

How to Use This Booklet

This booklet contains background information as well as suggestions for educating your community about “I Care...About Children.” Please read through the materials to learn about the need for this initiative. We want to protect all children from the dangers and damages of pornography. In today’s culture with so many sexualize messages bombarding all of us, we need to be aware of these dangers and to be vigilant in living life grounded in Christian sexuality.

The Women’s Ministries General Council encourages you as a district director of Women’s Ministries to make copies of this booklet available to the churches on your district. We also encourage you to present “I Care...About Children” during a district event and to distribute and collect sign-up cards. You can obtain more information about the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families at their web site: <http://www.nationalcoalition.org>.

If you feel led to share the “I Care...About Children” initiative with others in your community, there is information to assist you. Prayer and caring about children are two items that often unite women. These combined efforts can affect change.

Towards the back of this booklet, you’ll find information about ordering sign-up cards. Please allow two weeks delivery time for your order.

If you have questions, please contact Women’s Ministries at womensministries@nazarene.org.

Thank you for joining us in this effort.

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The National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families

Mission:

To move the people of God to embrace, live out, preserve, and advance the biblical truth of sexuality.

Goals:

Operating under the prompting of the Holy Spirit and desiring all people to live under the Lordship of Christ, we seek to:

1. **Educate** the Christian community on sexual ethics according to a biblical worldview.
2. **Encourage** and challenge Christians to live sexually pure lives.
3. **Engage** Christians in public policy relative to sexual ethics.
4. **Embrace** those harmed by pornography and help restore them to sexual wholeness.

Founded in 1983 by Dr. Jerry R. Kirk, the National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families has led the effort against child pornography, adult obscenity, and sexual exploitation and violence. The organization approached this task as a public health and safety matter and a justice and human rights issue.

In 1986, the Religious Alliance Against Pornography (RAAP) was founded in New York City, representing more than 100 million Americans. RAAP is an alliance of leaders from nearly every major denomination and/or faith group in the country, including the Jewish community, The Salvation Army, the National Council of Churches, the National Association of Evangelicals, the Roman Catholic Church, Greek Orthodox Church, and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The National Coalition and RAAP work to bring all members of religious communities together to work to eliminate the dangers of pornography from society.

For more information, go to <http://www.nationalcoalition.org>.

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I Care...About Children

To call Christian women and their friends to prayer and action for the protection of our children and young people from sexual exploitation by:

- sexualized media messages
- exposure to pornography
- sexual predators
- sex trafficking
- molestation
- sex slavery

To educate women to the immediate danger of sexual exploitation and experimentation made possible by advanced technologies.

To mobilize women to join together and provide them effective action steps to protect the nation's children and youth.

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We must act now.....

....because of the crisis of rapidly escalating sexual exploitation of children and young people from

- pornography on the Internet
- sexual predators
- sexual slavery and trafficking
- the constant flood of sexualized media messages

....because of the avalanche of pornography exploiting our children and youth through advanced technology such as video cell phones, PDAs, and iPods

- They can access all the pornography on the Internet.
- They can do so anonymously.
- They can do so through purchased phone cards.
- They can take sexually explicit pictures of themselves and others and send them to each other and post them on the Internet itself.
“To possess or distribute such pictures of children 17 and under is a felony and leads to serious legal problems and massive moral and spiritual struggles.”

....because of the constant sexual stimulation and experimentation of children and young people in America

- The average teenager is exposed to nearly 14,000 sexual messages a year. Less than 2% of these have any reference to abstinence, self-discipline, or concern about sexually transmitted diseases (*Sexuality, Contraception, and the Media*. American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Public Education. January 2001).
- The American teenager is the most sexually active of all the teens in the industrialized nations.
- American teenagers lead the entire world in unwanted pregnancies (*Report on Teen Pregnancy*. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). May 2002).
- American teenagers lead the industrialized world in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) with 3-4 million new cases reported each year (*Sexually Transmitted Disease in America: How Many Cases and at What a Cost?* American Social Health Association. Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation, 1998. Complete report available free from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundations (1-800-656-4533), publication #1445).
- American teenagers lead the world in abortions.
- American teenagers are more likely to become pregnant and have multiple partners than any other teenager on the planet (*Report on Teen Pregnancy*. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). May 2002).

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- 65 percent of young people have sex before they finish high school (*Teens' Marriage Views Reflect Changing Norms*. Linda Lyons. The Gallup Organization. November 18, 2003).

