



HOPE Ministries Highlights

October 2013

Special points of interest:

- Nevin talks about some baffling questions we all ask p.1
- Find out a few facts about HOPE Ministries
- Announcement about Follow-Up Retreat p.2
- A testimony about the lies that influence people p. 3
- Board member, Gene Miller, writes part 2 of "Little Voices" p.4

Mission Statement:

HOPE Ministries seeks to help individuals explore patterns that may have developed over their lifetime and provide opportunities to allow Jesus to bring healing and HOPE to their lives in fresh ways.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Grappling With Life's Issues -by Nevin Nisly



Why would God allow an 18-year-old committed, young lady to be killed in a car accident? Why would a father of 3 young children be taken away? Why would a 2-week-old be put through eye surgery? Why do more than 3/4 of women experience the trauma of some sort of sexual abuse and their perception of themselves is greatly marred? Why do only a small percentage of today's children grow up in a healthy emotional environment? Why does an innocent child face anger from a dad who looks like a good Christian? Why didhappen to me? How could a merciful and good God allow things like this to happen? The questions could go on and on. Is God really in control? How can He allow such evil and tragic events to happen?

We often hear testimonies about

God's goodness when things turn out well and it is only right to bear testimony of His goodness. The Scripture admonishes us to be grateful people and count our blessings. David the psalmist wrote much about the greatness and goodness of our God for which I am very grateful. I am often inspired and encouraged as I look unto the LORD Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, where my help comes from.

But is God still good when bad things happen to us or our friends? There are often many nagging questions that come to us, and we often don't know what to do with them. We feel guilt for thinking this way. We can often try to hide what we are thinking. In fact, it may seem downright apostasy for us to ask the questions with which our heart is struggling. Are those questions safe with our God or do we need to squelch them with our theologically safe answers? Is it okay to open our hearts to grapple with the questions that are there? God invites

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us to grieve our losses and each of the above scenarios bring loss, which is a part of living

in this fallen world. Grieving takes time and can't be rushed. Grieving needs a patient and understanding community. Yet in grieving, we can worship with openness and honesty of heart.

I believe God wants us to ask the questions that brew in our hearts. I believe He would like for us to honestly understand the lies that have formed in our hearts through the various negative events in our lives, sometimes even wrestling with Him for hours as Jacob did. As we wrestle with Him, we can find truth: His deep, reassuring and personal truth! I find great comfort in knowing that He understands our humanness and brokenness, but still chooses to love us. When I can understand that His love is not dependent on me and my performance, but is totally dependent on Him and His character, I can receive from Him and He will give me the peace and rest my heart legitimately desires so badly. In this time of wrestling and understanding who He is, it is important to stay in the battle until I come into agreement with Him about Who He is—He is good; He is gracious! His grace is sufficient for me—and you! He cares more for us than we can possibly imagine!

What Are People Saying?

"I drew closer to Jesus and learned more about what He thinks of me. Counseling helped me understand my issues and why I feel the way I do. That was exciting!"

"They led us in prayers that helped us to allow Jesus to minister and bring comfort to our hearts. Every time Jesus spoke to our hearts, He brought healing and love."

"These 3 days were very different than expected, but in a positive way. The most wonderful thing that happened was when Jesus showed me how excited He was about me. He told me, "You have a great work to do." For the first time in my life I realized that there was a reason and purpose for me here on earth. Until now, I've struggled to believe that I have any value to anyone."

"I realized in a whole new way WHO Jesus is and WHO I am IN HIM...safe, loved, given abundant life, accepted unconditionally, and invited to "LIVE," alive and loved in Him."

"I felt so surprised by the reality of things that Jesus revealed and how He saw it. I experienced Jesus through pictures, images and Words of Scripture He brought to my heart."

Follow Up Retreat...

Due to insufficient registration for the Follow-Up Retreat in October, the HOPE Ministries Board decided to postpone it and make it available once again for March 7-9, 2014. **Please respond as soon as you know that you would like to attend.** The cost includes 3 meals on Saturday and one meal on Sunday and two nights of lodging.

Check website for more updated information:
www.nislyshopeministries.com

Who? Anyone who has attended counseling sessions with HOPE Ministries

Location: Cross Wind Conference Center
Hesston, KS

Cost: \$250/couple; \$175/single

(Two singles may choose to share a room at the cost of \$125/person)

Registration Deadline: February 2, 2014

\$50/couple non-refundable due upon registration

For Registration:

Please call Edna Beachy—620-259-9390 or email hope4yourheart@gmail.com to register or for more information.

HOPE Ministries Trivia

Questions:

1. What does the acronym HOPE stand for in the name HOPE Ministries?
2. What is the ratio of clients that are single to married?
3. What %-age of clients are from out-of-state?
4. How much \$ is needed to pay off the Hospitality Cottage?
5. How often is the Hospitality Cottage used?
6. If I'm thinking of coming, do I make a commitment if I put my name on the list?

Answers:

1. **H**elping **O**vercome with **P**urpose and **E**ncouragement
2. 50/50
3. approx. 20%; this number is rising
4. approx. \$7,000
5. About 2-3 nights per week
6. No. We advise people to put their name on the list as they may need to wait 8-12 months. There is an application process and the final decision can be made when contact is made to schedule, which is about 3 months ahead.

Testimony—by “Destiny”

Following is a testimony of a person who has been caught in the trap of believing lies about herself, giving little hope for dreams for the future. This is the way the Holy Spirit spoke to her about this problem:

Question: “Lord will You show me a picture of whether or not I am swinging a hammer on my own heart?”

The answer:

Four-year-old beautiful, little girl with big brown eyes...

