



# HOPE Ministries Highlights

May 2015

## Special points of interest:

- Nevin talks about the idea of loving ourselves p.1
- Announcements about happenings and upcoming events p.2
- One individual relates his testimony about experiencing the embrace of the Heavenly Father p. 3
- Board member, Lynn Miller, challenges us to pay attention to our souls 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:  
Mondays: 12:00-4:00  
Thursdays: 9:00-1:00

Email:  
hope4yourheart@gmail.com

Website:  
nislysHOPEministries.com

Address:  
HOPE Ministries  
Box 103  
Partridge, KS 67566

## Loving Myself???

-by Nevin Nisly



Nevin & Joann Nisly

What does it mean to “love my neighbor as myself”? We can understand the first commandment without much trouble—perhaps not in practical ways but it does not usually cause us trouble theologically. We know the Lord wants us to “**Love the LORD your God with all your heart**”. The second commandment is often misused and misunderstood: “**Love your neighbor as yourself.**” All kinds of terminology is used to explain the last part of that verse; words like self-esteem, self-love, selfishly protecting our interests, etc. What is the heart of this teaching?

God IS LOVE (1 Jn) We can love God because He first loved us. In loving Him, we choose to put Him first in our lives and allow Him to direct our paths. But notice the progression: God loves us which allows us to choose to truly love God. This allows us to truly love our-

selves which allow us to truly love others. This kind of love is agape love, which is a godly love that is self-sacrificing and done without condition or expectation. This is supernatural love motivated by God Himself. Unfortunately, the word “love” is not usually understood this way, especially in loving myself.

So how does it affect others when I don’t love myself? When I don’t believe I am worth much, I may set out to prove to myself and others that I am of worth. This may cause me to become judgmental and critical of others. When we put others down, we lift ourselves up. Another possible way this can manifest itself is if I don’t believe I am worth loving, I may think and talk negatively about myself, putting pressure on others around me to lift me up and I drain those around me. A third way this may show up

is in thinking I have no value, I may throw myself into good things to find my value with service as my motive. Loving others becomes an obligation rather than a result of being loved.

The more I serve, the more acceptable I am and then am worthy of love. All these ways will eventually rob us and others of LIFE.

I believe Jesus is asking us to agree with Him in how He views us. To get a proper understanding in our hearts, I suggest we ask Jesus the \*BIG QUESTION on a daily basis to get His perspective on us personally: “Jesus, what do You think of me?”

Understanding in our hearts the personal value He places on us as His special creation in whom He delights and cherishes, we can then choose to be in agreement with Him. This value allows us to enjoy a personal Jesus who deeply cares, understands us, and accepts us just as we are and still chooses to walk with us and guide us as we face life and its challenges. This allows us to live a Jesus-focused life instead of a self-focused life based on performance.

When I was sharing with a group of teens on understanding our value, we took one of our puppies. The group’s reaction surprised me—everyone got quiet and no one seemed to have any trouble understanding the value of that little creature.



-continued on p. 2

**"Loving Myself"—Continued from page 1**

I could imagine Jesus using that illustration and saying "How much more does your Heavenly Father value you!" (compare Luke 12:24, 28)

In summary, I believe that loving ourselves in the way that God loves us allows our hearts to be **restored** by God's love and **receive** His grace. Other people then get the overflow of that love and grace causing them to feel loved and accepted for who they are. This encourages and affirms them as well. A big part of that journey is learning what Jesus thinks of me personally and **agreeing with Him** about me. I am so glad that Jesus is PERFECT LOVE and "PERFECT LOVE casts out fear!" We bless you on your journey of learning about His personal love for you!

*\*Wild At Heart by John Eldredge*

**Happenings around HOPE Ministries**

In Feb., we had opportunity to assist Caring For The Heart at a seminar in Buhler, KS. We enjoyed interacting with the other counselors and watching God work in the lives of people.



Enjoying lunch in Buhler

In March, HOPE Ministries hosted a Men's Conference in Partridge, KS, with guest speaker Mel Eash from Topeka, IN. About 100 people were in attendance from different states.



