



HOPE Ministries Highlights

July 2015

Special Points of Interest:

- Check out some events coming up soon p.2
- Please note some announcements on p. 2 regarding our secretary hours
- A couple shares their testimony about how Jesus worked p. 3
- Ray Miller talks about God whispering to us 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

Phone:
620-259-9390

Office Hours:
For the next 6 weeks we do not have regular hours.

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hope4yourheart@gmail.com

Website:
nislshopeministries.com

Address:
HOPE Ministries
Box 103
Partridge, KS 67566

Enjoying The Gift Of Fruit-by Joann Nisly

One warm day this spring, I wandered out to our orchard. Last year we enjoyed our own peaches for the first time and I anticipated the same for this year. Perusing the barren trees, I hoped and I wondered..."What will the coming months bring?" Since it was early, I knew that possible frost could prevent any fruit. There could also be hail, bugs, rust, etc. and we couldn't guarantee that we would have fruit. Yet, there were some things that could be done to contribute to the possibility of fruit.

I watched those trees bloom. I held my breath because one year, the frost got most of the flowers. Later, I saw buds--a sign of fruit.

Several months earlier we hadn't really known if there would be production or not. Throughout the winter when it all looked unproductive, occasionally Nevin would water the trees. Before there were buds, he had the audacity to go to these live trees and prune out some of their branches. When the fruit was small, he did an even more "awful" thing and he wanted me to help in this process! We had to take off about 2/3 of the fruit on the loaded trees! So I tried to close my eyes as I saw him so "haphazardly" plucking off the fruit. I was sure he was going way overboard. He even went over the part I had "done," because I was too frugal. As the caregiver of the orchard, he knew what would give the tree full potential to make bigger and

better fruit. In my lack of expertise, I was thinking only of the fruit and hating to see any of it removed. Weeks later, when the fruit started developing and hanging, we put ropes around the trees so the fruit wouldn't distort and destroy branches. This part doesn't look so nice to the eye. And now we wait...

Sometimes that is the way I have been in my emotional healing. I know the fruit I want and



I want it NOW! I try hard to make that fruit happen--I pound myself, or I elevate myself, or I criticize others because my fruit seems more appealing. At times I have given up because I knew I could never have good fruit and I have waited as long as I think I should have to wait. Had Nevin forgotten about those trees in the winter because they looked so worthless, had he not prepared the soil before planting, had he not pruned or thinned, our potential for fruit would be non-existent. Some of those things he did 6 years ago in hope... Somehow when it

comes to seeing fruit in my own life, it is easy to think it is my responsibility to put that fruit on the tree.

As I've begun to understand myself over the last decade, I've noticed how much my focus can be on my good or bad fruit instead of on the Creator of the tree who calls me into faith in Him. To make good fruit (or positive results) within myself is impossible. My job is to be a "servant" to my heart: make sure it has proper nutrients, make sure it is watered, allow the caregiver to prune and thin it without resistance, etc. My job isn't to decide **when** the fruit comes or to create the size of it. Yet, I do need to allow my heart to be an available place to grow fruit. Somehow as believers, it seems we often become do-ers instead of be-ers. When that happens, our performance, as well as the performance of others, becomes our focus. The enemy capitalizes on this and convinces us that we need to either try harder to get good fruit or give up because we will never have good fruit. He will do whatever he can to keep our focus off our Caregiver and Maker.

In the process of growing the peaches, my focus has been on the peaches (the fruit). Nevin, the caregiver, has his focus on the maintenance process. He recognizes his limitations of producing fruit, but also recognizes how he could contribute towards providing healthy conditions for the fruit.

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Neither of us could control the wind or hail or other hardships that our peaches have endured. It's been amazing to me how they cling to their vine in their vulnerability in the storms. Their strength because of the Source of their strength is unexplainable!

In a few weeks we hope to reap the benefits of Nevin's hard work. We hope to enjoy the harvest—God's gift to us. We enjoy giving of the overflow of the harvest. As we help people, as you help people, as we look at our own lives, where is our focus? Is it about us or is it about HIM? We bless you as you nurture your hearts with the nutrients from God and enjoy the fruit He brings.

**VERSES From NLT**

John 15:4 "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me."

Prov. 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."

Luke 6:45b "What you say flows from what is in your heart."

