



“You Got the Power to Be Made Whole!”

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In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of spirit which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:16-17

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, Americans are required to stay home to protect themselves and their communities. However, the home may not be safe for many families who experience domestic violence, which can include both intimate partners and children. Coronavirus has caused major economic devastation, disconnected many from community resources and support systems, and created widespread uncertainty and panic. Such conditions may stimulate violence in families where it did not exist before and worsen situations in homes where mistreatment and violence were already a problem. Violence in the home has an overall cost to society, leading to potentially adverse physical and mental health outcomes, including a higher risk of chronic disease, substance use, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and risky sexual behaviors. Further, victims of domestic violence, including intimate partner abuse and child abuse, are at great risk for injuries, including death.

There has been a surge in domestic violence-related calls to police seen across the United States, which itself suggests heightened danger to children. In most families in which a woman is battered, children are also battered. Here in Maryland, the Family Justice Center is reporting more calls to service providers involving extreme physical violence.

For the first time in our long history, this year’s Domestic Violence Awareness Conference will be entirely virtual due to the coronavirus pandemic. We plan to host our annual Conference on Saturday, October 10, from 10:30 am to 1:15 pm, and you are cordially invited. This year’s theme is “You Got the Power to be Made Whole,” taken from Ephesians 6:16-17: “In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of spirit which is the word of God.”

The Conference will address how the coronavirus pandemic and stay-at-home orders wreaked havoc on families, including intimate partners and children, who experience domestic violence. It will also provide a conduit for partnership among the law enforcement, legal and health care communities in response to domestic violence. The Virtual Conference will include panel discussions and training workshops, which will address: (1) You’ve Got What it Takes: Building Self-Confidence after Trauma; (2) How to Recognize the Signs of Elder Abuse; (3) Bullying and Teenagers; and (4) Negative Attitudes Toward Women.

The Keynote Speaker will be Vance Johnson, former NFL Denver Broncos wide receiver. Mr. Johnson was hiding a serious alcohol and pill addiction that cost him everything he had. In addition to being an addict, Mr. Johnson abused his ex-wife and other women in his life. He is currently an advocate for addiction recovery for post-career athletes. Mr. Johnson’s authenticity is as remarkable as his journey

from abuser to advocate. Mark your calendar and invite a friend to this enlightening Conference. Online registration is available on the church website at www.tpcbc.org.

By the time we emerge from the pandemic, preventable violence will have scarred -- and even cost -- the lives of many. Yet, as promised in God's Word, He still makes provision for complete wholeness, shielding us and providing us with His salvation. "You got the power to be made whole!"