***Understanding Behavioral Profile of Child Molester***

1. Sexual abuse covers a spectrum from sexually explicit remarks to having sex with the child. Both touch and non-touch sexual abuse count as abuse.

2. Child molesters could be anyone. In retrospect, they are often described as “nice”. Male volunteers are statistically the most common offender. In about 25% of the cases, the perpetrator is also a child. 20% of cases involve multiple victims.

3. Churches attract molesters because of blind trust and many programs for children.

4. Molesters are adept at getting the child to believe he/she initiates the act.

5. Look for behavior from the perpetrator that isolates children… often under the guise of concern and helpfulness. Focus on behavior not the profile.

6. Profile of predatory pedophiles: require sexual arousal from children, consciously targets children, have elaborate plans to secure victims. Preferential sex molesters have a particular victim in mind with hundreds of victims over the long-term. They invest significant amounts of time, money and energy in securing victims. They often move frequently or may live with their parents. They appear to be the ideal child worker, dedicated and well liked.

7. Churches tend to disbelieve such predatory pedophiles could ever molest children because they are “so good with children” or “have such a special relationship with the children”.

8. Situational sex offender: opportunist, impulsive, fewer victims, they constitute the majority of sex offenders, not necessarily aroused by children, they are often a well-meaning or needy adult. They engage in a wide range of behavior and victims.

9. Churches must remove the opportunity for situational sexual abuse to occur by instituting screening processes, interview and supervision.

10. The church needs to monitor patterns of behavior of adults and children.