Religious Organizations Help Educate
* Provide classes on family violence and prevention
* Sermons throughout the year to educate entire congregations
* Provide a safety/temporary shelter for women/children in crisis
* Provide Counseling to victims and community resources
* Provide support: financial, emotional, spiritual
* Religious Leaders continue to be educated about Domestic Violence

* Provide a “Ministers On Call 24/7 Crisis Line”
* Classes, Support Groups, Counseling: Pre-Marriage, Healthy Marriage, Relationship Conflict, Divorce/Separation, Teen/Adult/Senior Dating, Men’s Group, Women's Group, Mixed Support Groups for Other Problems

Resources: Domestic Violence Hotline - 1-800-700-7233
Elder Abuse Hotline - 877-477-3646
Teen Violence Hotline- 1-866-331-9474
Woman's Shelter Hotline- 1-800-580-4878

Developed by
Kenn L. Hicks, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Certified Domestic Violence Counselor
National Lecturer & Author
(818) 788-8667 / mrh384@aol.com
Website: domesticviolenceprevention.org
Did You Know?
* 1 out of 2 families in the United States is involved in domestic violence of some kind
* Over 50% of the marriages in the U.S. are involved in at least one incident of battering
* 1 out of 2 women in this country will be in a violent relationship in their lifetime
* A woman is battered every 9 seconds
* 1 in 3 teens has experienced violence in a dating relationship
* Every 26 seconds a women is raped
* Up to 1,800 women die of domestic violence each year
* More than 4 women are killed by their husbands or boyfriends everyday
* Over 500 men die of domestic violence each year

Problems Some Victims Face In Religious Organizations
* Women may be viewed as submissive servants
* Woman may become doormats who accept violence as a part of their women's duty to their husbands/partners
* The myth that families who follow Biblical Standards are not supposed to have problems like wife abuse
* Being ignored or shunned by Religious Organizations because of the domestic violence in their family
* Woman may be judged for not being a good enough wife to their husband

Religious Organization Can Provide
* A friendly, home-like environment
* A place of acceptance where people don't have to hide their problems
* Approaches to difficulties with an attitude of love & Support
* Forgiveness and grace that is easily extended
* Understand that emotional or family problems must be taken seriously

How to Help a Relative/Friend Who Is A Victim of Abuse:
Believe Her/Him: Tell your friend/relative that abuse is not her/his fault and that she/he is not alone there is help (family/friends, community resources). Know the Warning Signs of Domestic Violence and Abuse: Help your friend/relative recognize the abuse by asking questions about what is happening to her/him. Listen To Her/Him: This might be the single most important and helpful thing that you can do. Let her/him talk without interruption. Support Their Strength: Recognize the things their doing to take care of themselves. Protect Your Friend's/Family's Privacy: Talk to her/him in a safe and private place.