



A TESTIMONY OF GOD'S GRACE

"I came to the farm beaten, bruised and broken. My life wasn't the only thing broken. I had a broken cheek bone and a broken bone in my foot, which is just one of the many miracles I'd like to share with you.

Walking and talking with Jesus is my new-found love. In an encounter with Jesus one day He showed me His hand and said, "All you have to do is choose Me and I will walk with you and keep you safe. You are never alone." That day, I chose Jesus to walk with me. A few days later, I was out for a walk when my foot started hurting. I asked Him to heal my foot. Suddenly, the pain left! I walked, I jumped and still no pain! I looked up to the sky and yelled, "Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!"

That was many months ago and I haven't had any pain in that foot since that day! I still encounter Jesus daily because the inside of me is still hurting and bruised, but now I have hope because I know that God heals!" Debbi

*Sheila's Story*

Since I have been at Our father's Farm the LORD has persistently exposed the fear which has governed most of my life. Fear was my constant companion for as long as I can remember. Everything I did or said generally stemmed from a measure of fear. I was paralyzed on the inside and unable to express any deep emotions to God or people. I never knew why I struggled with these things. As I got



He began unraveling the web of lies connected to fear.

older, I just thought it was part of my personality. It wasn't until I started encountering the Lord in my sanctified imagination that

The Lord exposed several lies attached to a memory of almost being molested. He showed me that event was when I became paralyzed by fear and was unable to express it. Because of what happened, I also began to distance myself from God and people in order to keep myself safe, which cut off my ability to feel love and acceptance.

As I grew older, there were other painful events in my life that fueled the paralyzing fear and further proved the need to keep people at a "safe" distance. The dynamics at home did not help my situation but instead taught me to walk on eggshells in all relationships. This increased my need to keep people at a distance because it felt safer and I didn't have to express what I was truly feeling. At home, I also learned to be strong and not need anyone because my "needs" were always thrown in my face to make me feel like I owed them something.

Throughout my life, I really only let two people past the "safe" barrier

and as a result, I was labeled "cold" or "prickly" by others. I say "prickly" because one person related me to a thistle in that, "I was beautiful at a distance but prickly when anyone got close enough to touch me."

That painful and prickly statement has not only affected my relationship with people, but it has also affected my relationship with God. Unknowingly, I kept God at a "safe" distance too. In my heart I wanted Him close but I could never figure out why it felt like He was a million miles away. Come to find out I was the one keeping Him far, far away!

The very thing that I thought was keeping me safe was actually holding me captive to its paralyzing ways. I was paralyzed by the reality of being vulnerable, trusting people, and letting anyone past the "safe" barrier. I was paralyzed by the reality of being weak, needy and feeling like a burden but Jesus said the only way for me to overcome is to break my agreement with fear and its lies. It wasn't until

after the Lord exposed these lies that He was able to show me the path to wholeness. There are many facets to this path but He showed me that part of my healing will come from NEED-ING community instead of pulling back in pain and hiding on the inside.

Being at *Our Father's Farm* has awakened the longing to be connected with safe people through knowing them and being known. I am only beginning to walk on these uncharted waters of trusting people and being vulnerable. I will admit that I am terrified but because of the Lord's healing power I am no longer paralyzed by fear! I still stumble and fall but I am learning to reach out to the Lord and to people when I feel the paralyzing grip of fear return. In my journey to wholeness, I am still overcoming fear by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony.

When I first came to *Our Father's Farm*, God gave me a picture of the Father holding me in His safe embrace, with a river of healing flowing to a thistle (representing the prickly me). The healing river started to make the prickly thorns fall off! I believe that as I allow God to heal my heart and walk out my part of reaching out to God and people when I am in pain, He will pluck off the "prickly" parts of me.



I painted this picture after seeing the Father holding me in His safe embrace while a river of healing flowed toward thistle. That river is making the prickly thorns fall off. What some people call a weed, God calls a flower! Sheila

The TLC House

This four bedroom, 2 bath home for children who need heavy-duty, tender & tough loving care is well under way. We are praying for volunteers

who can help with the building process so that we can open this home soon. If you or someone you know would like to invest in the lives of children by swinging a hammer or running a drill, please phone Danny at 816-522-9011 for information on how you can help. You will be so glad you did!



"May the LORD bless you, and keep you: may the LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: may the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

If you or someone you know is interested in learning how to help others know God in a deep, personal way that brings healing and lasting joy, please join us for the next Encountering God training seminars on *Our Father's Farm*. Register on our website: www.harvesthome.org Register early as we close registration at 65 and the classes fill up early. (for more information email Bev at: bev@harvesthome.org)

FEB. TRAINING: PART 1 is FULL (we do have room in Part 2, Feb 24 & 25; & also in Advanced Training Mar.10th)

MAY TRAINING:

PART 1 ENCOUNTERING GOD.....FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, **MAY 11 & 12**...9AM TO 5 PM

PART 2: TREE OF LIFE.....FRIDAY & SATURDAY, **MAY 18 & 19**... 9 AM TO 5 PM

ADVANCED TRAINING..... SATURDAY, **MAY 26**...9 AM TO 5 PM

The cost is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple, which includes meals and snacks.

Please visit our bookstore and website: www.harvesthome.org

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