



May 20, 2009

Dear Friends,

I must begin this letter with a huge "Praise God!" and "Thank you!" The response to the April letter has been amazing. It has been incredibly encouraging to go to the mail box the past several weeks to find your response cards and many significant gifts for our ministry. The blessings have been so plentiful in fact that God has wiped out our deficit and brought us back to ground zero. Thanks so much for those of you who took the time and sacrificed to give any amount. It is a huge weight off our shoulders to not be working from behind.

It has also been a reminder of part of our prayer each Sunday at New Hope as we pray through the Lord's prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." I've jokingly said I am ready to take that out of our worship time because I want the security of six months worth of bread in storage. The reason this time of blessing has been a reminder of the manna principle is that while there have been many significant gifts, they almost all came back with the response card checked "one time gift." Please don't misunderstand me, we are incredibly grateful for those gifts and we know they were given with sacrificial hearts.

We also know, however, that we need others to partner with us on an ongoing basis. It is interesting that at the same time I was getting the checks out of the mailbox every day, KLOVE, the radio station we listen to, was doing their semi-annual pledge drive. Day after day we heard their pleas for monthly donors and I couldn't help but think, "That's what we need."

Now that we are back to ground zero, if we had ten new \$100 per month donors, we would be fully funded. I know \$100 a month is a significant sacrifice so I am reluctant to ask. However, I know we all find ways to fund the things we truly value. I also know some will be able to give more and others will need to give less. However, I truly believe the more partners we have in this ministry the more effective we will be. People who give regularly also tend to be more regular in attending groups and praying for us and this ministry so we ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with us at any level God leads you. Even seemingly small gifts add up over time.

To help make partnering with us easier, we have a new page on our website at www.newhope4si.com (click on the donate tab) where you can set up recurring monthly donations that can come from your credit card or bank account. You can also do one time donations from this page.

OK, enough about money as there are also some very exciting things happening with the ministry. One thing I'm thrilled about is I finished another chapter for *New Hope For Sexual Integrity*. I know I said I was done with everything but the final editing, but this chapter is very significant. It is an introduction to the **Immanuel Process** that we have found so beneficial in helping people heal from both trauma and from attachment pain.

The chapter is also significant because one of my goals in writing was to put it in a form that isn't dependent on me or another skilled counselor in order for people to connect to Jesus. The chapter contains a small group format we have used with tremendous success here at New Hope. My prayer is that individuals will be able to join together and minister to one another through this chapter.

During the month of **June**, we are going to use this format on **Wednesdays from 7-8:30 PM** in the basement at New Hope. Unfortunately, at this time we will not be able to provide childcare but we highly encourage couples to tag team or even find a sitter. The chapter will be available on the resource table downstairs and I'm more than happy to email it to any of you.

I also thought it would be good to briefly describe the process I have gone through with several couples who have recently joined our ministry. God continues to refine my methods, but here is what I believe He has shown me to this point is the ideal way to begin the process.

The couple typically comes because they are in crisis over the husband's struggle with different forms of sexual acting out and of course deception. They have often met with other pastors, counselors and others who have attempted to guide them. Sometimes that guidance is helpful, sometimes it is actually counterproductive. By the time they get to me, the wife is usually at her wits end and doesn't have any idea what to do with her pain or know what she can believe.

In the first session, I allow both individuals to describe where they are. The husband usually tells a little about his history with sexual sin. The wife typically describes how hurt she felt the first time she became aware of the problem, but how she was able to forgive and move on when he promised he wouldn't do it again. She then describes the many times and ways she found out the problem was still ongoing as well as her pain from his many deceptions and often outright lies. She will often speak of his inability to connect to her and/or their children and describe her own struggle of believing Satan's lies that it is somehow her fault.

I then explain our ministry. I show the husband my *New Hope For Sexual Integrity* manual and describe to him, in his wife's presence, the process we have found so powerful for recovery. I emphasize the importance of attending groups and making relational connections with others in recovery.

I talk very frankly with him about the absolute necessity of coming clean with his wife. He has hurt her in many ways and she deserves to know the truth. I explain our position that we believe a man needs to confess the breadth and depth of his sexual sins against her, but that he should not burden her with the specifics. The reason is, if there is going to be true intimacy, there must first be forgiveness and that forgiveness must be complete. After all, if you owed someone \$10,000 but they were misinformed and only thought it was \$1,000, then even if they said, "I forgive your debt against me," you would know there was still \$9,000 outstanding. If down the road, they learned of the additional debt, they would most certainly feel betrayed. This is how most wives feel when they forgive their husbands only to learn later they had only forgiven the tip of the ice berg.

I then explain that while this "full disclosure" is essential, it probably shouldn't happen today. The reason is the husband needs some time to work through his own history to clearly see the depth of his sin. To help him do that, I point him to the "Sexual History Inventory" I have in chapter three. I instruct him to go home and work through it and then through the chapter "Telling Your Wife About Your Struggle."

I share a few other things, including pointing the wife to a wives' recovery group and giving her some basic things to look for to know if she has reason to hope things can be different this time. I then encourage the husband to set up a follow up appointment to talk through his inventory. Finally, I pray with and for the couple and send them on their way.

I've had several couples lately who have followed the process in a wonderful way. The husband has done his homework and then met with me. I have helped him determine exactly what he still needs to confess to his wife, and then we have had a second couples session where he has fully disclosed and confessed his sins against her.

Yes, the wife is hurt by further disclosures. However, once she believes she knows the truth and knows what she needs to forgive, the relief is very evident and the couple has a new foundation of truth on which they can begin rebuilding their marriage. Yes, there is still much work to be done and only time will tell if they will make it. However, it is a great blessing to see the relief in the wife's eyes when her deep seeded fear of "is there more?" finally begins to slip away.

I hope you can somehow see a glimpse of the incredible benefit this provides the couples with whom we work. Your prayers, financial support and partnership empower us to minister to people in very painful places in incredibly significant ways.

Because of the resurrection,



Darrell Brazell