



# HOPE Ministries Highlights

August 2018

## Special points of interest:

- Nevin and Joann address common questions about HOPE Ministries p.1
- Announcement about new staff member and upcoming events p. 2
- Maribeth Troyer testifies of God's working p.3
- Board Member Ray Miller updates on Gina's healing process p.3
- Arlen Mast gives ideas of how peace can be part of our lives 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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## About HOPE Ministries -by Nevin and Joann Nisly

*On a continual basis, we get questions about HOPE Ministries. We thought we would highlight some of these questions in this newsletter.*

### **For whom is HOPE Ministries?**

People have come from various denominations, ages, and backgrounds, Not only do local people attend, but they also come from numerous states and countries. There are a wide variety of reasons that bring people to HOPE Ministries. Some couples come because they want their good marriages enriched. Sometimes people want to understand better why they do the things they do, as well as better understand the people they relate to closely. Sometimes people who find themselves stuck in various bondages come to find freedom. Single people and young couples have come desiring to build a solid foundation for their lives or marriages. HOPE Ministries also does premarital counseling upon request. Just as a garden needs to be tilled and cultivated, so it is often necessary for people to return for follow-up to cultivate and build on the principles they gained. Follow-up and "maintenance" has been an important part of the journey for many.

### **What does a typical counseling time commitment at HOPE Ministries look like?**

We usually schedule five 3-hour sessions in 2½-3 days. We ask local people to take 2 days off from work and the normal busyness of life. We ask them to stay in our hospitality cottage or a motel, making it a time of retreat. This allows time for processing and rest as needed.

### **Why 15 hours?!!!!**

Our goal is to walk alongside each individual to understand the pressures and difficulties they have experienced, as well as the feelings caused by these pressures or unmet needs. We recognize that each person lives out of a belief system, and often lies infiltrate people's hearts due to hurts from the past. We desire to help people become aware of any negative belief system that may be motivating them. Because our hearts have influence on how we speak (Luke 6:45) and they also determine the course of our life (Prov. 4:23), we desire to take these broken hearts to the Wonderful Counselor and the Healer of broken hearts. As people receive comfort and healing through prayer, they also gain understanding of

themselves and why they do what they do. In this process, people often begin to understand the care of a *personal* Jesus in their hearts in ways they had never before experienced. As they understand the love of Jesus for themselves, we guide them toward releasing those who hurt them, as well as coming into agreement with Jesus about themselves. As people experience healing in their hearts, they often will see how they have, in turn, passed hurt on to others.

### **Why is it necessary to look at the ways we've been hurt?**

Hurts cause much damage to our hearts and the devil loves to use it to rob people of life, joy, and peace. He loves to twist our thinking in the process and often gets us to believe lies about ourselves and about who God is. In order to allow God to redeem our pain, it is necessary to admit we've had pain and allow Him to enter it. We will not do that if we avoid the pain we've experienced. The result will be denial, justifying our actions, and/or blaming others. We become accustomed to our own reactions because we experienced them while growing up. We tend to adopt the same habits

-continued on page 2

## Common Questions—Continued from page 1

and strongholds because it feels so “normal,” often without recognizing our tendency to do this. When we admit our hearts have been hurt and receive God’s comfort and healing as we talk to Him in prayer, we can offer forgiveness at a much deeper level and inner change takes place. We can then allow Him to use that pain in redemptive ways and offer hope to other hurting individuals.

### **What do you recommend for Premarital Counseling?**

Because marriage is an important step and deserves a strong commitment, we believe it is important to do everything possible for a firm foundation. We first ask individuals to separately spend the 15 hours of

personal enrichment time. (We prefer if this is done earlier in the courtship rather than waiting until after engagement.) After individuals have completed their separate 15-hour sessions, we will spend 6-8 sessions going through the *Caring for the Heart Preparing for Marriage* book. This allows us to walk with the couple in many practical aspects of learning to care for and understand each other. Emphasis is also put on learning to spiritually and emotionally connect with each other. Churches and individuals can choose to do variations of this model.

