



August 17, 2009

Dear Friends,

A couple weeks ago Debbie and I had the privilege of attending the THRIVE families conference and then the THRIVE track one training conference in Peoria, Illinois. I was one of the presenters for the family conference and taught on "A Neuro-Theology of Sex" and "Protection and Prevention in a Pornographic World." My presentations went very well and I continue receiving great feedback,. However, I will admit it was more than a little intimidating talking about Immanuel prayer and brain science with Dr. Karl Lehman and Dr. Jim Wilder in the audience. They both, however, were very gracious and encouraging. (FYI, I am in the process of planning a one day seminar in Olathe where we will film my "Neuro-Theology of Sex" presentation. When we have the details nailed down, I will let you know.)

The track one training conference was also a great experience. It is a unique in that we only spent about 45 minutes each morning in lecture and the rest of the day actually doing the exercises Dr. Wilder has designed to train the right side of your brain. The training revolves around the rhythm of joy and quiet. Joy, is being in the presence of someone who is genuinely glad to be with you. It is communicated non-verbally through your face and especially your eyes. It can't be faked or manufactured but you can do some things to bring it to the surface. One of the most powerful things you can do to bring it out is to think about and talk about things you appreciate.

Quiet is to allow your mind and body to rest. When "quiet" my heart rate is calm, my breathing is deep and steady, my muscles relax and I feel a sense of calm and peace. Dr. Wilder asserts that God designed our brains for the rhythm of joy and quiet. Therefore, learning specific skills to engage this rhythm actually stimulates brain growth as well as relationship. While Debbie and I were both tired by the end of the week, we also felt connected, refreshed and encouraged.

The week of training helped us see more of the big picture of many of the things we have found incredibly helpful from the LIFE MODEL materials. We also had wonderful opportunities to personally visit with Jim and Kitty Wilder, Karl and Charlotte Lehman, Ed and Maritza Khouri and many other amazing people.

As you have probably guessed by now, I came back with many, many things I want to share with all our people. My last two sermons "The Power of Joy" and "Belonging" share some of the highlights. They are both on our website at [www.newhopelawrence.com/sermons.html](http://www.newhopelawrence.com/sermons.html). I highly encourage you to listen to them.

Another incredible opportunity coming out of our trip is that when Debbie and I had dinner with the Wilders, I had a conversation with Jim about "Belonging" which is the next module of the THRIVE training series. He said it was at least a year before they would have any possibility of even beginning the filming process and at least two years before it is available. (They also have to raise production funds) He had shared some of the Belonging material during the family conference and I saw immediately how much relevance it has for our people, so I asked him if there was any way I could lead another "Pilot" group. His response was something to the effect of "I've been thinking it would be good to have another group (He leads one in Pasadena and Ed Khouri leads another in North Carolina) to get additional feedback before we film it, but I didn't know who could do that, but now I think I do."

So, next spring, we will have the honor of being only the third group to use the materials they are developing. Unlike Restarting, our Belonging adventure will not be video based but will instead have me teaching the content by using Dr. Wilder's PowerPoint slides, notes and etc. It is a great privilege to join them on this journey.

This also leads us back to Restarting. Jim said they had a few individuals try to do "Belonging" who had not done "Restarting" and to this point they haven't been able to keep up. Those who have done "Restarting"

have done very well. We had already been wrestling with the need to do Restarting again so we have decided to begin it again on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will be from 7-8:30 PM each Wednesday through November 18<sup>th</sup>.

We know many of you have already been through it once and a few of you have been through it twice. However, Maritza Khouri, mentioned that it was the third time through when many of their people really “finally got it.” Also, now that Debbie and I have been through the Track One training, we have a much better big picture idea of what the goals and exercises are about.

Therefore, if there is any way you can work it out, please come. We know it is difficult to schedule this time, however, we believe it is an incredibly important investment. We also think it is worth the drive for those of you living outside of Lawrence. (Debbie and I drove to Peoria, Illinois and spent a full week and a half of our time without our kids because we believe so much in the Life Model concepts.) We know it requires commitment and sacrifice, but we wouldn't ask you to do it if we didn't believe it could have a significant impact on your recovery, your life, your marriage and your relationships. Please pray about joining us.

I'm also thrilled that Jenelle Prather, our children's minister, is excited about working with our kids during this time. She is currently in the process of gathering materials, helpers and etc. to make the time much more than just “childcare.” She has some great ideas and a wonderful heart for making our Wednesday nights a valuable ministry time for and with the children of New Hope. Therefore, if you are going to attend and have children, please let us know ASAP so we can prepare effectively. (Actually, we need everyone coming to register, but especially those bringing children)

Finally, I spent some time yesterday with my counselor who prompted me to an Immanuel prayer moment where I saw myself scattering bread to a few geese in a park beside what I thought was a small pond. The scene began to change as I saw the pond was really a large lake with birds coming towards me from far and wide. When my counselor asked me where is Jesus, I had a sense he was standing behind me providing me with the bread I needed to feed the many birds who were coming.

The sense I had from the scene was that Jesus has been getting us ready for him to bring people from far and wide who are hungry and want to be fed. I shared with my counselor that I have actually discouraged some of you from attending New Hope on Sundays because you live some distance away. (I thought your needs would be better met by connecting closer to home) She asked me what was behind that and I admitted it was disbelief that what I had to give was worth a forty-five minute drive. Naturally, she asked me what the image of Jesus standing behind me and providing me with the bread said about that belief. I realized, I have not trusted that Jesus is able to provide the kind of food worth traveling for.

So, if you are hungry and find yourself not being fed on Sundays, please know you are always welcome at New Hope. We don't have the glitz and glitter of many large churches, however, my commitment is to keep passing out His bread as long as He provides it. As long as He is providing, it's worth the drive.

Because of the resurrection,



Darrell Brazell

PS I ran out of time and space, but I do need to let you know that the past couple months have mostly depleted the financial reserves we had as a result of a few large gifts in the late spring. Please prayerfully consider supporting this unique and valuable ministry. You can now donate in person, online ([www.NewHope4si.com](http://www.NewHope4si.com)) and of course by mailing checks to the church. Thank you for your willingness to allow God to provide for us through your financial gifts.

PSS to start receiving my newsletters by email, please send a note to [admin@newhope4si.com](mailto:admin@newhope4si.com)