face changed and he reached his out to hold mine.”

“‘Shelley, that’s terrible what happened to you.’ I thought I was going to throw up.”

“Oh shit, I thought. This guy actually cares about me. I ripped my hand back.”

“Nervous, I quickly changed the subject and asked him how he got into drugs.”

“Dad and Mom were pastors.”

“What? I thought. Gary is a Pastor’s kid?”

“‘Yeah, my dad cheated on my mom with the church secre-tary when I was 17. Our home was never the same. My dad became a sailor mouthed alcoholic and it drove my family apart. I started doing drugs when I was 20 years old.’”

“‘You’ve only been doing drugs for two years?’”

“‘Yep.’”

“Oh wow, I thought. This guy is ripe. I wondered if he still lived with Mommy and Daddy.”

“‘Where do you live?’ I asked.”

“‘I live with my parents in Chino.’”

“Oh shit, I was right, I thought. He lives with his parents.”

“I couldn’t believe I let some innocent pastor boy into my life. How did I not see this? How did this get past me? I started to freak. The demons in me were not happy.”

“‘Shelley, do you believe in God?’”

“Dang, he wants to talk about God. I had a terrible feeling I was being set up.”

“‘Of course I believe in God. I was raised in Sunday School when I was a little girl.’ Something inside of me lit up because I spent the next fifteen minutes going on and on about God. It was probably the speed.”

“‘And then I was in a church play called, ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ and I played Faithful, the pilgrim who is Christian’s friend from the City of Destruction.’”

“‘Wow, I know that story. You played Faithful?’ he asked.”

“‘Yeah, and I even memorized the alphabet backwards when I sang the Z to A song. In fact, God told me when I was nine years old that he guy I would marry someday would be able to say the alphabet backwards as fast as I could.’”

“Without hesitation he said: ‘ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA.’”

“We both just stared at each other.”

“Furious, I stood up and told him to get out.”

“I never wanted to see him again. I ran upstairs to my bed-room and frantically stared into my reflection in the mirror for some answers.”

“Come on, Shelley, use your psychic abilities.”

“POOF, HE’S HERE!”

(Shelley Lubben, Former Porn Actress, <http://www.shelleylubben.com/>, Blazing Grace, <http://www.blazinggrace.org/the%20truth%20behind%20the%20fantasy/>)

SHELLEY AND GARRET’S 19TH VALENTINE’S DAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

“‘Shelley, it’s just me, it’s Gary. I don’t want to hurt you. Please...’”

“‘No, back off.’ I scowled and threw my cigarette on the ground and stepped on it. I ran upstairs to my bedroom and locked the door and hid beneath the bed sheets.”

“Shaking and frightened by the intense pain, I cried out to God, ‘God, take it away. Please God, take it away,’ The voices started yelling at me:

“Stupid whore. No one will ever love you. He will use you and hurt you just like everyone else did. Get away from him!”

“Another Voice interrupted, ‘Shelley, be still and know Me. Gary has been sent by Me to help you. It’s time.’”

“‘Time? For what?’ I asked the Voice. I waited for an answer but it was silent. Even the other voices were gone now.”

“I sat up and stared in the mirror at the ugly woman looking back at me. Blonde hair extensions sticking out of my dark roots with dark circles under my eyes, I was a horrible wreck. How could Gary even want to be near such a mess?”

“He would leave me, I just knew it. I had to protect myself. I put on my false front face and acted like I didn’t care. I went downstairs to end the whole thing.”

“Gary, I...”

“He turned around with the most angelic smile and a perfect shiny kitchen behind him.”

“Yes?”

“I was speechless. My heart melted and the evil within me recoiled. He walked toward me, touched my face and kissed me softly. A spongy warm sluggish kiss, I wanted to eat his lips. I hadn’t been softly kissed by a man in years.”

“Our beautiful kiss ended and I buried my head in his chest and wept bitterly. Huge tears of shattered years gushed out of my eyes and the forceful pain of Rejection, Rage and Hatred rose up from deep within. I violently pushed him away and pulled out my hair.”

“‘I hate you!!! I hate them!!!’ I grabbed the phone and threw it. I threw the trash can. I punched the couch. I spit. I hit. I kicked. I hated them!”

“‘I hate them! I hate men! I hate all of you! Go to hell f -kin’ losers!’ I threw my seashell across the room. Gary was shocked but held his ground.”

“‘Stay the f – k away from me! F – you!’ I screamed vio-lently at him. The evil inside of me was so fuming mad and all hell broke loose inside of me.”

“‘F-k you, loser. You liar. I hate you. Get away from me!’”

