



HOPE Ministries Highlights

May 2018

Special points of interest:

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- Personal testimonies of God's grace—p. 3
- Julian Nisly writes about faithfulness in ministry—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.

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Pressured By Life? - Joann Nisly



Nevin and Joann Nisly

Have you ever felt overwhelmed with all those things in life that HAVE to be done, trying to juggle all of life at one time...or so it seems? Maybe you've felt discouraged, exhausted, overwhelmed, driven, etc. Maybe you've even found yourself being a perfectionist because of fear of what all the people around you might think of you. This adds a huge emotional load on top of the many things on the "to do" list. Because there are so many things that HAVE to be done, irritability, a short fuse, or a self-imposed agenda may become part of the day. If anyone disrupts that agenda... well, they might wish they hadn't come around right then!

It's so common to carry burdens that are not really ours to carry. At times, it is really dif-

ficult to discern what is our responsibility and what is not. It can seem like "life" just falls in our laps and we have no choices. This can often happen when people around us are hurting or are unhappy. We can take it upon ourselves to get them happy again. In doing this, we can pressure them to be what we want for them.

One time in our marriage, Nevin was making a big decision. This was not just a quick decision and we both knew it. It was not a right/wrong decision, but it was a decision that would affect our lives. Quite often he would talk about this decision and what he should do. Sometimes he would be talking as if he was going to do the project in question. Then he would talk the next day as though he wasn't going to do the project. Day after day, and week after week this went on. I felt pressure to help him. I knew I couldn't make it for him; this was his. I figured since I was his wife, he probably wanted my "good" ideas. I sensed he was heavy and I didn't want that. This heaviness also affected my days and emotional environment. In my mind, the best way to get rid of the heaviness would be for him to just "make up his mind." I came up with various ways to

help him make his decision. For some reason, my ways weren't quite so easy for him. To me these ways made so much sense, but to him, they weren't helpful at all. I found the longer he went on in question, I was going batty! One morning in this indecision, I became very impatient. He went out the door not very encouraged that day.

In the above scenario Nevin's heaviness became my heaviness. In my heaviness, I started putting "shoulds" on Nevin. I wanted the heaviness lifted for both of us so we could "go on with life." To get rid of the disruption in our lives, I wanted to "fix" the problem. My "fixing" only added to his heaviness, which added to mine. I was pressuring him although I had no intent to do that at all. Fixing our problems and putting the "shoulds" on ourselves or others eliminates the need for Jesus' moment-by-moment involvement in our lives.

Jesus invites us to "Come....all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." Then He says, "Take MY yoke upon you and learn of me and you will find rest for your souls." Who owns my life—me or Jesus?

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Because Jesus created me, He knows best of all what loads I can handle. I have the option of letting Him decide what my “yoke” should be each day instead of deciding that myself. I am also wise to let Him decide the load that others need to carry instead of dictating in my mind what they should or should not be doing. What they do with it is their choice.

When I was trying to “help” Nevin in his decision, I was only putting more weight on him. Jesus’ invitation to me as a wife was to support and encourage him in the process, but not pressure him. By me trying to “help” him in carrying his “load,” I had turmoil in my heart and ended up hurting him out of it. Jesus also was inviting me into patience. When I did finally accept Jesus’ invitation to come to Him with my heaviness about that, He ministered to my heart in a way that I was able to release Nevin into Jesus’ hands and let them make the decision. This was actually relieving to both Nevin and me. We both had more peace in the process. I had peace inside knowing that it wasn’t mine to carry and Nevin was not getting extra pressure.



Summer time is often a busy time for people. There are gardens, lawns, vacations, watering, housework, to mention only a few of the unlimited things on our agendas. When I plan my day, it often gets overloaded and becomes frustrating. Sometimes I spend the day feeling unmotivated and I get nothing accomplished. I get disgruntled with myself then too. Either way, it comes out on those closest to me. When I’m unhappy with myself, it seems that is when I am more prone to being critical of those around me.

Do I really believe Jesus is personal and powerful and interested in me enough to allow Him to lead me in those pressuring times? Do I care how I come off to those around me? Will I walk hand in hand with Him to make my plans? Will I allow Him to lead me into relationship with the people whom I live in close proximity in spite of the loads that He allows me to carry? Will I reach out my hand to Him to accept the gift of grace that He in generously offering?

Coming up

Nov. 4-8—CFTH Annual Conference—Goshen, Indiana

This Conference is open to the public and gives understanding of the Caring For the Heart model. Workshops are presented in the afternoons for those interested in understanding better how to help individuals. For more information contact www.caringfortheheart.com

NOTES...

From January through April, HOPE Ministries has had:

- 4 new couple cases
- 8 new single cases
- 3 follow-up couple cases
- 8 follow-up single cases

There were also several preliminary sessions.