### **What do you charge for counseling?**

We do not charge for counseling. Be-

cause God has given to us freely, we desire to assist others without the factor of a particular cost. We do invite people to ask the Lord what they should give. There are many expenses that go with providing this service, and without God providing through His people, we would be unable to continue. We are thankful for the way God has been providing and trust He will continue.

*To understand more about HOPE Ministries or to print off an application, please visit our website at [www.nislysHOPEministries.com](http://www.nislysHOPEministries.com).*

*To understand more about the model we use, visit the home office website: [www.caringfortheheart.com](http://www.caringfortheheart.com)*

## Upcoming Events

September 16-18, 2018

CFTH Seminar (evenings)  
Central Church, Oakwood Chapel in Sioux Falls, SD  
Contact: Mindy Klein at 605-680-1133 or Caring for the Heart office at [caringfortheheart@msn.com](mailto:caringfortheheart@msn.com)

November 4-8, 2018

9th CFTH Annual Conference  
Maple City Chapel, Goshen IN  
Host: Grace Haven Ministries, Millersburg, IN  
For more information visit: [caringfortheheart.com](http://caringfortheheart.com) or contact Caring for the Heart at 719-572-5550

## About our counseling...

Since God has blessed HOPE Ministries with two more counselors, we are happy to say that the waiting list is not as long as it once was. Nevin and Joann are available to see couples together some of the time. Nevin and Julian also do counseling with couples and single men and Joann meets with single women. Upon finishing her training, Tracia will be meeting with single women also. Nevin and Joann are also available to do seminars in churches as well as assisting with seminars done by others. With the two additional counselors, we hope that the waiting period continues to reduce to 2-4 months if one is serious about getting the preparation work done.

## WELCOME!



We welcome Tracia Ropp to the HOPE Ministries staff. Tracia is currently in training to help with the ladies’ counseling. We are thankful that God is answering our prayer for this need. We ask that you pray for her in this transition. Tracia grew up in MN and spent the last 5 years in Dryden, Ontario, serving with Northern Youth Programs.

Helping  
Overcome with  
Purpose and  
Encouragement

## A Testimony of God's Work—Maribeth Troyer

My family was a 'missionary' family. Both of my parents worked at the mission school. They were workaholics. When they weren't working at the school, they worked at home. Their love languages were service, and mine was quality time. We missed each other. I had deep hurts from my Dad. I remember crying about them, but I can't tell you what they were...and this is why:

**Both my parents... were workaholics... Their love languages were service, and mine was quality time.**

Soon after I was married, my husband and I went to Kansas to visit my Dad and step-mom, Joann. I had this 'urge', which I'm sure was from the Lord, to talk with Joann about these deep childhood hurts. We had a long conversation about it. She was kind and understanding in our conversation. My

husband and I did the Taylor Johnson test that weekend with my Dad and Joann. As we were going through our results, I talked a bit about my childhood hurts with my Dad. I was brief and vague. He listened kindly and acknowledged that he had been an absent father and hadn't been there for me. He said he was sorry for hurting me and wished he would have done things differently. And that was the end of the conversation.

About a year later, when I was in REACH, I was writing out my testimony to share with the group. As I was thinking about the hurts I had as a child, I was wracking my brain trying to re-

**The Lord had so completely healed me...that even the memory of those hurts was gone!**

member the hurts I had from my Dad. I remembered that there had been deep hurts, but I could not for the life of me remember what they were. The Lord had so completely healed me following that conversation, that even the memory of those hurts was gone. It was a miraculous healing!

Nine months ago, my husband and I went through Caring for the Heart Program at HOPE Ministries, with my Dad, Nevin, and Joann. In the past, he's told me that the greatest gift his children can ever give him is finding healing for the hurts he's passed to us. This and the healing I've experienced made counseling with them a safe place, even as we talked about and walked through the deepest places of hurt in my heart.

