



HOPE Ministries Highlights

July, 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 is available for:

- Marriage Enrichment
- Counseling
- Follow-up Program
- Premarital Counseling
- Seminars

HOPE Ministries Prayer Requests:

- Our 501(c)(3) has been sent to the IRS! Pray for smooth processing and acceptance of this status.
- Pray for our upcoming Fall Seminar as we prepare as well as those whom God wants to attend prepare.
- Pray for wisdom as we determine how to adequately keep ourselves refreshed as we minister to others.

What Yoke Are You Under?

I've got to try harder next time." "I should have known better!" "I wonder what people will think." "How stupid could I be!"

On and on the list goes...it's all about "me" trying hard, doing it perfect, and.....wearing myself out to be acceptable in the eyes of people, and too often, God.

In the last issue I alluded to Matthew 11:28-30 where we are given the invitation from Jesus to be "yoked" or "coupled" with Him because His yoke is more useful and kindly than what we'd choose and His burden for us is lighter. Sometimes we make things so hard for ourselves. We are invited to come to Him and learn of Him because He is a meek and gentle teacher, and as we accept the invitation, we find rest for our souls. What a difference that is from the sense of responsibility that many of us have had-- trying hard and making sure we do everything right! Or, working and



working to be good enough! Or, being driven to please people to find our worth—the list could go on and on.

Instead, being yoked with Jesus is a matter of walking with Jesus; allowing Him to train us, reshape our thinking, and find our worth and value in Him.

Power, blessing, and potential is found in the "church of tomorrow" as it has often been put quite incompletely (for they have a very significant part to play in today's church also). The church which has no young people is a church that is without much of life's excitement, vision, spontaneity, and energy. The Scriptures speak of it being good for a man to put on His (God's) yoke in his youth in the context of the Lord encouraging the seeking of Him, having one's hope in Him, and waiting on Him (Lam. 3:25-27).

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Testimonials

Our son was feeling fearful about an upcoming appointment. He has reason for his apprehension. As I held him, I showed him my picture of Jesus holding a child and told him that Jesus is here with us. "When I can't be holding you," I said, "just think of Jesus holding you." That helped to comfort him.

Recently my daughter was struggling with thoughts of inferiority and worthlessness AGAIN. These were issues she had wrestled with at Hope Ministries. This time instead of letting herself get depressed, she did her 'homework'. She listed her negative thoughts, traced the lie she was believing, and then went to the Scriptures to see what God's truth said about these lies. There was hardly enough room on her paper to write all of them. She was blessed and encouraged to see that God had made her exactly how He wanted her to be right now, - here. Praise God for healing!

What Yoke Are You Under? continued from front page

Paul invites Timothy to be an example for believers and not to give people a reason to look down on him because he is young (I Tim. 4:11). Youth have a wonderful opportunity to bless the church and their peers as they function without all the barriers that we as adults often have.

Can you imagine what it would be if everyone in their youth would be able to learn to be yoked or coupled together with Jesus?

Youth have a wonderful opportunity to bless the church and their peers as they function without all the barriers that we as adults often have.

What if their relationship with Jesus would be so personal that they could tell Him everything and understand that He cares and loves to speak to them and hang out with them?

What if their focus would be on Him instead of their own interests or even their own “besetting sins”? **What if** they could focus on Jesus instead of their weaknesses, which they have to always work so hard at conquering? **What if** they would never need to carry things alone? **What if** there would not be any deep down secrets in their hearts that they

have never been able to share with someone? **What if** they would be able to feel, understand, and deal with their hurts in a Christ-focused way?

What if they would have dealt with their emotional and spiritual issues before marriage so

they are able to connect to their spouses in caring ways rather than just doing what comes natural and wind up stepping all over their spouse’s pain?

That would be my dream for today’s youth—and it’s exciting to see young people who are ready to do just that.

A contributing factor to young people yoking in with Jesus and learning of Him is when they see their parents or adults to whom they admire desiring the same for themselves. Openness and honesty among adults breeds openness and honesty among youth. As they see humbleness and openness in adults and their desire to yoke in 100% with Jesus, it actually makes openness and living for Jesus more appealing. Quite a few youth who have

come through HOPE Ministries have expressed desire for their parents to come, or they have expressed appreciation that their parents have come and have an understanding of what they are facing. That gets into celebration territory!

In this newsletter:

- Jewel Yoder shares some of the dynamics involved in her journey as a youth
- Testimonials are included of people who have applied principles of Jesus’ acceptance with their children and young people.
- The date and topics for our upcoming Fall Seminar – “**Preparing For Life’s Challenges**” is included.

There is an anticipation building as we prepare for this area-wide seminar that is applicable not only to youth in preparation for their life callings and for marriage, but also to a wide range of people who have a burden to understand themselves and others better. We pray God’s blessing on each of you as you continue to seek the Author of Abundant Life and Joy.

By Nevin Nisly

TESTIMONIALS

One night before I went to bed, my wife alerted me to the fact that our daughter was in trouble and needed her Dad. So I stopped what I was doing and went to see her. She was really troubled as to whether she was good enough to come to God and was afraid that all she did would not be enough. I asked her if she had any idea where that came from and she did not. So I explained to her the results of the pressure she felt to perform came from my high expectations for her and her transferring that image to God. In fact, I had insights and explanations that didn’t even seem to come from me. Many were from what I had learned when visiting you. Gradually as she saw what I was telling her, she began to smile. She asked if I wouldn’t be afraid to release her with no expectations and then she really smiled. We ended the long talk with a time of hugs and prayer and she went to bed at peace.

