

Greater Hope Newsletter

Summer 2022 Issue

Greater Hope Fundraising Banquet

Save the
Date:
September 8,
2022



Ruth Graham and father, Rev. Billy Graham

Guest
Speaker:
Ruth
Graham

Location: Festival Conference and Student Center

James Madison University, Harrisonburg VA

Deadline to reserve seats: September 1, 2022

Reservation Tickets @ Eventbrite, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fundraising-banquet-tickets-367089112417>

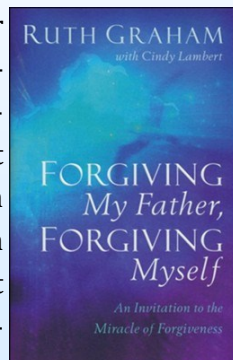
or contact Greater Hope 540-574-4189, kkipps@greaterhope.org

Ruth Graham is returning to Greater Hope! Ruth will share her story of forgiveness based on her latest book, "Forgiving my Father, Forgiving Myself."

When we live with unresolved anger or hurt, the result is nearly always bitterness, broken relationships, and unhealthy behaviors. Unforgiveness not only sabotages our interactions with those around us, it impedes our own spiritual growth and inner peace. And it can happen to anyone. In her most vulnerable writing yet, Ruth Graham reveals how a visit to Angola Prison inspired her to

release the unforgiveness lurking in her own heart—toward others, herself, and even her earthly father, evangelist Billy Graham.

In this encouraging book, she weaves her own personal experiences with biblical examples to explore what holds us back from forgiving others and ourselves—and what we gain when we finally discover the power to forgive. Along the way, she guides us into our own deeply personal experiences of forgiveness that will penetrate our protective walls and unleash true transformation in our lives.



What We Offer....

Living Waters: A 20 week in-depth healing and discipleship program which ministers to people who are seeking healing from relational and sexual brokenness.*

Boundaries, Beyond Boundaries, Safe People: Classroom study of books by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend, addressing specific issues that confront today's Christians.*

CrossCurrent: A 9 week Christ centered ministry and support group for those seeking more truth and grace in their relationships and sexuality.

Men Pursuing Purity: An 8-10 week group equipping men to live lives of purity, purpose and power.*

Conquer Series 1 & 2; Men's recovery series enabling freedom from sexual addictions.

The Journey: Women's group offering hope for spouses walking through the valley of sexual addiction.

Various Continuing Support Groups: Maintenance groups providing continued helps for recovering men & women.

Counseling and Consultation: Confidential consultations and referrals for professional counseling.

Prayer Ministry: Available by appointment at the Greater Hope office.

Resource Room: Books & videos, TV & DVD player available.

Standing In The Gap: A prayer group interceding on behalf of the prayer needs of the ministry.

GREATER HOPE NEWS: Quarterly newsletter features articles ministering to those overcom-

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Who We Are....An evangelical ministry promoting freedom from and healing for heterosexual and homosexual sin and brokenness. Originally founded in 1995 as Day Seven, and re-established in 1998, Greater Hope operates under the direction of an interdenominational board of directors. The work of Greater Hope is supported entirely by the 501 (c) (3) tax-deductible contri-

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The Gift of Giving Forgiveness, by Loretha Ketterman

“I told him that even though we did not agree about the details concerning his sexual abuse, I forgave him for the abuse. “

Forgiveness – something we humans desire to receive but have a hard time giving to others. Every single person living on planet Earth will have hundreds, if not thousands, of opportunities to give and receive forgiveness throughout their lifetime. My experience certainly attests to that.

I grew up in a Christian home with a demanding and controlling father. I know now that he is narcissistic but growing up he was just Dad. The sexual abuse began when I was eleven and continued for six years, until I finally mustered up enough courage to tell my mother what Dad was doing. The sexual abuse immediately stopped but the verbal and emotional abuse intensified. Since I had exposed his secret, Dad had no problem berating me and putting me down any chance he got.

Because of this combined abuse I tried to kill myself when I was seventeen – but I failed. This was devastating at the time, but a true blessing now. While my parents did not find out about my suicide attempt, my high school friends did and took me to a counselor for help. Nothing changed at home, but God gave me the desire to live from that day on.

While I was away at college my Dad left my mom, which gave me even more to forgive him for. In 1982 I transferred to James Madison University (JMU) where my healing really began. First God dealt with my identity as a victim, and then He asked me to forgive my father.

When Dad’s job took him to Germany, he asked me to take him to the airport and then I could keep his car. That meant that we would

be alone in his car, but I had no idea how to bring up the subject of his abuse and tell him I forgave him. I knew that God was asking me to tell dad, but I was at a loss as to how to approach the task. In my desperation I told God that I would tell my Dad I forgive him if he brought up the subject. Since I knew he never would, I thought that I was safe.

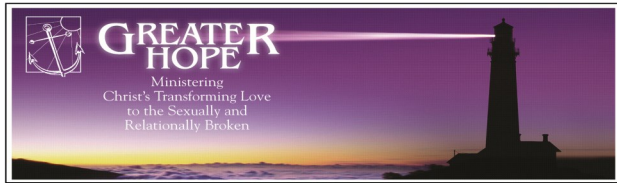
On the road trip we talked about trivial matters as he drove. Suddenly, out of nowhere, he said, “how are you doing?” Now that might sound like a normal question between a father and child to you, but my Dad never said that before (or since). He does not ask about other people because he only cares about his own well-being. I knew in my spirit that this was God’s intervention, so I took advantage to let Dad know what God was doing in my life! I told him that even though we did not agree about the details concerning his sexual abuse, I forgave him for the abuse. Dad received my forgiveness and the subject was dropped.

I tell this story to show how God intervenes when He asks us to do something. I was not alone in that car with my dad. I have a loving God who orchestrated my dad to say something completely out of character for me to gain freedom. I was the one who needed to voice my forgiveness aloud to the man who had tremendously hurt me. That act of obedience has changed my life and I am so very grateful!

No, my Dad did not apologize. Yes, I have needed to forgive him over and over throughout the years following that initial experience. I have learned that forgiveness is necessary in order to move forward. Regardless of where my father is, I am free to move ahead and enjoy my Christian walk hand in hand with my loving Heavenly Father – who sees me, knows me, and values me. The reward of forgiveness is freedom, and I will receive that every time!

Loretha serves on the Greater Hope Leadership Team





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Our Mission

Greater Hope exists to offer hope, minister healing, and equip people for sexual and relational wholeness through Christ's transforming love.

Our ministry is for those who desire to develop the ability to love others in a Godly manner both physically and emotionally.

Women's Group Summer 2022

*Reclaiming Your Heart—A Journey Back to
Laughing, Loving and Living*



Nine Week group meeting once weekly—begins
Tuesday June 28, 2022
Sessions include worship, teaching and healing prayer

Contact Greater Hope 540-574-4189 or email
kkipps@greaterhope.org

Men's Summer Group

**Conquer Series - take back
your life!**



This series provides real proven strategies for freedom from porn addictions.

Ten week group open to new and returning participants

Contact Ron @ Greater Hope
540-820-8340

Or email kkipps@greaterhope.org