



May 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of the changing of the seasons—from a very cold winter to a lovely spring. Life is springing up all around us—colorful flowers, an orchard of apple trees in full bloom, the birth of 5 baby goats and 4 chicks (on Easter Sunday). God is doing the same within the hearts and minds of our wonderful staff and farm residents. He is springing up all around us, taking us deeper than we've ever been and challenging us to keep our eyes on Him and off of ourselves and the things of this very temporary world. We are falling more in love with the One who laid down His life for us. He is worth it all for He is the God of breakthrough, healing, love, mercy and compassion. He is the God who cannot fail. He never makes a mistake or forgets an event, a lily, sparrow or person. He knows you intimately and completely and loves you without hesitation. He is so very good.

On another note: God has recently blessed us with some designated funds and we could really use your help. We have been given the money to build several projects: 1. a recreational area complete with playground (for our 8 children residents and those who will be coming), volley ball court, covered picnic area and above ground swimming pool. 2. an indoor/outdoor baptismal and outdoor seating area that will be used for gatherings, drama, dance, campfires etc. 3. a much-needed horse arena (allows us to continue our healing ministry through horses year round). 4. 6 tiny houses for single moms and their children.

As you can see, we could *REALLY* use your help. Would you or do you have any connections to a church group or other Christ-centered group who would be interested in helping us with some construction projects? We can provide housing, great meals plus a lot of fun and fellowship for you and your group. If you would like more information or want to volunteer, please call Cindy at: 574-536-7816 or email her at: cindy.grove@ourfathersfarm.org

PAULA'S TESTIMONY

After my time on the farm, God wrote this scripture on my heart...it is now my life scripture:

Psalm 40:1-3 "I waited and waited and waited some more, patiently knowing God would come through for me. Then at last, He bent down and listened to my cry. He stooped down to lift me out of danger from the desolate pit I was in, out of the muddy mess I had fallen into. Now He's lifted me up into a secure, firm place and steadied me while I was walking along His ascending path. A new song for a new day rises up in me, every time I think about how He breaks through for me! Ecstatic praise pours out of my mouth until everyone hears how God has set me free. Many will see His miracles; they'll stand in awe of God and fall in love with Him."

How can I even put into words what my heart wants to say?! I am blown away that God would speak to you through prayer and say "yes" to my desire to come live on the farm. I am so, so grateful for being allowed the privilege to live there for 3 months. What God showed me in my God Encounters was nothing short of a miracle. I've struggled my entire life with a painful, tormented relationship with my mom. I've prayed, received counseling, read books and attended countless inner healing classes, but nothing ever changed. I was still me and my mom was still mom. Then, I had my first God Encounter on the farm. Every God Encounter was so revealing and deep. I finally got the revelation and understanding that this healing would be about me, NOT my mom! Through my encounters, I saw God's heart for my mom. I saw her pain through Gods eyes. It's also important to say I've ALWAYS referred to my mom as "mother", not mom. I can now call her my mom for the first time. I saw how God desired for me to respond to my mom. I would see how fragile and frightened she was and had been all those years. Throughout my entire life, I had seen my mom as an angry tyrant, a mother who barked out commands to us growing up. A mother to be feared. A mother who saw you as weak if you cried, had a need or a struggle. A mother who didn't hug or touch you. A mother who could not nurture or show love. I saw my resentment turn into anger and the anger turn into hate towards her. But then I began having God Encounters at the farm that took me back in time to see what was going on, how I was feeling, how my mom was feeling and why she was acting the way she was. I wept during many of my God Encounters. Sometimes I would question if my God Encounters were real because they were so profound, but then God would remind me how I wept during them. I would soon see that in my own wounded heart I could never have wept over my mom and her cruel behavior towards me growing up...only God could reveal that to me and break my heart for my mom. My God Encounters were indeed real and transforming. I saw my mom as a wounded little girl trying to get attention from her own father. This broke my heart and softened my hard heart. It was the perfect timing for me to be on the farm receiving healing, because I soon learned my mom's health had taken a turn for the worse.