...because of the ways the Evil One uses sexual brokenness, guilt and shame to destroy the spiritual life and strength of God's people, especially young people, and destroys their relationship to the Church

- Sexual brokenness and guilt undermine faith and confidence in God.
- Sexual brokenness and shame weaken the desire for fellowship and prayer.
- Sexual failure neutralizes the desire for scripture and obedience.
- Sexual failure destroys their passion for worship and sharing Christ with friends.

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Every Child in America Will Be Affected Directly or Indirectly

1. Because pornographers are continually on the offensive and are determined to seduce those not seeking pornography and force their immorality on us. They have learned how to manipulate innocent people from good sites to pornographic sites.
2. Because every child will have some peers or friends of peers that are plugged into the Internet through a wireless device (video mobile phone, PDA, video iPod, iPhone, PlayStation).
3. Because pornographic material is powerfully addictive and because those peers who will be impacted, will talk about it, and will offer access to the material.
4. Because young people and children are often more computer literate than their parents and grandparents and are inquisitive about sexual things.
5. Because children and youth are already putting pressure on their parents to have video mobile phones, etc. that can access the Internet. That pressure will increase significantly as the video mobile phone industry explodes. Within a matter of months almost every mobile phone will have Internet and picture capability. We know that the wireless industry will produce a massive advertising campaign because they make their large profits through monthly Internet fees. Peer pressure to not be left behind will intensify.
6. If your children don't succeed with you in getting the Internet, some of their friends or peers will succeed with their parents. When they discover pornographic material, including its addictive nature and how it affects their hormones, they will share it with others. Knowledge is power and they will become an 'In Group'.
7. When (not if) your child sees that material, because you have trained them in the Christian faith, he/she will likely be attracted and repulsed at the same time. Often the revulsion will wane and the titillation will come back and make it more difficult to say "No" consistently over a long period of time.

In direct communication with many of the largest wireless companies, we have learned they do not intend to warn parents at the time of purchase about the dangers of Internet pornography. This means that the educational process with parents to protect their children by not buying access to the Internet until adequate safety devices are in place must be done by the faith community now.

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Why Every Woman and Her Friends Should Move into Action

Every child is created in God's image and valued by God.

- A. Our goal through "I Care...About Children" is the honor of Christ by the church being salt and light through healthy, wholesome, life-giving and life-celebrating Christians, marriages, and children.
- B. Our goal is to lift up the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all of life, including sexual purity and wholeness.
- C. Our goal is to protect children by helping mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and their friends know how to protect children.
- D. Our goal is to encourage, educate, and mobilize these women to educate other mothers and grandmothers on how to do the same.
- E. Our goal is to help every woman who joins "I Care...About Children" to protect children from pornography, racy television such as MTV, and the sexualized messages of the culture through modern technology. We also seek to help women understand the broad dimensions of the battle for a biblical worldview, sexual purity, and integrity growing from their love relationship with God, neighbors, and family.
- F. Our goal is to serve all mothers, grandmothers, and single women of goodwill, regardless of their faith commitment, who want to protect children from pornography and the sexualized messages of today's culture.

Clearly Defined Goals

- A. Our goal through "I Care" is to establish a passionate and persistent prayer movement among women and their friends for their children and the young people of our nation and beyond.
- B. Our goal is to protect all children from Internet pornography through wireless technology (computers, video cell phones, PDAs, PlayStations, iPods, and iPhones) by helping mothers, grandmothers, and their friends know the depth of the dangers and practical ways to protect their children.
- C. Our goal is to serve all mothers, grandmothers, single women, and their friends, regardless of their faith commitment, who want to protect their children and grandchildren from pornography and the sexualized messages of the culture.

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- D. Our goal is to encourage, prepare, and mobilize women to educate and help other women know how to do the same.
- E. Our goal through “I Care” is the honor of Christ by the Church being salt and light, different from the culture, through healthy wholesome lives, marriages, and children.
- F. Our goal is to help every woman who joins “I Care” understand the battle in our culture for a biblical worldview and sexual purity and integrity growing from their love relationship with God, family, and neighbor.
- G. Our goal is to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in all of life, including sexual purity and integrity.

The Dilemma Faced by Our Young People and the Church

“The problem of pornography is imbedded in a broad context of moral decline. This decline is pervasive; it is relentless; and it manifests itself in a variety of ways—only one of which is pornography, a 12—15 billion dollar per year business in the United States. While we don’t know the extent of exposure and rate of consumption of ‘pornography’ among church members, we do know that the broader moral decline affects all of us. R-rated movies, prime-time television, cable TV, popular magazines, music, and movie videos combine to offer 30 to 40 hours each week of cumulative exposure for young people.”