## Ray Miller Updates on Gina's Progress

Gina continues to make progress on her recovery from the stroke she suffered in January, although several seizures in the past month have slowed her progress a bit. She continues to go to therapy sessions twice a week in Wichita in addition to the rehab she does at home. She is able to walk pretty well with the assistance of a walker, and is able to go up and down short flights of steps as long as they have a handrail. She has regained some movement in her right arm, although it is very limited and has not improved enough to restore any functionality at this point. Muscle spasms in the right arm and leg continue to be an issue, especially during

the night, which interrupts sleep. Speech continues to be a struggle as well, as the language center of the brain was heavily affected by the stroke. She seems to understand and follow conversations most of the time, and through extensive and ongoing speech therapy has learned to be able to say a lot of words, but to be able to use them correctly and in context is rare. Her ability to write is also very limited, as the stroke not only affected her ability to speak, but her ability to use language as a whole. Please continue to pray for her recovery and our patience as she works and we wait for God's healing work in her life. Thanks, Ray

## Information

From May through August HOPE Ministries has had:

- 7 new couple cases
- 17 new single cases
- 2 follow-up couple cases
- 7 follow-up single cases
- 4 Premarital cases

There were also several preliminary sessions.

**Are you interested in helping to clean the HOPE Ministries' hospitality cottages a couple times a year? Please contact the office if you are available.**



Arlen & Gloria Mast  
Kendall, Tyler, Shanae, and Becca

## Finding Peace in the Midst of Turmoil

*John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

Anxiety and fear are a part of our lives. Jesus, before He ascended to heaven, promised to leave His followers His peace. What happened to that promise? Is it still for us today?

Early this morning, our peaceful sleep was shattered with the piercing wail of a smoking detector. I jumped out of bed to investigate and thankfully there was no smoke, but only a faulty alarm. It was soon silenced and peace reigned once more.

I believe that at creation, peace was the norm. There was peace among the animals. There was peace between the first couple. There was peace between God and man. But God in His mercy disrupted this feeling of peace when sin came into the world. I don't think that God allows us to experience true peace as long as there is sin in our lives. This is actually a blessing.

But what about those of us that are striving to live above sin and peace seems to come and go? What causes that? Our enemy, the devil, is out to steal, kill, and destroy. One of the things that he wants to steal from us is our sense of peace. He can accomplish this in a variety of ways.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus said that the seed that falls among the thorns gets choked out. He goes on to compare that, with us getting entangled with the cares of this world. The cares of this world can rob us of our sense of peace. Also, the devil can use wicked people to discourage us.

*Psalm 56:4,5 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust without a fear. What can flesh do to me? All day long they seek to injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil. RSV*

Abuse can come in many different ways and it is a powerful tool to rob us of our peace. Our gifts and responsibilities can also create tension. In Luke 10, when Jesus came to visit them, Martha with her servant's heart, was worried and bothered. She wanted to make sure she did a good job of hosting an important guest, and it robbed her of the blessing of the moment.

So where do we find peace? If there is sin in our lives, we need to repent and get right with God.

Psalms 37:11 promises that the meek shall experience an abundance of peace. Three words in this passage that I think are keys to finding peace are commit, trust, and wait. We can't control all of our circumstances or what others may do to us. But we can commit our lives into the loving Father's hands. We can trust in His awesome sovereignty. And we need to wait as He works out His plan for our lives. It is then that we can experience an abundance of peace in our hearts.

By Arlen Mast—Board Member

## FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Our desire is that no one will be excluded from opportunity for sessions because of finances. All counseling is done on a donation basis, and this plus the gifts of God's people, allow us 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  
Lynn & Sandra Miller—Board Chairman  
Julian & Bertha Nisly—Sec./Treasurer  
Arlen & Gloria Mast—Vice Chairman  
Ray & Gina Miller—Board Member  
Gene Miller—Board Member