

When People Hurt – What Do We

This question has probably caused more people to run in fear than any other question we have ever faced. We all want to do the right thing when people are hurting, but sometimes we miss the mark.

We may think we know what the person needs when we really don't; we may say the wrong thing at the wrong time; we may do the wrong thing at the wrong time or we may opt for the more obvious action chosen by too many people – we don't do anything at all.

Even in the church we miss the mark sometimes when it comes to ministering to people who are hurting. People struggling with life issues come to our church service and someone says, "What are they doing here?" Where do we want them to be? If hurting people can't come to church for comfort, hope, security and encouragement then where do we want them to go?

Matthew records the actions of Jesus when He saw people who were hurting.

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest

Contact Information

Phil & Rhonda LaMaster

Phone: 812-752-2634

Address: 5683 S Boatman Rd, Underwood IN 47177

Web Site www.living-hope-ministry.com

E-mail: living_hope_ministry@hotmail.com

field." (Matthew 9:35-38, NIV)

When He saw the crowds—did you read the words? —"He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless".

Giving advice to a group of young ministry students the teacher said, "Preach to the hurting and you will never lack a crowd, because every pew holds a hurting soul."

However, it is really easy to get so caught up in our own lives that we miss out on the hurting souls sitting right next to us. One man said we suffer from, "ingrown eyeballitis" . We cannot see those who are hurting because we are only looking out for number one.

The "harvest is plentiful" but if we are to help in the harvest we have to get out of ourselves and get into other people. Now why in the world would we want to do that? Because that is the way Jesus taught His followers to live. We get by giving. We get to be first by making ourselves last. We live when we die. We experience JOY when it means – Jesus, Others, and You!

What's Happening the Next Few Months

May 17, Hanging Rock Camp – Men's Meeting

May 20, Rainbow Camp – Ministry to Ministers and Church Leaders

May 23, New Salisbury Christian Missionary Church

May 30, Dogwood Community Church

June 5, Paoli – Cook out for Crusade for Children

June 11, Memphis Community Church – Father/Son

June 20, Stoney Point Christian Church

June 23-27, Revival New Salisbury Missionary Church

July 4, Central Christian Church

July 11, Central Christian Church

July 14, Briar Ridge Christian Church

July 18, Central Christian Church

July 25 – 27, Revival Saltillo Christian Church

August 15, Dogwood Community

September 10-12, Kankakee Valley Christian Church

September 19, Hibernia Christian Church

September 26, Paoli Christian Church AM

September 26, Hibernia Christian Church PM

October 3, Hibernia Christian Church

October 4, Austin Christian Church

October 10-13, New Providence Baptist Church Revival

October 24, Choatesville Christian Church

Conflicts in the Church – Can We Make Sense of it all?

The Apostle Paul wrote:

"My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas'; still another, 'I follow Christ.'" (1 Corinthians 1:11-12, NIV)

"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3, NIV)

James said it this way:

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." (James 4:1-4, NIV)

Every place we go the news seems to be the same, "The First Church of the Self-righteous Brothers and Sisters" isn't being righteous at all. The fact of the matter is they are at war with one another and it looks like it is going to get worse before it gets any better. The fighting escalates and the work of the Lord diminishes.

The problem "P's" are reeking havoc in the body of Christ. You know what I am talking about, don't you? Politics, Power plays, and Popularity contests take over and the body of Christ suffers as a result. Nobody ever wants to take credit for being the offending party. We have trouble identifying the trouble makers because we all know the right language, the right outfit to wear and the right things to do that throw people off the track.

Knock and the Door Will Be Opened

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8, NIV)

As you probably already know, it is a whole lot easier to talk about faith than it is to live by faith. Living Hope Ministry has been a great lesson for me when it comes to really living by what I preach.

God has always been so very generous to every ministry where we have been privileged to serve His holy name. We have witnessed growth in numbers, in spiritual maturity, in gifts and giving to the work, in missions outreach, and in helping those who are hurting. It was all pretty easy for me when there was a church body working together to accomplish the will of our Father in Heaven.

Now we have more friends and family than ever before but they are all actively involved in located churches. It is really hard to ask the saints to reach out and help Living Hope Ministry. But we have asked, we have been seeking and we have knocked on a lot of lives and by faith they have come through. Thank

Leadership is more about power and control than surrender to the Living Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Preaching is for the itching ears of the listeners instead of being the divine oracles of God poured out from a heart totally committed to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Service is a matter of those who see us doing what we are doing instead of selfless surrender to the will of our Savior and Lord.

Giving has strings attached because we want everyone to know just how much we really do have.

We blast the big churches because they just can't be friendly, when in reality, some of the coldest and most unfriendly churches existing today have less than 100 people attending on a weekly basis.

The trumpet call of worship today is, "do it my way or I will let you know about it."

Teaching seems to be an endeavor to just survive 45 minutes instead of attempting to give people a hunger and thirst for the Living Word of God.

Why does all of this happen? Could it be as a result of wanting everything our own way? We have stepped out of the boat in faith, but we have taken our eyes off the Savior and we are sinking fast.

"It is not about me!" If I can just wrap my heart and mind around this truth it is amazing how much more I get out of worship and church life in general. This Christian life we are involved in is all about Jesus! It is about glorifying the One True Living God. We are to surrender completely to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit of all Truth. We are to rely on the absolute truth of God's Holy Word. We are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to the God who created us.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17, NIV)

It does not matter who gets the credit as long as our God gets all the glory. When we labor to glorify God we will not have time to get involved with the problem "P's" and all they bring into the body of Christ. Let's repent and turn from our wicked ways and give all to the One who gave His all for us!

you for helping Living Hope.

The work continues to grow and move in areas we never imagined. And as you may guess, greater growth requires more financial support.

May I ask you to consider Living Hope Ministry in your giving to the Lord's work! God has told us to be faithful and He will provide and with all my heart I know this is true. I have witnessed it time and time again as God's wonderful people come through with flying colors.

We have been very faithful with the money you have given thus far to this work. If you have any questions about how we spend the gifts that are given, please feel free to talk with Donna Faris and she will gladly share with you where the funds go.

Thank you for your past support and I look forward in faith to all that our Great God in Heaven will continue to do through Living Hope Ministry.