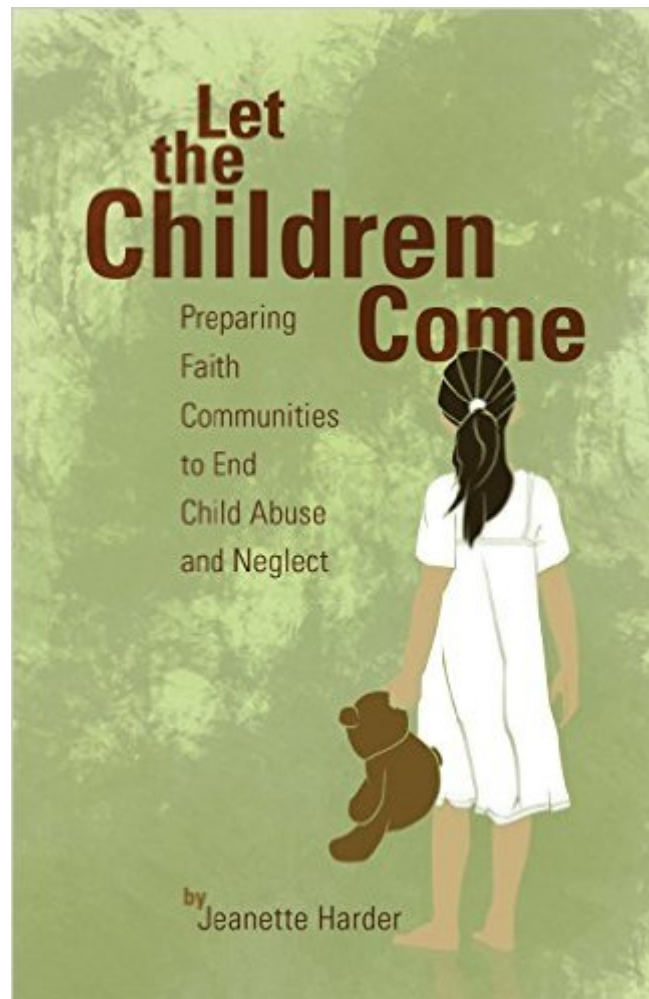


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# Let The Children Come: Preparing Faith Communities To End Child Abuse And Neglect



## Synopsis

Are children safe at your church? Have you taken any precautions to ensure they won't be abused? Do you know for certain that volunteers who work with children don't have criminal backgrounds? If you aren't sure how to answer those questions, you need *Let the Children Come*, by Jeanette Harder, who teaches social work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Through *Let the Children Come* churches and/or ministries can learn how to create procedures and policies to keep children safe from abuse, and to help families break the cycle of abuse.

## Book Information

Paperback: 213 pages

Publisher: Herald Press (September 15, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0836195183

ISBN-13: 978-0836195187

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #742,293 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Mennonite #397 in Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Children's Ministry #567 in Â Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Abuse > Child Abuse

## Customer Reviews

*Let the Children Come* is a great resource for any faith community, but it would serve your own personal library just as well. Harder's writing is accessible, and helps the reader understand where child abuse/neglect is today, and also gives the reader realistic ways to act. At the end of every chapter are useful questions to ask of ourselves and of the communities we participate in. It's designed for group study, complete with substantial appendices full of helpful tools for further information, discussion, and action. Harder doesn't just gloss over a general definition of child abuse/neglect, she breaks down the various types of abuse and identifying factors, so that the reader feels informed and prepared to respond. And, she manages to do this in a unthreatening manner, which is hard to do with this particular topic. Harder helps the reader understand that child abuse/neglect happens for reasons that make sense (I didn't say it's justifiable; I'm saying it's easy to understand why). And because the reasons make sense, it makes it less threatening to intervene.

If the most likely victim of abuse is a young girl neglected, by her single, over-worked, under-supported, under-resourced mother; then suddenly, the ways to help seem clear and practical. Why not help the mother find good childcare so that she can work? Or give her the number of a local organization she can call to set up childcare? I think most people have this idea that an abuser is a pedophile lurking in an unmarked van outside our child's school, and while it's happened, it's very rare. This is not a situation so big and out of our control that we can't find practical and useful ways to act. This book is an excellent, holistic choice for individuals.

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