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New Book Shines Light on the #MeToo Issue Confronting the Evangelical Church

Author, advocate, and abuse survivor Mary DeMuth helps church leaders create safe havens for sexual abuse survivors in her latest book, *We Too*.

"Timely and necessary...this book is not only a warning. It is an opportunity. An opportunity to live out the gospel we so passionately proclaim. And it starts with listening."
--Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear

EUGENE, Ore., May 21, 2019—Rocked by high-profile sexual misconduct allegations, the evangelical church's shortcomings in responding to and protecting the victims of sexual abuse within their walls were largely thrust into the limelight in 2018. Mary DeMuth, an advocate, survivor of sexual abuse, and a popular evangelical author, helps church leaders identify and enact biblically infused responses in order to truly welcome and care for those who've survived abuse—and are leaving the church in droves—in ***We Too: How the Church Can Respond Redemptively to the Sexual Abuse Crisis*** (Harvest House Publishers, Aug. 13, 2019).

"My hope in writing this book is to slowly change the dynamic of trust by encouraging the church to become a consistent place full of kindness and safety for those who have been exploited," writes DeMuth. "My holy longing is that we can create such a haven for the sexually broken that they'll be able to be loved, feel joy, and revel in relationship."

With a foreword written by Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear, ***We Too*** urges Christians to respond to the #MeToo movement in the same ways that Jesus responded to the outcast and downtrodden while he was on earth: with love, empathy, kindness and open arms. Based on research and survivors' stories, along with a fierce fidelity to Scripture, DeMuth unpacks the church's response to violence and provides a healthy framework for the church to become a haven of healing instead of an institution of protectionism.

DeMuth is available for interviews and can speak to:

- 3 ways the church can become a safe place for those who've been traumatized
- #MeToo and the global church: what justice and healing can look like
- What the Bible says about the sexually exploited
- A survivor's story and perspective on how the church can do better

- Why abuse survivors are leaving the church
- How to see if your church is moving toward becoming a safer place

DeMuth shares her personal story of abuse, urging both those in leadership positions and lay people in the church to take action and make the necessary changes to accept, love and protect the vulnerable in their communities.

“While I can’t fully reconcile the problem of evil and why so many people have been sexually violated over the centuries, I do know this: Jesus has wept alongside me, and he weeps for his church to rise up valiantly and love the least, the last, and the lost. This is our We Too movement, to purposefully suffer alongside the sexually broken.”

About the Author

Mary DeMuth is an author, speaker and podcaster who is passionate about helping you live a re-storied life. A survivor of neglect and sexual abuse, Mary was gloriously rescued by Jesus when she was 15. She has spent her life healing from trauma so she can help others not feel so alone. She is the wife of Patrick and mom of three adult children. For more information, visit www.wetoo.org.

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SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Mary DeMuth, *We Too*

1. Tell us about your new book, *Me Too*. Why did you write this book, and what change do you hope it will inspire?
2. You are a survivor of sexual abuse and share your story in the book. As a longtime member of the church, what perspective can you share about how abuse victims are feeling or being treated by the church?
3. How did Jesus respond to abuse victims?
4. Why does the church so often miss the mark in its response to sexual abuse?
5. Can you give us some examples of how the church has minimized the evil of abuse?
6. What does the Bible say to the sexually exploited?
7. In the book you talk about seven crucial misunderstandings you found when people and churches face becoming safe havens. Tell us about the last misunderstanding you mention: misunderstanding what the church is.
8. What damage do we do to victims when our response to their stories is anything but love?

9. You write, "This is our We Too movement, to purposefully suffer alongside the sexually broken." What are some practical ways our listeners can suffer alongside abuse survivors today?
10. As a member and champion of both the church and the startling large number of abuse survivors, what do you want abuse survivors to know?
11. Where can people pick up a copy of ***We Too*** and find you online?