



WHOLE FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

Encouragement for the Heart *Our Story*

As a testimony of God's goodness all of the time I want to catch you up to date with our personal story. As they say, "out of my mess comes my message." Some of you know that around Thanksgiving 2011 we found out Shirley had breast cancer. That weekend we told our children. After talking with our kids, we shared the news and asked for prayers of healing from the congregation at *Westcliffe Community Church*. We asked the same of family and any friends that we could think of, including *Caring for the Heart* in Colorado Springs. We also reached out to any other churches we knew would pray for healing. All this so that Shirley would not have to go through Surgery, Chemo, and Radiation (or as we called it Cut, Burn and Poison). I was confident because I was prompted to pray for healing for a client two weeks before this in my office and God answered that prayer with complete healing. Now, I was praying for my own wife, and God seemed to be silent. On Dec. 6th Shirley went in for a radical Mastectomy of the right breast. The doctors also removed 12 lymph nodes; 6 of which were cancerous, and inserted a Chemo port under the skin on the left side. This was all done in an out-patient surgery center in Colorado Springs, and Shirley came home the same day. Up to this point, we had been praying and believing in God for Shirley's healing. However, when the cancer made it to the point of surgery, our hearts were crushed.

During the next three weeks I became angry, numb, and distant from God. I quit counseling and gave the office space back to the church. I couldn't even bring myself to worship. As I considered where to go from there, I was filled with sorrow knowing that as I left the calling, I was leaving the fulfillment. It was those thoughts mixed with the realization that my pity-party/temper tantrum was not going to change God's mind that began to change my heart.

All along God had been prompting me to read the book of *Job*. If I had chosen to obey immediately I could have saved myself some pain. I began to repent of the disrespect I had for God, and the dishonor I had shone Him during this time. Once my heart corrections were in place I started to have peace and openness towards God's word again. Reading in *Job 1-2* God showed me Shirley's cancer had not come about because He was angry with me. In *Job 3:25* He revealed what I had feared had come upon me. Then, about the second week into my pout God prompted me to go to the last chapter of the book. There in *Job 42:1* I saw Job answering the Lord. In *Job 42: 5* I saw that Job's relationship was changing with God. On Christmas Day Pastor Dan asked for each of us to give thanks. For the first time publicly, I could thank God for the breast cancer. I didn't

like it, understand it, or even want it, but I could say thank you to my God and trust; "*though He slay me yet will I trust Him*" *Job 13:15*. Trust is not blind. It sees through the eyes of faith and understands through the written word. I had to work harder than ever to keep my thoughts on today and enjoy each day within that day. If I look for tomorrow, my peace begins to slip away into doubt and questioning God again. Although God's plan spans my every tomorrow, He is only with me in today. Looking at tomorrow is not safe to do anymore.

Over the following weeks I noticed that nothing was safe but God alone. My praise and worship became more meaningful than ever. When fear and doubt begin to creep in, I realize I must repent again to pursue God's peace. As I do, the peace and calm return. It's in that peacefulness that I am aware during worship, I don't even think about who is around me like I had in the past; it is just HE and I and HIS complete approval and presence. Even though WCC doesn't have a worship band or instruments that may distract from simply praising Christ, I still noticed my worship had become deeper, somehow purer. God is growing my relationship with him within and through this trial.



Healing Hearts Abroad

Our Story Evolves into Helping Hurt Hearts in Haiti

I am grateful for all the support you provided that made it possible for me to go to Haiti and minister relief to the workers at the Youth with a Mission (YWAM) base. They had become depleted from around the time of the earthquake. Although I knew the need was great, the call came at a seemingly inopportune time because of my desire to be here with Shirley during the challenges she and our family have been facing due to the breast cancer treatment. However, the trip actually took place during the time that Shirley was in between Chemo Treatments. I felt more comfortable being away because my daughter Bethany has been a blessing assisting with the daily activities at home. All of us, including my pastor, were in agreement the trip was important and shouldn't be put off. I

have to tell you, I am not sure I would have had the answers I needed to share with those I was helping in Haiti without going through our own personal earthquake (cancer). Gods timing, as always, is so perfect.

I was on a team of 8 lead by Wayne Kaufman of HarvestNET in Pennsylvania. We were assigned to counsel, encourage, and pray for the staff of a YWAM base in the city of St. Marc, Haiti. We each asked intercessors to pray for us for a designated time surrounding our trip. There were a total of 80 devoted intercessors praying for the team during that time. The Haitian stronghold of voodoo and witch doctors, along with the celebration of darkness associated with Marti Gras, are some of the major obstacles that needed to be broken in prayer.

Beyond just meeting many nice Godly Haitian and American staff, we witnessed God encouraging the hearts of most, if not all, of the staffers during our stay. All of the sessions were encouraging and enlightening, but one in particular stood out to me. As a team we understood that deep pain had damaged the hearts of the staff on the base following the earthquake. I was placed on a team of two to minister more deeply to an injured heart. As we invited the Lord into each of several pain events and prayed to remove confusion, it was a joy to witness God bring healing, peace, and a clean, open heart where there was once damage and hurt. God also then confirmed the healing of the heart with several mental pictures that were personal and encouraging to this staffer. As we checked on that heart in subsequent sessions, we found the pain was still gone and the heart remained open and light.

Bringing Christ into each of our sessions is the key to complete healing. There can be a resistance to the commands of the Word of God in cases when counseling does not invite Christ in to get to the root of the pain or sin. It is of the utmost importance for us to care for each emotional pain event and invite Jesus into those events to bring peace and healing. When we do there is no need to cover that pain again. There is no problem we will encounter in our lives that has not been addressed in the written Word of God. If we as Christians will receive His healing, and choose to live the higher standard as Christ modeled, we will find His burden is light and His yoke is easy and unchanging. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor 12:9

The Future for Whole Families, Inc.

Call for Prayer

Thank you for your prayers for this ministry. As I prepared for this letter having just come back from a missionary trip to Haiti, I am reminded just how important your prayers are. While in this office the last few months I have been made very aware of the problems the enemy is using to bind Christians hearts. The scripture shows us in one case where the disciples were perplexed that the enemy would not obey there commands, Jesus told them "this kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29). Much of what I am working with in my office lately is more demonic than what I have come across before. The need for prayer is that much more pronounced. Please put *Whole Families* on your calendar or daily reminder and interceded for wisdom, safety, provision, and break through for our clients and the *Whole Families* ministry.

Growing Needs Worldwide

The vision of *Whole Families* is expanding in part because of a new board member, Pastor Daniel Dovidio, but also in response to the growing needs worldwide. God has been prompting our hearts to keep this counsel as simple and duplicatable as possible, but also to make it available to all that seek to use only the Word of God to set captives free. In addition to the Haiti trip God willing, and provision available, I will be going to the Philippines in October of this year to teach this curriculum to pastors on several islands.

Partners

Thank you for supporting and partnering with us for the vision and work God is giving us to do. *Isaiah 61:1-4*.

You can help support *Whole Families* by making a tax deductible donation to *Whole Families, Inc.*, P.O. Box 1136 Westcliffe, Colorado 81252. Your donations make this ministry possible. *Whole Families, Inc.* operates in the *Westcliffe Community Church* building, in space provided at no charge to the ministry, with a Board of Directors, a secretary and an editor that lovingly donate their time to the work of the Lord. We value your donation dollars and treat them with the respect that you deserve.