My son struggled with a lot of pain from a difficult relationship. At Hope Ministries he had learned about forgiveness and taking back the ground given to the enemy by his bitterness. He has found it to be a difficult journey to let go of it. Recently he found freedom in a deeper way by giving the pain and bitterness to God again and then deciding that if the enemy wanted to bring it up again he would just have to talk to God about it!

The Pursuit of God's Love

The Testimony of Jewel Yoder

Sometimes counseling seems a little like seeing the Niagara Falls: lots of people have experienced it, but not everyone is convinced it's essential to experience it. Most of us live confident that we can handle life pretty well, with all of our relationships, responsibility, stress, and spirituality. I certainly did, and it worked pretty well until about two years ago, the year I turned nineteen.

Remember the Niagara Falls? Thousands of gallons of water rush over the Niagara Falls every day. I felt a similar avalanche of emotions release in my heart as I watched our family struggle, and I saw no end in sight. The tidal wave of grief crashed over me, crumbling my self-possession, my emotional stability, even my faith. It left me groping and searching for answers, help, and hope. I desperately wanted to know God, but He seemed oblivious, as I banged my fists on His closed door. Or perhaps He let me bloody my hands because He knew (and I knew) that I wanted to angrily interrogate and accuse Him, rather than repent before Him.

In my desperation, a lot of the accepted answers rang false: "Just trust God". Really? Who was God? And where was He, anyway? Or, "God took your brother for a reason. He has a plan."

"No kidding," I thought. "Well, it seems pretty random. I'm not seeing much design or relief."

Some of my pain had begun to resolve by the time my family began spending time at HOPE Ministries.

At any rate, I was once more on speaking terms with God, which eased a lot of the frightening loneliness and fear. Yet as Joann and I talked, I realized how limited my view of God was, and how frozen my heart was to receive love in some areas. I learned that counseling is much less about "fixing" me, than it is

about connecting my heart to Jesus' heart.

And I found that Jesus is fearless and tender as He works with His hurting children. He wades into the morass of pain and drains away the fear and insecurity and hurt, and leaves only the soft, rich soil of brokenness to plant a lovely, fruitful garden. He takes the ugly rock of pain, and chips away the dirty layers to reveal a glowing gem that is full of life and beauty refined from struggle. He is the Redeemer, who has borne our grief and carried our sorrows. By His stripes we are healed!

Nevin and Joann will tell you over and over that they can't heal you. All they are trying to do is open the way so that you can run home to the only One who can, and hear what He has to say about you and about your heart. They understand that our greatest need is to know God, and live in relationship with Him. Relationships with other people must come out of this primary relationship.

Since counseling, I've also begun to understand the enemy of my soul. Eden was a place of unashamed adoration of God and perfect relationship between Him and everything and every person in it. Satan came in to steal, to kill, and to destroy, and he did that pretty effectively after Adam and Eve agreed with him. Jesus came to restore all the damage he wreaked. If I want to have His restoration from my agreements with Satan, I must come to Him and live by that law of love.

Marriage, family, and church relationships can be completely transformed with that choice. Unless we understand where we have agreed with Satan and break those agreements, we will not be able to function well in our relationships.

The journey I am walking did not begin at HOPE Ministries. It began with God deciding a girl named Jewel should

be born and placing me into the family He had chosen. It continued with God patiently walking with me through my anger and pain. And my journey continues as this amazing Father continues to guide me. He loves me more than I can imagine. It's almost like the Niagara Falls: infinite, powerful, rushing, crashing and crumbling the ugly bitterness and sin in my heart. It is perfect love, and it drives out all fear.

—Jewel Yoder

HE WADES INTO THE MORASS OF PAIN AND DRAINS AWAY THE FEAR AND INSECURITY AND HURT, AND LEAVES ONLY THE SOFT, RICH SOIL OF BROKENNESS TO PLANT A LOVELY, FRUITFUL GARDEN.

When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.
Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.
Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
But as for me,
it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.
Ps. 73:21-28

We praise God for the many blessings we have experienced here at HOPE Ministries! Hearts are continually opened to His healing and we count it a privilege to witness His handiwork!

We also praise Him for continuing to meet our financial needs!

Mark Your Calendars...

James Wagler will be guest speaker for the spring Seminar hosted by HOPE Ministries.

March 7-10, 2012

CONTACT INFORMATION

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HOPE Ministries



Helping
Overcome with
Purpose and
Encouragement

Fall Seminar—Preparing For Life's Challenges

Who is it for? - Anyone who wishes to come!

- Youth who desire to discover God's will
- Youth who are entering into courtship or engagement
- Couples who desire a better understanding of their spouse
- Any adult who has influence into the lives of youth

November 16-19, 2011 Journey@Yoder Fellowship Hall

Potential Topics

- Why deal with emotional/spiritual issues when life is good
- Walking in harmony with God and in other relationships
- God's plan for marriage—where do these disciplines start
- Motives for wanting to leave home, date, or get married
- Receiving parental blessing;
- Leaving and cleaving
- Developing emotional and spiritual connection
- Purity and dispelling our secrets
- Men/Women's session
- Testimonials
- The pastor's responsibility in premarital counseling (DVD)

Brochures with more information will soon be available in the local churches.

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 purpose 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. We are accountable to our board for the finances and the operation of HOPE Ministries. If you have any questions or wish to know more details about our finances, please contact one of our board members. 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 sent to the following address.

HOPE Ministries
Box 103
Partridge, KS 67566

Board Members:

Julian & Bertha Nisly—620-664-5304
Lynn & Sandra Miller—620-567-3017
Arlen & Gloria Mast—620-960-1048
Merlin & Molly Miller—620-960-2038

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 \$ _____