



HOPE Ministries Highlights

November 2017

Special points of interest:

- Announcement about upcoming seminar—p.2
- Read a testimony of God's grace—p. 3
- Gene Miller writes about questions many people have—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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"Is Change Impossible?" - by Nevin Nisly

Is it possible to change my thinking patterns? Will anything really change? Am I going to struggle this way the rest of my life? I know that God is greater than all the problems people have, but is there really any hope for me? I have tried so hard to not think this way; to not be tempted by these things, and to truly be an overcomer in thought and deed, so why do I still struggle? Questions like this often surface as we process about ourselves and/or about others.

Yes, it is difficult to change things we have been doing for years. Yes, Satan has many ways that he uses as he tries to find our weakest and most vulnerable spots. And yes, even though the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. While we are no match for the enemy, the enemy is no match for our God, and "greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." Isn't it interesting that one of the enemy's major tactics is to try to get us to move into the performance mode that operates like IT'S ALL UP TO US rather than living out of the reality that we are totally dependent on allowing the GRACE OF GOD to moti-

vate, change, and empower us or others to walk as overcomers rather than victims. Sometimes we get caught in the trap of wanting others to change, and we pressure them. This takes things into our own hands.

One of the beginning points for change is to consider whether I'm teachable and willing to listen. "Teachability" requires a humble spirit and openness. There is a reason that things we don't see or understand are called blind spots. Just because it became normal to me and seems logical to me doesn't mean that there is no problem with my way of thinking or reacting. To see our blind spots, we need to be able to hear what others are hearing or feeling from us. We need to seek to understand their viewpoint and re-

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state what we're hearing rather than defend ourselves and make sure they understand us. Then with those insights we can ask Jesus for clarity on what He wants to teach us. It's never our job to defend our reputation (what people think of us), but rather focus on our character (who we really are). God is responsible for our reputation; He is our Vindicator.

Another huge part of this is the view we have of ourselves. I quote from **The Cure* by John Lynch: "Your view of you is the greatest commentary on your view of God." He challenges us to believe that if we are in Christ Jesus, "we are a new creature (creation)" (II Cor. 5:17). Colossians 1:27 tells us that Christ is in us which is our hope of glory." Our part is to trust Christ and walk with Him to allow Him to change us and mature us into the person we really are in Christ. This doesn't mean we don't fail, but it does mean we are willing to come back into agreement with Him about us. We choose to get up, clean up the mess, place our hand in His, and continue the journey, knowing His personal love and approval of us as His child.

John Lynch also points out that a caterpillar and a butterfly have the exact same DNA—it's merely a matter of maturity. We can live as a caterpillar who has little beauty or value, or we can live as an undeveloped butterfly who will become what God intends it to be—under the care, love, and delight of a God who truly designed and accepts us and has made every provision for life and godliness (II Peter 1:3). Out of which identity will we choose to live?

**The Cure* by Lynch, McNicol, and Thrall, pg. 45, published by Trueface.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS**HOPE Ministries Seminar
March 2-3, 2018****Passing the Grace of God
on to the Next Generation**

Friday, March 2— 6:30-9:00
Saturday, March 3— 9:00-5:00

**King Street Center
Partridge, KS**

Speakers
Nevin Nisly
Julian Nisly

Lunch will be served at the
seminar location on Saturday

Freewill offering will be taken

For registration, call
HOPE Ministries at
620-259-9390
**Please register by
February 18, 2018**

The content of this seminar will endeavor to lead individuals to understand our own emotional pain, how it shapes us as adults, how we have the tendency to live out of lies, and how these belief systems have an effect on those around us. We hope to present practical examples of how the grace of God can be applied as we influence those under or around us. Emphasis will be placed on relationships with children, grandchildren, youth, people in mentoring situations, etc.

Live testimonies will be shared throughout the seminar

Brochures will be sent out to churches in January.

Limited 3-hour counseling slots will be made available on a first come, first serve basis, giving priority to those who are not local and have never received Caring for the Heart counseling before. If interested, please register for a counseling session prior to the seminar.

Testimony—cont'd from p.3

We were privileged to have a church leader walk with us to continue developing a relationship with my parents. They walked with us in confession, waiting, building trust, and forgiving. This was quite a difficult process for us. We kept praying for a miracle and God's will. We were on an emotional rollercoaster. Then came the day we heard, "You have our blessing to get married". We were ecstatic! We had been waiting for this for a long time. We set the wedding date and dove into wedding planning. We were on a countdown. Our parents were supportive and blessed us during this time, giving advice and speaking words of encouragement and blessing. We kept being amazed. The wedding day was beautiful and all I had ever dreamed of. My parents walked me down the aisle and happily celebrated this joyous event with us.

Marriage to my best friend is amazing. In this short time, we have laughed, cried, and grown closer. Jesus has blessed us with a joy and peace only He can bring! "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Eph. 3:20 NLT

NOTES...

In the last 3 months HOPE Ministries has had:

- 7 new couple cases
- 7 new single cases
- 4 follow-up couple cases
- 6 follow-up single cases

To schedule a talk, seminar, or retreat for your church or community, please contact HOPE Ministries through email at hope4yourheart@gmail.com.

Holiday shopping? If you order through Amazon, go to www.smile.amazon and pick HOPE Ministries as your charity. Amazon will donate a small % of your purchase to HOPE Ministries.

Nevin and Joann plan to do counseling in Albuquerque in January and February. This will also enable them to be closer to children and grandchildren for an extended time.