“...if any real difference is going to be made in the hearts, minds, and behavior of our own youth and church members and those of other denominations, we will have to approach this with great, **energy, endurance, and determination**. Holding up a candle in the face of an aerial searchlight, expecting to illuminate the minds of our audience with such a meager gesture, will do little more than make us feel good—temporarily. **We will not change the temperature of Lake Michigan with a bucket or two of hot water.** Our society is so saturated with the message of immorality—as portrayed graphically by pornography—that our **competing message will have to be substantial, persistent, persuasive, and compelling**. A few more sermons and Sunday School lessons are in the ‘candle and bucket’ category.” Dr. Stan Weed

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As you begin to read and consider joining the “I Care...About Children” initiative, here are some questions to contemplate.

1. What is it that parents fear?
2. What will motivate them to focus on protecting their children from Internet pornography via modern technology with staying power? From racy television such as MTV?
3. What will motivate them to action and earnest and faithful prayer to learn the facts and to protect their children, grandchildren, and the children of others?
4. What will motivate them to educate, recruit, and mobilize other women in their congregation, Sunday School classes, women’s groups and clubs, neighborhoods, country clubs, and other congregations to protect children?
5. What will motivate them to strong, growing, and persistent action?
6. What will give them the vision that they can be an important part of a movement that can bless their children, the children of God’s people, and the children of the world?

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Telling the Story and Educating and Recruiting Your Friends

1. You need to know at least some of the content of pornography, the sexualized messages of our culture, and the seductive effect of the media. Pornography includes not mere nudity. It includes every conceivable heterosexual and homosexual act between human beings, including group sex and sexual violence. And it does not stop there.
2. You need to know the addictive nature of pornography and the sexualized message.
3. You need to know the destructive effect of pornography and the sexualized messages of the culture which are saturating the teen and preteen community.
4. You need to know the pervasive availability and consumption of pornography and the sexualized messages which communicate and strongly promote an anti-Christian worldview.
5. You need to know the ubiquitous effect of the Internet and the intentional efforts of the pornographers to seduce our young people and their future spouses by technologically using page-jacking and mouse-trapping. (Page-jacking is tying pornographic web sites to good sites and the transition being automatic; mouse-trapping is locking the door so they can't exit the pornographic site.)
6. You need to know how this assault is now taking a quantum leap forward through the wireless industry making Internet pornography available to every child and young person who possess these devices and whose parents purchase access to the Internet. All the porn on the Internet (over a billion pages of pornography) is available to every child.
7. You need to know that young people whose parents do not buy access to the Internet can download Internet pornography through purchasing and using debit cards and/or memory sticks in their devices.
8. You need to understand there are significant similarities between the impact of early exposure to pornography, and the seduction and molestation of children. Both lead to the sexualization of the child and a difficult long-term healing process.

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9. Help people relate that reality of sexual exploitation through pornography with the realization that because of the widespread use of the Internet the average first exposure of boys and girls is 8-8½ years of age.
10. Help them relate these truths to the emotions they would feel and how they would respond if they saw a child being seduced or molested across the street.
11. Help them relate the exploitation and molestation of that child to how they would feel if they saw that it was their child or grandchild being molested.

Contemplate these realities in light of the strong teaching of scripture as a whole and of Jesus in particular on the value of every child and the danger of adults being a stumbling block to a child. Read Matthew 18: 5-12 prayerfully.

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What Do We Believe?

- Do we believe that children and young people are precious to God? Matt. 18:14
- Do we believe that their health and well-being relates to their sexual attitudes and behavior? 1 Cor. 6:18-20
- Do we believe that God has given clear and important guidelines in Scripture for godly sexual behavior?
- Do we believe that Satan uses pornography and the sexualizing of our culture to attack their faith, their spiritual strength, and their wholesome spiritual influence on other young people? Eph. 6:10-12
- Do we believe that we are called to help protect young people in our churches through our membership vows and baptismal vows and to lead them by our example to want to and know how to protect themselves? Matt. 18: 5-7
- Do we believe that we have a responsibility to help our friends understand the dangers of Internet pornography through modern technology and know how to protect their children? Col. 3:16
- Is the danger great enough and do we care enough to make this one of our priorities in the near future?
- What would it take for us to hear God's call and to become a band of sisters determined to lead the way within the limitations of our time, our energy, and our gifting?
- Am I willing to pray earnestly for God's guidance and how He might want to use me to implement the "I Care" campaign?

The sexualizing of the world will get much worse before it gets better. And it will never get better unless God's people join together as salt and light and are determined to confront this evil in whatever ways our democratic and legal system allow.

If not us, who?

If not now, when?