NOTICE

**HOPE Ministries
office hours**

Monday 8:00-12:00

**Friday 8:00-12:00
Helping**

**Overcome with
Purpose and
Encouragement**

TESTIMONIES OF GOD'S WORK

Growing up in a very “Pressure to Perform” and “High Expectations” home had more of an impact on my view of God and how I looked at myself than I could have ever imagined. I came to realize I was always trying to please God through what I did, trying to earn His love. I measured my relationship with Him in unhealthy ways. With that being said, Julian was very conscious during counseling about letting me know and making me feel that it was ok if issues took longer to work through. When things weren't going as expected, he assured me that it doesn't have to be perfect, which

Going through each of these issues and resolving them, not only brought me to peace with God, but also with myself.

helped me be at peace and relaxed.

I'm not saying it was easy, but regardless of the pain and hurt that was felt/realized, it was totally worth it going to HOPE Ministries. It helped me work through issues I didn't know how to resolve or deal with. Going through each of these issues and resolving them, not only brought me to peace with God, but also with myself. This peace also came with fully realizing that Jesus accepts me no matter what I've done or been.....and that I can't earn God's grace, but can only accept it.

It has also been life changing in the aspect of not judging others as much by their outbursts, anger, etc. Instead I'm realizing that this is their way of dealing with the pain, issues, and hurt in their lives, and they are just as much in need of love as anyone else.

My prayer is that you not only be changed for your own benefit, but so much more that through the change, God's love might be poured through you into the lives of those you meet!!!

God's Blessings,
Conrad Troyer

It was a “troubled relationship”—I expected the relationship with my mother-in-law to be wonderful, or at least agreeable, but it wasn't. Why do her words, or lack of words, hurt me so deeply? Do I read into it too much? Am I seeing something that's not really there? Did she really mean to say that? But it happened over and over again. I kept praying that the Lord would just help me forgive and keep pursuing this relationship, but her visits hurt deep in my heart—out of proportion to the words that she said. I was at the point that I just wanted to stop caring about her and start building a wall to keep her out.

I talked with Joann about this, and, 5 minutes into the conversation, she recognized that the rejection and hurt I felt from my MIL was so intense because it had started much, much earlier—with my own mom,

who is now deceased. Joann recommended I seek counseling for this issue. My husband and I went through Caring for the Heart with Nevin and Joann several months later.

Through these sessions, the Lord revealed the rejection I had felt from my mom as a toddler, something I couldn't possibly remember, but as He did, I began to sob—it was a truth that penetrated my heart. I asked Jesus to heal the heart of that little girl. He is so kind, so gentle in his healing.

This isn't going to fix my relationship with my MIL, but now my husband and I both know where to go with my pain. We can take it to

Jesus. Are the implications she makes about me true? Is my value determined by who she makes me out to be? Jesus, who do you say that I am?

It wasn't a sin issue, it was a pain issue. Thank God that Jesus has come to heal the broken-hearted! He's come to free the prisoner—even the prisoner behind a wall of their own making. Jesus is going to break down the wall that I built to keep my mom out after I couldn't handle the hurt any longer, and the wall that I've begun to build with my MIL. It's going to be a long journey, but Caring for the Heart has shown me where the path begins.

-anonymous

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FROM A BOARD MEMBER:



Julian and Bertha Nisly
Shari and Johan

The Call to Faithfulness in Ministry

Luke 17:20–21 ¶ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

As I look at pastoral and counseling ministry, I see a common thread that runs through both and that is the desire to be used mightily in God's kingdom. Out of that desire then we can be looking for the next great thing to make our impact greater.

Jesus taught in Luke 16:10, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much;" Mother Teresa has been quoted to say, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

To see God work in the hearts of those with whom we are working is a humbling experience. As soon as we figure out just the right way or formula for God to work, then He often surprises us and shows up differently. Why is that? I am reminded of what John the Baptist said of Jesus, "He must increase, I must decrease." I need to be careful lest I get in the way of God working. But, I also recognize that just because I am not seeing results in my work, something may be happening. God's kingdom often moves in very slow ways, affecting one heart here and another heart there.

As people and especially with living in America, the thought is that if something isn't effective than I am doing it all wrong. I just need to change my strategy and then I will see great results. While that may be true in business, I don't think it al-

ways transfers over to ministry. While I believe evaluation from time to time is appropriate, Jesus' call to faithfulness is still the most important thing to remember when serving in ministry. If we can answer the question, "Have I been faithful in doing what I believe God is asking of me?" with a yes, then I think we can believe that God is pleased. So my challenge for you is, "Are you being faithful to your calling?"

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

March 2-3 HOPE Ministries hosted a seminar in Partridge. 125 people were in attendance. It was an encouraging time! We are thankful for our Board Members who helped to make this event happen!



If you are interested in hosting a HOPE Ministries' Seminar or Retreat in your area, contact 620-259-9390.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

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 Staff Members:

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