

# Women Are Safe, Inc.

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## Domestic Violence in Church

How many of you in our community have at some time or other experienced the flu, a drought, or perhaps been a victim of a violent crime? And how many of you feel that going to church would have made you immune to these experiences?

When our community is battling the flu - naturally some people in our churches get sick. This year's drought has affected us all, including those people who attend church every week without fail. And I think we can all agree that violence is no respecter of religion –Church-goers and non church-goers alike are victimized by violence each year.

But what about the epidemic of *domestic* violence? – does it somehow miraculously by-pass our churches? I'm afraid many of us believe it does. And too many of us believe that batterers in these relationships never go to church. We assume that if an abuser attends church then he would surely know that abuse is wrong and would therefore change his ways. There, problem solved! End of discussion! But if that is true, how do we explain the statistic that says 80% of batterers claim to be Christian (emphasis on the word *claim!*).

I encourage you to watch a 4-part PBS series entitled "When Love Hurts – Understanding and Healing Domestic Abuse. It addresses the subject of Domestic Abuse and the Church. Although it has already aired on television, you can view the programs on-line at [www.dayofdiscovery.org](http://www.dayofdiscovery.org). (Type "When Love Hurts" in the search box – click GO -- then scroll down to 'When Love Hurts...part 1, 2, 3 or 4". Simply click on the title you want to view. A different thirty- minute program aired every Sunday in October so be sure to watch them all.

Thanks for caring enough to watch this excellent program.

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