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“I Care”

1. “I Care” about God’s glory and kingdom on earth.
2. “I Care” about Jesus’ supremacy and authority as Lord in the world and over His Church.
3. “I Care” about the honor of Christ through the health and impact of the Church being different from the world, being salt and light.
4. “I Care” about the health and strength of my marriage and other marriages, and about the single adults among us.
5. “I Care” about the safety of my children and grandchildren.
6. “I Care” about the safety and well-being of other people’s children and grandchildren.
7. “I Care” about my children’s relationship with Christ and the Church.
8. “I Care” about other children’s relationship with Christ and the Church.
9. “I Care” about my children and all children building a strong Christian worldview and biblical foundation for their understanding of self-discipline prior to marriage, and of sexual intimacy within the bond of marriage.
10. “I Care” about calling all Christian women and their friends to faithful and earnest prayer for their children and the children and youth of America.
11. “I Care” about protecting my children and all children from pornography on the Internet and the sexualized messages of the culture.
12. “I Care” about protecting my children and all children from pornography delivered by the Internet through the wireless industry: computers, video mobile phones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), Playstations, video iPods, iPhones, etc.
13. “I Care” about the safety and well-being of the children and young people in my children’s school and their influence on my children.

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14. "I Care" about helping protect the children and young people entrusted to our care as a congregation.
15. "I Care" about communicating to the women in my congregation and within the Body of Christ in our city the dangers and safety solutions related to pornography delivered by the Internet through modern technology and ways they can protect their children.
16. "I Care" about communicating these same dangers and solutions for protecting children to all women of good will.

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Every Parent Needs to Know Why We Must Act Now...

...because of the crisis of rapidly escalating sexual exploitation of children and young people from

- Pornography on the Internet
- Sexual predators
- Sexual slavery and trafficking
- The constant flood of sexualized media messages

...because of the flood of pornography exploiting our children and youth through advanced technology such as video cell phones, PDAs, and iPods.

- They can access all the pornography on the Internet.
- They can do so anonymously.
- They can do so through purchased phone cards.
- They can take sexually explicit pictures of themselves and others, send them to each other, and post them on the Internet. In the United States, **“To possess or distribute such pictures of children 17 and under is a felony and leads to serious legal problems and massive moral and spiritual struggles.”**

...because of the constant sexual stimulation and experimentation of children and young people in America.

- The average teenager is exposed to nearly 14,000 sexual messages a year. Less than 2 percent of these have any reference to abstinence, self-discipline, or concern about sexually transmitted diseases.
- The American teenager is the most sexually active teenager of all the industrialized nations.
- American teenagers lead the entire world in unwanted pregnancies.
- American teenagers lead the industrialized world in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and three to four million new cases reported each year.
- American teenagers lead the world in abortions.
- American teenagers are more likely to become pregnant and have multiple partners than any other teenagers on the planet.
- 65 percent of young people have sex before they finish high school.

...because of the ways the Evil One uses sexual brokenness, guilt, and shame to destroy the spiritual life and strength of God’s people, especially young people, and destroy their relationship to the Church.

- Sexual brokenness and guilt undermine faith and confidence in God.
- Sexual brokenness and shame weaken the desire for fellowship and prayer.
- Sexual failure neutralizes the desire for scripture and obedience.
- Sexual failure destroys their passion for worship and sharing Christ with friends.

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Every Parent Needs to Know the Dangers of Picture Capability Through Peer-to-Peer Sexually Explicit Material

1. Parents need to know how widespread and dangerous peer-to-peer file exchange of sexually explicit pictures are. The legal ramifications make such pictures of persons 17 and under child pornography and a felony.
2. They need to know how easily such pictures are taken, transmitted, and made available to friends and to the world through the Internet.
3. They need to know how easily children can be drawn into watching such activity and even participating in such behavior.

Every Parent Needs to Know the Dangers of Sexual Predators

1. Parents need to understand and teach their children about the tactics of sexual predators through the Internet and how widespread this problem has become.
2. Parents need to understand and teach their children not to share any personal information with a stranger (anyone they don't know personally) on the Internet.
3. Parents need to encourage their children to tell them immediately when anyone on the Internet begins to talk or write about sexual behavior. **Let them know that you trust them and will not discipline them if they are honest with you about these issues.**

Every Parent Needs to Know These Facts

1. Know the importance of teaching young children about “good touch and bad touch” in a gentle and non-threatening way.
2. Know their children will probably be exposed to pornography between the ages of 8 and 12, if not before. The average for boys and girls is 8-8½ and continues to get younger.
3. Know how important it is that parents help prepare their children for that first exposure and beyond so the child feels comfortable in coming to the parent and talking about sensitive issues.
4. Know how important it is that parents build strong, open relationships with their children so that when they hit the pre-teen and teen years there will be a high trust level and relatively good communications.
5. Know how dangerous it is for their children and young people to have access to the Internet without adequate safety devices and a monitoring system in place at the time of purchase. They are helpful, but none of them is presently adequate. Young people who are knowledgeable about computers can get around them.
6. Know to keep your home computer in a place that is not private so you can see what they download.