In April, we were able to attend the CFTH Directors' Retreat in Hesston. We were also privileged to have some of the CFTH counselors visit our facility.

**Upcoming Events...****Saturday, August 1, 2015****Follow Up Day**

At HOPE Ministries

For anyone who has received counseling at

HOPE Ministries

Max. number—10-12 people

For singles or couples

First come, first serve

There is no charge; donations accepted

The purpose of these follow-up days is to provide opportunity for people to be refreshed on concepts that were covered while attending HOPE Ministries. It is also a day of interacting with other people who are on a similar journey.

**Nov. 6-8, 2015 (Friday-Sunday)****Seminar** -hosted by HOPE Ministries

Guest Speaker—Allen Miller— Arthur, IL

More information will be in the next newsletter and on our website

To register for these events, please contact HOPE Ministries:

Phone: 620-259-9390

Email: hope4yourheart@gmail.com

**Testimony—continued from p.3**

boys' camp and secretly plan to try to keep me there if I don't change my ways at 15 yrs old. Coming out of childhood, these were the experiences I had that shaped my view of the Heavenly Father. When a child is at the lowest disappointment in his life and feeling shame, this is when he needs the Father's love the most. I am starting to be comfortable with love and can see the Father is rejoicing and smiling at me:) because He created me, because I accepted His son, Jesus, to blot out all my sins. If I have disappointments, He will always be there with open arms! I'm starting to understand (experience) what intimacy is with a Father!!! A perfect Father does not condemn; He does not leave, nor forsake us. Now when I struggle, I can come running to the Father; I KNOW He will help me in such a loving, kind way. It gets me excited to live!!!!!!

Now I can wake up and be excited to face the day because my Father has everything figured out for me. He will show me what to say no matter what I face; He promised nothing will be able to separate us from His Love. It's our choice; we can choose to live in Numb-Numb Land and wake up every day just saying, "Jesus, please take me home; I'm tired," or we can choose to seek intimacy with the Father and have all our needs met in the way the Father created it. Then we can soar like eagles and thrive, and live out of the whole heart He created for us like He originally planned it back in the garden of Eden!

## A Testimony: Enjoying My Heavenly Father! - anonymous

My view of my Heavenly Father was that I had to perform right in order to have a place in the Father's heart. A couple years ago I began a journey to change some patterns of thinking I had as well as understand some of the things I was doing. Because of this, we started a friendship with Nevin and Joann that has blessed us so much and it's been a continual blessing ever since.) I am very thankful to my wife for faithfully walking alongside of me!

I have had a lot of healing in my heart over the past couple years, but I still struggled with some relationships— people that stepped on my pain that I would block out, and also I was still living in a lot of fear of rejection and fear of unknown.

My wife loved me so much. She helped me understand there were things I would say that hurt others that I did not know. I am a very sensitive guy, and the last thing I wanted to do was hurt someone. It still felt like something was missing in my life: things I did not understand. A verse that always puzzled me was in I John 4:18. *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."*(ESV) I tried loving more and it did not get rid of fears; I tried casting out the fear in the name of Jesus. That would put a bandage on it for a while, but it would come back. I visited with Nevin about it and he recommended the Jack Frost\* DVDs. I wanted to try something, so I started to listen to the DVD's, and it was life changing!!

I started to understand some of my pain had been caused by something I *didn't receive* as a child versus something *that happened to me*. I love my parents; they did anything and everything they could to teach and train me the best they could about life and about Jesus...BUT A PERSON CAN ONLY GIVE WHAT THEY RECEIVED AND WHAT THEY KNOW.

Jack started talking about how he served 10 years in ministry, but when he came home, he was a miserable wretch to his family. He could pray demons out of people, he could counsel marriages, and he went to Bible College where they kept track of who wins the most souls to Jesus. It was all out of performance. But Jack didn't know how to receive and give love. As long as he was "hitting the ball" right (performing and obeying), he had a place in the Father's heart. That

was the part with which I could identify. He started talking about how we were created for love, how God

put in each one of us the desire and the need to have a special place in the Father's heart. That's how we were created and a lot of our pain is caused by something we did not receive--needs that were never met. When I started to understand some of my deepest needs were never met, I started crying. I was not even sure why, but I felt the Father just holding me.

