

SURVIVING ABUSE: GETTING TO THE OTHER SIDE

Now, there is joy in my journey . After 30 plus years of emotional , verbal, financial and more abuses, as well as infidelity, I chose to leave my marriage of 40 years.

What did abuse look like to me? Silence, sadness, grief, hopelessness, loneliness, shameful, anger, denial , rejection, and unworthiness.

Who would believe me besides my children and close friends and family? Did the church really want to hear my story or help me? Or did I just see my family doctor and let her load me up on antidepressants just to get through another hour of day, while working more than full-time job.

My church didn't address abuse, but did have a divorce care class I attended. Here I met mostly women who I could relate to, as they all had experienced many forms of abuse in their marriage and found a way to escape. I found a safe place to share my story and knew these ladies felt my pain and sadness.

One day driving past Conestoga Mennonite Church I saw a sign Jill was offering for women called, The Value of You. I wondered if I was of any value anymore and PTL, yes, I am.

Now, I am ready to tell my story and reach out to other ladies who are in abusive marriage or relationship, who fear for their lives or lives of their children. Yes, there are safe havens for those women and their children.

Today, I my prayer comes from Joel 2:25 "that the Lord would restore the years the swarming locusts have taken from me."