



May 3, 2010

Dear Friends,

The past month and a half has been incredibly challenging, rewarding, frustrating, humbling and amazing all at the same time. I can't tell you how many times lately I have been at both the apex of amazement at God's goodness and the depth of the valley of frustration in the same day. As you know from last month's letter, our financial situation was dire, and thankfully, many of you have responded with gifts that have blown me away.

**One of the amazing gifts** came from a teenage girl whose mother told her of our financial need. The amount of her gift was a significant, but even more amazing and humbling was that God would put it on a young woman's heart to give in such a sacrificial way. While I don't know her financial situation completely, I know enough of her family's story to know that her gift was a tremendous sacrifice. I also know she has experienced first hand the collateral damage that comes when someone implodes from the sexual compulsions our ministry seeks to heal. My initial response was that I wanted to send it back to her either directly or indirectly because "it is too much for a teenager to give." However, I quickly realized the most honoring thing I could do was to simply receive it for the blessing it is. To do anything less would diminish her gift, tell her she isn't able to hear God's calling, and deny her the blessing that comes from responding sacrificially to God.

**Another amazing gift** came is one we had actually been looking forward to it for a number of weeks. A good friend of the ministry had emailed me to let me know that he and his wife had made a donation but that they had given it through his wife's company for a "matching grant." This process normally takes a couple weeks but this time it was delayed even longer. Our friend had since emailed me saying he wasn't sure the company was going to match the gift this time because of the state of the economy. Needless to say, when I opened the envelope on Friday and found both their check and the matching check, I immediately started a "**happy dance**" of praise to God for answering our prayers for the money to be released.

Thanks to these gifts and many others, we were momentarily in the black. I say momentarily because with the end of the month bills we are once again in the red. The good news is we are just barely in the red. The bad news is that what enabled us to get momentarily caught up was a number of one-time gifts that we cannot count on for this month. However, we are praying for new gifts, maybe even ones spurred on by hearing about the sacrifice of a teenager or from individuals and families who have experienced the impact of this ministry first-hand. We are especially praying for God to raise up additional people who would **give consistently over time**.

If you attend groups and/or come in for counseling, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation when you are here. We do not want to charge for such services, and we want you to come even if you can't give. However, we also believe those who benefit directly from this ministry should carry more of the financial burden. We also know it is easy to "intend" to give regularly but only get around to it "occasionally." One thing that can help with this is to use the "Recurring Donation" feature at [www.newhope4si.com/donations.html](http://www.newhope4si.com/donations.html). If you click on one of the "Subscribe" buttons you can enter your information and set up recurring donations.

We also ask you to pray specifically for God's provision for this ministry. We know God could put it on the hearts of individuals, families, businesses and/or foundations to fund New Hope in ways that would allow hiring more staff, fixing up the facilities, publishing and marketing the recovery manual and doing a number of other things to offer more people New Hope and to better serve those who are already "part of the family." Your prayers can be an instrumental part of God's provision for us.

The past month and a half has also had many exciting things come together. Last week I sent a master DVD to the ministry that duplicates them for us so we are now taking orders for "**A Neuro-Theology of Sex and Addiction**." It is the first session of the "Power of Joy" seminar, and I am thrilled to have this resource available. It brings together some of the most significant things God has shown us in the past ten years of ministry in this arena. You can look for it on the resource table in the basement or you can order it from the website.

The Kansas City “**Restarting** Group” has begun with a great start. I visited last Monday and Kim Jones is doing a fantastic job facilitating for a significant number of people. Those present are hungry for information and resources on building joy, dealing with “BEEPS” and the many other teaching points of Restarting. The KC group is also opening other opportunities as there are several leaders from churches and ministries attending.

God also seems to be opening doors for me to write articles for publication. Last month I had a phone conversation and an email dialogue with a senior editor for **Christianity Today**, which has a number of magazines under its umbrella. The end result was that he asked me to submit an article on my personal journey of addiction and recovery. I have submitted it but it will probably be sometime this summer before they make any decisions concerning if, how and where it will be published. While it will be published “anonymously,” it still has potential for opening doors for future articles as well as pointing people to our resources.

I also have a “blog” entitled “How Porn Rots Your Brain” that I am about ready to submit to **Covenant Eyes** for their newsletter. This will go out to thousands of individuals and families, include some of the brain scan pictures and have a link back to our website with the new DVD. They asked me to write it after seeing my slides at the Men of Valor conference but I have been waiting to send it because I wanted to have “A Neuro-Theology of Sex and Addiction” ready for distribution. I have no idea what all God will do with these opportunities so I ask for your prayers for God to give clear direction and to do even more than we could ask or imagine.

While these opportunities are exciting, one of the most exciting and encouraging things happened at the men’s group I led last week. We had a new individual once again so I had a couple guys who have been around a while tell their stories. One of the men I asked to share hadn’t told his story to the big group since he told it the first time he attended. He shared a painful journey of growing up in a home with a series of stepfathers, a lot of neglect and of course a constant battle with pornography and sexual addiction. He then told how God led him to New Hope at the end of last year. The real interesting thing is that as he told his story, he mentioned several specific details of which I was not aware of, that explained significant parts of his struggle. What is especially exciting to me is that I know he had gained these insights by working through our materials and through his conversations with other men in the group. He didn’t get them directly from me but by committing himself to the process. Oh, and by the way, he hasn’t acted out since he started attending group. Praise God on all accounts!

What that reminds me of is the fact that **God is doing amazing things** through the community he has created here at New Hope. It also reminds me that He is doing even more than we are able to see. In addition to the individuals we see finding freedom from compulsive sin and bondage, He is bringing deep healing to the hearts of many and that healing in turn brings great healing for others as well.

To illustrate the ripple effect, I will close with a couple paragraphs from an email I received today from someone in another town who has been through our ministry.

Our ministry that started with about four 20 year olds has grown to about twenty-five people in the last couple months. It has become a multi-generational ministry made up of half people “our age” and the other half 20 year olds. We are ministering to women and men at this point and have a community of people that are learning to make relationships the priority. Every week we seem to have a couple new people stop by and almost all of them have stayed. I believe, it is happening to a large part because our community reflects the community I was introduced to through New Hope. We have some people living in some crazy messes, but they know when they show up on Sunday morning they are going to get loved on regardless of the mess.

We have individuals getting off drugs and others being set free from pornography. All of this, I believe, comes from seeing what healthy church community can look like. So I say “Thanks, I don’t want to think about the mess I would be swimming in by now had God not shown me New Hope.”

Because of the resurrection,



Darrell Brazell