



Desert Hope Ministries

8771 Wolff Court, Suite 210 Westminster, CO 80031 303-429-0300 www.deserthope.com
www.janellehallman.com

October, 2009

From Janelle's Desk

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.

Phone:

303-429-0300

Email:

info@deserthope.com

Web:

www.deserthope.com
www.janellehallman.com

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.

This year has been a mixture of pain, joy, profound sorrow and excitement. A good part of it has been focused on my own personal reflection, healing and restoration. I took a much-needed partial sabbatical for almost four months, during which time I was able to sort through some of the causes and treatment of chronic bronchial and sinus problems. I also caught up on rest and took lots of quiet time to recast my personal mission and ministry vision. And as often happens when one slows down and quiets her self, many deep needs and painful issues surface, making this season also a time of death and grieving. But new life has also been forming, through stages of gestation, intense labor and of course difficult birthing. Whew! I'm exhausted once again! But overall, the growth, healing and change are good. In fact, it has become very clear that change is essential to Desert Hope's and my personal survival.

One major change that has already been launched is the incorporation of "margin" into my work schedule. Carrying a weekly client load combined with ministry work (which requires extensive preparation and traveling) creates a major time management issue. Typically I travel over a weekend so as not to miss my regular counseling appointments. However, this would usually mean not taking a day off, often for several weeks. I realized I could not continue with this type of schedule. In weighing my passions and sense of call together with my personal need for rest and quiet time with God, I have decided that I must create more space in my schedule to accommodate my travel and increased interest in missions, retreats and coaching intensives. For the past three

months, I have maintained a lighter counseling load and I already feel as if I can breathe again. My energy for work (and life) has increased along with a greater sense of joy.

I have also incorporated many meditative and contemplative prayer practices into my morning rituals. This has opened my heart to experience more of God's divine presence and love. My sense is that He is calling me to spend even more time in His presence, basking in the quietness of His goodness, contemplating His truths, allowing my self to just "be" and thereby being restored in body, mind, spirit and soul. In fact, planting myself "in Him" in these ways has become my lifeline. It is within these quieter restful places that newness of life can continually be birthed and rebirthed – which is of course the source of the living waters that can flow through me to all of the men and women God allows me to touch. This is my hope!

New Developments

- **A Woman's Retreat**

In April I completed a six-month training course to become a certified life coach. The skills that I gained have already started benefiting me as a counselor but will be extremely valuable in facilitating growth retreats for women seeking greater wholeness in their lives. I am currently in the process of planning and developing a retreat called "*Women of the Desert*." In Hosea, God allures His beloved into the desert – to speak tenderly to her. He then promises to give her back her vineyards and to make the Valley of Trouble a door of hope. It is as we strip ourselves of all material attachments, coverings, daily encumbrances, false selves and idolatrous living, that our true self, made in the very image of God, can be revealed in all of its gold and glory. These retreats will provide women with an opportunity to take a journey inward into the recesses of their own soul to discover their own gold, beauty and glory. Please join me in covering the birthing of this retreat in prayer.

- **Resources**

There is an ongoing demand for Desert Hope's books, CD's and DVD's on sexual wholeness, homosexuality and parenting gay-identified children. And because we continue to receive requests for the material in our **Restoring the Glory** conference, we are presently repackaging the 13 CD set by selecting the "best of the best" lectures from the five conferences that were recorded. This is a huge project and requires a fairly large financial investment, however, when I was reviewing all the lectures and making my selections, I was reminded how powerful these conferences were. **Restoring the Glory** is a series of lectures and testimonies in which the larger story of God's journey of intimacy is shared. Our story, as human beings, is actually a part of this larger story. Our stories do not exist apart from Him. And it is within His BIG story that our smaller stories of intimacies, sexuality, gender, family lines and

relationships all have incredible significance, meaning and purpose. In fact our stories are permeated with hints of the sacred! The speakers at these conferences were fantastic and God moved in amazing ways. So even though it does not yet seem time to reinstate these three-day events, I am very confident that it is time to make this dynamic material available to the public.

