

Desert Hope

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August, 2010

Desert Hope's purpose is to extend God's love, truth and healing to people struggling with relational, sexual and identity issues. Our **goal** is to bring a fresh and relevant message of hope and renewal through conferences, retreats, speaking, writing, and international missions.

Desert Hope is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and operates solely on the contributions of people such as you.

All donations to this ministry are tax deductible and will be recognized by a receipt.

From Janelle's Desk

This year has been full and fruitful. Following are highlights from the many events that Desert Hope has supported or sponsored:

April – Bellaria, Italy - Teen Challenge Eurasia Leadership Conference. Over 200 Teen Challenge leaders from across eastern and western Europe gathered at their annual conference at a beautiful beach resort on the eastern coast of Italy. Teen Challenge Eurasia is an international ministry that provides residential treatment and discipleship centers for young people facing homelessness and drug and alcohol addiction. The leaders of these programs are nothing short of amazing in terms of their sacrifice and dependency on God. I can't remember the last time I heard so many miraculous stories from a group of ministers.

The focus of this conference was understanding postmodernism and reaching the next generation of youth. I was commissioned to address the nature of sexual

and identify confusion so prevalent in this generation. Several other speakers spoke more directly to the postmodern world view.



1 - Tom and Terry Bremer, Europe Teen Challenge International Directors

Early into my lectures it became apparent that I was to speak into the hurting places within the leaders themselves rather than "talk about the people out there." I believe Jesus showed up in powerful ways to minister His love and compassion.

One major event that occurred just prior to the conference was the eruption of the Icelandic Eyjafjallajökull volcano. (Don't you just love that



2 - Janelle and her most wonderful translator, Roberta

name?!) It actually prevented over 25 people from attending the conference, which was a huge loss to those leaders. Once the conference ended, most of the attendees were able to return home since they had traveled by land. But for those of us who traveled by air, well.... we became the "volcano victims" and remained stranded on the Adriatic Sea in this lovely small resort that gave us a room with a view and fed us five course Italian meals for an additional week after the conference. It was an incredible blessing to rest and



3 - Conference audience from 15 different countries – meaning 15 translators!

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fellowship with amazing people and leaders from Ireland and Scotland. We all realized that our unsuspected holiday was an absolute gift from God.



4 - Mosaic in Ravenna, Italy

June – Kassel, Germany - Institute for Youth and Society Training Conference for Counselors on Female Same-Sex Attraction.

I can't remember ever having so much fun presenting clinical lectures on female homosexuality. This is not exactly what many consider an entertaining topic – not to mention that I was scheduled to speak on it for two full days. But with the combination of the audience's interest and engagement, and the most excellent professionalism with which the conference was conducted, and the incredible support I received from a fabulous translator (translators can make all the difference in the world with how a lecture is received), these two days were jammed pack with information, tears, laughter and most of all, love. Here are some of the thoughts and sentiments that the participants shared after the fact:

"I am enthusiastic about all these helpful ideas for my therapeutic work. Ms. Hallman is such an inspiring role model. Owing to this, I started working today with a full new motivation." **A therapist**

"Concerning my work with female clients, I feel deeply encouraged. My batteries have been recharged. I especially appreciate Janelle's high degree of empathy and freedom from value judgment. I believe, part of it has spilled over to me and warmed me up again." **A counselor**

"Ms. Hallman's broad and clear position on life has done me good. She gave me a lot of hope to not give up even with facing difficult life stories." **Spiritual director**



5 - Manfred, my translator, and I



"I was always afraid of and did not feel comfortable about this topic [female homosexuality] because I was not close to it and did not know what to do with it. In the past two years, more and more male and female homosexual clients have entered my counseling practice. I have been feeling helpless. So I decided to discuss this problem with God. Here was my complaint:

'Next year is my 60th birthday and for seven years my husband has suffered from Alzheimer and dementia. He needs my care. A few years ago, clients started coming to me for help – and you put this topic right before my very feet. Please settle this for me.

Open the doors and give me

opportunities to learn."

"When I received the invitation for this conference, I knew God had heard my prayer. But I had to take a deep breath wondering whether my family situation would allow my taking part in the seminar. And it ended up being possible for me! Janelle presented this topic very competently with heart, guts and head. I was fascinated about the various therapeutic possibilities which give hope to strugglers – no matter at what point of the process they are in and which decision they still might ultimately make about their lives. Janelle showed readiness, consistency and compassion to accompany the client on their way, no matter what. I hope there will be another seminar like this in the near future." **A counselor**



6 - A gathering of women during every break - discussing heart issues!

