

MINISTRY OF HEALING

Following back surgery complications in 2002, my wife Joy went through long years of healing...by God's grace through many prayers. During the past couple of years, Joy has had little pain and is enjoying learning to create Swarovski crystal jewelry. This craft has been so therapeutic for Joy...another aspect of God's healing, I believe. This crystal contains lead that mirrors light to reflect inside the crystal, and then to sparkle out through the crystal.

Recently, Joy was invited to show her jewelry at a hospital...and over the next 1-1/2 weeks, over 100 nurses and doctors swarmed non-stop for hours each day to purchase her items! It was soooo amazing to witness Joy in a hospital in this light, spreading joy to people who serve as instruments of God's healing. ☺

CRYSTAL ANALOGY OF A CHRISTIAN

*Pure white light (the glory of the Lord)
enters a perfectly cut crystal (your new heart perfectly circumcised by God).
The light reflects inside the crystal (the vibrant indwelling life of Christ).
As the crystal is tilted (as you take steps of faith in the hands of God),
the internal reflection (Christ living in you)
sparkles outward (Christ shines through you)
in various brilliant colors (through your unique personality)
for your healing and for the healing of others.*

Below is my Joy with our niece Lisa having a special time at the hospital.



Some of Joy's Christmas creations: snowman, Christmas tree, angel, gift box



Grace Journal

A pilgrim's testimony of the way of the cross.
October/November/December 2009

*And behold...the glory of the Lord shone around them.
(Luke 2:9)*

*His face shines through us to give the light of the glory of God.
(2 Corinthians 4:6)*

It is almost too overwhelming to think about the glory that revealed the Christ child can now be revealed in and through our lives! I hope the enclosed testimonies encourage you to see the glory of the Lord through the ministry of your life!

It is my joy to serve as president of *Journey in Christ*. Many lives are being transformed by the gospel. Many doors of ministry are continuing to open. This newsletter presents some foundations of my vision for ministry.

My heart is to: (1) establish more ministry relationships, (2) provide more opportunities for people to minister to others, (3) grow my writing ministry, (4) continue receiving opportunities to teach, (5) engage boys to stand tall as a trophy of God's grace as they transition into manhood, (6) help train new staff members...and more. I will share much more with you in January 2010.

Journey in Christ operates on a streamlined budget that is met by donations. If you would like to invest in people's lives through *Journey in Christ*, you can mail tax-deductible donations to the address below. Happy New Year!

Journey in Christ

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MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

The partnership between *Journey in Christ* and *Holly Ridge Baptist Church* this year has been a special blessing for nurturing from my heart, and the hearts of others, a discipleship plan for individuals and churches. Christ's heart in each of us is to simply (and profoundly) "make disciples" for His glory (Matthew 28:19).

Following is an outline of this plan to hopefully encourage Christians to further "grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). This plan is basically a phased and expanded approach of the 10-hour *GraceLife Conference*. The objective is to ground new Christians and to affirm older Christians in the most foundational truths of the gospel during Phase 1. Subsequent training phases are available for people in their own timing.

Journey to the Cross Phase 1 *God's heart for everyone!*

2-hour foundational Bible study on your life's greatest purpose.
The cross is the center of Scripture and the fulfillment of history.
An opportunity to be further grounded in God's Word and ultimate purpose.

Journey at the Cross Phase 2 *God's heart for you!*

6-hour Bible study on the beauty of brokenness in your life.
The world throws away broken things...God only uses broken things!
An opportunity to appropriate the miracle of surrender and union with Christ.

Journey through the Cross Phase 3 *God's heart for others through you!*

8-hour Bible study for equipping you to minister Christ as Life to others.
Through brokenness God tills your heart in order to mold it for His ministry.
An opportunity to be further lovingly molded into God's pulpit and hands.

MINISTRY OF A NAME

Journey in Christ has several opportunities to minister to boys and men of all ages. The following book excerpts have been very helpful to me in this ministry.

You can't name yourself nor define yourself. Every boy needs a man to show him who he is in Christ. Our homes, prisons, government, etc have many middle-aged "boys" still trying to get someone to recognize their self-made manhood.

If a man doesn't know he is a man as a product of the cross of Christ, he will have a tough time being a confident leader, generous provider, and fearless protector.

Dudley Hall, Men in their Own Skin (Southlake, TX: Inprov, Ltd, 2008), pp. 49-54.

Below is one of 50 boys at the *Boys Home of the South* participating in a recent Christmas chapel service. We hope having the boys be an integral part of chapel nurtures them to sense God the Father accepting each one as His son in Christ.



Below is a boy (now 17) from South America shown in 4 growth periods between 1998 and 2009. Joy and I have sponsored him through *Compassion International* since 1998. His letters testify that he is growing in the name of Jesus. ☺