“I grabbed a knife in the kitchen and fiercely aimed it at him. Pointing at him full of rage, I told him to get the hell out and stay out forever.”

“‘Get the hell away from me, NOW!’ Wild strands of bleached hair in my face, I panted like a ferocious animal.”

“Shelley, I love you. I love you. I love you. I’m not giving up on you.”

“The knife slipped out of my hand.”

“My body felt o the floor and I wept.”

“His overwhelming love crucified me. It shredded the very core of every deception I held dear and id the unthinkable: it gave me hope. For the first time in over seventeen years I felt hope in my heart.”

“A massive wreck on the floor, Gary held me close in his arms and wholeheartedly prayed.”

“Lord, I ask you to heal Shelley; to heal every wound from the top of her head to the soles of her feet. I know you can do it, Jesus. In yor name I pray, amen.”

“It was the prayer that changed my life forever.”

“The one that God heard and ell listened to.”

“And the war for my life began.”

(Shelley Lubben, Former Porn Actress, <http://www.shelleylubben.com/>, Blazing Grace, <http://www.blazinggrace.org/the%20truth%20behind%20the%20fantasy/>)

UPDATED JANUARY 2019

Porn Addict Says 'Wrong Click Changed My Life' as a Teen, Exposing Her to Abusive, Animal-Like Sex G1 7.10.18

““What I saw shocked me, but I couldn't bring myself to click away from the site because of how the images made me feel. I started going back to it again and again and it quickly started to twist my perception of what was supposed to be love. The images were burned into my mind and I couldn't get them out.””

“The woman says that she was only 15 years old at the time and became scared of herself.”

““I felt nothing; I felt like I couldn't fully care for people, for my body, for my mind, or for my heart. I just felt numb and hollow all the time. I viewed everyone around me, including myself, as objects. Nobody really mattered except for what I saw in porn,” she says.”

(Stoyan Zaimov, “Porn Addict Says 'Wrong Click Changed My Life' as a Teen, Exposing Her to Abusive, Animal-Like Sex”, The Christian Post, June 13, 2018, <https://www.christianpost.com/news/porn-addict-says-wrong-click-changed-my-life-as-a-teen-exposing-her-to-abusive-animal-like-sex-224931/>)

The Lonely Life of a Teen Struggling with Shame

This is a comment from a Christian teenager on a blog post:

“Your article is really...really helpful. I am teenager and a Christian. I’ve been stuck with this addiction for about 8 years or so. I just feel so tired and disgusted with myself. There was this one time I told my parents and my dad scolded me. That was when I was really young.

I was just so tempted by the lust I felt while watching people making out and stuff that I turned to porn for good. I don’t wanna tell my parents again cause I’m afraid they will not only scold me but just feel so let down by me and so disappointed. I don’t want scolding—I just want help.

There are so many times where I try and stop, but I try doing it all by myself and I know that’s useless because without God I can’t overcome this addiction. But it’s just so hard. I have to use my iPad for piano and studying sometimes and so I keep my iPad with me. But then I read books about stuff. And I feel the lust and then I go watch porn. Sometimes it’s just [be]cause I’m bored!

I feel as though God is so disappointed at me. I don't wanna keep living like this. I feel so ashamed of myself. Sometimes I even try and comfort myself by telling myself that other teens do it all the time. But I don't wanna become like that. I wanna be God's child, but why can't I stop. I try and read the word more and pray more too, but it's like come to the point where I just don't care anymore, I have no more guilt. But I still have this glimmer of hope and I don't wanna lose it, I'm just so scared."

The lies from our enemy are all over this young man's words. This teen even had the courage to tell his parents, which is so rare, only to have the hammer of disappointment come crashing down. Ironically, that same disappointment will likely only fuel this young man's desires to look at porn, because in the moment, the dopamine rush of porn is far better than the heavy feelings of parental disappointment. And, then afterwards, fueling more shame, leading to more porn. It's a downward cycle.

But, it doesn't have to be this way. To the teenager who reads this post and says, "That's exactly how I feel. Afraid. Dirty. Unworthy. Unloved. Far from God." I have a few words for you!

(Chris McKenna, "To the Teen Alone and Ashamed of Your Porn Use", Covenant Eyes, July 5, 2018, <http://www.covenanteyes.com/2018/07/05/to-the-teenager-alone-and-ashamed-of-your-porn-use/>)

Porn in the church – a story

I was at an outdoor Christian festival, and the closing band was *For King and Country*. Half way into the show the lead singer gave his typical sermonette, and you know how they go. You say something encouraging, the crowd cheers. He started by talking about the inner beauty of women. Everyone cheers. He moves to mention sex trafficking, and that as a church we can be a voice against that. Everyone cheers. Like clockwork. At

this point, I had a hunch where he was going He said that it was an issue of supply and demand, and sadly, men are the demand.