- **The Heart of Female Same-Sex Attraction**

The book is now in its third printing and is being translated into Polish! Please pray that God will raise up a group who can help with the Spanish translation!

Recent Missions

- **Mexico**

I just returned from a missions trip with Exodus Latin-America in Mexicali, Mexico. I was a keynote speaker at their biannual conference and shared three of the lectures from the **Restoring the Glory** curriculum. The brothers and sisters attending were deeply impacted and many said they didn't want to see me leave. The pastor of the large church at which the conference was held, approached me right before I left. He took my hand and told me that in all of his years of ministry (40+), he had never been so deeply touched – in his heart – as he had by my messages. He thanked me over and over again for coming and sharing.

I received a similar response several years ago when I traveled to South Africa. Many of the elderly pastors exclaimed that they had all heard hundreds – maybe thousands of sermons, but no one had ever “told them who they were” in terms of being men and women of great value uniquely designed to radiate the goodness and glory of the Divine. The folks in these other countries are so hungry for the truths that God has given me to share.

At this point in my life I do indeed feel very called to make myself more available to God's people across the globe that I believe desire and are crying out for the cup of living waters that God has equipped me to personally carry. Pray for God's wisdom, guidance and provision in this regard. Typically, the believers in other countries are unable to pay for my expenses let alone an honorarium. These trips are usually partially or fully funded by Desert Hope.

- **Courage Conference**

It was also my pleasure in June to attend the annual Courage Conference in Philadelphia. Courage is an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church and supports men and women and families impacted by homosexuality. I had an absolutely delightful time as I spoke with women struggling with same-sex attraction in the morning and parents of gay-identified children in the afternoon. We laughed and cried together and hopefully everyone left with a little more hope and a sense that they are loved and not alone, regardless of the nature of their pain or struggle.

- **American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC)**

In September, I traveled to the AACC World Conference held every two years in Nashville, Tennessee. Six to seven thousand Christian psychologists, psychiatrists, psychotherapists, life coaches and pastors descend on the Opryland Hotel for four days of workshops, music and special speakers. Frankly, I found it overwhelming and exhausting, but that was in large part due to the constant conversations I had while standing at my exhibit table. Person after person approached me unveiling their personal struggle with homosexuality or sharing their pain as a parent of a gay child. They all started by thanking me for taking the time to talk because *they had no one else to talk to*. Here we were, in a venue of 6000 Christian counselors, and yet the church at large – the Christian community – is still not safe for so many hurting people. My heart ached.

The need to learn about the subject of homosexuality was further highlighted by the fact that over 400 folks attended my workshop entitled “Supporting Parents of Gay-Identified Children.” It is my hope that these 400 will in the future offer a safe harbor for at least one friend, family member or even Christian leader who desperately needs a place of rest and support.

Financial Needs

- Remaster, duplicate and package the **Restoring the Glory** CD sets –\$1500
- Replenish inventory of Janelle's books (we are out again!) - \$1800
- Future mission trips and women's retreats – ongoing need.... Will keep you posted on details!

Upcoming Events and Missions

- October 17, 2009 Speaker at a women's conference: **Woman Come Forth**, Denver, Colorado. For more information see: <http://www.womancomeforth.org>
- November 6-8, 2009 **Healing a Mother's Heart Retreat** (for mothers with daughters who are lesbian or struggle with same-sex attraction), Denver, Colorado. For more information see: www.janellehallman.com **This retreat is full!**
- November 11, 2009 Guest Speaker in a Human Sexuality class, Denver Seminary, Denver, Colorado.
- November 20-22, 2009 Speaker at the NARTH (National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality) Annual Conference, Palm Beach, Florida. For more information see: www.NARTH.com
- March 19-21, 2010 **Healing a Mother's Heart**, Denver, Colorado. For more information see: www.janellehallman.com **Still have openings!**
- June 18-19, 2010 Clinical Symposium, Frankfurt, Germany, Institute for Youth and Society.

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