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7. Know what is happening in the lives of the peers of their children who have unfiltered access to the Internet. What is the impact of those peers? And what is the depth of relationships they have with your child?
8. Know how addictive this material is to most persons, but especially those entering puberty and just beyond. Pornography is the 'drug of the new millennium.'
9. Know ways they as parents can help protect their own children and the children with whom they play. Parents need to partner with parents of their children's friends. They need to establish clearly their own policies and priorities and keep them consistently.
10. Know what the parents of their child's friends believe and what they allow their children to access.
11. Know the policies of school and library authorities and what precautions are being taken to protect their children. They also need to know how they can affect the school's policies on wireless devices and iPods.
12. Know how the Evil One uses sexual issues to weaken, undermine, attack, and destroy their children's faith, relationship to Jesus Christ, and to God's people.

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Suggested Action Steps Within Your Family

1. Lead by example. Parents will be ineffective in helping their kids make the right decisions unless they are personally making the right decisions.
 - a. Absolutely no pornography of any form in the home.
 - b. Appropriate filters and monitoring devices on all computers in the home, including those used by parents.
 - c. Making appropriate decisions regarding entertainment choices—television, movies, music, videos, etc.
 - d. The husband being involved in a men's accountability group that asks the tough questions regarding sexual purity.
 - e. Husbands and wives (where there is an intact marriage) are in the home, growing in their commitment to love for one another and to sexual purity within the marriage.

2. Lead by strong relationship. The most helpful and effective foundation for protecting your children from pornography, in addition to leading by example, is a healthy, growing relationship and friendship with your children through shared meals, recreation, conversations, school and church events, and vacations. There is no technological solution. This open and growing relationship establishes the basis to provide helpful guidance through teachable moments.

Your goal is to sensitize and develop your child's inner moral compass to make wise choices and to live for God and for the well being of others.

3. Learn the facts. There is power in knowledge. There is weakness in ignorance. Parents cannot help their children and lead and protect them unless they know the facts.
 - a. Facts about access to pornography through modern technology (i.e. video cell phones, PDAs, video iPods, and PlayStations).
 - b. Facts about the specific plan they have or will purchase.
 - c. Facts about the safety devices in place or the lack thereof.
 - d. Facts about how their children can access Internet pornography through gift cards and memory sticks.
 - e. Facts about the accessibility of the Internet on their children's friends and peers' mobile phones, etc.
 - f. Facts about the convictions and moral standards of parents of their children's friends.
 - g. Facts about the guiding principles related to the Internet established by the school libraries and teachers of their children.

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4. Parents need to make the tough decisions now, which are necessary to prevent their children accessing the Internet through any means of modern technology, either privately or anonymously.
 - a. Parents are not called to be their children's best friend, but they are called to teach, lead, and discipline.
 - b. Teach their children the dangers they face on the Internet—it is like the danger faced by children in the seedy part of town near a triple X-rated theater late at night in the 60s, 70s, and 80s.
 - c. The pressure upon their children will escalate rapidly as the numbers of those accessing the Internet through video mobile phones, etc. continue to grow.

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Overview of Wireless Technology

1. How will children and youth be impacted by wireless technology?
 - a. Through direct connection to the Internet which brings all the pornography and sexualized messages of the Internet to the devices (many parents are opting into the Internet unaware of the consequences).
 - b. Through their ability to download Internet information to a memory stick and from a memory stick. Memory sticks are devices that carry data, voice, camera, and video content. The content is added to the memory stick from all the devices except the iPod but can be retrieved by the iPod.
2. What are the wireless devices that we are concerned about?
 - a. Computers
 - b. Video cell phones
 - c. Video iPods
 - d. PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants)
 - e. PlayStations
 - f. Portable Sony PlayStations
 - g. iPhones
3. What wireless devices have Internet capability and/or can use memory sticks?
 - a. All but iPods can be connected to the Internet wirelessly.
 - b. Very soon memory sticks that were initially used by computers or digital cameras will be compatible with all the other devices.
4. On what devices can filtering and monitoring systems be applied and how effective are they?
 - a. Many systems are currently available for computers (see www.filterreview.com).
 - b. The major wireless cell phone companies have indicated that they are developing filtering, blocking, and monitoring systems, but none are currently available.
 - c. No filtering, blocking, and/or monitoring systems are available for PDAs or PlayStations. For iPods, you have the firewalls of protection from the computer used to download information.
 - d. Filtering and blocking systems are not totally effective, but they are helpful and should be applied in every case where this capability exists.
 - e. Monitoring systems provide reports of Internet use to parents and when used, these can be especially effective as deterrents (see www.covenanteyes.com).

