



HOPE Ministries Highlights

October, 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' praises:

- We are now an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization!
- We are thankful for God's continued and ongoing protection in the ministry!
- We are praising God for a few volunteers who have offered to donate labor to build us a bigger cottage. This will have handicapped accessible restrooms, an overflow counseling room, a place of lodging for out-of-town counselees and overnight guests, as well as a more adequate space for watching DVD's. Stay tuned for ways that you can help with this project.

Trust in the Lord
with all your heart;
do not depend on
your own understanding.

My Belief System? Or God's?

Do you experience living in guilt or shame or fear? Does this lead you to need to prove to yourself and others that you are acceptable or good? Or does it make you feel like you are worthless and will never be able to be what God wants you to be? Jesus has come to free us from those things and more. I used to live there, but have experienced freedom from living in that nagging cloud. There is hope for everyone to be free from this, and it is helpful to understand from where that shame and guilt came. John 10:10 says that we can experience abundant life personally; this cannot reside with shame or guilt.

At conception, I entered a fallen world. This did not infringe in any way on the love God has for me. In fact,

God planned for me because He wanted me and He could use me in spite of my humanity. He could use me because He prepared a direct way for me to come back to HIMSELF. As He is a part of my belief system and life, His plan CAN BE fulfilled, in spite of the fallen human nature. The question is whether or not I will join His thinking about Himself and myself. Does He want me to live in shame?

The environment in which we grow up becomes the platform from which we form our belief systems. We learn ways of response or reaction by the people around us. We

also inherit certain traits, good and bad. God need not be hindered by the bad things passed on. Ignorance of our motives assumes we are programmed robots that cannot be changed. This forms a belief system about life, allowing me to justify my actions. Examining the negative things I felt growing up is NOT for the purpose of blaming those people who contributed toward them. I can choose to blame... and live in turmoil. The whole point is to admit my hurt, so I can then release those people from my heart (forgive), understand what patterns I developed to protect myself,



A Note from Nevin...

We are excited about what God is doing! We continue to be amazed at the healing Jesus brings to the broken heart, the joy He restores, and the abundant life He brings. We rejoice that getting the 501(c)(3) approval was a relatively inexpensive and quick process. We thank God for His protection and expansion of HOPE Ministries. We praise Him for His continued provision.

This newsletter anticipates the coming seminar in November. I encourage you to spend time absorbing Joann's article. Melissa (Yoder) Troyer shares about her journey to joy and we also hope you find the testimonies helpful. We bless you and trust that you will experience a personal Jesus on your journey!

My Belief System? Or God's? (continued from page 1)

and take responsibility for it since the other person cannot (continuing act of forgiveness). In this way only, can I also be released from shame and guilt and become free from the bondage of fear of what others may think. Anything I refuse to feel from the heart, I will be unable to forgive from the heart. If there is no hurt, I have no need to forgive. If I am de-sensitized to hurts, I am not living in the image of Jesus, Who did feel things immensely. Only machines are de-sensitized.

If I choose to focus only on the positives, I still remain ignorant of my motives. I will still live out of familiar patterns that continue to give negativity to those around me. I may get fearful or irritated or not live in reality, and then justify my actions. This will lead to bitterness, detachment, the need to please people, withdrawal, critical attitudes, anger, depression and more. I will try to deal with these things, yet feel continuously guilty because I cannot seem to get control over myself. I will try and try on my own to fix things up and pray and pray for help, only to conclude that there is something shameful about me that God is refusing to answer my pleas for deliverance. This route is void of believing that Jesus is the Healer of the brokenhearted. Why am I afraid of being brokenhearted? It is vulnerable to be broken. We tend to think only those obviously hurt are broken-hearted. The fact is... Jeremiah says our hearts are wicked, meaning *sickly* or *feeble*. As I see how feeble my heart is and what distinct pressures have caused some yucky patterns, I can allow Jesus to heal specific areas. As well, then He can help develop new patterns. Refusing to understand from where my pattern(s) came, I end up confessing generically, repenting generically, and forgiving generically. I will then live generically too—that is, live in a way that I think I'm okay while those around me wonder why I can't understand some things about myself and understand how it feels to them. I will live from the head. If I can't look at my own hurt, I won't observe the depth of the hurts of others

either. I underplay why Jesus went to the cross, thinking I need to be my own saviour. We are called to repent and forgive from the heart, and invited to live from the heart. The only way we can do that is to look at the heart—the seat of emotions!