Because of the healing God did for me, I am preparing to return to my birth place in Utah to be with her. God knew what I needed before I could go back home. He not only softened my heart, but He also put courage in me.

When I arrived on the farm, I was so desperate for God to completely transform me and He showed me many other things about myself and other relationships that needed healing and transformation. I saw the judgements I had made against those closest to me. I was filled with bitterness, unforgiveness and self-righteousness. I had never seen those things about myself or maybe was never willing to see them before. God revealed things to me about myself, not only through my God Encounters, but through day to day interactions on the farm. I had never experienced community living until living there. I had always thought I was a hard-working, dependable nurse with a good attitude for 38 years. I was in for a surprise AND a learning lesson! I learned what it means to work alongside others and treat them with respect, honor and love. I learned to prefer others over myself, to offer to help another when your job is done. I learned not to complain or argue when given a "less glamorous" or more difficult, "dirty" job. I learned to offer encouragement, support and prayer anywhere and at all times. I learned to stop in the middle of community service and give God glory and thanks even if you were feeding the chickens or cleaning a dirty stove. That was life-changing for me. Something else I learned on the farm that has forever changed me was ~ the true meaning of worship. I thought I knew what worship was until I came here. Through my daily interactions, I experienced what worship really means to God's heart. I learned worshipping God isn't as much about singing a song, as it is my heart's motive towards Him. I learned my worship to Him is expressed through the way I interact with others, my attitude while doing a chore, an assignment given to me that I didn't choose, the way I communicate with those I live with day in and day out, how I respond to and treat others and the grateful (or ungrateful) attitude I carry inside my heart. These were all new "life lessons" for me at 59 years old. These will forever be a part of my life and has transformed the way I interact and honor others in my life.

And finally, God showed me the poisonous self-pity I carried inside me all those years. It happened during Rhonda's teaching on Song of Solomon 4:16. It struck my heart like lightning. I had a revelation I had never had before. This verse answered a cry I had said to God over and over again: "Why me, God. I don't deserve this. I'm a good person. I deserve better than this, don't I?" I got my answer to a prayer I had prayed several years before: "God, I want to look like You. Do whatever it takes to change me." I had no idea this heart revelation would happen so many years later on the farm at Harvest Home. Sg Sol. 4:16 "Awake, O north wind, and come, wind of the south; make my garden breathe out fragrance, let its spices be wafted abroad. May my beloved come into his garden and eat its choice fruits!"

It just so happened that I lived on the farm during the harsh winter months. This verse is about the bride crying out for the bitter north winds of the winter season and the refreshing winds of summer. I learned the cold temperatures of winter are necessary for the formation of fruit and the killing of weeds and certain insects. In this verse, the bride NOW UNDERSTANDS she needs His discipline and she needs times of difficulty, trials, sorrows and suffering if she is going to get rid of the weeds and insects in her life and mature and produce fruit. The bride is beginning to trust Him so she cries out, "SEND ADVERSITY, TEST MY LOVE, TRANSFORM MY LIFE!" I learned that God was answering my prayers to make me like Him and so He allowed the north winds. With love and appreciation, Paula

2019 TRAINING SCHEDULE

- God Encounter Training is 9AM-5PM Friday and Saturday. This is the #1 method used on Our Father's Farm to cultivate an intimate, experiential relationship with God. These encounters with God heal the deepest traumas and transform the human heart.
- Advanced Training begins on Sunday evening with orientation dinner at 6PM and ends at 5 PM the following Friday. This training is so much more than equipping people to facilitate God Encounter sessions. The training includes daily classes based on biblical truths relevant to healing. You will also receive and practice facilitating God Encounter sessions daily in a small group with one of our trained facilitators.
- Housing/meals are provided onsite on a donation basis. We do limit the number of attendees so register early.

2019 TRAINING DATES

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: **May 3-4**

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: **Sept. 6-7**

ADVANCED TRAINING: **June 2-7**

ADVANCED TRAINING: **Sept. 22-27**

REGISTER AT: harvesthome.org or email: cindy.grove@ourfathersfarm.org

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