



Mar. 1, 2014

Dear Friends,

March came in like a lion here on Our Father's Farm! We are iced in. One of the nice things about living in community is the fact that, regardless of the weather, we are able to continue with our routines and assignments. We may have to "skate" to the Joy House for a prayer meeting, (which I will be doing shortly), but the snow covering the fields and the ice shining like glass on every blade of grass is breathtaking! I wonder if God feels the same way when He looks at us dressed in His glory? I think so. You are beautiful and you are one of a kind—just like the snowflakes—no two are alike. You reflect His beauty! You are a masterpiece!

Update on the Hope Cards...we received 95 cards this past month! For a total of: 268 cards. Please keep mailing cards with prayers/blessings/words of encouragement for the future girls who will live in *The Refuge*. We are going display your notes and cards on a huge wall in The Refuge...a form of wallpaper! Please address them with a generic name.

From Dianne, school administrator and lead teacher:

Hope Academy is a place of study or training in a special field. One might ask what exactly are we training for? I suggest HOPE. The word "hope" in scripture is a strong and confident expectation. In the Bible hope is never static or passive. It is dynamic, active, directive and life sustaining. Biblical hope based on God's promises propels us into action. We are able to do abundantly above and beyond those things we can imagine for ourselves. Hope changes how we see ourselves, it changes what we value, and it affects what we do with our lives and the gifts we've been given by God. We are blessed when we hope in our Father and not in man. Hope fills us with joy and peace and we can abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope Academy is a place of learning the subjects of reading, math, science, social studies, as well as health, life skills, art, music, etc. But, it is so much more than that. It is the place where students and teachers alike can experience God and encounter Jesus on our journey. Each one of us is on an action-packed voyage of dying to ourselves that we might live abundantly in Him.

One teen who was often distressed by the presence of the opposite gender has truly blossomed and each day grows more confident in the art of communication. One teen appeared to have no voice and has learned to express her desires and opinions in the safety of our community and fervently prays for her classmates. Another who needed to tangibly know unconditional love has been given the affirmations needed and life-giving words and actions that instill confidence, peace and joy. One kinesthetic teen is given many opportunities to move and work without fear of condemnation. Interests are explored and opportunities to create are abundant. Thinking and problem solving is strongly encouraged. Some teens are preparing to take the high school equivalency exam. Others are working to complete courses as independent studies and some are taking online classes from a SACS accredited high school. Everyone is on a different page, yet we all are in the same place. Whether we came as academic scholars, average grade earners, or grade repeaters, one thing is certain...we all are in a place of growing, a place of restoration, a place of relationship building, a place of hope...we are Hope Academy.

Please partner with us in prayer as we eagerly listen for the Holy Spirit's instructions as we navigate the educational process for each of these young people. Needs and life goals vary. You may have partnered with us in prayer, or by sponsoring a teen's tuition in the online school. You may have donated books, supplies, etc. Whatever your contribution, we thank you and expectantly pray, asking God to bless you as we continue to hope and trust in our Redeemer and Friend. Thank you!

From Sarah, another one of our teachers:

Each of our students has had some kind of abuse in which authority figures have controlled and hurt them. How do you teach someone that authority does not always mean control and pain? This is what I am learning how to do. Dianne has 25+ years of teaching and I love every minute of teaching beside her and seeing the wisdom the Lord has given her. Everyday we start off with prayer/worship to position ourselves before the Lord. The Lord blesses us with His presence every morning. Some days it's hard and some days it's easier, but it's always good because the Lord is with us.

I have been on staff with Harvest Home for 5 years. When I first came to the farm the Lord positioned me as leader

over the horse ministry for 2½ years so I could learn how to have a REAL relationship with Him. I have been teaching at HOPE Academy for the past 3 years and I am also a worship leader at the farm. I want to share with you how the Lord has been fashioning me in His image everyday.

I grew up in a Christian home and accepted the Lord at 5 years old. At age 8, I started playing the piano and began seeing the Lord. This was my safe place. I was hurting because I had hurt my brother and myself in a way that crushed me. I shut down my emotions and stopped feeling anything for fear that the pain would be too great. The Lord saved me through music. He met me there and drew my heart to Himself.

At age 15, I started asking Him to show me where He was in certain memories. He would come and I would feel better. I thought my relationship with Him was pretty good. But I began experiencing anxiety attacks along with migraine headaches. At that time my brother started using drugs and I blamed myself. I did not know how to help him and he decided to leave our family's house and go after the drugs. I shut myself down even more. I started running 3-6 miles a day in order to get an adrenaline high, which is also known as "runners high". I did not know I was running from the Lord. All I knew was that I felt better after running.

I grew up believing that Christians cannot have issues. I believed I had to act like I was perfect and be strong all the time. I could only do it for so long. One day my anxiety attacks started escalating and I could not continue work. At age 28, I came out to the farm and met with Rhonda. She taught me how to meet with the Lord like I did at 15. God spoke truth to me and I was able to feel His love for me! It hurt at first but now it is the best thing in the world! I stopped running after 13 years! I do not even have the urge anymore because I fell deeper in love with the Lord. He took away that addiction to running.

I learned how to get low and fall in love with my Savior and my Healer. I am now able to teach others how to encounter Him. The fruit is amazing. People are actually getting healed by the love of the Father's heart! It's real and God is so good.

ENCOUNTERING GOD TRAINING 2014:

For more information, visit our website: www.harvesthome.org or email sheila.mullinax@harvesthome.org

ENCOUNTERING GOD TRAINING SEMINARS (includes men & women) Thursday and Friday... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Your heart will be challenged and stirred as you listen to Rhonda Calhoun share the revelations and insights she gained through her years of "coming out of the wilderness leaning on her Beloved". You will learn how the brain operates in relation to trauma and recovery plus you will be given life-changing tools that will equip you to encounter God for yourself but also to help lead others to encounter Him. The fruit of this, is a deep, solid and intimate relationship with God that not only brings healing and deliverance, but also produces fruit that remains.

Please register at: www.harvesthome.org (register early due to a limited seating capacity of 75)

APRIL 10-11 Encountering God Seminar
JUNE 12-13 Encountering God Seminar
AUGUST 7-8 Encountering God Seminar

SPECIAL OFFER

For the month of March: Rhonda's amazing trilogy of the life of Peter as he followed Jesus during his time on the earth. This trilogy explores and explains the times and customs of the Jewish people as they daily encountered God in the flesh! Powerful, captivating and life changing!

Purchase *Simon Peter and the Master* and *Simon Peter and the King* and receive the third book *Simon Peter and the Savior*, absolutely free!

To order, visit our online bookstore at www.harvesthome.org

(The proceeds help support the ministries of Harvest Home)

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

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