**Helping
Overcome with
Purpose and
Encouragement**

TESTIMONY OF GOD'S GRACE—anonymous

I loved life. I was independent and the world was full of adventure. I was finishing up my third year of teaching school, when God sent me my future husband. I contemplated and prayed, and with my parents' blessing, jumped headlong into courtship. "God, I know this might be challeng-

ing, but if this relationship is Your will, please give me lots of love to pour into this relationship." God answered that prayer. My boyfriend was a kind gentleman and I loved him. We had a few tough spots through the next several months,

but always worked things out and had a great relationship.

Six months later, some issues came up and we were told to stop dating. It broke my heart. I just lost my best friend. He had cared for me, listened to me, and given me lots of affirmation. The world was big, dark, and unfair. I struggled to listen to my parents advice. I cried and I tried to let it go. I felt God had given me so much love for him and now what was I supposed to do with it; I couldn't just turn it off. The days and weeks crept by. We missed each other and after several months of silence, we talked on the phone for hours. My parents discovered it and drama followed. I was bitter at my parents and God. My heart was heavy, hurting, and weary of the battle. I was lonely and felt like no one knew how to care for me. The pressure to perform, yet never achieving, was exhausting me. Spiritual abuse was confusing me even more. I would try to talk sometimes, but the criticism and deaf ears were

too much. My heart shut down and I built many layers and walls around my heart. I buried myself into work.

We met one night on the sly; it was wonderful seeing each other. One thing led to another and we committed fornication. I felt guilty, but

by then, I had closed my heart so much. I had too much criticism from others, and I couldn't bring myself to tell anyone. I told God all about it, but still felt a big burden. I knew I didn't or couldn't stay in this environment much

longer. I knew my heart needed healing, but didn't know where to go or who to talk to. I prayed and asked God to open doors for me to go somewhere and get some help.

After several closed doors, I felt God leading me to relocate. My parents were disappointed, to say the least. As time went on, I went to my pastor and wife and shared my heart with them and confessed the

sin of fornication. It was hard, but I wanted to get to the bottom of this. They walked with me in confessing my sin to my parents and to others. I knew I needed help, and some friends recommended HOPE Ministries in Kansas

and thought I should go. I was nervous. Caring For The Heart? Really? No one knows how my heart feels and how deeply I've been hurt. I

have bottled up for so long, and I don't know where to start. I cringed and told myself, "I've got this." I had felt pressured to perform my whole life; I didn't know how to think differently.

Joann was nice, almost too nice. In my experience, nice people could be dangerous; they listened to you and then spread your story to others and broke your trust. But at HOPE Ministries, we talked, prayed, and I cried lots of tears that week. Tears of remorse, healing, and then joy. I had found Jesus again. I felt His love so powerfully. He comforted me, healed me, and spoke words of love to my heart. This was the beginning of a long journey. I still had lots of pain in my heart and my relationship with my parents was still rocky.

My boyfriend and I were still relating to one another. We became accountable to a young couple. That was the beginning of many wonderful times with a couple that so graciously accepted us for who we were. We still wanted to get married, but desired our parents' blessings.

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We decided we would do premarital counseling with HOPE Ministries. It took effort and an openness with each other. It wasn't easy, but it brought us together even more and helped us see

how to care for each other's heart and how to avoid stepping on each other's pain. We still did not have my parents' blessing to get married.

Continued on p. 2

FROM A BOARD MEMBER:



Gene L. Miller

QUESTIONS

Who is God? What is His involvement in our lives? Does He really care about what I'm going through? Can I trust where God is leading me? Can I trust Him to redeem the situation in front of me now? Does He allow the difficult times I face, or does He actually orchestrate them? Can I believe the unthinkable, that God may be able to bring greater redemption and glory because of my current suffering, not just in spite of it? Some believe God couldn't possibly be involved in great tragedy, that natural disasters cannot be God at work, that when a loved one dies in an accident, it is the hand of Satan, not the hand of God. But isn't a Heavenly Father who limits Himself to working through our bad choices and Satan's ravages much more powerful than the One Who some believe is simply unable to stop them?

While wrestling with similar questions some time ago, I was introduced to *Hard to Get*, a song by Rich Mullins that deeply impacted me and became the cry of my heart. I share it here in hopes you will allow the Father to lead you to where you are lost enough to be led.

HARD TO GET

You who live in heaven
Hear the prayers of those of us who live on earth;
Who are afraid of being left by those we love
And who get hardened in the hurt;

Do you remember when You lived down here, where we all scrape
To find the faith to ask for daily bread?
Did You forget about us, after You had flown away?
Well, I memorized every word You said...

Still I'm so scared, I'm holding my breath;
While You're up there, just playing hard to get...

You who live in radiance
Hear the prayers of those of us who live in skin;
We have a love that's not as patient as Yours was
Still, we do love now and then;

Did You ever know loneliness?
Did You ever know need?
Do You remember just how long a night can get?
When You are barely holding on

And Your friends fall asleep;
And don't see the blood that's running in Your sweat...

Will those who mourn be left uncomforted
While You're up there, just playing hard to get?

And I know You bore our sorrows
And I know You feel our pain;
And I know that it would not hurt any less
Even if it could be explained...

And I know that I am only lashing out
At the One who loves me most;
And after I have figured this somehow
What I really need to know.....

Is if You who live in eternity
Hear the prayers of those of us who live in time;
We can't see what's ahead
And we cannot get free from what we've left behind;
I'm reeling from these voices that keep screamin' in my ears
All these words of shame and doubt, blame and regret;

I can't see how You're leading me
Unless You've led me here;
To where I'm lost enough to let myself be led...

And so You've been here all along, I guess;
It's just Your ways and You are just plain hard to get...

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 Board Members:

Nevin & Joann Nisly—Director
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