



New Hope Counseling Center

Summer 2004

God's Sovereign Hand

It has been a long while since our Introductory Newsletter last fall. My how time flies! So many things have happened and what an awesome blessing to be able to actually see God's sovereign hand at work. And we want to share these "only God" things with you each newsletter.

After our first newsletter was printed telling of the local attorney who had provided his legal services free of charge to file our Articles of Incorporation, we could then apply for non-profit status from the IRS. This is a very difficult, lengthy, and time-consuming application to fill out. Kelly, our assistant director, took that over and put a lot of work into it. The application was completed and sent October 8, 2003. We were told that it would take a *minimum* of four months for processing *if* no other information is requested, and can many times take a year or more. Our non-profit status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization was granted in less than five weeks—with no questions asked! This was technically impossible—but not when God is involved.

We also wanted to apply for a bulk mailing permit as a non-profit organization. When we inquired about doing that they told us that just because you qualify as a non-profit with the IRS does not mean you will with the US Postal Service. After seeing God do so many "impossible" things, I just smiled and said we would try. Within a couple weeks we received our permit that gives us much lower mailing rates.

We qualified for a Xerox Free Color Printer Program which gave us a \$5000 printer package and allows us to do our own high quality printing saving us so much on printing costs. Plus, we get all of our black ink for free!

Even with all of the things I just mentioned, our biggest blessing has been how God has arranged for us to have a facility. We have been given the use of this beautiful place for our Center by a very gracious lady in our community, Connie Drake. May the Lord pour out His blessings on her.

We are also seeing the Lord raise up so many wonderful people to be involved in this ministry. It really is all His doing! We give Him praise!

Cindy Farrington, Director

Dialing "New Hope"

What useless item do you have lying around your house or business that could provide help to others? YOUR OLD CELL PHONE! We are collecting cell phones in order to recycle them to raise money to enable us to provide services for an increasing request for New Hope Counseling Center's Biblical Principles Counseling. A Cell Fund Program organization

MISSION STATEMENT

The New Hope Counseling Center exists to glorify God (Matthew 5:16) by making His purposes (Ecclesiastes 3:1; Romans 8:28), and hope (Jeremiah 29:11; 31:17), and healing through Him (Luke 4:18b; 1 Peter 2:24) known to all people (1 Peter 3:15).

will pay us up to \$40.00 for every qualifying cell phone that we send to them.

CellFund is a used cell phone fundraising program that was started by missionaries. It is part of a ministry in Tulsa called the International Missionary Center. CellFund is a recycling program.

The used cell phones that have value are refurbished and sold as such in markets where that phone's technology will work. Some of these markets are in America and some are sold on international markets. Then there is a group of phones that have no value but they are given as emergency 911 handsets to the elderly, battered women shelters, and similar situations. These phones will not work with any current wireless billing plan. Finally, there are phones that have no value and cannot be re-used. These units are broken down and the parts are recycled. If the parts cannot be used, the hardware is disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.

According to IRS regulations, the donor determines the value of donated goods based on fair market value. Currently, that value is a \$40 tax deduction for each used cell phone.

Would you please take a few minutes to round up any cell phones you have (whether they work or not) and either drop them by the Center, or call (641)856-3326 for someone to come and pick them up. You could also help us out by telling others about this simple way to be a part of God's provision for this ministry.

Through the recycling of your old phones, not only are we able to protect our environment but we are also able to raise funds for our organization to provide healing to hurting people.

God's Phone Number: Jeremiah 33:3

Testimonial:

