



July 10, 2009

Dear Friends,

Last week we celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and our country's fight for freedom. As you know by now, freedom is a subject very near and dear to my heart. It has been my own personal battle cry for almost ten years now as I have walked the road of recovery out of the slavery of addiction. It has naturally become the battle cry for our ministry as we walk beside individuals and couples seeking freedom from the many shackles and chains Satan has placed on God's children.

Like all conflicts, this fight for freedom has many bloody and horrific battles. Since my last letter, I have met with several couples beginning the process and many others at various stages. Interacting with them reminds me the battle is intense. The bullets and the blood may be figurative, but the pain, the damage and the scars are very real.

The intensity of the battle leads some to walk away from recovery for a time or even for good. However, it is only an illusion that walking away leads to safety. In fact, over the years we have had numerous individuals return after a time away and invariably the story is remarkably similar. The spiral of addiction leads to even greater pain than what they experienced trying to fight the battle for recovery. Some of you reading this letter may be on your own "Recovery Vacation." If you are, let me encourage you to re-engage before doing even greater damage to yourself, your spouse, your children and to others in your sphere of connection. Please know that you are always welcome, no matter how long you have been away. We truly will be glad to see you and you will not be shamed for being gone.

Some fight the battle long enough they learn how to not act out in ways that offend them or their spouse to the degree they did in the past. As a result of not "acting out" their pain level decreases and their motivation for continued recovery diminishes. Because they can survive at this level of recovery, and because it hurts so much less than it did before, they allow the busyness and pressures of life to keep them from embracing the community and continuing the fight for true freedom.

Recently, I've had numerous reasons to re-engage the Life Model materials and am even more convicted than ever of the need for each of us to continue on our journey of recovery and maturity. If you haven't read *The Life Model: Living Out of The Heart Jesus Gave You*, let me challenge you to put it very high on your priority list. (It's on the resource table in the basement for \$12 and I would be happy to mail copies to those of you outside of Lawrence) If you have read it, please go the next step and actively look for what you can do to fill in the holes in your maturity by learning to accomplish the specific skills of each developmental stage.

I know I have been "in recovery" for almost ten years now and while God has brought me a long ways, the Life Model concepts help me see areas where I need more healing and more maturity. As I've said many times before, "Recovery" and "Sanctification" really are synonyms. Yes, I have recovered much and God has sanctified much, but there is still so much of my heart, life and behaviors that need more refinement. My prayer is that each one of us will be able to keep that perspective and keep pressing on in our spiritual journeys.

This month has much in store for Debbie and me in our journey. In addition to the local wives' group, Debbie has been leading a telephone group with Marsha Means, author of *Surviving Your Husband's Secret Wars*. She has been helping them gain an understanding of the Immanuel process. Needless to say, this has been quite challenging as doing Immanuel Prayer over the phone is something I haven't attempted to this point. Please pray for her as she ministers to women in other places who are trying to find healing and hope in the midst of very painful places.

Beginning July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Debbie and I will attend the THRIVE Family conference in Peoria Illinois. I am scheduled to teach on "The Neuro-Theology of Sex and Addiction" and "Prevention and Protection In A Pornographic World." Please pray for me as I share insights I believe God has shown us to a completely new

audience. I am also praying God will use it to open doors to take the things God has shown us to other locations and other hurting people. (Just a reminder, I'm always looking for churches and other opportunities to speak so please don't hesitate to speak to "the powers that be" if you sense God's leading.)

Following the Family conference, we will stay another five days for the THRIVE track I conference which is a week of learning the 19 skills designed to help train the right side of the brain and enable healthier functioning in all aspects of life. Needless to say, this will likely be an intense week and a half so please pray that we will receive what God has for us personally and be able to bring back many helpful tools to share with those in our ministry. We have been trying to find a way to attend Track I for three years now and have been unable to until now, so please pray for God's protection over our time there.

I also ask for your patience as being gone ten days this month combined with the number of new individuals and couples we have recently added to the ministry has made my schedule incredibly tight. In fact, just this morning, I scheduled what I believe is my last available appointment time for the month of July and I'm finding it difficult to return phone calls and etc.

On a different note, I am thrilled that my manual really is almost done. Kim Jones, a good friend of New Hope for about a year now, graciously offered her time and talents to do a complete edit on my *New Hope For Sexual Integrity* manual. She is doing a fantastic job (as good if not better than the professional editor who did the attachment chapter) and her insight has been fantastic. Her work is giving the manual a polished and professional appearance as well as improving the content. She thinks she can be done with her part before the end of the summer and I hope to get the first "official printing" done shortly thereafter. Please pray for its completion and for God to open doors for its distribution.

Finally, I need to give you an update on our finances. A few days after my last letter went out, we received another substantial gift to the ministry. (Yeah God!!!) The result is we not only rose to "ground zero" but we actually have a small cushion to work from. However, in the month since, we have had more going out than coming in.

Yes, the large gifts are an incredible blessing, and God has used them to put us in a much healthier financial position. However, our greater need is additional individuals, families and/or churches to step up and give on a consistent month to month basis. Many of you are already doing this and we are incredibly grateful for your support. We pray these reminders do not come across like pressure for you to do more as we trust God is our provider and trust you to listen to his promptings.

However, if you have sensed God's call to give to our ministry on a more regular basis but just haven't done so consistently, let me encourage you to go to [www.newhope4si.com](http://www.newhope4si.com) and click the "Donate" button and subscribe to a recurring donation amount. Once subscribed, your donations will occur automatically and can be made through a bank account or a credit card account. You can also make one-time donations there as well. (You can change or discontinue a subscription at any time.)

You are of course, always welcome to give to New Hope the old fashion way. There is a box on the resource table and you can always mail your checks to the office. Every gift, large or small is an encouragement and blessing to us. I am always humbled when I see the sacrificial way many of you support us and this ministry. Thank you for allowing God to bless and provide for us through you.

Because of the resurrection,



Darrell Brazell