He masterfully led it all up to a very pointed statement. He said that one of the greatest things our men can do is to keep our eyes from looking at pornography. I was there in the back of the mosh pit and instead of cheering it was silent. For about 2 seconds the crowd didn't know how to respond. Some people started to clap and it turned into a rather weak applause.

I've never encountered the grip of pornography on the church as much as that moment. And it wasn't just me; my mom was there too and she felt the exact same thing. The show continued, but I couldn't get it out of my head. I'm sure many others felt the same thing. In fact, I'm somewhat grateful it happened that way. If everyone cheered then we would be fooling ourselves, and those struggling would feel even more alone. Maybe now we can finally start talking about it.

(Story to Josh via email date June 14, 2018, Subject: Re: Porn in the church – A Story, from Luke Smallbone, Rebecca S. James' brother)

My 14-Year-Old Daughter Watched Porn And It Changed Our Lives In Ways I Never Imagined.

"I sat up quietly. "OK. What's up?" I asked her as evenly as possible."

"Instead of answering me, she handed me her iPhone. That act alone spoke to the severity of the situation — normally she barely let me look at her phone, let alone lay my paws on it. I braced myself for the awful bullying text or threats or even naked photos I worried were awaiting my eyes, but instead, I found myself looking down at a webpage with some formal-sounding legalese scrolling across it. Confusion completely swallowed my fear."

"What is this?" I asked."

“Looking everywhere but at me, she replied, “I’ve been watching porn and the FBI has tracked me.”

“There is almost nothing that could have shocked me more. As the mother of a girl, I had imagined so many of the difficult conversations and situations I would have with my daughter as she grew to womanhood. Since she was 14, I assumed we had already had all the “big” conversations: periods, sex, online safety, respecting her body, drugs and alcohol, helping friends.”

“Those chats had, for the most part, all gone well — so much so that I really thought I had this parenting thing in the bag. I knew it wasn’t enough to speak to your kids about these potentially tricky subjects only once and that parents should work to establish an ongoing dialogue with their kids about them whenever possible.”

“And much to my kids’ chagrin, I was committed to open and honest communication with them. In fact, my approach has always been that if I hear or read anything pertaining to “growing up” topics or experiences, I will bring them up with my kids — no matter how awkward or difficult those topics or experiences might be.”

“But porn? I never even considered that I would have to have this discussion with any of my kids until my son, who is almost 5 years younger than his sister, hit puberty. Unfortunately — and perhaps naively — having to discuss adult content with my daughter had never even appeared on my Mom Radar.”

“As the mother of a girl, I had imagined so many of the difficult conversations and situations I would have with my daughter as she grew to womanhood. ... But porn? I never even considered that I would have to have this discussion.”

“But the changes weren’t just in my daughter’s life — the experience woke me up, too. I realized that my 14-year-old was so curious about sex that she had turned to porn for answers.”

“I like to think I would have taught her about these issues anyway, but would I have understood the importance of having these conversations with her when she was only 14 and not even dating yet? I don’t know. I might have waited or I might not have approached the topics with such urgency and clarity, and she might have faced some unthinkably high cost because of it.”

[Amelia M. Miller, My 14-Year-Old Daughter Watched Porn and It Changed Our Lives In Ways I Never Imagined, Huffpost, April 18, 2018, (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/daughter-watched-porn_us_5ad62856e4b077c89ced3787)

BEN BENNETT BIO



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.



For more information or to book Ben please contact:

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JAKE KISSACK BIO



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.

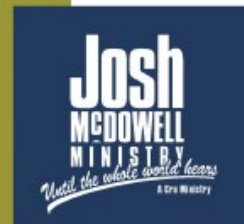
His 13 year journey with a porn addiction crushed his passion and compelled him to seek true freedom, which was found through Christian sexual addiction recovery.

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 wholeheartedly 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.



For more information and to book Jake please contact:

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ALEX MCCLELLAN BIO



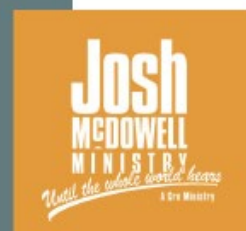
ALEX MCCLELLAN SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Alex McClellan 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:



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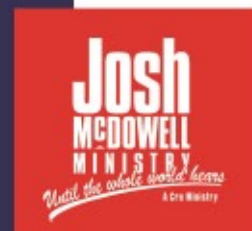
SPEAKER | AUTHOR

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 Than a Carpenter* with over 27 million copies distributed and *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, named one of the twentieth century'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 Christian 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 than 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
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