



HOPE Ministries Highlights

January, 2011

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.

HOPE Ministries is available for:

- **Marriage Enrichment**
- **Counseling**
- **Follow-up Program**
- **Premarital Counseling**
- **Hosting Bible Studies**
- **Seminars**

HOPE Ministries Prayer Requests:

- **Pray for the upcoming Seminar with Hearts Alive!**
- **Pray for wisdom in knowing how to schedule people**
- **Pray for wisdom as we develop a program for utilizing the premarital counseling material**
- **Pray that we could attain our 501(c)(3) status without complications**

HOW DOES GOD WORK?



Don & Marilyn Showalter

I am grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to spend this time with you as brothers and sisters, February 18-20, 2011. Let's trust Him together for the unhindered work of His Spirit in each one of us. I will be praying with you to that end!

In my own journey of faith, I thought I was reasonably sharp and able to connect with the truths and insights of Scripture. But over time, I began to conclude that there were many things that I was slow catching on to--which

in turn, made for painful challenges in relationships and all of life. The prophet Isaiah, speaking about how the nations will come to the House of the God of Jacob for a specific purpose, said that it would be so that God could "show us the way he works."

But then he goes on to say that there is a secondary focus. We need to understand how God works so that we can live the way He created us to live, the way He planned for us to live, "the way we're made." By implication, He is saying that if we do NOT understand the ways that he works, we will NOT be able to live out the design He planned. Make sense?

One of the most exciting aspects of my journey is working hard at learning to understand the ways He works, so that I can live the way He made me to live. In these sessions, we will be exploring the ways God works in relationships, the ways He shapes and defines us

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**There's a day coming
when the mountain of God's House
Will be The Mountain—
solid, towering over all mountains.
All nations will river toward it,
people from all over set out for it.
They'll say, "Come,
let's climb God's Mountain,
go to the House of the God of Jacob.
He'll show us the way he works
so we can live the way we're made." Is.2:2-3 (the Message)**

How Does God Work?

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from conception onward, and the ways that definition of who we become affects every relationship we have. Sometimes in the busy-ness of life we never stop to ask ourselves why we do the things we do!?! This is an important question for each of us to ask, from early teens to seniors, male or female, single or married, or single again. As people, we face the same kinds of issues and challenges, so I would encourage each of us to begin reflecting on some of the reasons why we do what we do when it comes to relationships.

For example, do I get defensive, do I retreat, do I withdraw, or do I go silent? Do I get angry, fearful, anxious, determined, or lonely? Do I feel rejected, abandoned, discouraged, left out, put down, excited, encouraged, or on top of the world? Let's anticipate exploring together "how He works."

We will look at three planes of relationship--with the Father, with those around us, and with ourselves. We will also explore the many ways the enemy comes "to steal, to kill, and to destroy." If we are to live the way the Father

planned, we must understand how He intends for us to stand against the lies and the wiles of the enemy.

Jesus said He came to give life, and life abundant. The real keys to living full and free are in our coming to Jesus and allowing Him to do what He said He came to do! Let's anticipate finding a fresh awareness of His power and presence in our lives during our time together in February.

God's best to each of you,
Don Showalter

HOPE Ministries HIGHLIGHTS:

We are delighted to now have an established HOPE Ministries Board. We appreciate their willingness to help us in various projects and to come alongside us in determining God's direction in making decisions, as well as to provide spiritual and financial accountability. We are hoping to pursue the 501(c)(3) non-profit status in the near future, but at this time we still do not have that.

In October we had a double blessing. We were excited

to attend the Caring for the Heart Conference in Colorado Springs, CO, where they recorded the new Pre-marital Counseling series. We hope to present some of that material this year.

We also hosted our third seminar in Yoder, KS, and had between 70-80 people attend. It is encouraging to see people seeking to better their relationships with God, family, friends, and themselves.

Brief Testimonials of God's Working

It was amazing how our fear and apprehension just kind of evaporated after we'd start another session--thanks to the peace that Jesus gives...We're trying to learn how to hear from Jesus daily.

The sessions were very hard, but extremely helpful. I experienced a new connection with Jesus, the kind of connection I've only dreamed of for years.
Job 42:5

The experience of our sessions was the best thing that ever happened in our 35 years of marriage. After the first session we were communicating again. Our hearts were made open to one another and we now enjoy the relationship my heart has always longed for! My husband "cares" for me now in a whole different way, and it's so natural now to kneel beside each other with clasped hands and open our hearts to Jesus. We connect spiritually!...My tendency before was to easily sink into despair, but PTL, I've been given tools to dismiss the enemy and to be reassured of Jesus' love for me--"worthless" me! I was encouraged when I saw my dark shriveled heart turn into a full, bright red, glossy heart.