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5. Is it always required to provide Internet capability with these devices?
 - a. Virtually every computer is connected to the Internet.
 - b. You can opt-out of Internet connection for video cell phones.
 - c. You do not have an opt-out capability on PlayStations.
 - d. iPods cannot be directly connected to the Internet but can easily be connected to the internet through a computer.

6. What is Peer-to-Peer file sharing and what devices can do this?
 - a. Peer-to-peer file sharing is the development of camera or video content, then sending it from one device to another and/or to the Internet.
 - b. This can be done on computers, video cell phones, PDAs, and PlayStations.

7. What are debit cards and what role do they play?
 - a. Debit cards are the equivalent of pre-paid credit cards and can be purchased by anyone, including minors.
 - b. They are now being made available by American Express, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover through major grocery store chains and other venues.
 - c. These cards can be used by minors to purchase cell phones with pre-paid access and therefore no contract is required.
 - d. This allows minors to buy cell phones on which they can download pornography without their parents even knowing they have the phone.
 - e. Debit or gift cards can also be used to purchase age-inappropriate products and services without the caregiver's knowledge.

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Device	Internet	Memory Stick	Filtering, Blocking, Monitoring Systems	Internet Opt-Out	Photo/Video File Sharing Peer-to-Peer	Debit Card Friendly
Computer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Video cell phones	Yes	Yes	(2)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Video iPods	No (1)	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No (as of now)	No
PDA's	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
PlayStations (X-Box and PlayStation 3)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Portable Sony PlayStations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
iPhones	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

- (1) Cannot be directly connected to the Internet but can be connected to a computer and receive all the content of the Internet and then store it for continued visualization.
- (2) Not currently available but companies are working on it.

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Suggested Action Steps for a City Leader

1. Multiplication is the key principle. Who are the women I already know who have a deep faith, a growing prayer life, and a passion to protect their children and the children of others from pornography and sexualized messages? Who are the women they know who share this same concern? The goal is to recruit and empower other women leaders.
2. Build a team of women across the city with whom you already have significant relationships and who represent networks of other women you do not know. What denominations and/or congregations do these women represent? If you cannot build this network, find the pastor or leader who can help you do it.
3. Seek to bring highly networked women together for training on the dangers faced and ways women can protect young people. Use the recruitment and mobilization process in order to build on the potential synergy of them impacting each other. Again, if you cannot do this, find the pastor or leader who can help you do it.
4. Start with other Churches of the Nazarene within your city or area and then reach out to lay women in other denominations.
5. Work with women leaders involved in Bible study groups, Sunday School classes, and women's para-church organizations. Work with and through prayer networks within the city. Work through evangelical ministerial groups that already meet regularly to recruit a woman leader to represent these groups, assuring them you will follow up directly with their women leaders and will seek to not add to their work load.

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Suggested Actions Steps for Leading This Effort on Your District

1. Talk with the Adult Ministries director and Sunday School Ministries chairperson about the “I Care...About Children” initiative. Be sure the district superintendent is informed about the initiative, too.
2. Present the “I Care...About Children” initiative to the district Women’s Ministries Council.
3. Multiplication is the key principle. Who are the women you know who have a deep faith, a growing prayer life, and a passion to protect their children and the children of others from the growing assault of pornography and sexualized messages? Ask these women to identify women they know who share this concern. The goal is to persuade, recruit, and empower women leaders, and to encourage them to do the same.
4. Help other women clarify their own sense of God’s call to protect the “little ones” and establish their goals and objectives.
5. Think through the best use of the district’s communication system. Is there a regular email from the district office? What is the procedure for including information?
6. Develop a timeline for how this information and effort can best be communicated to the women leaders on your district. (See sample timeline.)
7. Think about how “I Care...About Children” can affect young adults who are concerned about their younger siblings and their friends.
8. Make copies of this booklet available to interested people. You can obtain an electronic copy through the Women’s Ministries office. Email Linda Hardin at lhardin@nazarene.org.

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Sample Timeline

1. Talk to the Adult Ministries director and Sunday School Ministries chairperson about the “I Care...About Children” initiative. Inform the district superintendent.
2. Present the information to the district council. Develop strategies for getting the information to local churches on your district.
3. Order sign-up cards for the “I Care...About Children” initiative through the Women’s Ministries office. Call 800-221-6317 to place your order.

