

### Calendar of Events

September 24-27, 2006  
In-house counseling session.

October 3-December 5, 2006  
In-house counseling session.

October 28, 2006  
Time: 10:50am  
3577 Angel Lane/Thompsonville Church  
Thompsonville, IL—Healing from abuse  
sermon presented by Steve Nelson.

October 28, 2006  
Time: 6:00pm  
3577 Angel Lane/Thompsonville Church  
Thompsonville, IL—Don't miss this benefit  
concert by Australian vocalist Sandra  
Entermann with an opening song by Cari  
Christian and Bill Cochran.

December 21, 2006-January 7, 2007  
Offices will be closed. Merry Christmas!

To schedule or sponsor a conference in  
your area, call (618) 983-6434. Or, check  
our web site for the latest information.  
[www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com)

### Current Project Needs...

▶ Funds for the New Hope Healing Center,  
expansion, staff, additional educational  
materials and victim assistance.

▶ Funds for conferences and conventions  
throughout the U.S.—some of the best ways to  
spread the word and share hope with others!

▶ Support for the Australian Division filing fees  
and start-up costs (estimated \$5,000-\$7,500).

▶ Funds for travel expenses to Arusha, Tanzania  
and Nairobi, Kenya to conduct leadership  
training conferences on abuse prevention and  
victim assistance (estimated \$7,500).

▶ Ongoing monthly operating expenses (postage,  
office supplies, utilities, printing, etc.).

Donations are the primary source of funds that  
make it possible for The Hope of Survivors to  
maintain its ministry. Since The Hope of  
Survivors receives no denominational subsidies,  
your gifts are vitally important. Thank you for  
considering a tax-deductible donation to further  
the work of this ministry and bring hope and  
healing to wounded hearts.

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
THOMPSONVILLE, IL  
PERMIT NO. 6

THE **Hope**  
of Survivors

P.O. Box 16, Thompsonville, IL 62890

If you'd like to be removed from  
our mailing list, just let us know  
and we'll take care of it.

# HopeSPEAK

### Dear Readers:

I'd like to start with the passage from 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* We are especially thankful to each of you who support The Hope of Survivors through your prayers, time, talents and means. Our Directors are a special blessing to us, and we thank the Lord for their leadership, ideas, guidance and assistance. Thank you Neil Biloff, Doug Kilcher, Tom Lemon, C.A. & Irma Murray, Shelley & J.D. Quinn, Ralph Robertson, Robert Withrow and Marvin Wray. May God bless you all!

We are very appreciative of the individuals who volunteer their time to help with particular projects that may never be accomplished otherwise, such as grant writing, research, administrative help, etc. Thank you Jill Morikone, Hope Bencho, Peggy Mahrt and Danielle Jostes for the work you're doing on behalf of The Hope of Survivors. Thank you Irma Murray for the work you're doing on behalf of the Latino Division (La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes), and to Isabel Fritzier who so generously donated an ad in the Fritzier Hispanic Yellow Pages in AZ. Thank you Coralie Roll for all the effort you're expending to make the Australian Division a reality. We are quite pleased with how these divisions are coming along and pray God will continue to give us direction and provision as we move forward. You'll never know what a blessing each of you is to The Hope of Survivors and to all whose lives the ministry touches.

We praise God for those of you who have been so faithful in your financial support. Most of you asked not to be recognized for your support, but we would like to thank Diane Kay who provided the funds needed for The Hope of Survivors to exhibit at the ASI International Convention in Dallas, TX. Thanks also to Sandy Kirkham who joined us there and helped with the booth. Sandy is a big help to us and the exhibit was a blessing to many. While at ASI interviews on The Hope of Survivors took place with 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) and LLBN (Loma Linda Broadcasting Network). We also received invitations to go to Kenya and Tanzania to provide training to church leadership and seminary students, as well as assistance to abuse victims. As the Lord provides, we will make arrangements for the trip.

With the release of *Reaching the Hurting—A Biblical Guide for Helping Abuse Victims*, we have seen orders come in from many states in the U.S., but also from as far away as Australia, New Zealand and Cyprus. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

We praise God for His leading and blessings in our lives, in the ministry of The Hope of Survivors, and in each of your lives, too. We have seen what God has done for many of you and how He's brought you through the darkest times of your lives. We rejoice with you! For those of you still in *"the valley of the shadow of death,"* please hold on, and remember *"My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."* (Psalm 121:2) May God abundantly bless all of you who are reading this newsletter! Until next time, *"Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."* (Psalm 30:4)  
—Samantha Nelson

**Creative ways to help...**Don't have any money? You can still support The Hope of Survivors! We will receive a penny each time you search the Internet using [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com). Money from advertisers will go to The Hope of Survivors without you spending a dime!

Are you accumulating frequent flyer miles you'll never use? Don't let them go to waste! Donate them to The Hope of Survivors so we can conduct more conferences with less travel expenses. Call today to find out how!

### Volume 3, Edition 4, October 2006

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The Hope of Survivors is an inter-denominational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization funded by individuals who support the mission and goals of the organization; survivors of pastoral sexual abuse who desire to use their means to help others; and by grants from private foundations whose values are similar to those of The Hope of Survivors. All contributions are tax-deductible. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## The Sower

Maybe you've found yourself in a situation that has caught you off guard. In the aftermath, while looking at the shattered pieces of your life, you're wondering how this could have happened. There's a saying that is as true today as when it was spoken thousands of years ago, "*there is no new thing under the sun.*" (Ecclesiastes 1:9) The reality is that what has happened to you, has also devastated the lives of countless others since the beginning of time.

