



HOPE Ministries Highlights

October 2012

Special points of interest:

- Nevin and Joann use an analogy to talk about the journey of emotional healing
- Linda Miller shares her testimony of God's work in her life
- Board member, Lynn Miller, project overseer of the Hospitality Cottage, parallels the project to the Christian Life

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.

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ENJOYING THE JOURNEY—by Nevin and Joann Nisly

Interestingly, Board Member, Lynn Miller, and we both chose to write similar articles. Enjoy the different perspectives as we relate the building of the Hospitality Cottage to different aspects of life.

The Hospitality Cottage dream was birthed about a year ago. This happened with the seed of someone volunteering to expand our little 10x12 building that was inherited with the place. This little "shanty" was a blessing as it provided a place for people to watch DVD's as well as a place to rest/process between sessions. We agreed that perhaps it was time to dream bigger. In reflecting over this building journey, we have noticed similarities to the emotional journey that people may take. Different individuals will look at the journey with different perspectives.



From Nevin's perspective, colored by his maleness and learned responses, it was a matter of understanding what God was wanting for us as a couple and also for the ministry. In-

wardly there was a tug-a-war between constructing a simple affordable building with a restroom and more adequate space, and putting aside my own fears and doubts and asking God what HE really wanted. I was worried that we may be disappointed with a short-term fix, due to costs and labor that could be duplicated in the future. Yet, there was uncertainty in dreaming bigger that required faith and unknowns. In consulting with the Board and visionary men, the dream grew to build it in line with long-term goals for the enhancement of the ministry.

There is a seed that has been planted in many people's hearts causing them to understand the benefit of exploring their emotional, spiritual, and marital needs. There is often tension between their desire to go ahead and walk that journey and the fear, time pressures, and uncertainties that are involved in the process.

It became apparent that the community was willing to embrace the project, and excitement and anticipation began to grow. People began to accept responsibilities for overseeing various parts of the project. I began to realize that I wouldn't have the responsibility to keep this moving. This was in contrast to a 3-year building project in Albuquerque, where I was the project manager for a 9000 sq. ft. building. As the cottage project took off, at times I found it

hard to relax and let others take responsibility. There was always internal pressure to make sure I had done my part to help facilitate the next step, and yet not overstep my bounds. I had been given permission to relax and enjoy the process and continue a full-time load in counseling. Though I was able to help some, the pressure to accomplish it was not mine.

Likewise, we people need to realize that the process to healing is not something WE make happen. We can allow Jesus to facilitate and work so He can perform His healing. He longs for us to take our fingers off and let Him take charge. His help and direction are needed.

Joann and I did have some responsibility in the building project. I was responsible for the water and sewer lines. This was an inevitable pathway of destruction of the lawn. Trenches were everywhere as I also fulfilled a dream of a more adequate irrigation system. We encountered setbacks with the extremely hard Partridge clay dirt, several futile attempts while digging the sewer lines, and running into obstructions buried in the drive. Fortunately we had amazing equipment and help from others who had experience and perseverance. We were also responsible to complete the finishing stages of the cottage, God provided assistance with that also.

This reminds me of the need to be faithful and perseverant

Enjoying The Journey (continued from page 1)

in using the tools and abilities Jesus has given us to pursue that path of healing in spite of its obstacles. I'm also reminded again of the value of community and brotherhood as we walk through the journey of healing and understanding ourselves and being overcomers in this spiritual battle that we all face.

From Joann's perspective, the building project looked exciting. The dream of a bigger facility seemed "too good to be true", yet I really was wanting it to happen! So when those first walls went up, reality set in. At times I was tempted to get impatient. Questions like "How long will it take?" "When will you start the trenching?" "When should we start looking for furniture?" "What colors should we make it?" became unending. When there was a lull in the process or when the plumbing and electric were happening, I wanted to be able to SEE progress. It didn't seem "fast" to me anymore. I was excited, but unless I could see progress, my anticipation and excitement dwindled. When the mess of

the trenching enveloped our yard, I found myself pressuring Nevin to get it "fixed" fast! It looked ugly; it was so messy, and when it rained, I couldn't even walk to my garden without getting clumps of clay on my shoes. I wondered if we would ever have a lawn again and maybe even regretted this part.

I find this is how I can be in my journey of life. It's always about what the final outcome should be, when it should happen and working hard to get it to that place FAST. In my journey of emotional healing, I've needed to realize that sometimes work is getting done that I can't see. I need to have belief in the "builder." Is God my builder? Can I trust Him to do things in His time and does He really know what's best? I hate when there is mess and turmoil in my life. How can one enjoy that? At those times, my natural pattern has been to give up. If they had

given up on the cottage building, we wouldn't be using it today. The dream takes pursuit, it takes belief and it takes action. It also takes rest, it takes help and it takes a mess that will be restored.