Matt. 28:29 "Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

HOPE Ministries is hosting a
Fall Seminar

November 6-8, 2015

Guest speaker:
Allen Miller
Arthur, IL

We regret that we do not have more information yet about this seminar, but keep on the alert for posters and brochures. We hope to have topics and registration information in the October newsletter, as well as posting information soon on our website.
www.nislyshOPEministries.com

UPCOMING FOLLOW-UP DAY

If you have been through HOPE Ministries, and need a time of refreshment, a time of re-evaluation, or a time of inspiration, you may be interested in this opportunity.

Saturday, August 1, 2015

Located at HOPE Ministries, Partridge, KS

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Room for 10-12 people; singles or couples

No Charge; donations accepted

TOPICS:

Caring For My Own Heart
Caring For Another's Heart
Dealing With Criticism
Deterrents Off the Road

For registration, please call 620-259-9390 and leave message or
Email: hope4yourheart@gmail.com

Please Register by Sunday, July 26, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

In the absence of our Secretary, Crystal Yoder, we do not have set hours to allow you to reach a person when you call into the office. Nevin and Joann are filling this position for about 6 weeks and will call return calls if a message is left when they are available to do so. Thanks for bearing with us in this interim time. Office hours will resume upon Crystal's return in mid-August. Crystal is taking time off to celebrate her marriage to John Miller on July 18 and will return as Crystal Miller!

HAVE A DILLONS PLUS CARD?

HOPE Ministries is now eligible and is on the Dillons' list of charities. You can visit their website at www.dillons.com/communityrewards and create an account and register your Dillons card. You can choose the charity of your choice to support. Thanks for your consideration in this.

Also, if you are an Amazon user, you can order at smile.amazon.com and donate .5% to this ministry.

Personal Testimony of the work of Jesus!- by Dick and Jane*

We had both felt for a while that it would be a good thing to go to counseling together. Our marriage was not in crisis. We loved each other and felt like we were communicating well. We decided to come to HOPE Ministries because we felt discouraged in our spiritual walk. Jane especially was struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, panic attacks, debilitating insomnia, and a myriad of serious health problems. Jane felt pressure to perform though and she tried to get through it all and prove to herself and everyone else that she had everything under control. We wanted to become stronger in our relationship with Christ and in our marriage through our circumstances, not weakened or bitter.

Going into the counseling we did not know what to expect or what we were going to talk about, but Nevin was very relaxed and it was a very low pressure situation for us. If we needed more time on our breaks, it was no big deal. The cottage was perfect for us and it was such a lovely, relaxing, private atmosphere for us to talk and rest between sessions.

During the sessions Nevin was so kind and gentle as he taught us how to care for each other's hearts and to bring our hurts to Jesus instead of ignoring them or downplaying them. If one of us was struggling to understand something, Nevin would ask the other spouse to ask them about it. We learned how to communicate our needs better and to care for each other more through this.

Nevin began by helping us understand how things we have experienced in the past and the things we experience daily can be brought to Jesus, and he helped us to bring the hurts that came up during our sessions to Jesus. We talked about how unresolved hurts from the past affect us today. We both grew up in Godly homes. We were both reluctant to admit that our parents had ever hurt us since we had been so blessed with wonderful childhoods!

Dick has always seen himself as a people pleaser and that puts pressure on him specifically in work situations. In the past he has been loyal to bosses that were putting stress on him and on Jane. After talking with Nevin, Dick has a better under-

standing of his position in Christ and how Jesus sees him. He now has a confidence and peace that he didn't have before. At work he has the ability to say no when he needs to, and to have a peace about it.

Jane has always struggled with perfectionism and always feeling like she could never measure up no matter how strong she was or how hard she worked or how much she served others. In spite of doing everything "right" Jane still felt like she couldn't ever DO enough to honor and

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please God. She took blame for everything that went wrong onto herself and always felt guilty about everything. She always felt like she was failing at everything, and like she could never be enough. As we talked more with Nevin, Jane began to see that her perfectionism had stemmed from the fact that her parents were both perfectionists and her mom tended to raise the bar a lot and expected Jane to know the standard without being told. Jane wrongly concluded that her worth was measured by how perfect she was.

Nevin encouraged us in our efforts to get medical attention for Jane. He also helped Jane see how Jesus looks at her. Nevin showed Jane a picture that helped her visualize herself in the way that Jesus does. The picture depicts an infant being lifted into the air by Jesus. The infant is smiling, happy and trusting. Jesus has so much joy on His face – this child delights Him and pleases Him – just the way he is in all his childlike helplessness.