In God's Word we read this parable, "*behold, a sower went forth to sow.*" Into your life and mine there came a day when someone sowed the seed of God's Word into our hearts. With this Word comes power to breathe life into our souls. If we respond, roots will grow as each day we become "grounded" in Him.

The parable of the sower goes on to state these tragic words, "*Some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.*" Sadly, some who once rejoiced in the new life they found in Jesus, have lost hope and are ready to give up. They believe there is no use, because they think God has forsaken them.

Many times the one who "came and devoured" was the same person who first sowed the seeds of truth. The word "devour" is not the simple act of making a mistake. It is purposeful. It seeks out the most vulnerable, the easiest of prey. You can't devour something or someone and still save it. This form of deception began with our first parents in the garden of God. Unsuspectingly, she was separated from her husband and the great deceiver used this vulnerable moment to place doubts in her mind. These doubts were not there before, but the power of suggestion is one of the best snares Satan has to separate us from God.

There is a basic principle to life and growth. For a seed to grow and flourish it has to remain in the ground. If someone uses their

influence to draw another away from Jesus, once they are disconnected from the Source of Life, neither one can survive. Disconnected from the tree of life, our first parents began to die.

It is in Jesus that we have life. He says, "*I am the vine, ye are the branches,*" if we abide in Him, He will change us into His image. In doing this, we will bring "*forth much fruit.*" It's that simple! The seed that stays in the ground and allows the life-giving water of His grace to flow through it will grow. There is no shortcut to the process of becoming like Him. It's a daily abiding connection. "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,*" but without Him, "*I can do nothing.*"

Once we firmly take hold of this principle, we become like Him. In doing so, we will be protected from the one who is seeking to destroy us. No longer will we see ourselves as victims. The enemy cannot devour what is under Christ's protection. We have the assurance of eternal life and the promise that we "*shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*" (John 10:28)

There is still hope. Jesus came to "*seek and save that which was lost.*" (Luke 19:10) Even though another came "*to steal, and to kill, and to destroy,*" Jesus says that He has come that you "*might have life*" and that you might "*have it more abundantly.*" (John 10:10)

Maybe you feel as though you have come to the end of your rope and God has tuned His back on you. Perhaps you see no possibility of having peace and happiness again. If someone has devoured your hope, you can start again, by accepting Christ at His Word. Right now, if you hear His voice speaking to you, don't delay. He is calling you to give yourself to Him again. The promise is true. "*Behold, I make all things new.*" (Revelation 21:5) You can have a new start if you ask Him to plant the seeds of His love in your heart again.

This parable symbolizes the mission and ministry of The Hope of Survivors. We

believe God has called us to be partners with Him in healing the brokenhearted.

Would you like to be part of this ministry in a very special way? Now you can. We have been given the opportunity for which we have been praying for years. A supporter of this ministry has agreed to donate \$25,000 toward the purchase of the New Hope Healing Center for The Hope of Survivors. Having this healing center means that many wounded souls will be able to come to a place of quiet rest, a place to meet Jesus once again, to have their hope, faith and trust rebuilt. By God's grace, a healing center will be just that—a place for victims to heal and begin life again.

But we need your help. In order to make this a reality, we still need to raise an additional \$150,000. You will never have another opportunity like this one. Now is the time for you to partner with us—to sow seeds of life—and personally reach the hurting through your generous contributions. If God is prompting you to respond to this need, don't delay. We are asking that you move quickly since the remainder of these funds needs to be raised within the next few weeks. As some of you may already know, we will have a counselee all the way from Norway with us from October 3 through December 5, and this healing center would be the perfect place for her to stay while here. Others have often commented on their desire to have a place of refuge in times of such distress. Here's just one such comment:

*"I wish you had the retreat operating today. I would come running to it. Please keep me in your prayers, too. This lawsuit has been much more difficult than I ever expected. I have been pretty low, but am hangin' in there. I keep thinking about Psalm 27. If the Lord had not touched my heart, found and saved me, shown me glimpses of His glory I don't think I could go on. But, I believe! I believe in His promises...eternal life through the redemptive blood of Jesus. Thanks and praise to our God!"—ID*

The Hope of Survivors has grown rapidly in

its services since it began in 2002 (incorporated as a nonprofit in 2004). Through this ministry, we have served individuals worldwide in eight (8) known countries and forty-one (41) known states, as well as forty-eight (48) known denominations. The New Hope Healing Center is the next level of support and care that is necessary. It is like a battered woman's shelter—only most of the women who come will have been battered spiritually while being taken advantage of physically. Healing from spiritual abuse is hard work, but "*with God all things are possible.*"

You can make a difference in the lives of many right now. Kindly mark your donation for New Hope Healing Center or call us today at (618) 983-6434 to learn more.

May God bless you,  
Steve Nelson



Steve and Samantha Nelson are co-founders of The Hope of Survivors. Together, they share how God brought them through the devastation of pastoral sexual abuse. By God's grace, they seek to bring hope and healing to those who have been affected by this trauma.

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*"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."*

—Galatians 6:8