

Encouragement for the Heart from **WHOLE FAMILIES**

2007 spur 65a Davenport NE. 68335
(402) 364-2550 wholefamilies@hotmail.com

We are glad to write our first newsletter from Whole Families, to our precious friends.

We haven't heard from many of you for a long time, nor have you heard from us, this has been a fast ride. I feel very honored that God allows me the opportunity to be a part of each of your lives and I take each appointment very seriously. As we spend time in my office I feel that I make new friends every time and I want to catch you up on what is going on.

THE CALLING

This being our third year in ministry, and a new way of life for my family, and myself we look to this next year with great anticipation and joy because the ministry is so fulfilling. The reason it is so fulfilling is that I get a front row seat in watching God do miracles in His precious people's lives. Then I must say, "Thank you," to all of you who have allowed me that honor.

GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD

I felt strongly from the beginning, and still do, that I was to offer my services to any and everyone, without obligation and then look to the Lord to meet our needs as a ministry. This is a freeing concept because I never have to think about whether a client is able to help financially or not. The many of you that have given to the ministry or our family must know that we see that as God's hand using yours to do His work. This is also one of the miracles that we get to watch, as we pray for provision and God prompts each of you. That encourages us. Thank you so very much for being obedient to the promptings that God gives you, *that* along some monthly sponsors and support from our local, church "Little Blue Christian Fellowship" make this ministry work. Only on the other side of heaven will you or I know what the fruit of that labor or gift has done in the kingdom of heaven. We would love to hear from you and stay in touch. Some years ago I was taught to work hard, like it was up to me but to give someone else the credit and God the glory, and I get to keep the joy. The joy is the only thing that can't harm me. My life's mission along with ministry is that my identity be lost in that of Jesus and His ministry.

STAYING FREE

As I have worked with the hundreds of clients I have found that most of them have been able to get to freedom and many have found complete healing of the heart. The healing of the heart (the heart being where the emotions are) is very important as I work with each client because everybody that has pain and covers that pain in a different way. Once the pain is taken care of there is no need to cover pain any longer. This remains the most important part of what I am called to do. Once the pain of the heart has been dealt with, by the one counselor that is qualified to take care of that pain, that counselor being Jesus Christ the Wonderful Counselor, then we work for freedom in the life of the Christian. As many of you know, getting to that place of freedom is hard work and staying there is also hard work but very rewarding. Several things that I have found that trip people up once they are free is, first self pity which is rooted in pride. Self-pity is hard for the one caught in it to recognize. Several indicators are an inability to look in you spouse's eye, which is caused by negative, or bashing thoughts toward your spouse, or feeling like giving up. Another indicator is the inability to joyfully serve your wife or family, and in that pre-occupation with self the temptations for moral failure rise. Yet another indicator is that to face self-pity and own it about yourself is embarrassing and

very hard to admit. When you are caught in this predicament don't give yourself an out. Repent of the pride that is at the core of self-pity and agree with God that it is sin and something that He hates and resists. Then make sure that you forgive yourself for falling into self-pity if you have had to climb out several times before. Remember, bringing up the past against yourself, like "There, I did it again." or "Why can't I get it right", indicate that there may be a bitterness against yourself. This bitterness must be dealt with as sin otherwise you're holding yourself to a higher standard than God does, or saying that the sacrifice that Jesus made was not enough to pay for your sin, or that your sin is too hideous for Jesus' sacrifice to cover. The second area where people get stuck is returning to bitterness that was once repented of because of new pain. To rid yourself of that bitterness, you must again list the pain that the offender has caused you and then agree to pay for the consequences of that pain so that you can be free. Remember, you do not forgive someone for their sake; you forgive for your sake, so that the slate is clean. You will let them off of your hook but they remain on God's hook and that is none of your business as he deals with them. Once you have forgiven the offender, then get your heart ready to forbear as there will probably be offenses come up again. Forbearance is what Jesus did on the cross, "Father, forgive

them for they know not what they do" or Stephen did it at his stoning. He said, "Father, lay not this sin to their charge". Notice in these statements not only is the would be offended keeping a forgiving heart but they are also interceding for the offender. This is a very important step.

TESTAMONY

A woman in her fifties was referred to my office by a co-worker because after several recent events in her life, one being the death of her parents, she spent much of her day in tears and sorrow and couldn't understand why. When I talked to her by phone I asked her to bring a friend with her. After we explored for a little while I found that a set of thoughts visited her from her past everyday or nearly everyday. At age 7 she had been inappropriately touched by a grandfather making her feel dirty and guilty, and that picture of what had happened to her is what played in her thoughts daily for nearly fifty years. When we asked how Jesus would heal the pain He in her word picture reached in and pulled her out of bed from beside her grandfather where the pain and guilt was caused and stood her beside Himself with his protective arm around her. I have talked with this client several times since then and she says the only memory that she always sees is her standing by Jesus completely covered.

After she had forgiven her grandfather and asked Jesus to take all of the pain and make her clean again, she said that there is only joy that remains from that memory. All of the crying over that abuse has stopped and she is very thankful for the work that Jesus did.

ABOUT OUR FAMILY

Most of you have been graced by "the hugging team," our "mini united nations" as we refer to them sometimes, or the youngest members of our family. I want you to know that they are doing very well though they are growing fast. Oksana still remains in Russia and we are waiting on a miracle that brings her to us.

GREETINGS

From our family Brad, Shirley, Bethany, Emma, Chloe, Ivy, and Sophia, to yours, Merry Christmas and an abundant New Year. I'm glad our paths crossed.