

OPERATION EQUIP

BECOMING A “CERTIFIED SAFE CHURCH”

Pastors don't need to do all of these things themselves, except those listed under “[How Pastors Can Help](#)” for each objective below, even delegating staff or volunteers to assist you. Pastors can then commission staff, lay leaders, and parishioners to action in carrying out these and the rest. Experts can be brought in to do some of the teaching. Your *Hope and Grace Ambassador(s)* is/are responsible to oversee the accomplishment of each action and report these to Hope and Grace International Inc.

OBJECTIVES

EMPOWERED BY TRUTH

How Pastors Can Help

- Apologize to congregation that the church has not done a good job (for the most part) of coming alongside moms and dads in untimely pregnancies, then we weren't there for them or even judged them for their abortions. Ask forgiveness.
- Find out what the Bible says about the sanctity of human life and teach about it or bring in experts to do so.
- Learn about abortion in the church and its effects on the church and teach about it or bring in experts to do so.
- Learn about abortion trauma and endorse the need for moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have lost children (or grandchildren, siblings, other loved ones) to abortion or been involved with it in some way to go through purposeful healing.*
- Teach that abortion healing involves far more than forgiveness from God, mainly the need to grieve the loss.*
- Engage your staff in learning about all aspects of abortion and its trauma and how the church can begin to heal those broken by it and be pro-active in preventing it in the future. HGI can provide resources.
- Invite your pastor friends to get on board with you and join this movement.

How Church Members Can Help

- In a Sunday School class or small group, read and discuss *Why Can't We Say the "A" Word in Church?: Overcoming our Dirtiest Secret with Hope and Grace*.
- Host discussions with staff and parishioners about current abortion laws and how the church can best respond.
- Host pro-life apologetics gatherings to teach staff and parishioners how to engage the community in redemptive conversations about abortion and life.
- Bring in experts on sexual risk avoidance (abstinence) for your young people and singles.
- Educate the parents of your youth on the dangers of abortion, birth control, and risky behaviors.
- Have a pro-active comprehensive conversation with your youth about sex outside marriage, teen-parenting, adoption, and abortion. Teach their parents to do this also.

*Actions that are highlighted are included in more than one category. To be considered a *Certified Safe Church*, these cannot be used more than once total in counting actions to qualify for the two minimum per category. For example, the highlighted actions under both Empowered by Truth and Healed by Grace can only be counted once. (*Operation Equip* is a creation of *Hope And Grace International Inc.*)

- Teach biblical values regarding sexuality to adults and youth that will help re-program their minds from worldly values or bring in experts to do so.
- Host an event with dynamic speakers to teach about abortion and abortion trauma in your community.
- Host an *Operation Equip* workshop for pastors and lay leaders from your church and other churches with the assistance of HGI.

HEALED BY GRACE

How Pastors Can Help

- Learn about abortion trauma and endorse the need for moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have lost children (or grandchildren, siblings, other loved ones) to abortion or been involved with it in some way to go through purposeful healing.*
- Teach that abortion healing involves far more than forgiveness from God, mainly the need to grieve the loss.*

How Church Members Can Help

- Demonstrate compassion for women and men who have lost children to abortion and encourage your flock to do the same.
- Invite women and men in your congregation who have lost children to abortion to a healing Bible study. (Ask your local pregnancy center, HGI, or other reputable organization to provide leadership for this and train your own people to do this in the future.)
- Offer confidential sexual healing Bible studies for all adults and youth. Unless they live in a glass bubble, they have been compromised in some way. (Contact Hope and Grace International Inc. for materials and training)
- Gain commitment from your best confidential prayer warriors to cover those who are going through healing throughout their Bible study (usually 9-10 weeks).
- Engage your creative members in making gifts for Bible study participants.

CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE

How Pastors Can Help

- Encourage your congregation to support your nearest pro-life pregnancy center financially and with volunteers.

How Church Members Can Help

- Put racks in your women's and men's restrooms with pamphlets, fliers, and business cards that direct people to pregnancy center and abortion healing resources.
- At least once a month, include info on pregnancy center and abortion healing resources in your bulletin and church newsletter.

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- Engage [Embrace Grace](http://embracegrace.com/) (embracegrace.com/) and let them equip your congregation to provide a refuge and spiritual support to women with unplanned pregnancies.
- Demonstrate compassion for women and men in untimely pregnancies and encourage your flock to do the same.
- Offer [Making Life Disciples](http://care-net.org/why-making-life-disciples) (care-net.org/why-making-life-disciples) interactive online course as an adult/youth education or small group opportunity annually.
- Find people in your congregation who are willing to open their homes to pregnant girls/women who have no place to go. (Hope and Grace International Inc can offer guidance and parameters for safety and success)
- Organize a team of people who can support and encourage those who open their homes to pregnant girls/women.
- Host a community shower for your local pregnancy center to provide them with new baby clothing and paraphernalia and maternity clothing for their clients.
- Organize a [Life Team](http://getintolife.org/life-team), (getintolife.org/life-team), an outreach of Churches for Life (getintolife.org/) that accomplishes many actions on this list. [Life Team Starter Kit](#) is video training and handbooks that lay the foundation for the *Life Team* ministry.
- Participate in a [40 Days for Life](http://40daysforlife.com/) (40daysforlife.com/) campaign.
- Purchase a house and turn it into a safe home for unwed mothers. Hire house parents and staff to run it. Task you congregation with funding it or partner with other churches.
- Support your local pregnancy center, or if there is not one nearby, launch one.

A SAFE PLACE TO RUN

How Church Members Can Help

- Organize Prayer Warriors to cover all objectives on a regular basis and concerns that arise as actions are carried out, always maintaining strict confidentiality.
- Equip your staff, lay leaders, and every parishioner above the age of 10 with pregnancy center and abortion recovery resources so they can direct others to them.
- Equip the parents of your youth to be a safe place to run if/when their kids find themselves in an untimely pregnancy.
- Make it clear, on a regular basis, in your church bulletin, newsletters, and verbally to youth, parents, singles, and the entire congregation that your church is a safe (non-judgmental and supportive) place to run in the case of untimely pregnancy and abortion trauma.
- Pray for workers in your nearest abortion clinic that they will be convicted of what they are doing and leave the industry.
- Be prepared to direct [former abortion clinic workers](http://abortionworker.com/) (abortionworker.com/) to healing Bible studies and employment opportunities and welcome them into your church community. When they join you, support them with love and compassion.
- In your children’s and youth ministries, stress the value of every child and teen on a regular basis. Make sure every one of them knows they are loved and can come to any staff or lay person for assurance. (You’ll need to train them to be prepared to offer life-saving help)
- Raise funds for strategically placed billboards in your city advertising the services of your nearest pregnancy center with your church and others listed as “Safe Churches”. (Invite other churches to join you in this!)

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