Here is my natural pattern. I am familiar with this pattern.

- I long for acceptance. This is only a longing—**not a sin.**
- I perform to gain acceptance (anxiety and fear begin to grow)
- I feel a failure
- I withdraw
- I try harder
- I get emotionally drained
- I give up or quit
- I get angry because they don't understand my efforts
- I get depressed—angry at self for failing
- I tend to control people to prove my worth.

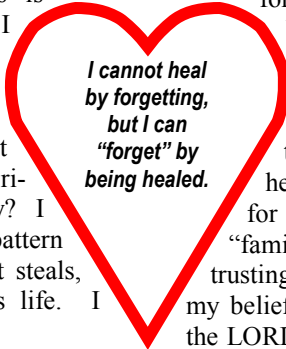
More things could be included. Only the first one is not sin, but the rest have become so natural. They put pressure on those around me to accommodate me. Each person has a pattern and often it began before age 6. By age 40, the pattern is pretty well known—**FAMILIAR!** Yes, this is really a “family of lies.” If I remain ignorant of my familiar patterns, this “family” will not become exposed and I will live out of it, but will NOT experience life abundantly. Why? I wasn't designed to! The pattern does not include Jesus. It steals, kills and destroys: it robs life. I fight a losing battle.

In difficulties, my awareness of this pattern and its lies, allows me to fight the battle that Scripture calls me to fight. I can fight as a good soldier. I will fight the enemy who wants to bring me to depression and anxiety. I'm not fighting a battle to be good or acceptable or to stay out of depression. I'm fighting the destructive enemy of my soul—my mind, will, and emotions. The fight includes recognizing my weakness—I long for acceptance. I immediately can take that legitimate

longing to Jesus, asking Him what He thinks about me. I get excited when He pulls me close and holds me. He delights in me and He planned me before the foundations of the earth. I ask Him if I've been a disappointment and He says “NO, I love you and am pleased with you!” He invites me to walk with Him and He never leaves me alone because I'm accepted by Him. I walk out my door knowing He is with me. I experience LIFE abundant. Will the enemy leave me alone? Not if he thinks he can get me to return to the “family of lies.” I will need to practice the new way over and over. My faith in Jesus will grow to know that my acceptance is complete in Him. Is Jesus *really* enough for me? This is a lifelong battle, but it brings LIFE, not disillusionment—daily I am reminded of Who He is. He's the captain of my army and *this* battle is not a losing one. This is living in regeneration and it is exciting. The other battle is self-dependent and brings negativism. I no longer have to be controlled by those past things even in the depths of my soul. I can “forget” the past and press on-- each moment. “Forget” means to lose out of my mind. This only happens when healed. I cannot heal by forgetting, but I can “forget” by being healed. Now, when I think of the negative past, with it comes a positive that Jesus gave and I can give thanks. I can believe with my heart that God works all things for good. My old familiar “family of lies” habit actually was trusting in myself—my bible. It was my belief system. Now I can trust in the LORD with ALL my heart—with a healed heart—and lean on HIS understanding (not mine). This brings excitement and life! That's why He died. He washes me of that “family of lies” in the process of regeneration.

“Jesus, thank You that what YOU did on the cross is enough to change my old patterns and that YOU rose again allowing me to also LIVE each day! Now I can live with Your purpose and plan in mind—even while I'm being sanctified! WOW!

-Joann Nisly



*I cannot heal
by forgetting,
but I can
“forget” by
being healed.*

The Reality of Joy!

