



February 5, 2009

Dear Friends,

As usual, the New Year began with quite a bang. So much so that I am just now getting to my first newsletter in two months. Last weekend was the annual Men of Valor & Women of Virtue conferences that always require a lot from me both before and after the events. This year we had a large representation of people connected to New Hope both helping with the events and attending them. I taught two breakout sessions on "A Neuro-Theology of Sex and Addiction," and we ran a materials and information table on the Men's side. At Women of Virtue, Kim Jones taught two breakout sessions on "Six Reasons We Get Stuck In Our Healing Journey" using the THRIVE and Life Model materials as a base for her teaching. Kim and Debbie and a few other ladies from New Hope ran an information and material table on the ladies side as well. Paul Hahn taught a breakout session on "A Wounded Union: His Role In Restoring Her Heart." Many of the men from the groups helped at the New Hope table and by connecting with men who were looking for recovery groups, information, etc.

The weekend was of course exhausting, but also very rewarding. I had many conversations with men wanting to know more about God's design for their sexuality, relationships, emotional healing, etc. I also made many connections with individuals from the area as well as leaders in Christian organizations, denominations and even an individual who has served on a pornography task force for the Bush administration who continues to work in Washington on related issues. At the combined session on Friday night we were able to give out about 350 CD copies of my "What Wives Need To Know About A Man's Struggle For Sexual Integrity" message. (It is also available as a free download at www.newhope4si.com.)

As a direct result of giving out the CD's, my phone has been ringing a lot this week and I have already met with several couples who want to begin the recovery process. As those of you know who have been down this road, the beginning stages are very difficult, painful and often besought with many of Satan's landmines. Please keep these individuals and couples in your prayers as well as praying for those of us who attempt to encourage and guide them on their journey of recovery.

Last month was also hectic because before Men of Valor, I wanted to have all the promotional materials finished for the seminar I am doing on February 27th at Life Church in Olathe. Let me encourage you, if you live anywhere in the area, please consider joining us that day. These three messages are ones I believe in wholeheartedly and which I am excited to share with as many people as possible. I would also ask you to consider inviting others and even asking permission to include the flyers in your church bulletin, handouts, bulletin boards or anywhere else where people might find out about this event. (We will even gladly provide the flyers.)

Finally, if all that weren't enough to keep us hopping, Dr. Jim Wilder emailed me on January 19th that Ed Khouri from THRIVE was going to be in Omaha on the 22nd and 23rd to do a facilitators training seminar on the Belonging Module that follows "Restarting." When I emailed Ed, I told him, "There is no way in the world I can possibly come but I will be there." So, John Dasenbrock and myself made a two-day trip to Omaha and we are both very grateful we did. The Belonging module is, in my opinion, even better and more significant than Restarting and I hope by now you know how much I think of the Restarting materials.

We are currently trying to figure out exactly how and when we will dive into Belonging. Most likely we will do two rounds. The first one will be primarily for New Hope people and the second round we will open to others as well. This will be a greater challenge for me as they are still at least a year away from having the DVD's done so I will be teaching the content instead of simply playing the DVD & facilitating the exercises. Thankfully, John has already volunteered to help in some significant ways that will take quite a bit of the work off of me.

While things have been hectic, they have also been incredibly rewarding. Yesterday, I had the privilege of being in the room when Immanuel revealed his presence in a powerful way. I watched as a man, who has already overcome much, experience Jesus meeting him in some incredibly painful places. I watched as his wife prayed

for him and held him while his tears flowed and while he connected back to the pain of abandonment and isolation. This is especially powerful when I think of where this couple was almost a year ago when they came for the first time. No, they are far from “healed,” but they have come miles and miles from where they were, and I have great confidence that the distance they have covered to this point is just the beginning of the amazing journey God has planned for them.

Then, right after meeting with them, I met with another couple that just found out about our ministry through receiving a CD at the conference. They have been struggling for over twenty years of marriage. The wife has known from the very beginning that something was terribly wrong. They have been to numerous counselors who have told them many different but ineffective things, including the absurdity of encouraging her to buy him pornography as a way to “connect.” Needless to say it was no surprise when some of her first words were “I’m done.”

However, when we talked about their journeys, about our ministry and about God’s power to heal, restore and renew, I saw a faint flicker of hope begin to swell up in both their eyes. Of course, only time will tell if they will follow the path God has for their restoration, but at least for the day, at least for a moment, they smelled the sweet aroma of new hope. They caught a glimpse of the possibility that God could do a miracle in their lives and possibly even in their marriage. Yes, it will be a very hard journey, but something in my gut says they will do it, and that thrills me. It reminds me once again why I love my job. I love watching God bring beauty from ashes.

It also reminds me why we get shot at so often. I believe Satan hates the work we do and actively wars against it. The past several months the attacks seem to be especially pointed and even personal. Maybe it is because I’m done with the manual and God is starting to open doors for the material going out to a larger audience. However, one night a couple weeks ago, Debbie said she believed it was because of the Romans series I am currently preaching on Sundays at New Hope. She thinks the attacks have increased because of the powerful messages on grace chapters seven and eight provide me the opportunity to proclaim. (BTW, my Roman’s series is available for free at www.newhopelawrence.com just click on the “sermons” tab. I would especially point you to #18-20.) Regardless of the specific reason for Satan’s attacks, it is evidence that God is at work in and through New Hope and that he hates any movement towards or proclamation of true freedom.

One of the ways he continues his attack is through our funding. Once again, we have slipped into the red. At this point, it isn’t a large hole, but we have been going the wrong direction for several months now so we ask for your prayers. We know many of you already give in very sacrificial ways to this ministry and we are constantly in awe at the way God prompts his children to provide for our needs. Therefore, we ask you to pray. Please pray God will raise up an army of individuals and families who will make New Hope a regular, monthly part of their giving. Please pray for individuals who are finding strength and encouragement from our ministry to join us as financial partners. Just a couple weeks ago, we received a donation through the website from a woman in Australia who said she was “dancing like a freed woman here in my room” after listening to “According To The Sark” from Romans 7. God has generous individuals throughout the world who He can raise up to fund this ministry. Please pray against whatever Satan is doing to prevent those funds from coming. Please pray that more and more people will start hitting the “Donate” button at www.newhope4si.com both with one-time gifts and with subscription gifts that come out automatically each month.

Again, if there is anyway you can join us on February 27th, please register soon for “**The Power Of Joy!**” We would love to see you there. We would also love to see you here at New Hope any Sunday.

Because of the resurrection,



Darrell Brazell