“Southern Baptists decide against pedophilia database.”

One of TIME’s Top 10 underreported news stories of 2008, the Southern Baptist Convention’s unwillingness to protect its children deserves scrutiny. In sharing her painful history, Christa Brown shines a light on the patterns of Baptist clergy sex abuse and the collusion of Baptist leadership.

The Baptist “good ol’ boys” network is exposed as a web of power and manipulation, centralizing nearly everything except responsibility for informing congregations about predator pastors who commit unspeakable crimes and church-hop with ease.

God, scripture and faith become the pedophiles’ weapons for gaining victims’ submission. God, scripture, faith, hush-money, and intimidation tactics then become the church leaders’ weapons for silencing victims.

A must-read for anyone concerned with the safety of children and the abuse of power in evangelical churches.

“This book should rightly make any honest Christian furious . . . page after page of the twisted, lie-filled and hypocritical response of the Southern Baptist bureaucracy.”

—Rev. Thomas Doyle, J.C.D., Sex, Priests and Secret Codes

“Despite the extraordinary recalcitrance of Baptist officials, Christa’s story is not one of fatalism and bitterness, but of courage and hope.”

—David Clohessy, National Director, Survivors’ Network of those Abused by Priests

“Moving, eye-opening, shocking and even suspenseful . . . Christa Brown does not hold back in this courageous account of her journey from impressionable clergy sex abuse victim to tenacious advocate.”

—Luci Westphal, filmmaker, All God’s Children

Christa Brown, an attorney and activist, appeared on ABC 20/20’s “Preacher Predators” program. Described as “the public face” of Baptist abuse survivors, she was one of the first to go public with substantiated molestation allegations against a Baptist minister and documentation that others knew. StopBaptistPredators.org.