What is joy? The definition of the dictionary says: gladness to rejoice, exhilaration of spirits. So when I think of these definitions, I have to reflect back to my “old thought life” before going for counseling at HOPE Ministries. My joy level was at times high and other times low. “Why did I feel like that?” was a question I would ask myself many times! Was I made like that? Then I would meet people that no matter what circumstances they faced, they still seemed to be joyful. How I longed for a

“How I longed for a peace within and to be able to have a joy-filled heart ...”

peace within and to be able to have a joy-filled heart no matter what circumstances I faced in life. It was only through the grace of God, the power of God working through Joann that I was able to find joy and the real Source of joy! There was a caring for my heart and becoming the person God had made me to be. It has been a daily process since to care for my heart by talking to JESUS in a new and real way and most of all by finding that I can have “Joy” no matter what I face in life. It is only

through the power of Jesus that I was able to come to freedom, letting go of everything I had and giving it to Jesus to have my heart filled with JOY.

Is Jesus asking you to come and unload your heavy load?? You don't have to carry it alone. Jesus is waiting for you to be free from the burdens you are carrying. Matthew 11:28-30.

Only through Him,
A piece of clay in the Potter's hand,
-Melissa (Yoder) Troyer

The Progress of HOPE Ministries

HOPE Ministries continues to stay very active! We are so thankful for the way God is working in people's lives. Since beginning in October 2009, we have had 97 cases come through the office, 50 of those being singles and 47 couples. We've also had 2 premarital cases. A lot of time is spent with follow-up sessions. Sometimes we just haven't gotten as far as we need to go in the first 5 sessions, and people will choose to come back for more time to “press on.” Others want to come back for a checkup or two. We also have those who just want to come and meet to talk about some issues and we explain the method we use.

People ask how it's going financially. The cost per session runs about \$100. This could become quite a burden on someone needing help. Therefore, we invite churches and other individuals to participate with us in making this ministry available to hurting people or for those desiring enrichment. Because we are full-time, we have no other income and depend on the support of God's people.

The upcoming seminar is a first in which we will personally be presenting sessions. We also have some other local speakers who have a passion for this ministry. Thank you for your continued interest and prayers!

Just a reminder that James Wagler of Freedom Hills Ministries, near Sugar Creek, OH, will be sharing in our spring seminar, March 8-10, 2012. Mark your calendars.

What are people saying?

I experienced Jesus as the One who listens to a little boy, and then cares about his heart. He doesn't just care, however, he also heals the broken, shattered heart.

We appreciated the counseling that we received at HOPE Ministries. We also appreciated the tools they gave to us for the days to come. It was a shot in the arm, realizing anew that Jesus really does care about us and He knows all about us. Jesus is walking with us, even in the dark times.

We found the sessions quite helpful. We were able to bring childhood wounds to Jesus, and Jesus ministered to our hearts and brought healing. The feelings of release and freedom are incredible.

It was a wonderful experience for us. We found Jesus in a brand new way. We found a loving, caring Jesus Who thinks we are special. We would recommend this for everyone.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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HOPE Ministries



Helping
Overcome with
Purpose and
Encouragement

Preparing For Life's Challenges

November 16-19, 2011
Journey@Yoder, Yoder, KS

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—Registration

6:30-8:00—"How Our Natural Responses Affect Our Life Journey" - Willard Mast
8:15-9:30—"Importance of Parental Blessing" - Nevin Nisly

Thursday

6:30-8:00—"Motives for Embarking on a New Venture" - Julian Nisly
8:15-9:30—"Walking in Harmony With God"
- Nevin and Joann share their testimony

Friday

6:30-8:00—"Freedom From Guilt and Shame" - Nevin Nisly
8:15-9:30—Men's session—Nevin Nisly
Women's session—Joann Nisly
Pastor's (and wife) session—DVD by John Regier
-"Responsibilities in Premarital Counseling"
9:30— The gym has been reserved for any youth who wish to have a time of youth activities following the evening session

Saturday

4:00-5:30—"Reasons to Understand Our Natural Patterns While Single" - testimonials from Gene Miller, James Yoder, Terry Yoder
5:45-7:00—"Developing Emotional/Spiritual Connection" -Nevin Nisly

Contact us for more information, see our website, or brochures are available at local churches. Registration is appreciated.

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 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. 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 us. 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 receipts will be issued upon request.

Donations can be sent to:

HOPE Ministries
Box 103
Partridge, KS 67566

OR

You may use bill pay for electronic processing

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 \$ _____

Please check box if receipt is requested.