Hello, my family and I (my wife Kim and three daughters, Tatiana age 16, Talyia age 17, and Tarra age 21) are some of the first people to attend New Hope Counseling Center. I am writing this to tell how I believe that I know New Hope Counseling Center is doing God's work and have and will continue to make this world a better place. Looking back on my life now with the insight God has given me I can see how God has put me on a path that led to New Hope. I will share a little about myself and try to keep it short. My wife and I got married when we were 18 and 19 years old. I was an addict since the day she met me. I was self-centered, selfish, and full of anger about my childhood. Ever since I was little I wanted to get married and stay married and take care of my family. When I was 26 years old I started doing cocaine and it took control of me within one year. By the end of that year I left my family, lost my job, a good job making around \$30,000 a year, sold everything I had, and hit a very low bottom. I had three choices, either to die, go to jail, or get help. I chose help. I checked into treatment. That is where I first found God. I learned so much about life and myself. I did so well they let me go early. I got back with my family, got my old job back working part-time, went to school for Computer aided drafting, and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I went to church, got baptized and studied the Bible. That lasted for about eight months. Then I started doing Meth. I ended up in treatment two more times (once forced for a DUI and one time I checked myself in because my wife left me). We had just bought a brand new house and I was making about \$40,000 a year. My wife worked too. After I got out of treatment I lost my job again, but got another and went back to Meth again. In 1996 I had gotten in so much trouble and was going down fast we decided that we should move to Iowa where I was from originally. Things were better for awhile then I found Meth here. I did it for awhile and then turned to beer. In 2001 we were forced to leave our rental home, but found our house to buy. Then my wife got a job that would cause her to travel most of the week and be gone a lot, which I did not want. Two years ago a family from Kentucky moved across the street. Me and Jason became best friends. We knew we were meant to meet for a reason but didn't know why. In those two years I had grown very angry, resentful, bitter, and hurt over my wife's absence because of her job. It got so bad that when she was home all we did was fight. My oldest daughter had become an alcoholic, my other two daughters were getting into serious trouble and not going to school. My life and family was going to hell. Around August of last year my wife informed me that she was leaving. At first I got meaner and more bitter, then something hit me and I knew I had to do something, so I went back to treatment. I was there for one night and knew this wasn't what I needed. I left thinking I could change on my own. That's when I realized I needed my Lord and Savior to help me. I got on my knees and cried like a baby to Him for help. Over the last two years my friend Jason had tried to get me to go to

church every week. He talked to me about God and Jesus all the time. You see, he is a very believing man and his family goes to church every week. For two years I rejected what he tried to tell me, all the time admiring him and his family and wondering what was missing with mine. I started going to church with him and my faith and belief was back. We knew why we were meant to meet each other. Then I asked the pastor if he could recommend a family counseling center. He gave me Cindy's number. I called Cindy in December and she said that they would be open in January. We had several conversations before meeting and Cindy knew that this was meant to be. Since we've started counseling at New Hope our lives have made a complete 180. My wife and I get along better than ever. She didn't move out. I have a better relationship with all of my girls. My oldest daughter, Tarra, has moved out but she is growing up and now sees that she had a pretty good home and she is more appreciative and respectful. Talyia has graduated and is closer to me. T.T. has quit smoking pot and is doing better. Best of all, all three girls have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Things are not perfect, but they are a lot better and as long as we walk with God and do His will, life will continue to get better. I know in my mind and heart that God put me and my family on a path that led to New Hope. I thank God that there are people that He uses like the people at New Hope to help people like me.

Ray Zepeda

Sponsor A Client

The testimonial that you just read is just another example of God's sovereign hand at work. We believe that God is now leading us to give you the opportunity to sponsor a client at New Hope Counseling Center. We are making many efforts to raise the money that is needed to support our full budget of \$29,785.00 a year. We even have a wonderful Christian lady who is an experienced grant writer who has tried to research large grant possibilities for us. She knows that when searching for something like that you have to have God doing the leading to find the right one. It seems that every door in that area ends up being closed. We are not discouraged by that. It really just confirms to us what God has burdened our hearts with all along. We believe that God raised up this ministry with a double purpose: 1) To help hurting people, and 2) To give an opportunity for God's people to come together and work on a local mission work. And we now believe that this is where all of the funding is suppose to come from also—from this south central Iowa area. We have said before that there is great power when the Body of Christ comes together and we are witnessing this power at work. God is using His people to provide all the services required to run this ministry. We now have nine counselor/prayer partner

