



July 22, 2010

Dear Friends,

In case you are wondering, you haven't missed a newsletter from me. I have been very busy, but I must also confess I have not made it the priority it needs to be. So, if you will forgive my newsletter negligence, I have many very exciting things to share with you this month. In fact, there is so much that I will give you the bullet points first and then fill in the details below.

Financial Update: Praise God we are currently in the black!

Belonging: Next session begins August 26th!

Wednesday Night Children's Ministry begins August 26th!

Women's Group & Manual: New women's' group starts in August using a modified form of my manual.

Overland Park Restarting: Kim is going to lead a second "Restarting" Class that begins September 13th.

Leadership Journal is going to publish my article for pastors in October or January.

Covenant Eyes has asked me to write the opening chapter for an **E-Book** for Pastors.

New Fundraising Opportunity: Ever wished you could help more? Maybe there is a way you can.

Finances: Thanks to God's provision through many of you, we have stayed in the black for the past couple months. Again, I am always humbled by your generosity and God's faithfulness to provide what we need. Many of you have stepped up with significant donations and others have stepped into consistent monthly giving. Thank you for your sacrificial giving and your commitment to this ministry and to us.

Belonging: For 12 weeks starting August 25th, we will run a second round of the next module of the THRIVE Recover Your Life program developed by Dr. Jim Wilder and Ed Khouri. The first round was a tremendous success as participants learned how to create belonging around them, monitor their relational circuits, restore their relational circuits, recognize "overwhelm" and many other incredibly valuable skills. I know it has been very instrumental in helping in many ways. One unexpected way it has helped me personally is in losing weight. One of the things we learn in Belonging is that when our relational circuits are off, our cravings become monsters. As I learned to pay more attention to keeping my relational circuits working, I was able to completely give up cokes (haven't had one since March) and stay away from sweets and other "comfort" type foods I had previously used as an unhealthy ways of coping with stress, fear, pain, etc.

We didn't advertise the first round because we wanted to run it in house and allow Jenelle Prather, our children's minister, to be part of the class. (A huge thanks, once again to Maria Craft for teaching or kids so Jenelle was free to be upstairs). The second round, however, is your opportunity to be part of this ground breaking and incredibly practical class. I want to adamantly encourage each and every one of you to find a way to attend. By starting August 26th, we will be done before Thanksgiving. If there is any way you can set aside 12 Wednesdays, please contact me so we can get you a manual. (\$15) **Belonging** will be from 6:30 to 8:15 PM.

Children's Ministry: How many times have you left church with your children bouncing off the walls, poking and fighting with one another as they were wound up from activity, sugar, etc.? How many nights have they struggled to go to sleep and then got up tired and grumpy the next morning because of being hyped up at Wednesday night Bible study? Can you imagine your seven-year-old quietly climbing into his booster seat, riding home without fighting with his sister and then going to bed easily without even a hint of a melt down? I don't have to imagine it. I've seen it on numerous Wednesday nights as the children's ministry (that will run concurrent with Belonging) Jenelle is developing does an amazing job of working with the THRIVE principle of the rhythm of joy and quiet. It provides the kids with lots of joy and fun early, but in the last fifteen to thirty minutes it focuses on being still and quiet before God. They pray, listen to music, read stories and do other quiet

activities so they are in a calm place when they leave. As a dad, I can tell you it is radically different than any evening church activity we have ever experienced.

Women's Recovery Group & Manual: I can't tell you how excited I am at the work **Kim Jones** is doing getting ready for a new group she's going to lead for women dealing with sexual issues. She has taken my *New Hope For Sexual Integrity* manual and modified it for women. However, she has done much, much more than simply change a few pronouns and gender words. She has added chapters dealing specifically with women's issues and done a very thorough rewrite from a woman's perspective. It is fantastic and desperately needed as resources for women are especially lacking. We will also have it for sale on the web site in the near future.

Starting in early August she will lead two women's groups using our model and co-authored material. She is going to have one group that will be a closed group after the third week and another that will remain open so new women can join as they learn about it or acknowledge their need. If you would like more information about the group, please go to www.newhopelawrence.com and look for her paragraphs at the bottom of the page.

Overland Park Restarting: Kim will start her second round of Restarting on Monday, September 13th. If you have not done Restarting yet, please find a way to attend. If you have done the class once, please note that most people say they got more out of it the second and even third time through than they did the first. You can register at www.newhopelawrence.com or by contacting Kim directly at kcrestart@newhopelawrence.com.

Leadership Journal: Just today, I received an email from the editor of Leadership, the pastors professional journal put out by Christianity Today, saying they wanted to publish my article, "A Pastors Story of Sexual Addiction and Recovery" in either their October or January editions. One amazing part is that I tried to condense some things to keep the article from being too long, but the editor's critique and request to me was to provide more detail and elaboration at several key points. He literally told me "I'm more concerned about telling the whole story than with cutting it down." Anyway, because of some of the personal details, the article will be published "anonymously," but it will still be a great opportunity and gets my foot in the door of a very strategic place in the Christian publishing world.

Covenant Eyes E-Book: Covenant eyes has asked me to write the opening chapter for an E-Book they are going to give out free to pastors. It is a great opportunity to put our information in the hands of thousands of pastors around the world.

Fundraising Opportunity: Through the years I have heard many of you say that you wished you had the funds to be able to give more to New Hope. While we also wish you had more funds to give,☺ we understand very well the financial demands we all face and continue to marvel at your generosity. However, we have recently discovered a vehicle that may help you support New Hope in greater ways. **FirstGiving** is a fundraising group that helps individuals raise money for non-profits. It is a very simple system where you go to the web page I've created at www.firstgiving.com/newhopefellowship and click on the "I want to raise money too" link. From there, First Giving will guide you through the process of creating your own personal fund raising page or multiple pages that you can send out to friends, family and others whom you think might be willing to give to New Hope if they knew what a blessing the ministry is to you and to others.

We understand many of you are not ready to tell the world you are part of our ministry, but that is one of the neat things about FirstGiving. You can create several pages with different levels of disclosure. You can have one page that tells your story and how God has used New Hope to lead you out of an addiction, saved your marriage or whatever you are ready to tell. You can also create another page that simply tells about our ministry in terms of what you know it has done for others or whatever you want to say.

FirstGiving does charge an administrative fee for funds that come through their website. However, the fee is very reasonable and includes fees we would pay anyway for credit card transactions. It is still best for donations to come directly to the church, then secondly through the donate button on our website, and then last but still good, through the FirstGiving system. All gifts will be documented and tax letters sent at the end of the year.

(Wow! Can't believe I got all that in on 2 pages and still in a readable font! ☺)

Because of the resurrection,



Darrell Brazell