

Haven of Hope

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HAVEN OF HOPE

9659 Thompson Rd.
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
616-693-2925

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 past or present life experiences. 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."

Please consider...

· a one time or recurring donation at our website www.havenofhopes.com.

· following us on Facebook

STAY IN YOUR LANE

One of the lessons I am learning in this season of my life is that we don't get to choose the timing or the magnitude of our sorrows or loss. These losses and sorrows can bring suffocating grief. If we don't process these emotions in a healthy way, they can have a negative effect on the close relationships around us. By the time emotional suffering works its way through our heart, the output can be toxic and harmful to both our heart and the hearts of others. This is what we refer to in the office as heart damage. Emotional pain has a way of changing how we see life and how emotionally close we allow others to be. This pain can produce strong thoughts that tell us, "You are all alone" or "You can never do it good enough." These thoughts may lead us to choose deviant or bad behavior clothed in sinful habits. When emotional pain or sorrow evidences itself in sin, relationships can begin to suffer as the patterns repeat themselves over and over again. This destructive journey of our hearts is the enemy's design to destroy us in every way. John 10:10 says that the enemy comes "to steal and kill and destroy," but Jesus has come that "we may have life and have it to the full."

It is far too easy to find ourselves blaming others and sometimes even God for our pain and suffering. What we miss in this approach is that playing the blame game doesn't resolve anything. It only entrenches us deeper in our pain and misery. We never get to experience the last part of John 10:10 that points us to the remedy. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Jesus came that we might find our way through

our suffering and pain. The problem is that we don't trust Him. It is easier to take the situation into our own hands and blame someone else.

I have sat with hundreds of people and have led them to focus on Jesus – the author and finisher of our faith. To get there, we must own our journey and take responsibility for what we do with the pain we experience. While we don't choose our pain, we must own it, and learn to take it to Jesus. David did this so well, and I believe it is one of the reasons we have Psalms recorded in the Bible. The Psalms teach us how to handle our pain and suffering and how to mourn well. In Psalms 5:1 David says "Listen to my words, LORD, consider my lament. Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray." Those who never learn to mourn their losses will never learn to sympathize well with others. This is an important part of our journey through suffering. As David laments his pain to God in the next several verses of Psalm 5, his heart learns to trust and eventually moves him back toward joy. In verse 11 he says, "But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you."

Let's learn together to trust Jesus and the Holy Spirit as we live our lives. Let's learn together to stay in our own lanes and take ownership of the journey of our hearts. When we learn to do this, there is no need to blame others. Ownership releases the power of the Holy Spirit within us. The Holy Spirit then heals our heart which will produce freedom from bondage and sin.

Steve Swartz, Executive Director

INTRODUCING OUR BBFR PROGRAM

Community – a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

After a counseling intensive or a marriage retreat, you may ask, “Where do we go from here? How do we keep growing in our relationship? Where can we share about our pain and find more healing? Are we all alone in this struggle?”

The Building Blocks for Relationships program (BBFR) is Haven of Hope’s answer to some of these questions. We want to offer a safe, stretching, and inspiring community. In the BBFR program you will find a place to build on what you have learned; a place to bond as a couple with those with like experiences; and a place to become the individual and couple that God created you to be.

Relationships suffer from isolation, and they fade into the dark without community. BBFR wishes to reverse that by being a resting place for the weary, the struggling, and for those who wish to take

their marriage to the next level. For six weeks (two hours, once a week), couples meet in a relaxed setting to discuss and learn more about emotional connection, freedom, and healing.

If you are interested in learning more about our BBFR program, check out our website havenofhopes.com (under the Events tab) or call 616-693-2925.

Our Board

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two hearts . one flame

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Upcoming Retreats: Oct. 6-8, 2022 | Virginia;
Nov. 10-12, 2022 | Michigan

Register online: www.havenofhopes.com | Call: 616-693-2925
Additional questions? Tim@havenofhopes.com | www.havenofhopes.com

Haven of Hope merchandise has launched!

We are delighted that we are able to share our newest adventure with you. Currently, we have HOH shirts and coffee mugs available for couples to purchase as a reminder of their healing experience while at HOH. Proceeds from these keepsakes go directly to help us continue to provide compassionate restoration for other hurting couples.

To purchase your own Haven of Hope merchandise, feel free to call, email, or swing by the ministry.