

Sacred Space: Bullying in Church Youth Groups

Virtual mission encounter
for women and girls

September 21-25, 2015



American Baptist Women's Ministries offers a ground-breaking mission opportunity bringing the mission trip experience to women and girls within the context of their daily lives: the Virtual Mission Encounter. All you need is an Internet connection, email address, and a telephone or VoIP connection!!

"Everyone in our church youth group gets along perfectly!"

"There's no bullying in church—we're all Christians."

"Cliques? We don't have any cliques in our girls' group!"

"Bullying" is a strong word, and brings images of physical confrontations, name-calling, and visible harassment. Perhaps you're not seeing that in church. However, most bullying happens in far more subtle ways. Fewer than 30% of bullying incidents are physical; the rest are subtle: the spread of rumors, ridicule, ostracization. Sometimes, unfortunately, youth group games and activities or dynamics between adults and youth can even unwittingly encourage such behavior.

This virtual mission encounter will help you

- find comfort and encouragement in the Bible
- become aware of signs that bullying may be occurring in the youth group or girls' group
- find ways to build healthy relationships among members
- get resources and activities to use in church or community youth groups to help create a more sacred space

Activities you can do on your own schedule, such as watching video clips, visiting websites, or responding to questions for reflection; evening conference calls with special guests; the opportunity to talk with other participants about your experiences. Get a group to participate and learn together!

"IT'S AN INVESTMENT THAT CAN'T BE MEASURED. Monetarily it's a bargain. Investment of time is really concentrated. Outcomes are immeasurable. Inspiration is invigorating. Possibilities are unending...." (Jane, participant in several virtual mission encounters)



The 2015-2016 National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS is planning and leading this virtual mission Encounter. Special guests will be joining us!

Registration fee: \$30

For more information and to register, visit www.abwministries.org/vme or call (610) 768-2288

Virtual Mission Encounters are sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries, ABCUSA.