We went where Jesus led. Jesus showed me pictures of what my heart was like and what He can do to heal it...There are still things I won't know until I'm in a situation but if Jesus is holding my hand, it's okay. I don't need to fear the unknown.

Amazing Grace; Amazing Healing

Seventeen years in El Salvador. Seventeen blessed years of active, intense care to rural Salvadorans who both came to our mission sponsored clinic and were involved in our local church. Gradually the thrill and joy that had been mine as I served others were replaced with heavy weights of fulfilling "shoulds" and pleasing people. Whenever I dropped the juggling acts of my many self-imposed activities, I would feel guilty. Nights became long as sleep escaped me; severe headaches, my too frequent companion, turned into nausea; my relationship with God, as with people, seemed wanting; though disillusionment reigned, I plowed ahead sure that I was irreplaceable; burnout was coming to haunt me.

That was the scenario I brought to Nevin and Joann last March early on in my sabbatical. They graciously received me, listened to my heart, encouraged me and pointed me to Jesus. The Lord God spoke my heart lan-

guage: showing Himself to clearly be my Initiator. What had been only intellectual knowledge now translated deeply into soul understanding. The lie that my relationship with God was dependent on me was swallowed up in the truths: It is not up to me to either initiate or maintain our relationship. I am under His care. He is responsible for me. I don't have to hang on to Him. He's holding me up.

In the months that followed the Lord God became my daily Beloved Counselor as I wrote in my journal. He spoke life-freeing Truths as I faithfully recorded them in my notebook. Repeatedly He revealed that I should not be disillusioned when my soul needs of connection, affirmation, respect and honor are not met by people. When someone ignores me or does not give me respect, I should choose neither to stuff my needs by denying their validity

nor should I choose to resent people. Instead I am invited to look to the Source of all comfort, true connection, affirmation and honor--Jesus Christ. My Bountiful Provider who made me with these needs waits to richly pour in what people are unable to supply. In fact, He sets up circumstances so that we become aware of our need. What joy it brings Him when we look to Him for His filling! What joy we receive in knowing our Generous, Loving Father is daily looking out for our emotional needs! We are not forgotten, not overlooked, and not ignored. We are His treasured possession.

Today almost a year later my headaches are gone; my energy is back; my heart is full. I am ready to return to serve in El Salvador in three and a half weeks. Amazing grace; amazing healing; amazing love from our amazing

"...the thrill and joy that had been mine...were replaced with heavy weights of fulfilling 'shoulds' and pleasing people."

Amazing grace; amazing healing; amazing love from our amazing Creator!

Creator!

-Marietta Yoder

"...and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6 (RSV)

One Year Ago...

This month marks the first year anniversary for HOPE Ministries being in operation full-time. It's been a year of learning and growing and increasing in faith in God. We have encountered many unknowns, yet

they were not too big for God. We are excited about what we have seen God doing in the lives of people and feel honored to be witnesses of people's victories. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

Need:

We have a need for a good used laptop computer to replace Nevin's dying one.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: nislyshopeministries.com

HOPE Ministries



**Helping
Overcome with
Purpose and
Encouragement**

COMING UP SOON!

“RETURN TO EDEN” Seminar

February 18-20, 2011

6:30-9:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat.

3:30-6:00 p.m. Sun.

King Street Center

Partridge, KS

HOPE Ministries is hosting speaker **Don Showalter** of **Hearts Alive! Ministry** for this seminar. If you are planning to attend, please register as soon as you know. This will help in the preparation process. Please call or email with your registration information (name and number attending).

Friday evening:

6:30-8:00- God’s Design For Relationships
8:15-9:30- Our Journey & Taking Off Our Masks

Saturday evening:

6:30-8:00- Bitterness and Forgiveness
8:15-9:30- Victory Over Moral Failure

Sunday afternoon:

3:30-4:45- The Father’s Embrace
5:00-6:00- The Power of Joy

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 where people can give with the purpose of making this available to others and allowing us to be full time in this ministry. God has been faithful in supplying our needs and we are grateful for all who have stood with us in so many ways and do trust in God’s continuing provision. We are accountable to our board for the finances and the operation of HOPE Ministries. If you have any questions or wish to know more details about our finances, please contact one of our board members. 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 sent to the following address.

HOPE Ministries
Box 103
Partridge, KS 67566

Board Members:

Julian & Bertha Nisly—620-664-5304
Lynn & Sandra Miller—620-567-3017
Arlen & Gloria Mast—620-960-1048
Merlin & Molly Miller—620-960-2038

Please fill out the form and send it to the above address or email your information to:

hope4yourheart@gmail.com.

Name _____

I would like to make a:

Monthly donation \$ _____

One time donation \$ _____