



HOPE Ministries Highlights

November 2018

Special points of interest:

- A birth announcement and some HOPE Ministries' statistics p. 2
- Take a look at some of the resources available p.2
- Testimonies by a premarital couple p.3
- Nevin talks about the expansion of HOPE Ministries over the years 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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“Except You Come As a Child...” by Joann Nisly

I woke up to the sound of little voices. I smiled within as I heard them chatter with their Grandpa. Walking into the kitchen, I witnessed them happily chomping their Lucky Charms. They gave me big smiles. They were so delighted to be at Grandpa's house!

We were privileged several times this summer to have grandchildren in our house. They weren't afraid to ask for candy and they weren't afraid to tell us the kinds of things they wanted to do. Sometimes one would interpret for the other, when I was unable to understand the need or desire. When they were unhappy, they weren't afraid to express it. One morning when we got up, a 5 year old wanted to go to the "little zoo." He wanted to feed the fish. He wasn't afraid to state his desire for the day, neither was he afraid of being condemned for having an opinion. At the same time, there were times that they weren't so excited about Grandma's ideas, but because they wanted to be with me, they'd go along with it...and had fun.

As I witnessed these children, their vibrancy, their

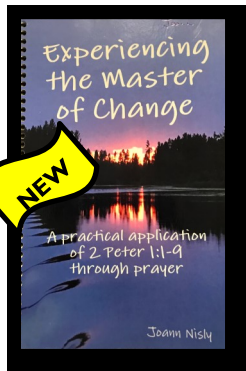
transparency, their honesty, their trust, their innocence, etc., I realized that this is what Jesus desires of me. Mark 10:15 (NLT) says, "I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Our grandchildren looked to us for leadership. They were fully aware of our presence and trusted us. Several times they became alarmed if we were out of sight. We certainly knew they could not take care of themselves and they allowed us to help them. We did allow them their independence in areas that were not harmful to them. There were times we needed to coach them. Overall, they were fully aware of our presence and their need for us.

How do I come to Jesus? Am I as moldable and impressionable as these little children? Do I think He can handle my disappointments, my tears, my sadness? What about my joys? When I feel alone, do I look to find where He is and listen to what He thinks of me? Do I realize my day is in His hands because He is my Leader, my Teacher, my Coach, my Cheerleader, my Shepherd, and more? Am I honest with Him and transparent about

my needs, wants, and desires, and then allow Him to do what is best for me? Do I believe that Jesus can handle my life or do I tend to tell Him how I'm doing life and ask Him to fit in the cracks? Do I believe that Jesus is bigger than my "littleness" or my insecurities or my imperfections? My grandchildren didn't even ask those questions and didn't seem to be bothered with their "littleness" or imperfections. They didn't try to do things perfect; they just enjoyed their time here. If my desire is to love my grandchildren for who they are, where did I obtain that love? Is it possible that my Father in Heaven gave me that ability? My Heavenly Father is the only One who knows how to love perfectly! How like Him to give each of us a portion of His Love to pass on to those around us even when we are so imperfect. And yet, in His perfection, He loves us without any limits—He just asks us to receive His Kingdom like a child.

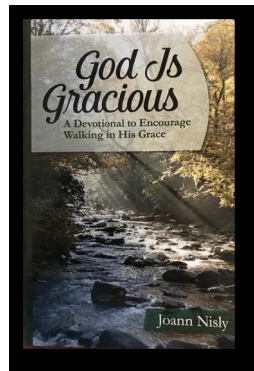
“So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him.” Matthew 7:11 (NLT)

A review of some recommended resources...



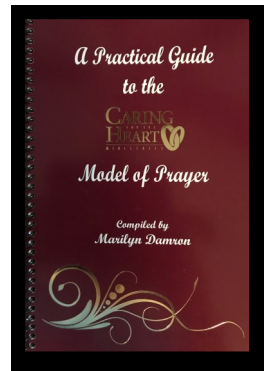
Experiencing the Master of Change - by Joann Nisly

- A guide to applying 2Peter 1:1-9 to our lives in a practical way through prayer
- Available through HOPE Ministries



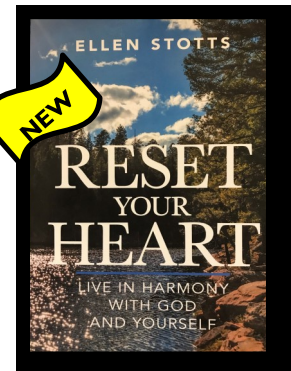
God Is Gracious - by Joann Nisly

- A devotional using prayer to walk through day-to-day experiences
- Available from Joann Nisly or Amazon



A Practical Guide to the CFTH Model of Prayer— by Marilyn Damron

- A guide to aid in praying with people with practical examples
- Available on Amazon



Reset Your Heart - by Ellen Stotts

- A book to that encourages growing and maturing physically, emotionally, spiritually, and sexually
- Available on Amazon

For those interested...

On page 4 Nevin addresses the expansion of HOPE Ministries. We find it interesting to take a look at the up-to-date stats. We consider it a privilege to be part of this ministry and are grateful for those that have helped to enable this process of assisting people in their walks with Jesus.

Years of operation: 9 years
 Total approx. cases: 370
 Local clients: 65%
 Distance clients: 35%
 Single client cases: 59%
 Married client cases: 41%

From September through November HOPE Ministries has had:
 4 new couple cases
 9 new single cases
 3 follow-up couple cases
 1 follow-up single cases
 1 premarital case

Announcing the birth of...