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teams counseling with 11 clients (three are teens) once a week with more staff in training. We have four other volunteers who help with office work, eight board members giving faithful service, and 20 people on our Intercessory Prayer Team, not to mention the many others who also give us prayer support. We are constantly in awe with how this center and everything in it has been donated. We are now looking to the Lord to provide the full funding of this ministry in the same way that He has with the services and material provisions. We do have a few faithful monthly givers and three churches who have included us in their monthly missionary giving. We hear many testimonials of how God is blessing their giving. We want to make this opportunity available to more people. We believe that God has directed us to break our budget down to see how much it costs to provide our complete counseling program to an average number of clients in a year. We have determined that the estimated cost of our counseling program per client is \$1250. A sponsor could give a one-time gift or it also could be covered with a monthly gift of \$104.00. We want to give you the opportunity to sponsor a client's complete counseling program. You would also be given the client's first name so that you could pray for them specifically. We also currently have 10 people on our waiting list, which is a real burden for us to be able to begin helping these people. Please prayerfully consider this and if the Lord leads you to be apart of this ministry in this way contact us at 641-856-3326. All donations are tax deductible.

Biblical Counseling Seminars

Seminars are held periodically for anyone who would like to be a part of the NHCC ministry in any capacity. We began by calling these "Training Seminars." What we quickly noticed was that by about session #3 each time, we were hearing: *I can't believe how much this is helping me personally.* We have come to see that these seminars are really serving multiple purposes. This does provide the base training for anyone who would like to be a volunteer or receiver further training to become a biblical counselor. But we also have people who come just to find out more about us. And others come to receive the actual biblical counseling information for themselves. So we are now calling these "Biblical Counseling Seminars" because it does provide far more than just training for volunteers. Areas of service needs are: Biblical Counselors, Prayer Partners, Office Workers, Fundraising Committee members, Intercessory Prayer Team members, and Special Projects Volunteers. No one is committed to volunteer just by going through this Seminar. At the end of the Seminar application packets will be given out to anyone who feels that the Lord is calling them to be involved in this ministry. Those who go through the application process to be trained Biblical Counselors will also go through further Counselor Orientation. A full Biblical Counselor Certification Program is offered through NHCC. Trainees must attend all 6 sessions. Special arrangements may possibly be made with the Director. Call 641-856-3326 to

pre-register (pre-registration is required). There is no charge for this Seminar. A love offering will be taken to help cover the cost of materials. Training will be held at the Center, 303 W. State St. (Upper Floor), in Centerville. We are located above Centerville Abstract Co.

Counseling Spotlight
(Each newsletter we would like to spotlight the actual counseling information that we cover with our counsees and the information will be given to you in the same order that it is shared with our clients.)

Our Biblical Counseling Program is a set scriptural system that we lead a troubled person through. One unique thing about our ministry is that we begin by giving the counselee their own empty three-ring binder with the coverpage "Counseling Handbook." Everything that we cover with them in counseling is given to them in handouts to put into their personal binder. This makes it easier for them to follow along on the materials with us. It is also for them to be able to take home and review and prepare for each following session, and to work on homework assignments that are given. By the end of their counseling program they will have a complete counseling handbook that is their own. We are not only teaching them Biblical Principles and how to apply them to their problem, but also teaching them how to use these materials for themselves.

Establishing the authority of God's Word is the very first thing that must be covered with a counselee, because that is what all of Biblical Counseling is based upon. If that is not established and accepted, there would be no where to go from there.

Some people think that believing the Bible to be the Word of God is something that we have to just take on faith. But there is some actual evidence to prove it that most people aren't aware of.

The Bible is God's Word: To be more exact, every word of every book in the Bible as originally written was inspired by God. The Bible does not merely *contain* the Word of God; the Bible *is* the Word of God. Some consider such a belief to be on a level with believing that the earth is flat or that the sun circles the earth. But what people may believe about the Bible really is not the question. What are the facts? That is the important question. The following eight points give powerful evidence that the Bible is indeed the Word of God.

1. The Bible's Amazing Composition: Although God is the author of the Bible, the actual writing was done by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. More than 40 men were involved in writing the 66 books that make up the Bible. Most of these writers never met, as their lifetimes were dispersed over a period of 1,600 years. They grew up in thirteen different countries on three different continents and wrote in three different languages.

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Some of the writers were kings, statesmen, or doctors— men of learning. Others were fishermen, shepherds, or farmers— men with little formal schooling.

