



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Who's Going to Speak Up?

Destiny and Darius were high school sweethearts. Even though they enjoyed many fun times together, things were not always great. Whenever Darius got angry with Destiny, he would shove her against her school locker or punch her in the shoulder. He would always be so sorry about it later, but then it would happen again.

One and a half million American high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year. Two thirds of them never tell anyone about it. Violence is not love; it's abuse.

Destiny and Darius went off to college together and continued dating each other. After graduation, they got married. Within a few years, they were expecting their first child. Pregnancy is a stressful time for both parents-to-be, and it was no different for Destiny and Darius. However, Darius violently took his frustrations out on Destiny. The fact that she was pregnant did not save her from her husband's abuse.

*One in six pregnant women has been abused by her partner. The stress of pregnancy might be unavoidable, but it's **not** okay for a partner to resort to violence.*

After years of Darius' abuse, Destiny has decided it was time to take action to save her life and the lives of her two pre-teen children. Today is the day to make a change. A friend told Destiny about the Yasha Circle Ministry at The People's Community Baptist Church. Yasha Circle works to raise awareness about domestic violence, and to help people like Destiny break free from the abuse. So Destiny is taking her kids, and they are going to a safe shelter until she can get on her feet.

Who is going to speak up against domestic violence? Yasha Circle speaks up. And now Destiny has the courage to speak up, too. **Will you?**

The mission of the Yasha Circle Ministry is to bring about awareness of and liberation from the silent epidemic of domestic violence in our church and community. We offer educational programming and provide victims with the necessary resources to support abundant living, free of fear and abuse. Join the Yasha Circle Ministry. Help put an end to domestic violence. For more information, please contact Alice Ellison at menelikplace@aol.com or Gloria Miller at momdukes28@verizon.net.