What kind of journey are you on? Do you identify with any of the above? Are you able to enjoy the journey? When we only focus on the end result, we can't see the little steps in which God is guiding us. If we keep trying to put our fingers in where God has it under control, it will slow down the process. If there is never a mess, He can't put in those necessary "water and sewer lines". Jesus calls us to let Him be the Shepherd. He will lead, He will give rest, He will renew our strength, and guide us on the right path. He will walk through the darkest valley with us and be close. (Ps. 23) Are you enjoying your journey with Him?

The dream takes pursuit, it takes belief and it takes action.

The Hospitality Cottage—Open House and more



Sunday, Sept. 16, approximately 150 people stopped by HOPE Ministries to see the new Hospitality Cottage that has been in use since mid-July. God and His people have been faithful in making this happen.



Since the initial dream, some other things have transpired. Nevin and Joann began to see the value of people having a place of retreat as they do their counseling. The HOPE Ministries Board has decided to ask people who are attending HOPE Ministries to commit to stay one night in the cottage or to get a motel. This will provide more adequate time for processing and completing homework assignments without distraction.



The other thing we discovered is that with doing two singles simultaneously, we still need a second building. With the cottage used as a "motel", we need a second place for DVD's. We plan to keep the small cottage and hope to put a window and some siding on it to "dress" it up. God continues to expand the ministry.

We currently have about \$19,000 of the \$35,000 budgeted for the building project. We are thankful for how God has provided thus far and trust that He will continue to provide.

CURRENT NEEDS:

- 29-32" flat-screen TV
- Microwave
- Electric kettle
- Small apartment refrigerator

Please contact HOPE Ministries if you would like to donate any of these.

Any local ladies who would like to be put on a list to clean the cottages when the need arises, may also contact us.



The Journey of TRUTH—by Linda Miller

Am I REAL? What does “real” look like? Why do I get angry about things I can’t fix or change? Why don’t I like to cry in Arno’s presence? Why do I feel like I can’t please Jesus? Why can’t I do it right enough? Why do I believe Jesus’ acceptance of me is based on my behavior?

These were some of the questions I had been asking myself for some time and felt like I needed outside help in understanding what the root issues were in my heart that were prompting these questions. My time at HOPE Ministries cleared up so many of these questions and confusing thoughts giving me HOPE.

Things that happen to us will shape our belief about God and ourselves. How we perceive things as a child, true or imagined, also contribute to who we become and what we believe. As my Taylor Johnson test was explained, a number of things became apparent. Some of my root issues are feeling unimportant, misunderstood and helpless. My life has been spent trying to keep other people happy, feeling like negative things that happen are my fault because I’m not doing something right, and believing that Jesus is displeased with me. When He delights me with a gift, I believe He likes me, but when “bad” things happen to me, it is punishment from God. I’ve believed my heart is not worth enough to be taken care of and feel much better if I can listen to other people’s hearts and make sure they are taken care of.

How did these beliefs translate into how I lived? Much energy was exerted

trying to please God and people, but often feeling like I still wasn’t good enough. I wasn’t sure if I knew how to approach Him “right” so that He would hear me. I spent many hours of emotional energy trying to fix people and situations that I could not control. I worried about people getting hurt by others, sometimes feeling sick from my inability to help.

I was given several questions to ask Jesus in relation to what He thinks of me. To my surprise, I couldn’t do it. That might sound crazy—why would I fear talking with Jesus and asking Him questions? I was too scared to ask the questions. I was afraid I wouldn’t ask “right” so He could answer; I was afraid my suspicions would be confirmed that I’m not spiritual enough to hear Jesus. If any of these fears would become reality, it would shatter the little faith I had. I was not sure I could handle the disappointment. I felt pretty trapped and scared.

I cried out to Jesus with other questions and He was answering me! With time I dared ask Him the questions I had been given. He spoke such clear **Truth** to my heart: Moving from the belief that my heart is not worth bothering with to believing that Jesus likes me, from a heart that felt squished down to a heart that feels like it can breathe, from a heart that felt like a failure to a heart that believes God doesn’t make failures,

from the need to please to believing that Jesus is pleased with me without me “doing” anything, and from fear of being a disappointment to believing God delights in me.

The tools I have been given are such a gift. I am still tempted to: take responsibility that isn’t mine, try to fix people, perform, and feel like my heart is a bother. How will I handle this? I have a choice to make. Will I slip into the familiar grooves of coping or will I go to Jesus? Will I take the time to ask Him where these beliefs are coming from and what the Truth is? Will I listen to what He tells me? As I choose to believe what Jesus thinks about me, the groove of my new belief system slowly grows deeper and the old “ruts” are becoming less powerful. Believing that Jesus cares for my heart, learning how to care for my own heart and having a husband who reinforces the worth of my heart, has given me a restful, quietness of heart and Hope that I wouldn’t trade.

I have embarked on a journey and have so much to learn. Sometimes I forget what the Father says about me. I forget to care for my heart and for Arno’s, but the Lord is so gracious to remind me of the Truth. I remember again and believe the Truth. Slowly the new grooves are becoming deeper and I am so grateful for Hope and Life that now reaches to my heart!

