



Greater Hope News Fall 2015

A Word From the Board

"Greater Hope, a ministry that's there for you"

At the tipping point not long ago, we received a cry for help in a phone call from a devoted married Christian who had reached what felt like a very negative "tipping point" in their personal life. A tipping point is when a series of small changes or incidents becomes significant enough to cause a larger, more important change. For this person, the small incidents included lots of internet explorations into areas of unhealthy sexual curiosity.

It wasn't an internet porn addiction at all - just an occasional quiet peek into areas that crossed the line. Because of the wide availability of illicit sexual content, however, it wasn't long until this person was exposed to harmful material and drawn into a habit of sexual fantasy, lust and masturbation. Compounding the problem was the guilt and shame the person experienced, which led to hiding this whole area of sexual struggle from their unsuspecting spouse.

The tipping point, initiated I believe by the Holy Spirit, was the conviction that the explorations and habits had gotten out of control. After trying for a while to deal with the problem alone, this person realized how challenging it would be for them to seek help within

their church. A combination of shame and pride blocked the person from revealing this dark side.

Eventually they reached out to us at Greater Hope. Because this ministry is a safe and confidential place to receive Christ-centered support, the struggler was able to bring everything into the light. Later on, when their spouse was made aware of the situation, Greater Hope was also there to listen and pray with them as well.

For many Christians, it seems easier to hide sexual sin than deal with it in the context of their church family. For those beloved Christians, Greater Hope may be the best first step out of bondage and into freedom. Our ministry exists alongside the church to assist in this way and equip people to walk in sexual and relational wholeness. Together, we can provide many individuals, couples and families with an opportunity for hope and healing through Christ.

*By Ken Gonyer,
Board Chair*

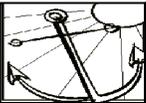


The Wife's Testimony...

My story begins 20 years ago. I met and married the love of my life. In the beginning, I knew my husband had been exposed to porn, but he reassured me that he didn't have a problem with it and I believed him. For 20 years I didn't know that he did indeed have a problem.

My husband has always struggled with depression, anger and the assurance of his salvation. He has never been good at handling life's problems. 4 years ago while we were attending a church service, my husband finally got saved. The next 2 years were horrible. He was angrier and moodier than ever before. I struggled to deal with his emotions. Our intimate life had completely come to a halt. I thought his depression was why he wasn't interested in sex. I would ask him what could possibly be so wrong to make him so angry? He responded, "You don't walk in my shoes". I was baffled.

In December of 2013 he told me he was going to attend "Living Waters Class." He said it would help him with his anger. I did notice a difference. He wasn't as angry. He attended *í .cont'd on pg. 3*



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. *

Cross Current: An 8-10 week Christ centered ministry and support group for those seeking more truth and grace in their sexuality and relationships. *

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

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

Women at the Well: An 8 week group equipping women to live lives of relational integrity.*

When Your Husband is Addicted to Pornography: A 7 week group through daily readings and questions on six important topics; hope, surrender, trust, identity, brokenness and forgiveness, you will grow in healing and hope. *

Friends Support Group: For parents who have a child exploring or struggling with homosexuality, same sex attractions or pornography 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: Relational/sexually broken topics in books and videos. Room is complete with TV and video equipment.

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 overcoming sexual sin.

*A nominal fee is charged.

UPCOMING FALL GROUPS

- ***Men Pursuing Purity***, equipping men to live lives of purity, purpose & power. This 8 week group is centered on community, confession and the healing power of the cross, begins Monday, October 5
- ***Beyond Boundaries***, Learning to Trust Again in Relationships, 6-7 week group walks you through the process of healing broken trust in a relationship or beginning a new relationship in a healthy way. Group begins Thursday, October 8

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BOARD MEMBERS

Kathy Kipps

Executive Director

Ron Kipps

Men's Ministry Director

Ken Gonyer

Chair

Grace Good

Secretary

Janet Welty

Advisory Board:

Rev. Jim Delp

Jenny Mumbauer

Doris Riggleman

Treasurer



The Wife's Testimony....cont'd from pg. 1

the retreat in February and the following Monday he told me everything. He confessed to me his addiction to porn and masturbation. He told me he would look at women, sometimes even in church. This was the beginning of a hard time for me. I have always struggled with self esteem issues and this didn't help. I felt as though I wasn't good enough. I was terribly hurt. I was angry, embarrassed and ashamed.

I began reading everything I could find about this subject. In my reading, I came to realize that even though he had been unfaithful to me, he did love me. I knew he was repentant and didn't want to be this way. He was completely willing to change. Since, February 2014 I have been doing whatever I can to help my husband overcome this. Our marriage has made amazing changes and is better than ever before. I love my husband very much.

I am so thankful for Greater Hope and for Ron and Kathy Kipps. I don't know where I would be without them - quite possibly a widow and my children would be fatherless.

Please understand that the sin of pornography doesn't discriminate. It not only picks out the unlovely people in the back alleys, but it

could possibly be the person sitting next to you. This problem can affect your pastor, your deacons, your choir leader, your brother, your father and yes it is even a problem for some women. This is REAL!!!!

Ladies, the Bible says that we are our brother's keeper. This means we are responsible for the man or lady sitting beside you. It is important that we as ladies dress in a way that will not cause a man to lust for us. Yes this is his sin, but if we dress in a way that causes someone to sin and we do this willfully, then it is our sin also. It is bad enough to go to town and see how ladies are dressing, but when you go to church and our ushers have to turn their head to keep from lusting while taking the offering it is even worse. Remember, this could be your son or husband with a problem.

Men, there is Hope. Come Clean!!! I feel sure that there are men reading this because you need help with your addiction. Greater Hope can help you. Ron, Kathy and the other leaders can assist in equipping you to walk in sexual and relational wholeness. Confess & turn from your sin. Without Jesus we have nothing - He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

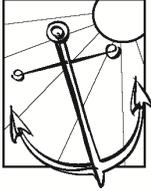
Shared anonymously in hope of helping others. The husband's testimony was featured in the Greater Hope summer newsletter.

MEET THE BOARD...

Grace Good



Grace recently joined the Greater Hope board because of her desire to support the work and mission of the healing Christ offers to those who are hurting in sexual and relational brokenness. She is currently filling the role of Greater Hope board secretary and also works as an administrative assistant at Trissels church. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education from EMU and taught Kindergarten at John C. Myers until her children were born. In addition to the GH board and part-time secretarial work, she is currently a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband Brian live on a farm in Broadway, have three young daughters, and attend Covenant Presbyterian church. Grace's vision for Greater Hope is to help increase the awareness of Greater Hope with local churches, making leaders aware of the ministry and resources available.



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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 and churches who share our vision for ministry.

We are a Covenant Eyes

Affiliate



www.covenanteyes.com

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.

We offer this ministry in a safe, confidential setting led by persons trained to effectively understand and address these sensitive issues.