I started crying uncontrollably and saying out loud, "The Father is holding me! The Father is holding me!" It was the best experience I ever had! There was a need met that never was met before to that extent.

He also explained how we were created to learn to trust love on our mothers' breasts, a safe place. If parents were never taught to trust love, but only live out of fear, how can they give perfect love?

A couple weeks later I was reading a book from Jack Frost and it lead me through a prayer releasing my father, forgiving him for all the needs that were not met. Again I started crying uncontrollably, and Jesus took me back and showed me a lot of those unmet needs. Jesus will play softball with me, He will go to the races with me, and He will help me with my school work.

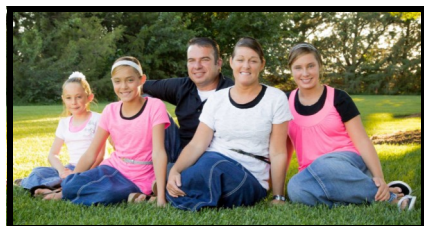
He will not beat me when I mess up, He will not just be concerned about me when the board members come talk to him about

what a problem child I was, He won't beat me when I don't do enough school work, and when I'm hurting the most, He will comfort me, not condemn me. When I'm struggling with sin, He will walk alongside me and love me so much that I won't even have the desire to sin anymore. His love will lead me to repentance. He will not trick me into helping on a work project at a

*As long as he was "hitting the ball" right (performing and obeying), he had a place in the Father's heart.*



## From a Board Member:



Lynn and Sandra Miller  
Vanessa, Tanisha, and Courtney

## SOUL-KEEPING

What is the condition of my soul? How much does the condition of my soul affect others? Why is this so important? I mean, really, my inner life is pretty much invisible; it's where my thoughts, hopes, and wishes live. That inner part of me is really easy to neglect because no one can see it and there isn't much glory in taking care of something that no one can applaud or recognize. Do you neatly manicure a spot in the pasture out back?

If my soul is shriveling due to lack of care, what drives me? My fulfillment or gratification can come from doing things that are generally good and serving others. Does this nurture the soul? Not necessarily. Unfortunately, rather than allowing the outward to be a result of my

soul condition, I sometimes depend on the outward to improve the condition of my soul. Not good! Dallas Willard says, "You're a soul made by God, made for God, and made to need God, which means you were not made to be self-sufficient". In John Ortberg's book "Soul Keeping", he talks about the soul being our operating system. "The human soul seeks to integrate our will and our mind and our body into an integral person. Beyond that, the soul seeks to connect us with other people, with creation, and with God himself, who made us to be rooted in Him the way a tree is rooted by a life-giving stream."



I need God! Self-sufficiency is over-rated! I desperately need that life-giving stream!

Why then is it so easy to get off course? Depending on my own will power to do what God says, to be in tune with the Spirit, or to feel

His presence, is futile. My own will can't overpower deeply rooted habits, patterns, and attitudes that continue to rear their ugly heads. I need Jesus! "Bless the Lord, Oh my soul, and all that is within me." Psalm 103:1 When my soul, body, mind, and will are integrated, suddenly harmony is the byproduct. This harmony is easily recognized by others as the love of Jesus and points them to Him. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" Matthew 22:37. The greatest commandment of all speaks of our need for Him. It is humanly impossible to integrate our will and our heart and our soul. Let's depend on Jesus to bring harmony to our lives daily!

Lynn and Sandra have served on the HOPE Ministries Board 4 years. They have 3 girls: Vanessa-16, Tanisha-12, and Courtney-78 Their support and enthusiasm about HOPE Ministries has been an inspiration.

In the last 3 months HOPE Ministries has had:

- 3 new couple cases
- 3 new single cases
- 2 follow up couple cases
- 3 follow up single cases
- 1 Premarital Case
- Several 1-session follow-ups

## 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

Donations can also be made 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 Miller—Board Member