

Siouxland Coalition Against Human Trafficking
The Porn Epidemic Conference
Sioux City Convention Center, 801 4th St., Sioux City, IA 51101
April 25, April 27, 2020

Presenters: Josh McDowell, MDiv and Ben Bennett

Biographies:

Josh McDowell, MDiv studied at Kellogg College and received his undergraduate degree at Wheaton College. He then attended Talbot Theological Seminary, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Divinity degree. An articulate speaker, Mr. McDowell has addressed more than 25 million people, giving over 27,000 talks in 126 different countries. He has written or co-authored 151 books in 128 languages, including *“Straight Talk with Your Kids About Sex”*, *“Bare Facts”*, and *“See Yourself as God Sees You”*. In addition to many other awards, Mr. McDowell has been nominated 36 times for the Gold Medallion Award and has received that award on four occasions. Mr. McDowell and his team have created several campaigns to address young people and help them stand strong and firm in their faith in the face of a rapidly-changing culture, such as: *“Six Hours with Josh”*, *“Why Wait?”*, *“Counter the Culture,”* *“Right From Wrong”* and *“True Foundations.”*

Mr. McDowell is a leader in addressing cultural developments, including pornography. -He has conducted in-depth research into the prevalence of pornography, its effects and consequences (on families, individuals, society, and the world), its relationship to sexual abuse, as well as the addictive nature of pornography and its impact on the brain. Mr. McDowell has also explored and identified resources and solutions for those struggling with pornography. He has addressed the issue of pornography in over 100 cities and in more than 20 different countries. He has composed 2,300 pages of documentation on the world of pornography.

Mr. McDowell organized the first Set Free Global Summit, an initiative to educate, start conversation, and de-shame pornography addiction. Set Free Conferences have been held in the U.S., Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, and Singapore. Mr. McDowell has shared an abbreviated form of Set Free in four other countries.

Mr. McDowell has addressed pornography at AACC’s (American Association of Christian Counselors) World and National Conferences.

Mr. McDowell has partnered with many organizations in the area of pornography, including Covenant Eyes, Pure Desire, Barna Research Group, Stephen Arterburn, National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Enough is Enough and many others

Ben Bennett, author, speaker, and former pornography addict, has been a Porn Addiction Recovery Group Leader for 6 years. As a Porn Addiction Recovery Group coach, he coached over 20 leaders directly and hundreds of attendees indirectly. He has been a Sexual Wholeness Coordinator for 3 years and has participated in hundreds of hours of personal counseling, trauma therapy, and recovery group sessions. Mr. Bennett has conducted four Porn Addiction Recovery Trainings, he wrote a one year intensive porn addiction counseling program for single males (*Living Free*), and has been speaking on porn

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for five years. Mr. Bennett, an associate of Mr. McDowell, devotes his life work to supporting the health and restoration of men and women struggling with woundedness and sexual brokenness.

DAY ONE: Saturday, April 25, 2020

Duration: 2 hours, 2 CE Hours (0 CE Hours for BCU Social Work)

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. - Registration/Information Tables

6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m. - Welcome & Opening Remarks

6:40 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. - Overview: Pornography and the Effects of the Internet /Consequences

Presenter: Josh McDowell, MDiv

Program Description:

Pornography is “that which is designed to arouse or sexually excite.” It is a \$97 billion industry, \$12 billion in the United States. The Internet has dramatically changed the accessibility, affordability and anonymity of consuming pornographic material. Porn now accounts for at least 30% of all Internet traffic. Contrary to popular opinion, porn is *not* harmless adult entertainment. It is hardcore, graphic, violent, and addictive. Porn is just as easily viewed by children as by adults. One of the consequences of exposure to porn at such a young age and the speed at which addiction takes place is that some children choose to act out what they have seen, resulting in child-on-child sexual abuse. Pornography is having a direct impact on sexual exploitation overall, including sex trafficking. Nearly all men who buy sex from prostituted and trafficked women are pornography users.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participants will be able to explain the definition of pornography. They will also be able to describe the magnitude of the problem, and the impact of the Internet on the pornography industry. Participants will be able to identify the causality between viewing pornography and sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking.

7:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. - Personal Testimony

Presenter: Ben Bennett

Program Description:

Mr. Bennett will provide personal testimony as to how he was able to overcome a ten-year battle with a porn addiction through Biblical and clinical sexual addiction recovery.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Attendees will be able to understand the progressive and addictive nature of viewing pornography, its impact on the individual and other relationships, and discover an approach for healing and recovery.

7:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. - Break, Information Tables

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7:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - Solutions, Focus on Parents, Children

Presenter: Josh McDowell, MDiv

Program Description:

There are definitive steps parents and caregivers can take to protect children who are exposed to pornography. Internet filters such as those provided by Covenant Eyes and Bark, books such as “Good Pictures, Bad Pictures”, websites such as Protect Young Minds and Fight the New Drug, and many other resources are recommended. Initiating and maintaining open lines of communication between parents/caregivers and children is vitally important. This program will help parents understand that they are the key factor in their children’s lives, especially when it comes to pornography.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participants will be able to identify steps to take to protect children from the effects of pornography. They will be able to point to resources helpful in dealing with the problem of pornography. Participants will be able to illustrate and explain the steps parents can take to porn-proof their kids or help them to freedom.

DAY TWO: Monday, April 27, 2020

Duration: 6 hours, 5.5 CE Hours (4 CE Hours for BCU Social Work)

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - Registration/Information Tables

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. - Welcome & Opening Remarks

9:10 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. - The Porn Problem

Presenter: Josh McDowell, MDiv

Program Description:

The reach of the porn industry has been exponentially impacted by the ubiquitous growth of the Internet. Once thought to be primarily a male-oriented vice, porn is increasingly being consumed by women and children – even children at a very early age, and not by choice. Once viewed as “bad for society,” attitudes about viewing porn are shifting from neutrality to acceptance. It has become normalized. Today’s Internet porn is more hard-core, graphic, and violent than ever before. This is having a devastating effect on individuals, families, and society as a whole. Erectile dysfunction, feelings of rejection, shame, guilt, loss of jobs, infidelity, divorce, rape, incest, child molestation, sexual harassment, child-on-child sexual abuse, and sex trafficking are consequences that can be directly linked to pornography.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participants will be able to describe the magnitude of the problem, and identify the consequences of viewing pornography.

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9:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. - Porn and Sexual Abuse, Including Sex Trafficking

Presenter: Josh McDowell, MDiv

Program Description:

Pornography causes the belief that it's acceptable to use, abuse, or mistreat others for self-gratification. Also, that it's acceptable to view and participate in the use, mistreatment, or abuse of another person. Pornography incites sexual aggression, incest, and age-inappropriate relationships. The majority of child sexual abuse offenders are found to be in possession of pornography. Porn normalizes fantasies with minors and drives demand for sex trafficking.

Viewing pornography fuels the demand for sex trafficking in several ways. Nearly all men who buy sex from prostituted and trafficked women are pornography users. Users often seek out what they have viewed in pornography. Porn users demand a constant stream of new and increasingly violent content and new and younger porn "stars." Pimps and traffickers have capitalized on this demand by luring increasingly younger children into being trafficked, and then forcing them to engage in violent and deviant sex acts while being filmed. In addition, sex traffickers use pornography to train victims how to perform sexually and to desensitize the victim to the violence, degradation, and humiliation they will experience in the sex trade.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participants will be able to describe the effect of viewing pornography and the relationship to acting out through sexual abuse and sex trafficking.