She hands a sledge hammer to an evil-looking man. He has an evil smile and black, piercing eyes that are ready to kill, steal, and destroy. Every time he speaks, his words bring death. He implants his words in the child's head. As she looks up at him and receives them as her own truth, her tiny, innocent hand takes ahold of his. In this evil man's other hand is a hammer. The hammer comes down hard...smashing the small girl's skull. There are previous wounds, previous stitches. The damage has been done over and over and continues to get worse and worse.

The child becomes a woman. The same pattern continues...taking hold of the evil man's words and making them her truth. Her brain, her mind, her face and eyes, and her view of herself and her world has been completely destroyed. Once again the hammer comes down hard. The pain is not as severe as it once was. In fact, now she has no

She pulls, but cannot get out of the evil man's grasp.

feeling and does not realize the blood oozing out from past wounds. The hammer strikes again. Fresh wounds are made. The girl is not recognized. No one even knows who she is anymore. Where is her hope? Who will save her?!

But wait! There is One no one noticed standing on the other side of her. He is strong. He is peaceful. His eyes...wait...those are tears running down His face! With each blow to her head, the tears come harder.

"That will be enough!" His voice thunders.

Would you look at that? One of the girl's small hands is inside of His big, strong hand. He looks straight into the eyes of the evil man. The evil man shrinks back.

"My child," His voice is calm, but direct. "Will you release his hand?" The broken girl barely lifts her head at the sound of His voice. Suddenly she makes a movement. Hope. There is a glimmer of hope!

She pulls, but cannot get out of the evil man's grasp. Then she speaks. Her voice cracks. "No, I do not want this. Let me go."

Another voice is heard. It's gentle, sincere. "It's your choice, my child."

The girl looks scared. This has been her life. What will she do without the daily pain? Who is she without the daily punishment? She tries to pull free again.

"Help me!" her voice cries out. The gentle, strong voice responds, "I AM

HERE."

With a final struggle, the girl breaks free from the evil man's grasp. A shrill scream is released from the snarling man's lips and the girl shudders. She looks scared, uncertain as to what she should do with her now empty hand. The peaceful man moves closer. Wait! What is in his other hand?! A basketball?!



He places the ball in her now open hand and says, "There. Now let us TOGETHER live out OUR Destiny! As they walk away, a loud crash sounds as the sledge hammer falls upon the evil man's head.

"This isn't the last you'll see of me," he screams.

No. Probably not. But, she is in the hand of the Great I AM.

-From the heart of the Father to "Destiny"

Note: This individual did not know what all this meant for the future. It brought much peace to see Jesus personally involved in this way without needing to know all the answers.

From a Board Member:



Gene L. Miller

LITTLE VOICES

Part II

In an earlier issue we looked at how Elijah became severely depressed immediately after being used mightily to show God's power. When he listened to Satan's lies, he ran in fear. Even this prophet of God, whose ministry was characterized by miracles, spiraled downhill when he began to listen to voices such as, "Your work has been for nothing. It's no use. You're not protected. You're all alone. You'd be better off dead." God's still small voice proved a much stronger force than either the most destructive forces of nature or the

worst Satan threw at him. When Elijah received the truth God spoke to his heart, he was again able to face life with confidence.

Elijah's feeling of being alone is understandable; he was, after all, traveling alone with the threat of death over his head. Loneliness is a natural response to feeling alone; there is no wrong in feeling its sting. But his thoughts became a problem when he allowed aloneness to turn to isolation. I also tend to think negatively when I focus on myself or my situation. I withdraw into myself, thinking about the things I wish I could change, the things I can't or don't do, what I wish to receive from others. The voices say things like, "You have to face this on your own. Things will never change. It's all your fault. It's no use trying." Isolation becomes the destructive cycle when I listen to these voices, robbing me of the desire to do one of the few things that can help—reaching out to others. If I let others enter into my life by becoming involved in theirs, isolation is banished.

God can turn loneliness into a positive force in our lives if we allow Him. Aloneness can become soli-

tude—intentional time alone for reflection and seeking direction. It is drawing strength from time alone rather than allowing it to sap us of energy. Consistently hearing God speak His truth into our hearts in these times helps us develop proper perspective. "You are my son. I delight in you. I know the plans I have for you. I can redeem your mistakes." Which voices we listen to will make a significant difference in the direction our lives take and the energy we have to face the tasks God places before us. Let's make sure to tune in to the Voice of Truth.

Gene L. Miller works as an RN at the local prison. He enjoys children, singing and listening to choral music, and spending time w/ friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HOPE Ministries is now set up to accept credit card donations. If you wish to do this, please call 620-259-9390.

**HOPE Ministries office hours:
Mondays: 10:00-3:30
Wednesdays: 10:00-12:00**

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Our desire is that no one will be excluded from meeting with us because of finances. All counseling is done on a donation basis, and this plus the gifts of God's people, allow Nevin and Joann to be full time in this ministry. We are grateful for all who have stood with us in so many ways and do trust in God's continuing provision. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we are accountable to our board for the finances and the operation of HOPE Ministries. If you wish to know more details about our finances, please contact Julian Nisly, our treasurer, at 620-664-5304. As God leads you to think about HOPE Ministries, please pray for us, and if He prompts you to join in our financial support, donations can be made in several ways as stated below. Tax deductible receipts will automatically be issued for checks of \$50 or more.

Donations can be done in various ways:

Send to:
HOPE Ministries
Box 103
Partridge, KS 67566

Call 620-259-9390 to use Credit Card

Go to our website and use the donation button through Paypal.



HOPE Ministries Board Members:

Nevin & Joann Nisly—director
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