

Sticky Problem, Scriptural Response



PASCH (Peace and Safety in the Christian Home) directs its ministry toward those who are endangered, confused, crushed, or disillusioned by the undeniable presence of abuse in Christian families. We are committed to bringing an end to domestic violence and to healing the wounds that it has caused.

The rate of domestic abuse in Christian homes is the same as in the general population (29%), but believers are devastated at this denial of so many Christian values. We are constantly asked whether it is right for a Christian to flee an abusive situation, to dial 911, to take refuge in a community shelter, to get a restraining order. To these are added other questions about personal faith, safety, suffering, forgiveness, restoration, marriage and divorce. We seek to answer from a biblical perspective and to give an assurance of God's continuing love and care even in the most difficult of circumstances.

The impetus for PASCH arose when Eva Sanderson, a Zambian, challenged the General Assembly of the World Evangelical Fellowship to address the issue of domestic abuse. The formation of a Task Force on Violence

against Women led to a declaration unanimously adopted at the next General Assembly.

Though the work of the Task Force was declared finished, the problem and the need remained.

In January, 2004, under the leadership of Jackie Hudson, Nancy Nason-Clark, Julie Owens and Catherine Clark Kroeger, Peace and Safety in the Christian Home was birthed. Our acronym is PASCH, the Hebrew word for Passover, when God kept the children of Israel safe within their own homes.

Elements of our program include research, application of relevant scriptures, prayer, safety counseling, study of best practices and strategies, training, and collaboration with appropriate ministries and agencies. To this end we maintain a web-site, newsletter, publications, workshops and periodic conferences. Contributions are especially needed for scholarships to our upcoming conference "Emerging from the Shadows" in May 2011.

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