Think about it: forty different writers separated by time, geography, politics, culture, vocation, social standing, and even language. What would you expect such a varied group to produce but a disorderly mass of confusion and contradiction? Yet the Bible has one central message, one code of ethics, and one plan of salvation. One person, Jesus Christ, is the main focus of the 66 books. The marvelous unity of the Bible can be explained only by its divine authorship.

2. The Bible's Claim to Inspiration: Again and again the Bible claims to be the Word of God. Expressions such as “The Lord commanded” or “The Lord spoke, saying” are used more than 2,000 times in the Bible. The apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 14:37, “The things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.” And again, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16)

Many people believe that the Bible is a good book, but they do not believe it to be the Word of God. This is not reasonable. If the Bible's claim to be the Word of God is not true, then the Bible is not a good book, but the work of evil men and liars. A book containing more than 2,000 lies is not fit for anyone to read.

But the honest reader knows that the Bible *is* a good book. It has the feel of authenticity. Its stories and precepts ring true to life. The standards of good and evil it upholds has challenged and inspired good men and has condemned and infuriated evil men the world over. The Bible is a holy book. It is truly the Word of God.

3. The Bible's Unending Appeal: Books usually have short lives. Eight out of every ten books published this year will be forgotten within a year, and only one in two hundred published this year will be in print seven years from now. Books that are 2,000 years old are seldom read by the general public today.

But the Bible is an exception. Its popularity has grown steadily throughout its 3,000 year history. The Bible's appeal defies all competition. It is the world's all-time best-selling book, with an estimated 2.5 billion copies sold since 1815. Millions of Bibles are printed every year. The entire Bible has been translated into 337 languages, and parts of it have been translated into 2,062 languages. The Bible is read throughout the world, from the last tiny island in the South Pacific to the snow huts of the Arctic.

The Bible speaks to all nations. It is valued by all races, it is loved by all peoples, and there are men throughout the entire world who would die to defend it. The appeal of this book can be explained in only one way— it is the Word of God.

4. The Bible's Miraculous Preservation: Although the Bible is the best-loved book in the world, it is also the most hated book. The Bible teaches things that are utterly distasteful to evil men, and many have rejected its message. Some have tried to discredit the Bible by finding

supposed errors in it. Others have actually stooped to burning it and persecuting those who live by it. Thomas Paine wrote in *The Age of Reason*, “Fifty years hence the Bible will be obsolete and forgotten.” The very press on which Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason* was printed was later used to print thousands of Bibles.

Voltaire, the French philosopher, boasted, “It took twelve men to start Christianity, but I myself will destroy it,... within one hundred years the Bible and all Christianity will be forgotten.” But fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society was using Voltaire's house and press to produce thousands of Bibles.

Lenin, who established Communism in Russia, said, “I expect to live long enough to attend the funeral of all religion.” Thomas Paine and Voltaire died hundreds of years ago. Lenin too has passed on into eternity, but the Bible lives on.

In many countries, for centuries, men were not permitted to own a Bible. They were jailed or even killed for reading and teaching it. Bibles were seized and burned. No other book has been so chopped apart, sifted, scrutinized, belittled, criticized, and despised. Men have again and again sounded the death knell of the Bible; they have preached its funeral sermon and purchased the tombstone. But somehow the corpse always rises from the coffin and scatters the funeral procession. The Bible is the Word of God, and He will preserve His Word forever. “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89).

5. The Bible's Fulfilled Prophecies: Only one person knows the future, and that person is God. Men may guess, but only God knows. And God has chosen to reveal in His Book some details of the future. The prophecies related to Jesus' first coming demonstrate this point. The Bible contains more than three hundred prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. They were given hundreds and even thousands of years before the birth of Jesus, yet they were fulfilled in minute detail.

- The Bible says Christ would be born in Bethlehem. He was.
- The Bible says kings would bring gifts to honor His birth. They did.
- The Bible says Christ would be rejected by the Jews and would bring light to the Gentiles. This was fulfilled.
- The Bible says Christ would be betrayed by a friend for thirty pieces of silver. He was.
- The Bible says the betrayal silver would be thrown to the potter in the temple. This was done.
- The Bible says Christ would be wounded, bruised, spit upon, mocked, and finally put to death. This all happened.
- The Bible says Christ's hands and feet would be pierced, that His clothes would be pulled off and

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divided, and that He would be exposed to the stares of the public. These prophecies were fulfilled when Jesus was crucified.

