

Pastor's Packet – From Saving Gods Children

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Hi Pastor, most churches have a security team on Sunday Mornings? My next question is - does your Church have a plan to protect your **youth** and **families** from online predators or become a victim of Human Trafficking?

If you don't, let me share with you some chilling statistics.

- The United States is the **number 1 consumer of child pornography**, accounting for **30%** of the global total of child sexual abuse material URLs¹
- Nearly **200,000 human trafficking victims** have been identified through reports to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) since 2007, according to newly updated 2023 statistics. This includes **over 4,806 in Pennsylvania alone**.
- Though one of the most reliable data sources on United States trafficking trends, these figures calculate **only known, reported cases**. Indeed, researchers estimate **thousands more victims remain unknown** — 28 million annually worldwide and **1 million in the U.S.**
- **Sex trafficking is the most common type of trafficking in the U.S.** ([Polaris](#)) source
- There were **88 million child sexual abuse material** (CSAM) files reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ([NCMEC](#)) tip line in 2022.
- **Child sex trafficking has been reported in all 50 U.S. states.** ([NCMEC](#))
- Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide & 30 to 50 billion in the USA. ([UNICEF](#)) source
- **Human trafficking is the second most profitable illegal industry in the U.S.** ([UNICEF](#)) source

1 in 3 children are first exposed to **social media** at age 5 or younger.

- **1 in 3 children** are *expected to have an unwelcome sexual experience* online **before they turn 18**.
- **Younger social media exposure** *correlates with more sexual harm online and peaks for kids who start using social media at 11-12 – the age around which most American children get their first smartphone.*
- **43% of kids** exposed to inappropriate sexual content online were under **13**.
- Kids with disabilities, special needs, or who identify as LGBTQ+ **are 2-4x more likely** to send explicit images of themselves than their peers.

THE MAIN DRIVER IS - THE INTERNET – A MODERN DAY FISHING POOL FOR **SEXUAL PREDATORS**

The **growth of technology** has provided numerous tools to human traffickers & sexual predators, increasing the challenges faced by law enforcement and advocate organizations. One such tool is **social media** and **online gaming**. These platforms are often used by traffickers to **recruit** victims because they provide direct and relatively easy access.

Online predators use the Internet to exploit kids and teens for sexual satisfaction. There are **500,000 online predators** on the lookout daily, **targeting children ages 12 to 15**.

Young people who show **vulnerability** **feed online predators** the most. Their goal is to **hunt, lure**, and **groom** victims online.

Grooming - is a process that involves the perpetrator manipulating a child to **gain their trust, build rapport, and exert their power over them**. It's the word used to describe people **befriending children** in order to **take advantage of them for sexual abuse** and other forms of child abuse. Many parents worry about online grooming, so it's important to talk to your children about how to stay safe

Here are some Online Statistics you might not be familiar with.

- **66.7%** of online predators' victims are **female**.
- **68.97%** of **tweens** and **90.73%** of **teens** encountered **sexual content online**.
- **Only 7% of parents** knew their kids received inappropriate content from adults.
- Internet usage among **3 to 4-year-olds** dramatically **doubled within five years**.
- Online predator reports **increased by 106%** early in the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Threats from strangers to kid's online concern **58% of US parents**.
- **40% of children** from **grades 4 to 8** experienced **online chatting with strangers**.
- **1 in 5 children** **reported** that an **online predator contacted them**.
- **53% of offenders were family members**.
- **Over 80%** of **child sex crimes** arise from **social media**.

As more & more parents allow children to access internet devices these statistics will only increase. In 2021, **grooming cases** against girls accounted for 82% of cases, with groomers preferring **Snapchat for communication**. **Sexual conversations or role-playing** are the **most common grooming** methods.

Pastor,

Now with all this information provided - here is my question? Does your Church or Youth Program have **existing training modules, or easy access to resources** for Parents to combat this assault on our children? Don't feel bad if the answer is no. That's the common answer I get. Saving Gods Children (**SGC**) is not here *to bring your down* about this, but as **Hebrews 10:24** states "**And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:**" SGC wants to help you protect those little eyes of children in your congregation on what they see on their phones, pads, and laptops. **Luke 11:34** states "**The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light**"!

SGC will be glad to assist you with some ideas to help you start a program for yourself free of charge! Why? because God inspired myself and wife Pam to start SGC with the Church in mind. To have the Body of Christ be **that voice, that church, those prayer warriors** combating Sexual Molestation and Human Trafficking in their community.

A conversation needs to be started in our congregations how to protect our children. To do so Christ's body of believers must be provided *the resources, training and best practices* to give families to go on the offensive. That's where we can help if your so inclined.

My contact information is below, SGC would love to be that spark in your church that gets you started in this area. Our website has many of the resources already posted and available for your immediate use by downloading, printing, or viewing via your video projections systems.

In conclusion, if you would like to further pursue having SGC help you in this endeavor, please contact Craig Mickel email me at craig@savinggodchildren.com or call / text me **at 301-992-2671**.

God Bless,

Craig Mickel