

STORIES OF HOPE

PASTOR'S MEMO



As we say good-bye to long summer days and anticipate the coolness and colors of Fall, may I encourage you to consider where you are in your spiritual development? Creation has seasons and so does our life before God and with others. If you're weary or wounded, you may be in need of some rest or mending. It's not easy for us to put our hand up and ask for help. But don't ache *alone*. Seek out care and counsel aimed at restoration. Others of you may feel like you've been in a season of maintenance, but that can turn into coasting rather easily and subtly. Has it been a while since you made an intentional investment in your own spiritual growth? There's certainly grace—don't ever be motivated by guilt—but is it time for *more*? Others of you may feel like you've been growing for a while, but you're wondering about the fruit. Maybe it's time to invite a few others to join you in becoming more *outwardly*

focused. Siblings at Hope are waiting for such an invitation, and neighbors, co-workers, and friends will be blessed by your pursuit. Maybe it's time to get further equipped so that you can engage those outside the faith in a meaningful way. I'm confident the Lord will lead you. **What's your next move?**

On the Journey!

Stephen

GROWING TOGETHER: JENNI STANLEY

After being in a Huddle (another environment for growth and multiplication) for the past year or so, I really valued our time together as a small group. So I was open to the idea of being in a Triad as I kept hearing about it. So I started



praying about whom God would have me form a triad with. It can be discouraging at times because it seems like it's not coming together, but we are now just getting started on our journey together.

It is neat to see God bring us together. Both of the ladies in my Triad are new to each other. One is from choir and one is from my home group. I am really looking forward to our upcoming adventure in growing closer to the Lord and each other.

DISCOVERING GRACE: LINDSEY OLIVA

I often feel God prompting me and I ignore it or I respond with obedience and don't see the fruit I was hoping for. In this particular instance, however, I responded with obedience and have gotten to see God use me in ways far beyond my expectations. One day in Kings High School I offered up free math tutoring based off a prompting from God. From that one moment of obedience, I have gone from going weekly to Kings to help students with math, to running an ESL (English as a Second Language) Day Camp as part of Summer Serve,



to now having the full support of the school district to run an afterschool program for ESL students in Kings School District. I have been humbled seeing all God can do with one small act of obedience and I hope to remember this as I feel more promptings from God.

HOPE'S JOURNEY: JIM STEWART

In 2013 I felt that God was calling me to a new adventure for my life. He led me to retire early and begin a ministry to help people by doing what I already enjoyed. God wanted me to start a handyman ministry to handicapped and seniors on limited incomes who needed help with jobs around their houses. Following God's leading, I started a company called "Lasting Glory" (what is done for Christ will last.) I began my



new business in January of 2014. I do not charge for my labor, but I accept donations to help with supplies and vehicle expenses. I have been unbelievably busy. Over the last year and a half, the Lord has allowed me to be a blessing to some very sweet people. My

buddy, Mike Lee, has helped with the ministry and been a personal blessing. This summer Mike and I have also had the blessing of working with the children of Hope Church by teaching a woodworking class. If you are retiring soon, perhaps God has a new adventure awaiting you.

GROWING TOGETHER: RYAN HARRIS

My name is Ryan Harris. For many years, I was upset and feeling weary. People are scared of me because of my intense Autism gestures. In the silence there is extreme upset. Not able to talk, a nice teacher helped me to spell. Soon feelings flooded my mind.



Listening, God spoke. Holy Spirit now realized. Now fostering good feelings, so present is the Holy Spirit. I am healing, God is giving me a real voice. At Hope Church, I see God working through Capernaum camp. Camp challenges us to try new things. God gives us the strength to

learn how capable we all are. Wisdom is found in our times of prayer together. I find love through the selflessness in our leaders. Love your neighbor as yourself- this is what camp teaches. Always remember, peace God gives now and into eternity.

RESTORING THE BROKEN: THE RUTHERFORDS

After Vacation Bible School this summer, my kids were excited to show me their Blessing Bags that were filled with items to bless a homeless person. We were going downtown and knew we would see homeless people. We passed a few before my son chose the one he wanted to bless. Evan ran over to him, held out the bag and said, "God bless you!" The man replied with a smile, "Thank you, bless you too!" Evan was beaming. Once Abby chose someone, she walked up and simply said, "I packed this for you." He was older and smiled a sparsely toothed grin and returned a simple "Thank you, sweetheart."



On the way home both kids concluded we need to have more Blessing Bags packed and ready in all of our cars. Thank you for giving my kids an opportunity to be used by God in restoring the broken.

MAKING DISCIPLES: MEDICAL MISSIONS

Through Caring Partners International's medical mission in June, over 1,400 patients heard the Gospel and received medical attention in clinics. Eighty-four made decisions for Christ! Evangelism through medicine was the goal of 29 dedicated individuals that traveled to Guatemala City and teamed up with the members of Geneserat Church. We attended to the emotional and physical needs of their community. God moved in miraculous ways. Many experienced God's mercy, grace, and love through this wonderful team. It was



encouraging to see Hugo, a past clinic patient, working hard to support the church, sharing the Gospel while organizing patients. A few years back, Hugo accepted Christ as his personal Savior during one of the clinics. He was an alcoholic, at the end of his rope. Hugo came to the clinic terribly depressed, physically sick, shunned by his family, friends, and community, and contemplating suicide. Today, he's a changed man. This was just one of many stories. God used us in amazing ways!