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“Thinking about the conference, the first impression that comes into my mind is a feeling of thankfulness. I am so thankful that I could take part in this wonderful conference. I am enthusiastic about Janelle’s therapeutic attitude, her personality and practical knowledge. What helped me a lot and significantly reduce my fears and skepticism, were her statements about how to start therapy with a female client and her approach of openness in terms of therapeutic outcome. Janelle was very authentic and thus made me enthusiastic about working with homosexual women.” **A therapist**



June – Orange County, California, Love Won Out Conference. I had two days in between my trip to Germany and California. Amazingly, I held up until I finally returned home to Colorado for the rest of the summer. Exodus International now hosts the Love Won Out conference which used to be presented by Focus on the Family. It was a joy to once again participate in an Exodus/Love Won Out event. I presented a general session on female homosexuality using the blocks that seem to have become my special “brand.” At the conference I spoke with many women who had read my book, ministered to parents of gay identified children, and had wonderful reunions with other Exodus leaders, some of whom I hadn’t seen for almost ten years. Here is a thank you from

a special woman:

My husband and I were at the Exodus Freedom Conference and heard you speak last week in California. I also bought some of your CD’s and I feel as if you are describing my life. I just wanted to thank you for all of the work you have done in this area and for being a voice for a voiceless minority. Your work has encouraged me and given me hope. I appreciate your work more than you could ever know.



7 - Christine Sneeringer, Director of Worthy Creations in Florida

July – Westminster, Colorado, FIRST Retreat for Parents of Gay-Identified Children sponsored by Desert Hope Ministries.

As many of you know, I have been running a retreat for mothers of daughters with same-sex attraction for the last five years. Because of the requests we were beginning to receive from parents of sons and fathers who wanted extra support, we decided to offer our first retreat for *both fathers and mothers of sons of daughters*. This is the first retreat fully sponsored by Desert Hope Ministries. Desert Hope is also assuming full sponsorship of the Mother’s Retreats in the future.

To address the various needs of the parents attending this retreat, I had to triple my staff and rent a meeting room at a neighboring hotel. One of my new staff members was Christine Sneeringer, an international speaker and Director of Worthy Creations in Florida. Although logistically there were a few struggles in this new venue, overall, the retreat was a smashing success. My staff and I were overwhelmed by the heart and love these parents displayed as we journeyed into very painful processes. There was amazing fellowship and support amongst the parents and even my staff shared that they were individually touched and moved in ways that they did not expect. In their evaluations, the parents shared they were determined to make their home a safe home for their child, they felt renewed and refreshed to continue in their journey, and they would wholeheartedly recommend the retreat to other parents - “Fantastic!”



8 - Leaders from Poland speaking to Janelle

Polish Translation of Book is Complete! I hope I’m going to Poland in 2011. While I was lecturing in Germany, during one of the breaks three women from Poland approached me. With the use of a translator, they told me they were from a small Catholic community in Poland and that they were the ones who had arranged for the translation rights from my publisher. They shared that the Polish translation of my book was now complete and they wanted me to come to Poland to teach. But they first wanted to thank me for all of my work and all that I had done. They handed me special chocolates from Poland and two books of photography of the country side. I felt completely overwhelmed with their generosity and love.

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Just this month, I did indeed receive a formal invitation to travel to Poland next year. I am currently reviewing my calendar to make sure that I can handle an international trip during the summer months in 2011. I have returned to school to complete a Ph.D., so need to be wise and discerning in terms of ministry events. My friends in Germany shared that this catholic community in Poland is very poor although very committed to extending hope and healing to men and women with same-sex attraction. I know that this community is committed to finding a way to pay for my airfare and speaking honorarium, but I would personally love to be able to raise enough money to cover some of these expenses – or at least make a sizeable gift to their community at the time of my arrival. Please pray with me that resources will be released within God's kingdom to meet some of their needs both financially, emotionally and spiritually.

Endorsements on the Book!

I continue to receive regular correspondence from women who have read my book. Here are some excerpts from one woman's email:

I can't express enough how your book has changed my life. I was deeply affected by your words and the fact that I found my own story in almost every sentence. Over the years I had looked for help out of where I had been stuck – the desert-like, roadless track of lesbianism. As for publications about homosexuality, there were many, but largely for men. I tried to find something for me, what would just a little bit match my female soul. But it wasn't really there. But then I came across your book.

I find no words to express what I felt when reading a few early pages and then later chapters too: joy, thrill, hope, immense emotion not possible to articulate, and also profound real inner pain. It was like someone finally precisely knew what I was going through and had written a book about me. It's unbelievable; a book about me!!! It has revived my heart and become an important part of my life. It was a feeling – as if I was finally found; as if someone finally looked down into this "bottomless well" in which I had fallen, from which I couldn't get out – and extended to me a helping hand. It was a feeling as if I was finally at home.

Financial Need

Presently, Desert Hope is carrying a debt related to the restocking of our inventory of CD's and DVD's. We are also committed to continuing to provide retreats for parents, but the overhead in so doing is becoming increasingly large. If God is laying on your heart to partner with us on these key projects and upcoming trips, please respond today by sending in your gift or visiting our website at www.deserthope.com and donating through PayPal.

None of these above events could happen if it wasn't for faithful givers and pray-ers like yourselves!

Other Upcoming Events and Missions

November 12-14, 2010 ***Healing a Mother's Heart***, Denver, Colorado. Retreat for mothers of lesbian daughters. For more information see: www.janellehallman.com

January, 2011 **A Psychological and Theological Perspective on Homosexuality.** A two-week Denver seminary class co-taught by Janelle and Elodi Emig. Class can be audited by non-students.

July, 2011 Poland!!!

You may send donations to:

Desert Hope Ministries

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Or visit

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