

Ministry Highlights



Helping Overcome with Purpose and Encouragement

January 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 8:00-12:00
Friday 8:00-12:00

PHONE

620-259-9390

EMAIL

hope4yourheart@gmail.com

WEB

nislysHOPEministries.com

ADDRESS

HOPE Ministries
PO Box 103,
Partridge, KS 67566

Overcoming Self-focus by Nevin Nisly



One of the pitfalls that Satan likes to get us into is the whole area of pride or self-focus. It is so easy to view life as being all about us: our efforts, our pain, our value, our perspective, etc. It is also very easy to notice when others are having a problem with this, but much harder to see in ourselves.

Scripture teaches us that those who exalt themselves will be humbled or brought down (Matt. 23:12). It teaches that if we think we have got it all figured out and are above being wrong, we are set up to fall (1 Cor. 1:12). It warns us that the Lord hates proud or haughty looks, which means we consider others to be inferior or less than

ourselves (Prov. 6:16,17). We also can be tempted to treat ourselves as if we were a nobody and unworthy of God or man's love, living out of a belief system that says "*we are of no value, are always a loser, are stupid, or inadequate*" (compare Moses' thoughts in Ex. 3-4).

Let's go a step further. Why would I go to silence and withdrawal in the face of anger or judgment? Why would I be critical if something doesn't make sense to me? Why would I demand that others meet my longings of being valued? Why do I try so hard to get others to understand my intentions when I am challenged? It's easy to react from a belief such as this, "*Surely if you understand my intents, you would not experience control, defense, or demand from me*"? Isn't it amazing how sly the enemy is to get us off the track of being *other-*

focused? When we feel misunderstood, it is hard to care about the other person and seek to understand how our actions affect them. Yes, it is so easy to have a response that is all about *me*.

I believe that the root problem in both expressions of self focus is the same. Why would one need to prove that he knows better, that his way is the only right way, or put others down? Why would one go to worthlessness and the "poor me" response? It's really a value problem—we aren't able to live out of an understanding that Jesus deeply values us because of *who we are*

"Whether it's lifting ourselves up or putting ourselves down, the problem is that we don't agree with Jesus about us and we operate out of fear."

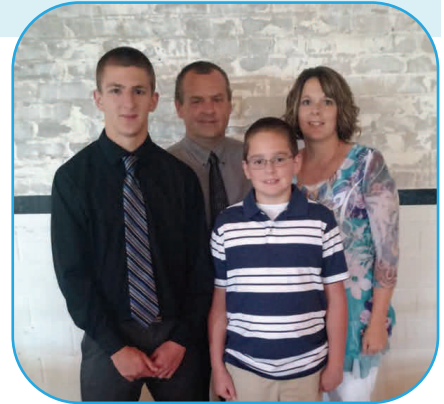
instead of what we do. Whether it's lifting

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Farewell to Ray and Gina Miller

It is with gratitude that we express our appreciation to Ray and Gina Miller for their contributions to HOPE Ministries as board members over the last several years. We will miss their input on the board. Our hearts are saddened by the on-going health challenges Gina faces. We invite you to join us in praying for God's grace and strength for the Millers on this journey and for God's healing touch on Gina.

*Thank you and
God bless you!*



FOLLOW-UP *Retreat*

Weekend of encouragement,
refreshment, and renewal.

March 8-10, 2019

Friday evening through Sunday noon

Cross Wind Conference Center

8036 N Hoover Road, Hesston, KS

\$350 PER COUPLE (or 2 singles sharing a room)

\$310 PER SINGLE (wanting their own room)

Ways to Register

Please register by **February 3** if possible
(if there are not enough applicants by this point,
the retreat will need to be canceled).

Final registration deadline is February 19.

1. WEBSITE

Visit www.nislysHOPEministries.com to fill out the online registration form and download a brochure

2. PHONE

Call 620-259-9390 Mon. or Fri. 8:00 am -12:00 pm to speak to the secretary (or leave a message outside of office hours)

3. EMAIL

Email hope4yourheart@gmail.com

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS COMPLETED SESSIONS AT A CFTH OFFICE

Healing for the Hurting Heart

SEMINAR PRESENTED BY HOPE MINISTRIES

April 5-7, 2019

Friday evening through Sunday noon

Calico Rock, Arkansas

Bethel Springs Mennonite Church
6507 Culp Road

FOR MORE INFO
OR TO RSVP CONTACT
ED OR KAREN MORGAN
(870) 591-6695

DECEMBER - JANUARY AT A GLANCE

4 new couple cases
7 new single cases
1 follow-up couple case
4 follow-up single cases
Several premarital
and preliminary
single sessions

What Does Jesus Think of Me? by Rebecca Yoder

For too many years, I've lived as a slave to my perception of others' expectations. As my husband put it, I have lived life through other people's eyes. This led so easily to hypocrisy, an incredible fear of man, and a crippled life. Instead of finding my security in Jesus, I was finding it in people's fickle approval. This led to not accepting my husband as God made him, continually wondering how other people viewed him. This insecurity naturally led to a crippled style of parenting, where I was not able to minister to my children's hearts as well.