This picture reminded Jane of the truth that Jesus is the only Perfect One. Jane is an imperfect sinner, but the truth is that Jesus bled and died and rose again so that she could be washed clean and new and viewed by the Father as perfect. The truth is that Jane cannot be any more perfect in the Father's eyes than she already is! Jane found such freedom, joy, and peace in the truth of grace, that she does not have to *do* or *accomplish* anything – Jesus has already done and accomplished *everything*!

Another word picture that really resonated with both Dick and Jane was yoking up with Jesus. Nevin helped us both

understand that there are so many burdens we place upon ourselves to carry that Jesus has not put on us. We are both learning to pray, "Help us do today what You would have for us, nothing more, nothing less." His burden truly is light when we aren't carrying things Jesus never put on us and when we are willing to yoke up with Him. We are learning that we do not have to bear our hurts alone – Jesus longs to yoke up with us and carry our load for us.

The things we took away from our time with HOPE Ministries have not been an "instant fix" for us. We are still learning and understanding how to care for one another and accept each other's love and care. Jane is still learning to let go of trying to be perfect in her own strength and just allow herself to be "enough" by God's strength and the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Jane is also continuing to learn that any spiritual discipline, any work, and serving – anything that she does for Jesus does not change the way He looks at her. It is only obedience to His commands and an outflow of her gratitude for all that He has already done for her. Together, we are learning how to say "no" to things without feeling guilty and to put caring for each other's heart first.

We are still processing the things we learned from our time in Partridge, but we came home so refreshed and encouraged.

HOPE Ministries has ministered to us with follow-up calls every once in a while, and those are always such an encouragement to us as well. We are so thankful to Nevin and Joann for their ministry and care. We would encourage anyone and everyone to visit HOPE Ministries and to be blessed by this ministry as we have been.

*Upon request, names have been changed.

In the last 3 months HOPE Ministries has had:

- 4 new couple cases
- 6 new single cases
- 5 follow-up couple cases
- 2 follow-up single cases

There have been several one-session follow-ups as well as premarital counseling and some interview sessions.

From a Board Member:



Ray & Gina Miller
Quinton and Braxton

IT'S IN THE WHISPER

In 1 Kings 19:10, we see the prophet Elijah crying out to God, "I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too." If you are familiar with this passage, you may recognize that these words of Elijah came soon after a mighty display of God's power on Mount Carmel where Elijah had challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest to prove that his God was the only true God. God had rained fire down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice and the altar that Elijah had prepared, while the prophets of Baal had been met with no response

from their false god that they had asked to do the same. How had Elijah's outlook become gloomy so quickly? He had just experienced a miraculous response from God that proved without a doubt that he was serving the Almighty. I believe that his outlook, at least in part, was so bleak because he had bought into a lie from Satan that he was the only Godly person left in all of Israel.

1 Peter 5:8 calls Satan a "roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." I believe Satan speaks like a lion as well. When we hear the roaring of things like "you're not good enough" or "you're all alone", as Elijah did, we can be assured that those are Satan's lies we are hearing. While the lies of Satan come at us like loud roars, let's look a little further into Elijah's experience and see where we can hear the voice of God. The passage in 1 Kings 19 says that as Elijah stood before God on Mount Sinai, a violent windstorm passed, but God was not in it. Next was an earthquake, and then a fire, but the Lord was not in either. After the fire, came the sound of a gentle whisper in which Elijah heard God's voice and received direction on what he should do next. God also reassured Elijah that he was not alone, and that He would preserve 7,000 others in Israel who had never forsaken God and worshipped the false

gods.

Satan loves to roar his lies at us, just as he did Elijah. Satan roars, "you're not good enough", "you can't do it", "nobody else struggles with this", or a host of other things he uses to trip us up. The roar can be deafening at times. Satan also likes to use the busyness of our lives to be the distracting windstorms, earthquakes, or fire, as Elijah experienced as well. While God does lead us and direct us through those earthquakes of life, we need to learn to ignore the roar, put aside the distractions, and listen for the whisper if we want to hear from God's heart. While Satan roars lies, God whispers love, acceptance, and peace. So make time, relax, sit at the feet of Jesus, and reflect on His grace and love. You'll find it in the whisper.

-by Ray Miller

Ray is employed as a hydraulic technician at B&B Hydraulics. His wife, Gina, works at Partridge Grade School. They have 2 sons, Quinton & Braxton. Quinton will be a freshman at Haven High School & Braxton will be a fourth grader at Partridge Grade School this fall. Ray & Gina are members at Plainview Church & are currently directors of the church's Wednesday evening children's ministry, JAM. They are blessed to be a part of the Hope Ministries board & look forward to seeing how God continues to move through this ministry.

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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