Less than 100 cards	free
101- 300 cards	\$ 5.00
301- 500 cards	10.00
601- 800 cards	15.00
801-1000 cards	20.00
4. Introduce the “I Care...About Children” initiative at the district retreat or other district function.
5. Distribute and collect sign-up cards.
6. Enter information from sign-up cards at www.nationalcoalition.org and click on “I Care.”

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Suggested Action Steps for Local Directors

1. Present the “I Care...About Children” initiative to the pastor or assigned staff member for approval.
2. Present the “I Care...About Children” initiative to the Women’s Ministries Council.
3. Identify and obtain pastoral approval of the woman to lead the “I Care...About Children” initiative.
4. Multiplication is the key principle. Who are the women the “I Care...About Children” leader already knows who have a deep faith, a growing prayer life, and a passion to protect children from the growing assault of pornography and the sexualized messages of the media and the growing assault of an anti-Christian worldview? The goal is to recruit and empower other women.
5. Develop strategies for educating the entire congregation about the “I Care ...About Children” initiative. Consider ways of introducing the “I Care...About Children” initiative to the community, too.
6. Work with Children’s Ministries and NYI leaders so they understand the dangers faced by children and teens through modern technology, i.e. video mobile phones, PDAs, iPods, and Playstations.
7. Order sign-up cards for the “I Care...About Children” initiative through the Women’s Ministries office. Call 800-221-6317 to place your order.

Less than 100 cards	no charge
101- 300 cards	\$ 5.00
301- 500 cards	10.00
601- 800 cards	15.00
801-1000 cards	20.00
8. Determine a time to present the “I Care...About Children” initiative to the women in the congregation.
9. Distribute and collect sign-up cards at designated meeting.
10. Enter information from sign-up cards at www.nationalcoalition.org and click on “I Care.”

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A Mom's Guide to MySpace: What you need to know about this popular website

This article first appeared in January/February 2007 issue of *Today's Christian Woman*. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Sixteen-year-old Piper is a parent's dream—an excellent student, a leader, and positive role model among her peers at church. Only one thing has ever caused discord in her family: MySpace.com.

Piper insists her parents are being overprotective because they have banned her from this popular social networking site most of her friends have surfed for years. She thinks they've been influenced by media scare tactics that hype horrible stories of teens victimized by people they've met on this website. She also thinks her parents don't know enough about what's really going on at MySpace to make an informed decision.

Piper's mom, Julie, is admittedly cautious about anything that could seriously affect her children's future. She thinks Piper is too young to recognize the dangers associated with MySpace. She worries Piper could post something that might not be appropriate for the eyes of that future employer or college admissions counselor. And, yes, the terrifying media reports have had their effect. Julie just doesn't know enough about MySpace to let Piper venture into what could be a very dangerous situation.

Piper and Julie are at a stalemate. Whenever the topic comes up—which is regularly, because Piper receives invitations from friends to join them on MySpace almost daily—they argue. This divergence of perspectives—a kid's naiveté and enthusiasm versus parental protectiveness and confusion about how the technology works—is at the heart of the MySpace dilemma.

Danger Ahead

According to some, MySpace marks a societal revolution as monumental as the industrial revolution. After doing his research, media mogul Rupert Murdoch spent \$580 million to purchase MySpace's parent company in 2005. He told a Reuters reporter, "MySpace demonstrated ... that the world has really changed—that the average person who is computer proficient is self-empowered in a way they never have [been] before."

It's this self-empowerment, however, coupled with youthful indiscretion, that has so many parents, such as Julie, concerned. And rightfully so.

In 2002, 15-year-old Katie Canton met 22-year-old John (last name withheld) in a live online chat room. Since he lived on the other side of the country, Katie felt free to flirt and send photos by e-mail. Soon John was sending Katie gifts, phone cards for long conversations, and numerous e-mails. "John told me, 'Age is just a number; love can be anywhere with anyone,'" Katie recalls. "He even told me he wanted to marry me, and I believed him. If my parents had tried to separate us at that point, it only would have added to the drama that made it exciting. I thought I was in love."

When John planned to fly cross-country to visit Katie in California, her parents consulted a friend in the San Francisco Police Department. By this point, there was no way to “talk sense” into Katie. So the friend gave the family a video game created by Web Wise Kids (www.wiredwithwisdom.org) called *Missing*. Katie’s parents insisted she play the game that lets teens virtually experience tracking an online sex predator. Katie reluctantly saw for herself that her relationship with John fit a pattern well known by law enforcement personnel.

