

SILENCE AND SECRECY

During this Charlie Circle session our prayer concern will be for the end of the silence and secrecy surrounding child sex abuse.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute”. (Proverbs 31:8)

Corrie Ten Boom and her family were Christians who hid Jews during WWII. Eventually they were caught and the Ten Booms became political prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp. Corrie survived, but her family did not. After she was freed she traveled the world sharing Christ and witnessing how He helped her heal from the horror she experienced. In one of her books she wrote, “The first step to victory is to recognize the enemy”. Corrie’s first step was to recognize that Satan was her enemy, not the German people, guards or even Hitler. They were Satan’s tools. Likewise, silence and secrecy are the tools Satan uses to perpetuate child sex abuse.

In a little town in the midwest there were two families that lived a couple blocks apart. In each family there were three sisters all about the same age and they all hung out together. Although none of them live in that town anymore, one sister from each family respectively became close lifelong friends. When the two women were in their thirties, the father of one family died. Of course the grieving daughter’s friend attended the funeral. Afterwards, instead of a bereavement dinner the daughter wanted to go somewhere alone with her friend to talk. There she told her childhood friend that her father had shot himself because a granddaughter had accused him of sexually molesting her. As the family confronted the problem, she and her now adult sisters disclosed to each other and the rest of the family that he had abused all three of them back when they lived in that little town. They each had told no one, not even each other, for over twenty years. All three have suffered serious repercussions, but never connected the issues to the sexual abuse they had secretly withstood from their father. In the end the sex abuse stopped for a couple of grandchildren and it was revealed there were other victims. But the whole terrible saga, culminating in the father’s suicide was devastating for this family.

If the first child sexually assaulted in that family had lived in a world that empowered children to tell if someone is hurting them, the family’s agony would probably have never happened, as is the same in countless other families. It is sad that this story is not unusual. Remember Corrie’s words and let us take the first step to victory over Satan.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil”. (Ephesians 6:10-11)

Open my eyes that I may recognize the true enemy. Open my ears and give me strength to hear the cries of the sexually abused, for how can they “find their voice” and tell, if I cannot bear the hearing. Open my heart for a deeper and more compassionate understanding of child sex abuse issues. Open my mind and my mouth to help foster environments and support individuals and organizations that break Satan’s tools and foil his schemes. Let me not fear to defend the helpless because of the embarrassment or discomfort of others. Let me not fear to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong. Let us pray without ceasing for children to “find their voice”.

Below is a link to an instrumental version of **Open My Eyes** to listen to as you talk to God about your concerns for the silence and secrecy of child sex abuse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OxHtgbsJTA>