In March of 2018, my husband and I attended a seminar hosted by HOPE Ministries. I needed to be reminded again of the crippling power of

fear, my number one enemy. I came home from the seminar and asked my Heavenly Father to speak to my heart. The song "Now I Belong to Jesus" came to my mind. I hadn't heard this song sung for years. I found the song in one of our songbooks and eagerly read the words written by Norman J. Clayton:

Once I was lost
in sin's degradation
Jesus came down
to bring me salvation
Lifted me up
from sorrow and shame,
Now I belong to Him.

Now I belong to Jesus
Jesus belongs to me
Not for the years of time alone
But for eternity.

Praise God! He spoke healing to my troubled heart, and my desire is to walk in His light, joy, and security. Although I can humbly learn from others many times, I no longer need to be a slave (belong) to others' perceived expectations of me. My heart belongs to Jesus, now and for eternity!

"I no longer need to be a slave (belong) to others' perceived expectations of me. My heart belongs to Jesus."

**"IF YOU NEVER HEAL FROM WHAT HURT YOU,
you'll bleed on people who didn't cut you"**

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Overcoming Self-focus continued from page 1

ourselves up or putting ourselves down, the problem is that we don't agree with Jesus about us and we operate out of fear. Fears like "what will people think?", "what if I'm not acceptable?", and "what if I show weakness?" can make us be on guard and put up walls out of our self-focus. In other words, we respond out of our pain—and we will hurt others.

True humility operates out of a heart that agrees with Jesus about our worth. Consider the words from Psalm 139 that talk about God personally being very involved with designing us while we are being formed in the mother's womb. Various verses in Scripture speak of our being held tenderly and lovingly by our Heavenly Father. God uses very endearing words to

describe His thoughts toward us—words like "precious," "chosen," and "beloved."

May God bless each of us in the journey of these truths becoming real to each of our hearts, and **may He free us to live out of the heart that Jesus gave us, a heart that is fully alive and able to be God-focused and other-focused!**

Fleeing or Facing Fear by Gene L. Miller

The crisp, clear night was dark, visibility only a few feet, but there was a sense of peace. Suddenly, a twig snapped off to the left and a little ahead. The flashlight whipped toward the sound reflecting two brightly glowing eyes. Was it the mountain lion about which we had heard stories? Not wanting to risk a terrible confrontation, we turned and ran, but quick steps followed! Terror soon turned to laughter when the night was shattered by the happy bark of the family dog right on our heels. All was safe again, and we returned home at a leisurely pace, stepping into the warmth of the fireplace, the smell of supper, and joyful music...

The day was dark. The past clouded our vision, making it hard to pick out a clear path ahead. Recent events indicated no change in the foreseeable future. Was it safe to continue,

or better to retreat before even greater danger presented itself? Deciding it was not safe, we retreated into the familiarity our favorite escape. We tried to laugh at the thought that there could be a safer option, but the laugh came out as a deep, heart-rending sob...

Though both stories are fictional, they are too close to true. We tend to retreat when danger (real or imagined) threatens. Fear of rejection, pain, anger, or simply the unknown drives us to our favorite escape: food, social media, porn, reading, listening to music, etc. But retracing the same familiar steps never gives the different outcome for which we hope. It leaves us unfulfilled, anxious, fearful, depressed, hopeless.

What if we took a different direction? What if we suddenly realized that a new way opened up, which



we never noticed until we came face to face with our fears? What if the way to the security of home actually led past or even through our fears? It can come only through accepting the promises of God, and allowing Him to address our fears and fulfill our deepest longings. Heb. 6:18b says that through those promises, “we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.”

Fear, retreat, escape, and despair? Or courage, moving forward, victory, and hope? Which will you choose?

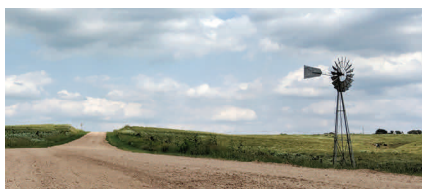
Note from the Treasurer by Julian Nisly

As many of you know, HOPE Ministries is completely funded by donations. For the last three months, funding has been very low, yet we have bills and personnel to pay. Would you consider partnering with us by giving as the Lord leads? We also ask that you pray for the Lord to provide.

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 at 620-664-5304.

WAYS TO DONATE

1. **Mail** a check to the ministry.
2. **Phone** the office to pay with credit card.
3. **Visit the website** to make an online donation.



Board Members

Nevin & Joann Nisly *Director*

Lynn & Sandra Miller
Board Chairman

Julian & Bertha Nisly
Secretary/Treasurer

Arlen & Gloria Mast
Vice Chairman

Gene L. Miller *Board Member*

