



HOPE Ministries Highlights

January 2018

Special points of interest:

- Announcement about upcoming seminar—p.2
- Personal testimony of God's grace—p. 3
- Lynn Miller writes about our use of Spiritual gifts— p.4
- Urgent Prayer Request—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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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“Excavations of the Heart” - Joann Nisly



During Christmas and New Years, Nevin and I had the opportunity to go on a Holy Land tour with some of my siblings. It was a trip that probably won't be duplicated! Having had my mind indoctrinated with Bible Story pictures, and not knowing much about Israel, it really was very different than I would have imagined.

Many of the Biblical sites we visited are not the actual Bible-time dwellings, but are excavations below today's dwellings. Cities were demolished and then rebuilt upon the ruins. So we saw excavations of Caesarea, Peter's house, King Agrippa's Palace at Caesarea Philippi, Jericho, Magdala, Capernaum and more. After a couple days of visiting churches that were built over the probable sites of historical and Biblical happenings, I was getting kind of tired of fancy churches built many years ago. Then a comment was made in our group that changed my way of thinking. The fact that people built churches on these sites gives validation to the authenticity and importance of the places.

These churches were built to preserve the sites. To see the supposed birthplaces of Mary, Jesus, John the Baptist and others, as well as the happenings in Jesus' life, we often went into very old churches and down into the grotto to see the actual bedrock or cave where it happened. This made me begin to think differently about these excavations. These important historical events could still be buried today with no recognition given at all to them. Instead people have invested much time and money to protect the place of the historical happenings so that we can understand them better and get a glimpse of what was REALLY there and a taste of where Jesus walked.

As I've been reflecting about this trip, I have had to think about our hearts. When we endeavor to discover the way God made our hearts, it takes much time and investment. We need to "excavate" and then protect what we find. He did "knit us together in our mother's womb" and designed us to be able to live from that heart. The effects of our own sin and the consequences of other people's sin on us have stolen and torn away from the heart that Jesus gave us. As we excavate and uncover the fragments of our heart, bringing it to Jesus in its brokenness, we can understand better who we are and who He

is. Each fragment is important to Him and of value! As our understanding increases and more healing happens, we can learn to protect (guard) our hearts in ways that are in agreement with Jesus (Prov. 4:23). As we learn to protect those "excavations", change happens because we are agreeing with Jesus about who we are and can live out of the heart He created, rather than the personality that is formed from sin and robbery of the enemy.

It is easier just to keep on living with the familiarity of our past pain and thus, it gets buried alive. Yet, whether we realize it or not, it is still active and affecting us. Therefore, our thoughts about ourselves, about others, and about God will remain distorted. Our belief system out of that pain will produce strong rejection, anger, bitterness, addictive behaviors, etc. in our lives, affecting those around us in a negative way.

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Excavations of the house of Peter in Capernaum

COMING UP SOON!**HOPE Ministries Seminar
March 2-3, 2018****Passing the Grace of God
to the Next Generation**

Friday, March 2— 6:30-9:00
Saturday, March 3— 9:00-4:30

**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, please contact
the HOPE Ministries' office.

**Please register by
Sunday, February 18, 2018**

ABOUT THE SEMINAR**Tools will be given to aid in un-
derstanding:**

- Emotional pain
- How past pain shapes life as an adult
- Our tendency to live out of lies
- How our belief system affects others, especially children

There will be teaching on:

- How we naturally want to “fix” ourselves
- Living out of the grace of God

Sessions will include:

- Practical examples of the concepts presented
- Personal testimonies

Though emphasis will be placed on relationships with children, grandchildren, youth, and people in mentoring situations, all individuals will find the concepts applicable to their lives.

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We can even convince ourselves that we are OK due to this familiarity with ourselves and we justify our intents. Yet God calls us to “dig deep”, as our tour guide would say, and allow Him to work in the depths of our hearts. He has come to heal our broken, fragmented hearts. He longs to help us do some excavating of our hearts. He longs to have us worship from our heart in the process of healing, to forgive from our heart, to love from our heart and to live from the heart He gave us.

NOTES...

In the last 3 months HOPE Ministries has had:

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

There were also several preliminary sessions.

NOTICE

**HOPE Ministries office
hours have changed.**

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

**Helping
Overcome with
Purpose and
Encouragement**

SEMINAR TOPICS**Friday evening, March 2**

5:45—Registration opens

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Session 1—The Search for Our Identity

Session 2—Living From the Room of Good Intentions

Saturday, March 3

8:30—Doughnuts and coffee

9:00-12:00

Session 3—When Shame Rules

Session 4—A New Path

12:00-1:00 Lunch will be served

1:00-4:30

Session 5—Restoring My Identity

Session 6—Living in the Room of Grace

Personal testimonies will be given throughout the seminar.

THE BOX—by Kristina Nisly

“Create in me a clean heart, oh God; renew in me a resolute spirit. Don’t thrust me away from Your presence, Don’t take Your Holy Spirit away from me, Restore my joy in Your salvation, and let a willing spirit uphold me.”