Will I slip into the familiar grooves of coping or will I go to Jesus?

Upcoming Seminar:

CARING FOR THE HEART
Guest speaker: John Regier



RAMADA INN
1400 N. Lorraine St.
Hutchinson, KS
Feb. 24-Mar2, 2012

Hosted by HOPE Ministries
Watch for brochures in Jan.

More info:
www.nislyHOPEministries.com

February 24,-March 2, 2012

Sunday-Wednesday—Main Seminar (evenings only)
Thursday—One Day Training Seminar (9:00-4:00)
Saturday—Youth Day (9:00-4:00)

Training/Youth Days locations
Plainview Mennonite Fellowship Hall

TOPICS FOR MAIN SEMINAR

Sunday: Twelve Reasons We Cannot Show Sympathy
Resolving Bitterness
Monday: Resolving Emotional Pain
Resolving Pressure Patterns
Tuesday: Resolving Depression
Resolving Abuse
Wednesday: Resolving Moral Failure
Developing Emotional Intimacy

Registration: contact 620-664-5304 or hope4yourheart@gmail.com

From a Board Member:



Lynn and Sandra Miller
Vanessa, Tanisha, and Courtney

PARALLELS TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

HOPE Ministries has just completed the Hospitality Cottage. Many individuals and businesses helped complete this task, which seemed to us as monumental. There were times in the design/budget stage when the lines may have seemed a little fuzzy and I'm sure to Nevins it seemed like a block wall that was insurmountable. Through careful planning and seeking counsel from those wiser than us, we eventually had a print that seemed user-friendly, yet very attainable economically.

We asked several men to lead out in the building process and trusted them to give Hope Ministries the end result, a Hospitality Cottage, which we knew would be used frequently. Building materials started stacking up, yet they needed to be put to use. You can have the highest quality lumber, the best tools in town, and the ideal location, but if you're not willing to put some effort into it, everything rots, becomes obsolete, and is grown up in weeds.

As the foundation and floor was poured, it

was exciting to actually see the results of those times spent at the drawing board. The Cottage was quickly framed up and dried in. The interior was prepped for drywall. Insulation, wires, plumbing, and air ducts aren't very beautiful, but we knew the drywall was coming, so it was a little easier to overlook some of the raw construction material. Meanwhile the roof was completed and some of the utilities installed. As the work continued, people kept offering encouragement through expert labor, finances, and many other ways.

The Hospitality Cottage was getting excitingly close to completion. The plumbing, electrical, and flooring was finished and, at first glance, the project looked like it was complete. Fortunately the volunteers gave attention to detail, the windows were cleaned, paint was touched up, tile was grouted, blinds were hung, and last but not least, furniture was moved in.

THE PARALLELS (color-coded)

"And Simon...said..., Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing; ...at thy word I will let down the net." (Lk. 5:5)

Sometimes I feel a little like Simon, working long and hard to get my life straightened out (without much success) and Jesus comes along and tells me to let down my net. Talking to those around me that are traveling The Road, and asking them to help me discern God's Master Plan, is energizing. It is especially invigorating when I realize that my goals are attainable and sometimes way less complicated than I originally thought.

"...in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Pr. 11:14)

One of the things that has helped my wife and I in this project called the Christian Life,

is asking HOPE Ministries to lead us to a better understanding of Jesus. Jesus has become more real to us on a day-to-day basis, as we frequently apply His love. Just like the building materials and tools, we quickly realized that, unless we were willing to invest personally, we would soon allow those weeds (old habits) to overtake us.

"Jesus Christ...being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple..." (Eph. 2:20, 21)

With Jesus as our foundation, we began to build. Sometimes things we face aren't very pretty, yet we know the end result is something beautiful. *"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9)* *"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith" Acts 14:22* Encouragement and accountability help keep us going in our walk with God.

It's easy to just do enough so that at first glance it looks like our Christian Life project is complete. But just like the Hospitality Cottage, it is important to clean the corners of our hearts that are not seen at first glance. I encourage you to allow Jesus to clean out the overlooked corners of your heart. *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Ps. 51:10)*

My prayer for you is that Jesus would help you in your "building project," giving you the courage and strength to reach out to Him and allow Him to minister to your heart.

Lynn and Sandra have served on the board for 2 years. After going to HOPE Ministries and deepening their relationship with God and each other, they are excited about what God is doing in their lives and in the hearts of people going to HOPE Ministries. Lynn and Sandra have 3 daughters, 14, 10 and 6.

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 idea of making this available to others, allowing us to be full time in this ministry. God has been faithful in supplying our needs and because of His people, we ended the 2011 year in the black. 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 be issued.

Donations can be sent to:

HOPE Ministries
Box 103
Partridge, KS 67566

OR

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



HOPE Ministries Board Members

Nevin & Joann Nisly—director
Lynn & Sandra Miller—Board Chairman
Julian & Bertha Nisly—Sec./Treasurer
Arlen & Gloria Mast—Vice Chairman
Ray & Gina Miller—Board Member
Gene Miller—Board Member