

Greater Hope Newsletter

Winter2023 Issue



Banquet Testimonial

by Phillip Fusara

"I could not shake the hold pornography and sexual addiction had upon my heart in isolation."

Having grown up in the church I could argue theology with the best, I could quote Scripture, and I could give the most Christianese answers to any question. However; this heart was rooted in a false identity and many deep wounds. From as early as 3 years old I would have obscene dreams of a sexual nature. At 7 my older brother would show me my first pornographic magazines and videos. At 11 years of age I became addicted to online pornography and at 17 my parents divorced right after my graduation. A month later I began serial dating and pursuing sexual relationships to avoid the reality of my depression, which had devolved into me being unable to process language, I was unable to understand what someone said without repeating their words to myself 5 or more times.

The world, had strived to impress it's own false idea of sexual intimacy onto me from a very young age, and it had very largely succeeded. I was a relationally broken man, desperately needing to be liked and approved by everyone. In my heart, I hated myself, and I believed everyone else hated me too. I yearned for real connections, for peace. I could not shake the hold pornography and sexual addiction had upon my heart in isolation. There was a time when in a single day I could not go more than 3 minutes without thinking about sexually oriented things.

Despite seeking help two times, at ages 14 and at 18, from leaders in my church, sadly, the help was limited to giving me a book to read, and offers of prayer. There was no follow up, no mentoring me, and no one who would walk alongside me. So, I fell fully back into the grasp of sexual addiction.

I was alone, and suffering. I could only look up at the cross and see Jesus frowning down at me. *Cont'd on Pg. 3*

FINANCIAL CORNER



As we enter the Christmas season I am reminded that Christmas is about the gift of life – a newborn child, a Savior come to bring the gift of eternal life. This Christmas you have the chance to bring the gift of life to those in need of the ministry of Greater Hope – a life restored from the power of sexual addiction and pornography, a life renewed from the depths of sexual abuse and relational brokenness.

Your generous contributions and support contain the gift of life. No gift is too small. Please give to Greater Hope and help us share the true gift of Christmas – the gift of life more abundant in Christ. Following are ways you can give:

- Check - 12515 S Timber Way, Broadway VA 22815
- Text - **GH199818** to **73256** to give using your text messaging. Standard text message rates do apply.
- Credit Card - Donate at www.greaterhope.org

To our partners who have given during 2023 we extend thanks and blessings for you and your faithful support to Greater Hope.

In the true Spirit of Christmas,

Kathy & the Greater Hope Board

What We Offer....

Path Through the Wilderness: A 23 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: Bi-annual newsletter features articles ministering to those overcoming sexual sin.

*A nominal fee is charged.

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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 contributions from individuals, businesses and churches who share our vision for ministry.



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Banquet Testimonial...cont'd from pg. 1

I became angry, obstinate, and self-sufficient, because I could not see Jesus and the Father earnestly seeking to bring me the love I was yearning. I believe this lonely desperate spirit I have just described is the state millions around our world are wrestling with, men and women who need supernatural healing through the hands of God's Church.

One July several years ago, I broke down and spent two days in the RMH Behavioral Wing. All the pressure of my sin and the guilt had finally led me to the end of myself. I had been hiding unfaithfulness and reckless sexual behavior from my wife, my church, and my closest friends. Sadly, because of the sexual promiscuity of our culture 50% of marriages today, even within the church, will end with divorce. Mine was one of those, I also was asked by my church to find a new church home, every single one of my friends cut ties with me, even several members of my family. I was more alone than I had ever been, because of my sexual sin.

It was here in this very dark place that God brought Ron Kipps and Greater Hope into my life. Here, finally, God had broken down my wounded pride enough that I was ready to receive the supernatural healing I needed. I began with a small group that consisted of only three people, Ron, myself, and one other. I resisted occasionally, and still wrestled with recklessness for a while, but the ministry of Greater Hope was like a Pitbull of love, they got a hold of me and they refused to let go, and thank God for that. I was held fast by Jesus through these men, and our meetings, a journey that was marked with dozens of attacks from Satan and the world as they desperately tried to stop me from turning and walking back from the darkness into the light of God's House.

Thanks to Greater Hope I can now hear God's Voice, I can see His smile and feel His love holding me fast. The walls have been rebuilt, they are guarded, and the temple stands at the center of the city, unscathed. The Jerusalem of this heart is rebuild and as Psalm 76 says, "In Judah god is known, His name is



great in Israel. His abode has been established in Salem, is dwelling place in Zion. There He broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and weapons of war. SELAH."

Today, I stand before you all free. And God used Greater Hope to bring that healing, to bring me to a place where my earnest desire is to love Christ and know Him more, to give up the earthly thoughts of myself, and take up the standard of the heavenly mind and to slaughter sin in the heart God has called me to steward.

Currently, our group at Greater Hope consists of 10 men, men who I can trust, who are a hedge about me, and to one another. We are able to demonstrate the powerful love of a godly man to each other because Christ spoke in all our hearts through Greater Hope, and through Ron Kipps. I am blessed to be free from debilitating depression, crippling sexual addictions, I am married to a godly woman with whom I can truly say I have no secrets, no shame, and all the joy of Christ and His Church. I am blessed with a quiver of 6 children, and a church body where we are all known, loved, and able to serve God's purposes. Greater Hope was the ministry God used to make all of this possible.

To join a group, contact Greater Hope:

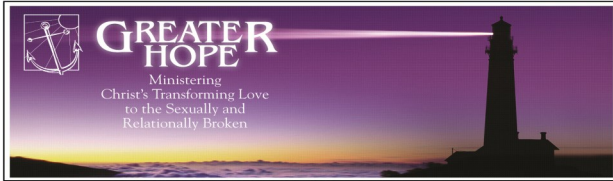
Ron Kipps, Men's Ministry Director, 540-820-8340

Path Through the Wilderness (see page 4)
beginning January 16, 2024

Phone: 540-574-4189

Email kkipps@greaterhope.org

www.greaterhope.org



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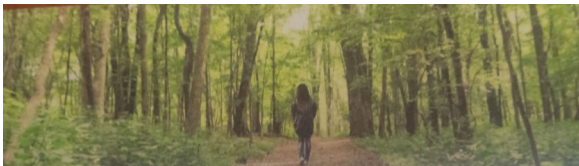
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Our Mission

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.

Path Through the Wilderness (replacing Living Waters)



An intensive healing 23 week scripturally based approach to difficult topics of intimacy, desire, and gender. Path Through the Wilderness provides a thoughtful and safe place to look at the ways we've become ensnared. Through weekly times of worship, teaching and small group prayer, our program leaders walk with participants in their journey to become more the men or women the Father has created them to be.

Beginning Tuesday January 16, 2024

Contact Greater Hope for an application to join this group
Phone 540-574-4189
kkipps@greaterhope.org
www.greaterhope.org

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