Katie turned over all the gifts, e-mails, letters, and computer files she’d exchanged with John to the San Francisco Police Department, which had discovered he was the primary suspect in the rape of a 13-year-old girl who’d also met him in a chat room. Katie testified at John’s trial in West Virginia, where he was convicted and sent to prison for 20 years. Katie credits what she learned from *Missing* with sparing her more harm than she’d already experienced. And she now encourages kids to be savvy online surfers as an ambassador to youth for Web Wise Kids.

MySpace Is Not the Enemy

Stories like Katie’s are troubling, but MySpace also has many positive applications. When my 15-year-old daughter, Haley, was planning a mission trip to Nigeria, she created a MySpace page to present her work and even set up a PayPal account so donations could go directly to the church from online donors. On her MySpace page she explained her burden for Africa, had “He Reigns” playing in the background, posted a countdown clock, and put up a photo travel log that could be accessed by the donors who made the trip possible.

My 18-year-old son, Taylor, has a public page to promote his original music. This has allowed him to bypass the need for a record label and get his music out to the world. He even has one fan in Australia. Besides, Grandma is confined to bed, but she can hear Taylor’s music anytime from a laptop computer connected to the Internet.

The popularity of online social networking has also opened up fresh potential for connection and community between parents and teens. Since I created my own MySpace page, I’ve been added to the “friends” list of both of my teens, and several of my daughter’s friends have invited me onto their lists. I now have access not only to my daughter’s heart and mind but also to the kind of input she’s getting from her closest friends. Occasionally, and respectfully, I offer advice, encouragement, kudos, or a verse of Scripture that these teens need to hear. Surprisingly, they respond with unabashed gratitude. I treasure the comment I found on my page recently when I sent Haley an e-mail on MySpace asking if she minded that I made comments on her blog. Who cares that they don’t use proper grammar and punctuation when they’re able to communicate a message like this: “I really liked your comment on my blog. way da be mom. I love you.”

The Way Forward

MySpace Chief Security Officer Hemanshu Nigam, a former prosecutor working on sex crimes against children, told the *Wall Street Journal*, “Our top priority right now is to find or build the right set of technologies that will make the Internet and MySpace safer

for teens. But,” he adds, “whatever technical solutions we implement can only be successful if they’re coupled with a mom or a dad teaching their teens how to be safe online.” That’s where you come in.

As you help your child navigate these new technological waters safely, it’s important that you recognize your power. Parents are the first and last line of defense against online predators. Here’s some information to keep in mind.

It’s all about customization. The MySpace experience depends on how a user customizes her profile. Account settings can be adjusted to “private” to make the homepage—or certain components of the page, like the blog—accessible only to certain people. The people included on one’s “friends” list also affect the MySpace experience, as those people’s pages and comments are easily accessible.

Be a “friend.” Join whatever social networking site your teen uses and become one of her “friends.” This gives you access to your teen’s social network, where you can get to know many of her peers and learn about struggles going on within her group. You also can see your teen’s friends and read what they’re thinking and doing. This can help you to better understand your teen and help her navigate life well.

If you’re not on your teen’s “friends” list, you can still be involved. You can join MySpace for free and easily find some of your teen’s real-world friends by searching for members who attend his school. Bear in mind, though, it’s best to maintain open communication with your child. Cyber-sleuthing can get you information, but if it’s done in secret, it can shut down trust, which is counterproductive.

Your teen is your best source of information about MySpace. Ask for a guided tour of some of his friends’ MySpace pages. Ask if your youth pastor has a page. Talk to your teen about your concerns about online social networking, but also listen. Being open with your concerns about MySpace can lead to important life discussions, and your teen’s desire to participate can motivate him to talk.

“MySpace is less of a mystery now, and Piper and I are ready to start this new cyber adventure together,” says Piper’s mom, Julie. “MySpace isn’t going away, so it’s good that we have tools to help us understand it and use it wisely.”

Become part of the solution. Predators aren’t the only ones who can browse personal profiles on MySpace; protectors can too! MySpace needs moms to report inappropriate content to help clean up the MySpace neighborhood (do this by clicking “Report Inappropriate Content” at the bottom of any page).

Ephesians 5:15 teaches, “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” Anyone browsing MySpace will quickly confirm that the days are evil! But these days also present a golden opportunity to make our world a safer place and let the light of Jesus Christ shine. What might happen if women who read TCW put as much energy into making MySpace safe

for the teens we love as predators put into their perverted pursuits? That's something to pray about!

Connie Neal is the author of MySpace for Moms and Dads (Zondervan, available March 2007). She lives in California.