

Husband's economic abuse is abuse

Dear Annie: I've been married for nearly 32 years to a financially abusive bully. For many years, whenever I took out money that I needed without first seeking his approval, he'd punish me. His method for doing this was to ask me to go to the bank to get money out; when I'd try to do so, the tellers would let me know that there was not enough money in the account — because he'd withdrawn nearly all of the money and opened his own accounts without my name on them! Seeing the tellers whisper and snicker to each other was so embarrassing, and it was hurtful that he'd deliberately humiliate me that way.

Some years ago, an attorney told him never to do this, and for the past five years he has not. But to this day, if I take money out of any account, even for something important, his dirty looks, silent treatment and yelling and screaming are unbearable!

I don't want to live like this anymore, but I'm afraid to leave. Any advice?
— *Bullied*

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Bullied: Your husband's behavior is indeed abusive. The National Domestic Violence Hotline describes economic abusers as achieving power over their partners in some of the following ways: "preventing her from getting a job; making her ask for money; giving her an allowance; taking her money; not letting her know about or have access to family income." To demean someone this way, to deliberately make them feel small and powerless, is the opposite of love.

For your safety, it's important to formulate an exit strategy that includes the support of a counselor, legal adviser and at least one trusted friend. For further guidance, I'd encourage you to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233), which is available

24/7, or visit their website (theline.org). Hold fast to the knowledge that you are worthy of so much more.

Dear Annie: About two years ago, my husband had a relationship with another woman. The only reason I found out was that she called my home and told me all the sordid details. He then admitted it was all true. My question to you now is: Should I trust him again or leave him? — *Tortured*

Dear Tortured: Indeed, those are the options — because you cannot stay with him without trusting him. But you can't simply force yourself to trust him, either. You're going to need a lot of help to get to that point.

Talk to your husband about seeking out that help together through marriage counseling. Know that counseling doesn't have to be an indefinite, ongoing thing; even a few sessions can help equip you both with tools for repairing trust and rebuilding your relationship. By doing the work, you two can come out the other side with a stronger foundation than ever.

ANSWER KEY

1. HYAMLC — "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"
2. TFNTADS — "The first Noel, the angels did say"
3. JTTWTLIC — "Joy to the world, the Lord is come"
4. SBSBICITIC — "Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city"
5. SNHNAICAIB — "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright"
6. JBJBJBR — "Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock"
7. CROAOFJFNAYN — "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose"
8. JOSLYETW — "Jolly old St. Nickolas, lend your ear this way"
9. UOTHRPOJGOSC — "Up on the housetop reindeer paws, out jumps good old Santa Claus"
10. OTFDOCMTLGTM — "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me"
11. ICUTMC — "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
12. AIAMNCFAB — "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed"
13. WCITWLTR — "What Child is This, Who, Laid to rest"
14. IDOAWJLTOIUTK — "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know"
15. ISMKSCUTMLN — "I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus underneath the mistletoe last night"
16. WWYAMC — "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"
17. AIWFCIMTFT — "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth"

Holiday Worship

ASTORIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Christmas Services
Sunday Worship
10:50 AM
Christmas Eve Services
December 24th • 6:00 PM
(503) 325-2591 • 1151 HARRISON AVE., ASTORIA

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, December 22
8:00 & 10:00am
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Tuesday, December 24
7:00pm
Family Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
320 1st Avenue (across from the Seaside Convention Center)
www.oslc-seaside.org
All are Welcome

Join us for
Christmas Eve,
and Candlelight
services

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
42417 Valley Creek Lane, Astoria, Oregon 97103
Service time 5:00 p.m.

Christian Church of Knappa
1376 S.E. Anchor Ave, Warrenton, Oregon 97146
Office: (503)861-1714 Fax: (503)861-3392
Web: www.cconline.cc
Service times: 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Rejoice in Jesus' Birth
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service • 10pm
Christmas Day Worship Service • 10am

AT
Bethany Free Lutheran Church
451 34th Street • Astoria
(across from Safeway)
FOR MORE INFO CALL (503)325-2925

Calvary Episcopal Church

DECEMBER 24 8:30 pm - Carol Sing
9 pm - Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 25 10 am - Holy Eucharist

503 N. Holladay, Dr. • Seaside, OR

Christmas Eve
Candlelighting Service at 7 pm

Special music provided by
Members of
the Congregation
Sermon:
"O Holy Night"

Seaside United Methodist Church
241 N. Holladay Dr. • Seaside • 503-738-7562

Peace Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 24TH
Carols & Candlelight Service
7 PM
12TH & EXCHANGE • ASTORIA

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Tues., Dec. 24th at 5 pm and 10 pm

Christmas Day Service
Wed., Dec. 25th at 10 am

First Lutheran Church
Stephan Kienberger, Pastor
725 33rd Street,
Astoria, OR 97103
503-325-6252
www.astoriafirstlutheran.com

First Baptist Church
A place where you feel like family...come home.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6PM
December 24th

Sunday Advent Worship Services
10:45AM

7th & Commercial, Astoria • (503) 325-1761

Astoria Church of Christ

"The real message of Christmas is, God loves us and gave us his Son, an indescribable gift. Let us enjoy the good things of the season, but remember to give thanks more often than once a year. He is worthy of our adoration and greatest devotion. May we allow Jesus, the Christ, to be Lord of our lives."

692 12th Street ☩ Astoria, Oregon 97103
(503) 325-7398
Sundays: 10:30am

NORTH COAST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Eve

4:00PM AND 6:00PM

2245 N Wahanna Rd, Seaside
503.738.7453 | nccfchurch.org | office@nccf.info

COASTLINE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th at 6:00PM
89386 Hwy 202
Astoria, OR

A Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday December 24th
7pm

First Presbyterian Church
1103 Grand Ave. • Astoria, Oregon

Grace Episcopal Church

Lessons & Carols - Saturday, December 21st, 4PM
A festival of readings and music for the season
Followed by Wassail Reception

Christmas Eve Services - Tuesday, December 24th
Family Worship - 4:30 PM
Hymn Sing- 10:30 PM
Midnight Mass with choir - 11 PM

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th
Eucharist Service - 10 AM

1545 Franklin, Astoria • (503) 325-4691
www.graceastoria.org