

Haven of Hope

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2020

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.
- Experiencing 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 and the present. We believe that there is life-changing help for the wounded hearts and broken relationships of those who are led 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.

Pandemic, Partners, & Progress

Pandemic: "Don't touch. Stay at least 6 feet apart. Don't leave your home unless it is absolutely necessary." We have been told this by the authorities over and over. We respond with questions like, "What does all this mean? How long is this going to last?" The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us. With our office totally shut down, emails from struggling couples continued to find their way to my inbox. As couples spent more time together, what was once a dream now looked like a disaster. With more time to think, we often come face to face with ourselves.

The first week of quarantine was great. I did not have to show up at work, and I had free time to do what I normally did not have time to do. Then, week two was ushered in with discouragement and a loss of perspective. How quickly things change when we do not know the path forward and routines get messed up! Recently, April and I attended the memorial service of Richard Showalter. I was challenged by other's reflections on Richard's hold on Jesus. I was especially encouraged by the following tribute written about Richard:

"No matter how complicated life's demands might seem, each day could be reduced to the simple reality of meeting with and saying

'Yes' to Jesus each day, of trusting implicitly in the Holy Spirit's guidance, and of knowing at the deepest level that he was a beloved son of the Heavenly Father".

Because he knew he was loved, because he had daily communion with Jesus, and because he trusted totally in the Holy Spirit's leading, Richard was able to "live until he died." So, let us take courage. We move forward, choosing not to live in fear. We know that Jesus holds our future, and he has asked us to "live until we die."

Partners: Looking to the future, we acknowledge the past faithfulness of our ministry partners, Duane and Verba Cross. In the later part of 2019, Duane and Verba accepted a full-time position with Jamaican Relief Ministries (JRM). This greatly saddens all of us at Haven of Hope, but we know they are simply taking ministry to a new place. Duane will be serving as a stateside director for JRM and will eventually move to South Carolina. We wish to thank them for their contribution these past two years. They will continue to serve on staff for the Two Hearts One Flame marriage retreat. Thank you, Duane and Verba, for being amazing ministry partners!



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Visit us on the web at www.havenofhopes.com

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Progress: Our new *Building Blocks for Relationships* curriculum is being used to follow-up with couples who have attended a retreat or have spent a week of intensive counseling in the office. We launched the project in parts of Michigan and western Pennsylvania. Soon we will be launching groups in southwestern Ohio. Pray with us that the Lord will raise up leaders who can help us in this important part of the ministry. To be a part of one of these groups, or to lead one, please visit our website or call our office for more information.

We also celebrate progress as we look forward to expanding the ministry of HOH. Several years ago, the executive board began praying about ministry

Steve & April Swartz (Directors)
Jeff & Meryl VanderWeide (President)
Joe & Noreen Miller (Vice Pres.)
Brad (Treas.) & Jennifer (Sec.) Kober
Duane & Verba Cross
Bill & Kathy McGlone
Virgil & Dawn Stutzman
Elmer & Kathy Yoder
Herman & Kathryn Yoder

Our Board

growth and how to handle the increasing needs we face. The Lord has answered our prayers and given us a path forward. We will share new information as we finalize plans. Again, we thank you for the ways in which you have partnered with us.

Blessing until next time,
Steve and April Swartz

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Haven of Hope

*Two Hearts,
One Flame*
Marriage Get Away

9811 Thompson Rd.
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Please join us for our next retreat!

November 5-7, 2020
Apple Creek, OH

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