

Haven of Hope

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Proverbs 19:9

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HAVEN OF HOPE MINISTRIES

9811 THOMPSON RD,
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OUR MINISTRY GOALS

- Helping couples define their core emotional issues.
- Teaching couples how to care for each other's hearts.
- Discovering how to keep a person's heart open to love.
- Understanding cycles that lock a relationship.
- Experience healing for destructive emotional wounds.
- Applying truth to the heart through inner healing.

Haven of Hope is a faith-based, non-profit ministry committed to helping those who are hurting from their life experiences of the past, as well as, the present. We believe that there is life-changing help for the wounded hearts and broken relationships of those who are lead into putting their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. This miracle is only possible through His power. We are but instruments to help lead the hurting to Him, the "Healer of the Hurting."

You can make a one-time or reoccurring donation by going to our website and clicking on the donation button or by calling the office.

Moving from Grief to Joy

I have spent time lately thinking about the unknown and how our lives can so quickly move in the opposite direction than what we had planned. One moment I am happy and the next moment stuck with suffocating grief. One moment I am secure with where I am, and the next moment my foundation is shaken. One moment I know the next step I want to take, and the next moment it seems the next step is not possible. If I dwell on these kinds of thoughts too long, I might reach the conclusion that my life isn't significant anyway, so why plan. And yet, Jesus said in Matthew 10:29, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care."

This past April 29 was one of those kind of days for April and me. My mother was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and 6 weeks later she took her last flight into the arms of Jesus. This left a devastating hole in our hearts, followed by feelings of sadness and tremendous loss. We were in the middle of making plans for a 60-day ministry sabbatical and life was good, and then we weren't sure that any of those plans would work out. These types of situations are familiar to us all. A wedding with joy and happiness, four years later ends in great sorrow. The job of a lifetime that seemed to fall into your lap, 5 years later the company comes to ruin and you are jobless. Coming into

the sunset years of married life, children are all happily married, and you are once again free to enjoy each other alone, and your spouse's health is

taken. Sorrow and joy have one thing in common. They both have to do with the way we feel, but in life, we don't get to choose one over the other.

The bigger question is how we are going to handle the sorrows and disappointments? As sons and daughters of the King, even as we sorrow, we sorrow not as others. "For we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary." (Hebrew 6:19) And because of this, somewhere in the midst of our sorrows we find comfort and our sorrow slowly moves back towards joy. This concept is God's remedy for a broken and messed up world. It was not God's original plan for us, but because of sin, we are called to endure sorrow, as well as joy. He wants us to move on with a deeper trust in Him. So, April and I are still planning our sabbatical even with the loss of mom and the family transitions with my dad's on going need for care. We will take a rest from



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ministry from August 4 – October 1. Duane Cross, and the rest of the HOH office staff, have graciously agreed to cover during my absence.

My mother is with Jesus and enjoying a perfect place of Eternal Joy. That brings a smile to my face. She was a faithful prayer warrior. She lived out of her faith, and I watched her move through the painful realization that she would soon be leaving us. This was not her plan, and she experienced deep waves of sorrow. In less than a week after her diagnosis, I also saw her emerge with a quiet strength and peace, knowing that her Father knew best. As we walked her to the finish line, her faith was amazing. She has left

Steve & April Swartz (Directors)
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Jeff & Meryl VanderWeide

Our Board

a legacy for all of us. She showed me how to finish well. I want to follow in her footsteps.

Thank you for your support of the HOH team during our sabbatical and your prayers for our family in this season.

Steve Swartz, HOH Director

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Please join us for these events!

October 3-5, 2019
 Grand Rapids, Michigan
 November 7-9, 2019
 Hicksville, Ohio

Register on line at
www.havenofhopes.com
 or call 616-693-2925
 Email: melissa@havenofhopes.com
www.havenofhopes.com