Kara Janelle

Born Oct. 30, 2018
 6 lbs. 7 oz.
 19" long

Parents: Arlen & Gloria Mast
 -Board Members

**“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.”
 Heb. 10:23**

Helping
 Overcome with
 Purpose and
 Encouragement

Testimonies of Premarital Counseling—anonymous

It's hard to know how to put into words how much I feel this journey of personal and marriage counseling has helped me in a lot of different ways. Through my parents' encouragement, my fiancé and I decided to go to HOPE Ministries for premarital counseling before we got married. In order for the premarital counseling to take place, we were asked to have our own personal counseling first. The first round we went to HOPE Ministries, my fiancé and I got counseled separately, Nevin working with my fiancé and Joann with me. We both feel this greatly helped us to just totally open up about our most sensitive areas and past pain. We feel it's a really good recommendation for couples to get their own personal counseling separately.

Through my personal counseling, I began to see how I was a sensitive little girl and how I got hurt and then responded to that pain. I began to realize that subconsciously I had been seeing God in the ways that had been demonstrated to me in my younger years. I really liked that we got to the core issues that have bothered me off and on for many years!! There were things I hadn't really understood why they bothered me. I also felt comfort in my heart when Joann showed that although I can see life from a different perspective now, it's not that I need to know it all in one day. I can learn as I go through

life! It's a journey and when we fail, we can look to Jesus and He will help us up again!

When my fiancé and I went for premarital counseling, we were once again AMAZED how GRACIOUS God is in helping us understand each other and each other's past pain and sensitive areas. It's amazing when two people can emotionally connect and truly care for each other's hearts!

God is good and we are excited to start life as a married couple with the feeling that God has given us tools to fight for a great marriage!

We feel Nevin and Joann are letting themselves be a tool in God's hand to help others find the freedom to live from the heart Jesus gave them. May God bless HOPE Ministries.

When my fiancée asked me if I was interested in premarital counseling, I was like, "Sure, why not if it could help our marriage and help me understand her better! Everyone knows women are complicated!"

When they told me they wanted to do personal counseling before premarital, I wasn't terribly excited but figured I'm human and can always use good advice. In the first session I found out pretty soon that

It's a journey and when we fail, we can look to Jesus and He will help us up again!

I don't think I could have been as open and transparent with my fiancé if I had unresolved issues in my life.

I did have issues and that I reacted to situations. The struggles I had were connected to past unresolved hurts that were never truly healed.

As the counselor led me through those hurts, I learned how to acknowledge them and take them to Jesus. I asked Him what they did to my heart and what He would like to do with those hurts and how He would like to heal my heart. He showed me how to forgive those who caused those hurts and I asked Jesus to fill my heart with His love. It was definitely very intense but VERY rewarding! I realized I could not truly and fully love and connect with my fiancé like God intends until those issues were resolved.

I was very thankful that we had our own personal time before the premarital counseling. I don't think I could have been as open and transparent with my fiancée if I had unresolved issues in my life. This helped me in learning to connect and care for her heart as God wants me to.

Learning to share the deepest, most sensitive parts of our hearts and truly care for each other's hearts and cherish my

fiancée is very, very rewarding and exciting!! I am very thankful that we had the privilege to go through the HOPE Ministries' program prior to our marriage.



Nevin and Joann Nisly

Reflections and Vision of HOPE Ministries

As we reflect over the development of HOPE Ministries, we rejoice in seeing how God has been at work. We began training in 2008, completed it in the summer of 2009 and moved to Kansas founding HOPE Ministries. In 2010 we went full-time, hand-picked our HOPE Ministries' Board and achieved the non-profit status. In 2012, the community came together to build a Hospitality Cottage, which allowed clients, both local or those from a distance, to stay on site and focus on the processing time, making it a retreat. In 2015 a second small cottage was added for day usage as well. Somewhere

in the process, a volunteer provided our hospitality cottage with a patio and another volunteer assisted in putting up a privacy fence. Many people have expressed gratefulness for a place to retreat and we want to pass that on to the community.

Over the years we have hosted or presented seminars, planned follow-up events, and provided individual counseling as a couple and separately. Our percentage of out-of-state clients is continuing to increase.

In 2012 we found it necessary to hire a part-time secretary. In 2017 we were blessed with having Julian Nisly, a local pastor and the treasurer of our board, join our staff. He is available to meet with couples and single men. Just this year Tracia Ropp, a graphic designer just leaving a mission in NW Ontario, also joined our staff and meets with single ladies. We are excited to have counseling continue when we are on the road, as well as the ability to have more teamwork!

Where do we go from here? We desire to walk with people whether married or single in understanding and finding healing for their spiritual

and emotional needs through the intensive sessions. We also have vision to continue our ministry to young people before they leave home, go into missions or school, get married (or better yet, before dating), etc. We are open to working with churches in their Premarital Counseling Programs. Another major part of our vision is providing follow-up sessions and other follow-up tools for encouragement along the way. This has been in the form of phone calls, follow-up days or retreats. To provide exposure to the principles and to bring hope to people, we are open to being available to present or assist in seminars, retreats, or assist in other special needs for communities.

We continue to thank the Lord for His provision for HOPE Ministries. It's always a step of faith when expansion happens, wondering how God will provide. Thank you for listening to His promptings as to how you can assist in the continuing the work of HOPE Ministries.

-Nevin Nisly

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
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