Psalms 51:10-12, CJB

This is what I was asking for. Every day for three months I was asking Jesus to heal my heart. I started asking in an airport. I sat for 5 hours in that airport waiting for my flight, and it was there that I chose to listen to the Lord. I heard Him. Clearly He said, “You have to ask.” And that began my journey of asking. Asking Him for healing; asking Him for the desires of my heart; asking Him because He is a good Father.

“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” Luke 11:9-12, NLT

The current chapter in my life of struggling in my rebellion was coming to an end. A new chapter—one of restoration, healing, and renewal was

coming. But I had to ask for it. I knew the truth but wasn’t walking in it. I knew I was believing lies, but it was easier to believe the lies than to deal with them. I couldn’t deal with my issues: the sin which just festered and led me further and further away, the hurt I had experienced, and the hope I had lost. I decided I just wouldn’t care. I wouldn’t care about my feelings, my struggles, my issues. Instead, I would pack them

“I would pack them away neatly in a box, close the lid, and store the box on the highest shelf in my closet.”

away neatly in a box, close the lid, and store the box on the highest shelf in my closet. I could see myself closing that closet door and walking away from all my issues. Why deal with it? It was too much for me to bear.

The burden continued to grow bigger and became harder to manage. I distracted myself with long hours at work and endless nights with Netflix so that I wouldn’t be left alone with my thoughts at night. I was busy traveling, living for whatever exciting thing was coming next and walking the path of self-indulgence.

I want to testify to the kindness of the Lord. He made a way. He opened doors for me to walk through. Two months before I was sitting in that airport, some Christian friends wanted to have a Bible study. I opened my Bible and began to read. The Word of God is filled with truth! It’s alive and active! It’s sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts to the heart of the issue! (Hebrews 4:12) I was

longing for truth and the more I read, the more I longed for the truth. Slowly I began to choose Bible study over entertainment.

Another open door was a conversation my dad had with his children. He asked us if we would be willing to talk about ways he might have failed us. He made it clear that he didn’t want any barriers of unforgiveness between us. He said this honesty would be the greatest gift we could give him. The invitation was there. The door was open. All I had to do was walk through it.

I was longing for more, I was longing for healing; I also understood, I had to ask. After 3 months of asking Jesus to heal my heart, I went to counseling through the Caring for the Heart model at HOPE Ministries. It was then that I finally said, “Jesus, I’m ready. I’ve been asking You to heal my heart, and I’m ready. I’m finally ready to open that box and deal with all my issues. I’m

“Jesus, I’m ready...I’m finally ready to open that box and deal with the issues...My eyes searched the top shelf where I would reach for the dreaded box.”

ready to face the music. I’m ready to bear the burden.” Immediately I got a picture. I was standing in front of that closet. The door opened. My eyes searched the top shelf where I would reach for that dreaded box. But...it wasn’t there. The box was gone. Non-existent. There was no burden to bear. Jesus had been healing me; Jesus had been working on my heart; Jesus had taken that burden. The box was gone. And I was changed. He makes all things new.

FROM A BOARD MEMBER:



Lynn and Sandra Miller
Vanessa, Courtney, and Tanisha

Spiritual Gifts

What if my New Year's resolutions weren't only focused on self-improvement but also on making a difference in my circle of influence? Recently I've been thinking a lot about Spiritual Gifts. Why do you think God created us with spiritual gifts? Shockingly, it wasn't to make us look good. Even more unbelievable is the fact that my spiritual gifting is not something to be used as a weapon. We were created with spiritual gifts for one reason and that is to bring honor to our Father.

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul talks about the different parts of the body and

how that each one is equally important. The different gifts play a vital part in the team we are on, whether it be at work, church, or some other organization. Do I value each gift and the balance it brings to my team? The diversity of gifts on a team brings strength as each of us honors God by allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through the gifts that God gave us to bring glory to Him.

The Holy Spirit's guidance as we use our gifting is important. Sometimes it's easy for me to see where I can help my team and quickly use my God-given gifts. How often do I jump in and use those gifts outside of the Holy Spirit's leading? My team suffers tremendously when I use my gifts to further my agenda or happen to squelch someone else's perspective because I'm operating outside of the Holy Spirit's leading.

My gifts can be toxic if combined with pride or when I am on a team and refuse to use the gifts that God has given me. Think about the meaning of toxic. The opposite of toxic is to give life. Am I refusing to

give life by not using my gifts? Am I snuffing out spiritual vibrancy because I'm using my gifts outside of the Spirit's leading?

It's exciting for me to think of the unlimited potential that we have in 2018 as we look at Romans 12:4-21 and "outdo one another in showing honor" and are "fervent in spirit." My prayer for this year is that because of our deeper relationship with God, we can be genuine in our love for others and that through that love for others we can impact those around us positively. How can you influence others with the Spiritual gifts that God has given you?

PRAYER REQUEST

HOPE Ministries would like to request prayer support for Board Members, Ray and Gina Miller. Gina suffered a massive stroke on January 25, and is now in rehab. Please pray for Ray and Gina and their sons, Quinton and Braxton, as they walk this difficult journey.

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
Lynn & Sandra Miller—Board Chairman
Julian & Bertha Nisly—Sec./Treasurer
Arlen & Gloria Mast—Vice Chairman
Ray & Gina Miller—Board Member
Gene L Miller—Board Member