- The Bible says Jesus would be buried in a rich man’s grave, but that He would rise again and return in triumph to God the Father. Wonder of wonders, even this came to pass!

Not only these prophecies, but all three hundred in the Bible were fulfilled. The only explanation is that God knows the future and that He revealed it to us in His Word, the Bible.

6. The Bible’s Historical and Scientific Accuracy: The Bible is not a history textbook, but it mentions hundreds of cities and persons in its pages. Many of these lay forgotten under the dust of centuries. Bible critics decided that the writers had simply invented people such as the Hittites and King David. These historical “fictions” were examples of the inaccuracies that supposedly riddled the Bible. Along came archaeologists with their shovels. Out of ancient ruins rose dead men to tell tales of days long gone, tales that again and again confirmed Bible history and left the critics with red faces.

Neither is the Bible a scientific textbook. It was written in an unscientific age to address the spiritual needs of men, not to explain their surroundings. But God, who authored the Bible, is also the Creator of the natural world. Where the Word of God speaks on scientific matters, it speaks accurately. Job stated thousands of years ago that God “hangeth the earth upon nothing” (Job 26:7). How did he know that the earth spins in empty space? The answer is that God knows, and Job was inspired to write accurately about the things he could not know.

Today many ridicule the Bible as hopelessly unscientific and behind the times. It is almost to the point that science has displaced Christianity as the religion of the western world: the scientific method has replaced divine revelation as the way to truth, and the scientist has displaced the theologian as guide and priest to the common man. But look out! God is always far ahead of men, and His Word will most surely be vindicated in the end. More and more studies are showing that Science actually proves the Bible. And more and more testimonies are being given by Scientists who start out to disprove the Bible and end up proving it to be true, getting saved in the process.

7. The Bible’s Transforming Power: Many thrilling stories could be told about the Bible’s power to transform people’s lives. Drunkards have been made sober; harlots have become pure and decent; thieves have been made honest and upright. The Bible has lifted ignorant, superstitious African bushmen from the depths of evil bondage and transformed them into men of God. Cannibals of the jungles have been transformed into gentle, peace-loving men by the message of the Bible. No one need despair, for the good news of the Bible is that there is hope for everyone. Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Bible;

He is the core and the circumference of the Book. Anyone who studies this Book, believes its message, and receives the Christ whom it reveals will experience a complete change of life!

The Bible lifts men up to God because this Book came down from God. Truly, the Bible is the Word of God. Prepare to meet yourself in its pages. “The word of God is... a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). Prepare also to meet God as you read. He is not dead, and His Word is not a dead letter. He is well able to satisfy your spiritual need if you are willing to accept His claim upon your life. “Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts” (Hebrews 3:7-8).

(To be continued in next newsletter)

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twodged sword... —Hebrews 4:12a
(The power is in the Word!)

F. I.

Alliant Energy and Curwood, two of our local industries, offer Matching Funds contributions. This means that any of their employees who give a donation to a charitable organization, the company will match that amount. Your donation is tax deductible and your gift is doubled! Please keep us in mind for your charitable giving.

Needs List:

- ◆ Refrigerator
- ◆ Copy Paper
- ◆ Stamps
- ◆ 1" 3-Ring Binders (Blue, Black)
- ◆ 1 1/2" 3-Ring Binders (White, Blue)
- ◆ Hanging Folders (legal size)
- ◆ CD/Cassette Player
- ◆ Decaffeinated Coffee
- ◆ Coffee Filters
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Kleenex
- ◆ 409 Cleaner
- ◆ Windex
- ◆ Pledge
- ◆ Light Bulbs
- ◆ Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- ◆ Small Trash Bags

Prayer Needs:

- ◆ Staff & Volunteers
- ◆ Clients
- ◆ Families of all who are involved
- ◆ Financial Support
- ◆ Opportunities to present this ministry

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Centerville, IA
52544

*Just think, you're here not by chance, but by God's choosing.
His hand formed you and made you the person you are.
He compares you to no one else; you are one of a kind.
You lack nothing that His grace can't give you.
He has allowed you to be here at this time in history
to fulfill His special purpose for this generation.*

—ROY LESSON