

PastorCare

West Michigan

Shepherding the Shepherds & Sheep

October, 2018

How Safe Are Kids In Your Home?

Joseph was Homeschooled and Addicted to Porn at Age 9!



PastorCare Over 18 Screening with Jared Brock at Baker Book House September 22, 2018

18

OVER 18: A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT PORN.

Check out this link to an interview with the producer and his wife:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0B-WDZvsnA>.

www.Over18doc.com

PastorCare West Michigan wants to partner with you to host a screening of OVER 18 in your church or your community.



OVER 18 BY: Cindy Hagerup, LMSW

Jared and Michelle Brock's latest DVD "Over 18" tells the story of Joseph, a young teen now thirteen who is, in his words "a recovering porn addict." Huh? Yes, you heard it right. The young man in the DVD is thirteen with a backward baseball cap and a bike. I promise that you will be drawn in by his story which he tells with courageous transparency. He clearly describes how he first encountered pornography as a 9 year old playing video games. Initially, he clicked it off the screen but admits it became a curiosity which escalated into a full blown pornography addiction.

He candidly admits that he brazenly watched porn in his kitchen with his unsuspecting family in the room! Eventually, his mother checks the computer's history and Jared's addiction is discovered. Drastic changes happen and Joseph begins his recovery. OK, so how in the world does a 9-year-old boy develop a pornography addiction? In short, fairly easily. Let me provide a very simple explanation. Our brains like to feel good. If you provide your brain with feel good substances or experiences like alcohol, drugs, chocolate, sex, or pornography, it will light up and want more...and more. New neuropathways are created and you're on your way down a slippery slope. Add a history of trauma, abuse, or a wounded soul and the chances are even higher that an addiction will flourish. Oh, did I forget to add guilt and shame? Those two will absolutely fuel the fire even more.

The DVD gives us the perspectives of two former adult male performers who sadly and unapologetically defend their careers as actors and directors. The mature actor states that he's proud of his legacy and we see him surrounded by his shelves of VCR tapes and his teddy bears. The younger actor states that the porn industry will give people whatever they demand or even more disturbing, what the porn industry thinks they should be viewing. This means that viewers are exposed to increasing violence, deviancy, and humiliation of women. Next, we hear the perspectives of two former adult female performers who provide a different slant on their careers in the industry. We hear about the devastation of STDs/STIs, painful sexual encounters, destruction of reputations, and internet images that will never go away. EVER. Both admit that they made a lot of money in the industry but in the end, the money they made and the price they paid wasn't worth it. Thankfully, one of the bright spots of the DVD is when one of these women finds true love and marries a man who refuses to explore her past.

So, how do we fight this huge, insidious industry that preys on adults as well as our kids and grandkids? Here are a few thoughts/suggestions from my experiences as a therapist, mom, and grandmother. I apologize if some of these sound harsh but please hang in there with me.

1. We can no longer afford to hide our heads in the sand. I know this is an icky, uncomfortable subject but get over it! You may be saving someone's life, career, or marriage. Talk to your family, spouse, friends, kids, and grandkids about the dangers of pornography, sex trafficking, and on-line predators. Do you realize that pornography is strongly linked to sex trafficking? Many of the actors are forced into pornography against their wills. Even scarier, teenagers are recruiting other teens. Yes, it's happening in our schools. Educate yourselves.

2. Listen to your gut. If something seems or feels odd in your home or relationship, it probably is. Check the histories on computers and smart phones. If you suspect someone in your life is using pornography, ask them about it. But remember, they might deny it especially if you use a condemning, shame-based approach. People with addictions are already feeling a ton of guilt and shame. Many have tried to stop on their own and haven't been successful. This is the time for an open, honest conversation full of love and grace. I'm not saying that true emotions shouldn't be voiced (they should) but remember to let the person know that they are still loved and you have struggled with things in your life as well.

3. Don't allow your kids and grandkids unlimited, unsupervised access to the internet (You Tube, Snap Chat, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) on their phones and computers. They can easily get into trouble intentionally or unintentionally and a lot of bullying happens here as well. Also, the porn industry and sexual predators are very smart. They know where kids like to hang out. Keep your computers in a public space where you can view the screens and activities. Yes, I know this will be hard and you'll get initial resistance but you're the parents and you pay the bills. Kids and teens need and want boundaries. It tells them you care about them and love them.

4. Porn today is not the porn of the 1950's or even of the early 2000's. Porn today is becoming increasingly violent and more deviant, especially towards women. This is causing a great deal of confusion in our young teens both male and female. Males are receiving a very tainted, confusing picture of sexual relationships and women are on the receiving end of this confusion. Parents, model loving relationships to your kids. Talk to them about what they might be seeing or hearing and be a safe place for a discussion. If your home isn't safe, trust me, they'll go elsewhere.