10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. - Break, Information Tables

10:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - The Brain and Porn

Presenter: Josh McDowell, MDiv

Program Description:

Before porn is a relational problem, it is a neurological problem. The brain is affected by porn and has a direct affect upon our thinking and behavior. The brain becomes a filter on sexuality and how others are viewed. For most people, porn addiction is much harder to break than an addiction to alcohol, heroin or cocaine. What makes it an addiction? The neuropathways it creates in the brain.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participants will be able to recognize the effects pornography has on the brain. They will be able to illustrate how pornography alters the way we think. They will be able to describe why pornography is so addictive.

10:50 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Sexual Wholeness in a Pornified World – Part 1

Presenter: Ben Bennett

Program Description:

Presentation will focus on understanding and overcoming hurts and unhealthy patterns that hinder wholeness. Mr. Bennett will discuss the foundation of thriving in life – healthy relationships with God, self, and others where needs and longings are met. Individuals experience unmet longings – hurt, abuse, loss, and relational deficits - taking them away from a thriving life. This, then, negatively impacts their view of themselves and others, their brains, and it can set them up to seek fulfillment in unhealthy ways.

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Over time, individuals can become mired in unhealthy patterns such as porn, as they seek out what has gone unmet (affection, love, safety etc). Brains rewire and get stuck in these patterns. It is possible to return to thriving by moving into a life of healthy relationships where longings are met. This includes support from others, loving connection, experiencing our value from others, and seeing the fulfillment of relational deficits and healing for hurts. This can often also include recovery group/support group work, trauma therapy, growing in emotional awareness, and meditation. Over time new neurological pathways are created, and healthy habits are formed enabling the individual to process the challenges of life that move them toward others rather than away.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participants will be able to identify how hurts and past trauma, whether from extreme sexual abuse, an addiction of viewing pornography, or a number of other related wounds can affect an individual. Also they will be able to suggest behavior modification so that those struggling can thrive and live the life intended.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Lunch

12:00 p.m. – 12:35 p.m. - Sexual Wholeness in a Pornified World – Part 2

Presenter: Ben Bennett

Program Description:

See Part 1 above

Learning Goals/Objectives:

See Part 1 above

12:35 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. - Solutions – Part 1

Presenter: Josh McDowell, MDiv

Program Description:

Is there hope? Absolutely, but it calls for an exceptional decision to stop. No one can go it alone; you need help and professional counseling. One needs to understand how porn affects them mentally and relationally. One needs to want to break the bondage. There is no silver lining to answer porn. One must apply anywhere from 6 – 12 solutions. Josh will share many of these solutions that can be applied to the issue. Josh will help leaders grasp the depth and severity of porn and so that they can clearly explain it and give steps to hope.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participants will be able to outline various approaches to getting help for someone with a porn addiction. Participants will be able to identify steps to take to protect children from the effects of pornography. They will be able to point to resources helpful in dealing with the problem of pornography.

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Break, Information Tables

1:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. - Thorn (Video)

Presenter: Julie Cordua, CEO Thorn

Biography:

Ms. Cordua helped create Thorn in 2012 as an organization focused specifically on building technology to

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defend children from sexual abuse. Under her leadership, Thorn has created products and programs that are deployed today in 30 countries, have reached more than 3 million people and have helped identify more than 30,000 victims of abuse. Thorn's work focuses on leveraging technology and insights to accelerate victim identification, disrupt environments that enable abuse and change high-risk behaviors. Ms. Cordua holds a B.A. in Communications, from UCLA and an M.B.A. from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. She is the mother of three children and resides in Southern California.

Program Description:

Reported child sexual abuse content in the U.S. alone has grown seven-fold since 2011. Thorn builds tech tools to defend children from sexual abuse, combining publicly available classified ad and online forum data with smart algorithms to help law enforcement identify an average of eight child sex trafficking victims everyday.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

Participant will be able to identify a technology-driven response to the crime of child sexual abuse.

1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. - Solutions – Part 2

Presenter: Josh McDowell, MDiv

Program Description:

See Part 1 above

Learning Goals/Objectives:

See Part 1 above

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Q & A Session

Presenters: Josh McDowell, MDiv, Ben Bennett

3:00 p.m. - End of Conference