

# Church to examine the evils of porn

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By HALEY HUGHES

Staff writer

Midland Valley First Church of the Nazarene doesn't want you to give porn a chance.

The local church, along with others around the nation, has planned a Sunday worship service highlighting God's ability to bring freedom to the issue of pornography. Dubbed the "elephant in the pew" by XXXchurch, which created the idea of "Porn Sunday," pornography is a topic that is not often addressed from the pulpit.

Porn Sunday will be this Sunday at the church's 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services.

XXXchurch, founded by Pastor Craig Ross, developed a program for churches to look at the issue.

Dr. Brent Van Hook, senior pastor of Midland Valley First Church of the Nazarene, said he was motivated to introduce this program when a couple visited him needing spiritual direction.

"Their marriage was on the rocks because of pornography addiction," Van Hook said. "They encouraged me to have the church speak out in clear ways about the dangers of pornography and the healing available through Christ. I'll do all I can to speak God's loving message. The church will do all it can. It is like XXXchurch says, pornography is like an elephant in the pew because people often shy away from discussing that subject.

"God doesn't want us to wear a squeaky clean church face that masks inner hurt and unresolved problems. He wants to transform our entire hearts, minds and thoughts in all areas of living, both private and public issues. We won't be surprised to see couples and families with scars and a little hope find strength to not just survive as a family, but thrive in Godly ways."

Van Hook said he has the full support of the church for presenting this program.

According to XXXchurch, 48 percent of Christian families admit porn is a major problem in their home. In addition, 40 million people visit porn websites daily.

"The American church doesn't need the 'sex talk;' it needs the 'porn talk,'" said XXXchurch Pastor Craig Gross. "We have to respond to this devastating problem. We have a national day of prayer, a national day of fasting. The church needs a national day of porn with direct and honest talk about the issues surrounding pornography. We have to get accountable."

Midland Valley First Church of the Nazarene is located at 3526 Jefferson Davis Highway in Clearwater. For more information, call the church at (803) 593-3114 or visit [www.pornsunday.com](http://www.pornsunday.com).