



"...I will make a way in the desert, and streams in the wasteland..." Isaiah 43:19

Wives Weekend—

A time of personal revival

The last Wives' Weekend took place during the weekend of March 14th. Todd Heilmann with Rekindled Hearts Ministries in Des Moines was our guest speaker.

Everyone in attendance was challenged and blessed as he took us through teaching in the areas of our identity in Christ, dealing with sin, pride, humility, bitterness, forgiveness, submission, and rebellion. All of the teaching came from a book he wrote called the "Personal Revival Handbook." "Godly relationships are a natural fruit of God healing and reviving the individual heart," says Todd.



Couples listen intently during a teaching ses-

The women were also pampered by gifts received from the women of Twin Valley E. Free in Bellevue, NE, and Heartland Assembly in Ankeny, IA. All the couples enjoyed great food, fellowship, and encouragement from both staff and one another.

The next Wives' Weekend is scheduled for July 11th-13th. Please RSVP by June 25th and let us know if you will be able to attend. Please call Jennifer at (515) 674-3713 ext. 221

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Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory. —William Barclay

Testimony of Healing

My name is Denise Cohen. My husband Michael and I have been married for 20 years. We almost didn't make it many times. I started drinking and using drugs at the age of 14, and quit 6 years ago. I am now 45 years old. My husband started at about the same age, and quit 5 years ago.

In 1999 it was the worst. From 1997-1999 he was doing \$400.00 of heroin a day. He ignored me, and when he did pay attention to me, he was very harsh. We were still going to church at this time, but no one believed that he was on drugs. He was quite the actor. I watched him lose 40 lbs, and his skin turned gray. I felt so alone, like my marriage was surely over. I couldn't live like this. Finally, I went to my knees, and cried out to God to save his life.

One night I went to a church with my mother that I'd never been to before. We joined their prayer meeting. They stopped their prayer meeting and prayed for a half an hour for Mi-

chael and me.

One week later, I confronted Michael and told him that if he wanted the street and drugs then to go to it. If he stayed, I was prepared to have family intervention. He was surprised that I was prepared to have him leave.

I know it was God's power and all the prayers that made him decide he wanted help. He stopped using, but went through a horrible withdrawal.

We spent 3-4 days looking for a drug treatment center, but they were either too expensive, or not Christian. Finally, my sister-in-law said she knew of a guy who used to be in her church, that was now in a place called Teen Challenge. We called Teen Challenge, and as soon as Mike's withdrawal was over, he went in. It was the first time we'd been separated since we'd been married.



Mike and Denise

I couldn't visit him for the first six weeks which was a good thing. I was dealing with a lot of anger, and my daughter and I were evicted. I was working 6 days a week. Michael worried about me and our daughter struggling with money. At first, he couldn't concentrate on his studies, work, or anything.

Finally, he turned his life over to Christ—for real this time. He laid everything at the cross. He quit worrying and stayed in the word. That's how I survived too. I prayed, read a lot, and let God work.

Every time I visited Teen Challenge, Mike was different. We'd hold hands and pray together. He even let me read him a letter of all past anger I had to release. He

Risking Your Heart

Many of us feel that this is what we are doing. You love your husband, but you have been wounded many times by things done in the past. To trust again—to stay by his side while he is in Teen Challenge can feel scary. With him gone, you may feel as though you finally can be in control without him pulling the rug out from underneath you con-

So how do you risk your heart again? How do you step out in obedience and say, “Okay God, let’s try this

stantly. You may also be feeling angry because the reality of all that has happened in your marriage is finally sinking in and you feel like you are left holding the bag.

So how do you risk your heart again? How do you step out in obedience and say, “Okay God, let’s try this again”? The Holy Spirit has to do a work in our hearts to enable us to start this process. We can’t do it on our own. The first key is that your trust should not be placed in your husband. As Psalm 118:8 says, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.” Apart from Jesus, all of us are sinful and untrustworthy. God is always trustworthy. He

loves you. It is only when we put all of our trust in Him, that we can

experience the full measure of security that all of us desire. There are countless

stories from wives of Teen Challenge students of how God provided for them and met their emotional and physical needs when they were at the end of their rope

When your sense of security has been shattered, it is a natural tendency to want to take control. Our inner cry may be, “I will never let anything like this happen to me again.” And so we begin to take control of things. We want to know details about everything and be able to manipulate circumstances so that we can make ourselves feel more secure. The next step in the healing process is surrendering our control. Place everything in the hands of your Heavenly Father. They are better off in His hands than in ours. He wants the best for you because you are His precious child. Psalm 16:1-2 says, “Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. I said to the Lord, You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.” He desires to give us rest from the rat race of trying to make it on our own.

Also, ask God to empower you to forgive the hurts of the past. We cannot do this on our own. Christ did all of the forgiving when He died on the cross for all of us. We need to ask Him to forgive through us, to give us His strength and power to no longer want to punish our husbands or hold things over their heads which they have no power to change now. Christ wants our hearts free. Holding onto unforgiveness will hurt us more than anyone else. Colossians 3:13 says, ‘Bear with each

When your sense of security has been shattered, it is a natural tendency to want to take

other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Ask Him to do this work in your heart.

Finally, allow the time that your husband is at Teen Challenge to be a time to grow in your own walk with God. Instead of putting all of your focus on your husband, focus on building your relationship with Jesus. God has known since the beginning of time that your husband would be at Teen Challenge and would be home alone during this time. He has set this time



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