

## **“Jenny”**

I was sexually molested as a child and did not have good role models in my parents. When I got married I thought that I should obey my husband in everything. When my six year old daughter began exhibiting “acting out” behaviors, a church member told me that I should contact a program that helped Christian women address the issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse. I did not want to go to a secular counselor, so I contacted Dr. Dunbar. After talking with me for a few minutes about my daughter, she asked me if it was possible that my daughter had been molested. My husband and I said absolutely not! Dr. Dunbar told us to get our daughter examined by a doctor as soon as possible. Imagine my horror when I found out that she had been molested! I was angry, in shock. How could this have ever happened? Was the abuser my husband, his father, my brother? I was so distraught that Dr. Dunbar suggested I take a few days off of work and come to the healing center.

During group counseling I realized that my relationship with my husband was not healthy because he was rewarding me with money or clothing each time I had sex with him. My husband is not a bad person, but he did not realize that this kind of behavior was inappropriate, neither did I. We decided to get marital counseling. We are still dealing with many issues, but our relationship is improving. I discovered that my daughter’s abuser is one of her class mates. I tried to talk with the principal and the pastor so that together we could talk to the boy. But they told me that I should be careful not to bring trouble to the school. The pastor said that I did not need to go back to the healing center and that I should just pray and ask God for help. I am very angry with him. I am disappointed at how unprepared most pastors are to help people dealing with abuse. I am glad that Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network exists. We really need this place. It has been a blessing to my whole family.