5. Get the word out about Jared Brock's DVD. Go to **over18doc.com** for more info and resources. Be careful what you type! If you put in Over 18, you'll see things you didn't ask for.

6. Pornography and sexual addictions are hurting marriages, families, and relationships. It's a huge issue in counseling along with other inappropriate social media behaviors. Porn and sexual addictions don't just affect the person with the addiction. It also affects the spouse or partner in a traumatic way. There is a great sense of betrayal as well as the loss of safety and trust which he/she thought had existed in the relationship. I say he/she because women are struggling with sexual addictions as well. I think in the near future we'll see a huge increase in the amount of women seeking counseling or treatment. Remember, there is help and hope available for your loved ones. Focus on the Family has resources as well as links to counseling services in your community. Also, you can google sexual addiction counseling in Grand Rapids and a list of resources will appear on the screen. Another organization called Fight the New Drug (www.fightthenewdrug.org) provides factual and non-judgmental information about pornography. They are reaching out intentionally to teens and college students. So, be courageous and reach out. People are there to help you and provide hope!

7. We live in tough, scary times. Pray a hedge of protection around yourself and your families. Satan wants us to live in darkness, bondage, and shame. God wants us to know His love and embrace a life full of hope, freedom, and joy. Pray that sexual addictions are brought into the light so healing can begin!



Correena Spangler, John Smith, Angela Denison.

Correena Spangler is a fabulous young lady from Sioux Falls who has written a curriculum for **Teens Against Sex Trafficking**.

(www.teensagainstsextrafficking.org).

She came and spoke to us in September, the same week Jared Brock was with us.

Special thanks to **VENUE3TWO** for allowing us to hold our event at this beautiful venue that supports EAD (Equine Assisted Development) where horses are used in a non-riding program to help empower and teach one's potential for greatness to families at risk, underprivileged children, and rescued victims of human trafficking. ([www. www.venue3two.com](http://www.venue3two.com))



Our gracious friends, Shelly Beach and Wanda Sanchez, were at both events to talk about Trauma and PTSD.

Every one of us have a story of a traumatic event that has happened to us or someone we know. Trauma can lead to a lifetime of triggers. If we don't learn how to recognize them and deal with the trauma, the effects can lead to pornography, drug, shopping, or drinking addictions, and much more.

www.PTSDPerspectives.org



Angela Denison, Chief Inspiration Officer

I was sexually abused by neighborhood kids from age six to twelve.

What happened to me had damaging effects on my self-esteem and identity.

I have so much to say about pornography, social media, and sex trafficking and how easy it is for these young kids to fall victim, be coerced, etc.

I grew up in a home that had much anger. My Mom grew up in a very broken and violent home. My Dad and Mom never got along. My Dad was not around much. There was lots of fighting, yelling, and a ton of swearing. There was an abundance of pornography material in our neighborhood and in my home. There was pornography on the walls, on the coffee tables, and there were tapes out in plain sight at my friend's Dad's house. He was single and a veteran of war.

Was my Mom protective and watched who I played with and where I went? Yes. Was my Mom home when it happened? Yes. But kids are creative in their playing. Was anyone allowed in my room or to have my door shut? No, never. I do not believe for one second my Mom would approve of what happened. But, when I finally told my Mom what happened to me, she dismissed it and denied it could have happened. In her mind everything was okay because she told my Dad he had to hide his pornographic materials. But the truth is, it didn't work. In addition to my Dad's addiction to pornography, my Mom was reading romance novels and watching soap operas. That didn't help my view of what was acceptable, what love looked like, or what I was supposed to look like and wear. My parents didn't tell me I was pretty. I was not taught about what was safe and unsafe when dating.

I began going to youth group with friends in middle school. There I learned about an angry God that told me I was going to hell if I had sex before marriage. (I had not at this point, but many sexual things had been done to me and with me). We role played what we saw on videos. This was not done at my home but at my friend's Dad's house where she went every other weekend—and he was never home. I cannot begin to tell you the damage that was done to me physically, mentally, and emotionally. Now remember, this was all before computers and the internet.

In my mind, I was never enough for anyone. I compromised morals and values to stay with the guys I dated. I become so insecure that it has taken me almost my entire lifetime to overcome and make some sense of what happened. When I did tell a few people, I was shut down.

I accepted Jesus after graduating High School and I have passionately and whole heartedly been pursuing and following Christ. I praise God for reading the Bible, knowing my God and the few who walked beside me through the past 30 years. I praise God for those who prayed for the broken little girl that cried so easily and wanted to do anything to get out of the environment she was in. I praise God for the lunch lady and custodian that prayed over the little girl that did not have Godly morals and values at home. Those prayers protected me from being trafficked, kidnapped and who knows what else.

As a new Christian, I wanted to learn more about this Father God who loved me and cherished me, I reached out over and over again. When I shared my story in women's small groups, or even with pastors—I was dismissed. I felt looked down upon. I was shamed for circumstances that was out of my control. I received judgement rather than help.

This raises a huge question for the Church of Jesus Christ. How can we be real with our close confidants, our circle of friends in the church? How do we give people in our congregations a safe place to share with others the issues they are dealing with in their lives and in their home? How do we help people talk about things they don't know how to address because they feel alone, ashamed, guilty, judged, abandoned, and looked down upon?

This past April I was blessed with an opportunity to go to Washington D.C. for the Coalition to End Human Trafficking with Woman At Risk International. It was in that setting when everything that had happened to me as a little girl, and how it impacted my life as an adult woman, came rushing in like a typhoon. It felt so incredible to realize I was no longer alone. It validated that what happened to me was real. The effects were major and long lasting.

The documentary OVER 18, produced by Jared and Michelle Brock was shown at the Coalition to End Human Trafficking. My brain was already on overload and mental exhaustion but this was a trigger for me. It was jaw dropping and emotional. In some places it took everything in me to keep watching because they interviewed some of the porn producers and actors. That brought horrific feelings back for me. It is incredible to see how your family members can become addicted or how a woman's self-esteem can sink so low that they feel it is the only way to be loved, or this is how men must love women. This is especially true if you did not grow up in a Christian home. But, even if you did, it can also happen to you. No one is protected from all that is in front of us on a constant basis. Jared and Michelle did a fabulous job on this documentary. It helped make sense of what happened to me as a little girl, and it helped me understand why people whom I love are addicted to pornography.

I was so excited to learn about the tools and resources that are available to help. It was such an encouragement to meet and become friends with people who share the same passion to help raise awareness, to protect, to walk beside others and share stories. Becoming part of the community that comes together from fifteen nations under one roof to raise awareness on pornography addiction, abuse, violence, labor and sex trafficking, was the most profound and liberating thing my soul experienced. Light bulbs went on. The shame and guilt were released. I no longer had to suffer in silence. I no longer had to live with the pressure of not telling anyone. The denial of what has happened to me was not my shame to carry anymore. I no longer see myself as a victim. I am A Survivor! In Christ I am victorious! I will not be silent anymore. I am giving a voice to it. I am educating others.

I am sharing this with you because of things that happened in my life. I will be a voice to help others in this society where pornography is at the fingertips of our families. Because of everything I went through, God has given me a sensitivity and an awareness of others who have suffered abuse. When I worked for the schools I could pick up on someone who was being abused. I had a safe relationship with the students, teachers, social workers and parents. Now that I am part of the PastorCare Ministry Team I want to help educate parents and churches.

Pornography effects pastors, marriages, and siblings in families. Hospitals are seeing more violence and sibling abuse coming in to the emergency room. More and more families are being affected by this new

drug. All of this leads to abuse, addictions, and easy access to your children, grandchildren, and friends being trafficked for sex! Human Trafficking is far more pervasive in our neighborhoods and suburban communities than you may think it is. I know personally someone whose daughter is being trafficked, but they are in denial. It is heart wrenching. If you don't know how to walk beside such a person, then simply acknowledge them and walk beside them in love.

If you have a similar story, please understand that your story is not to be wasted but rather used to help others find hope, healing and restoration in Jesus Christ. We need to be walking beside others without shaming them.

You may be the person God wants to use to get this conversation started in your church.

PastorCare WM purchased the viewing for Over 18. We want to partner with you to host a viewing in your church or in your community. It's time to open our eyes and address what is really going on.



PastorCare West Michigan Ministry Team is Collaborating with Baker Book House:

- Mrs. Angela Denison, Chief Inspiration Officer
- Dr. John Smith, President & Chief Encouragement Officer
- Mr. Dave Baker, School Accounts & Diversity Initiatives, Baker Book House
- Rev. Lorenzo Miguel, Hispanic Ministries Director

Our goal is to help Hispanic Pastors gain access to excellent ministry resources in Spanish.

Meeting at Urban Church Leadership Center, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary

PastorCare West Michigan Ministry Services:

Confidential Coaching
Confidential Coaching in Spanish
Connecting & Enriching Relationships
Consulting & Conflict Resolution
Educational Seminars & Conferences

Pastoral Care & Prayer
Preaching & Speaking
Social Events
Team Building Activities
Temporary Support Staff



Our livelihood depends on donations, prayer, and the presence of Almighty God.

We encourage you to pray about joining our financial and prayer support team.

Please make checks payable to:

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Secure Online contributions are made through PayPal on the website: **www.pastorcarewm.org**

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