

Dear New Hope Family,

One of the main faith passages we teach on in Phase III of the New Hope Series is Romans 4:16-21. It describes Abraham's faith. God made a huge promise to Abram in Genesis 15:1, one that would *seem* impossible. But verse 6 tells us, simply put, that he *believed God*.

I have been doing a lot of remembering of God's first promise to me concerning New Hope. Most of you have heard my testimony about it (if not, the entire story is on our website: www.NewHopeMinistryCC.org under "Staff" "Cindy Farrington"). That day in July 2001, I was sitting at that Center in Illinois and the Lord spoke to me about there being a ministry like it here in Centerville. Over the following few years, everything included in that word God gave me, He fulfilled—just as He said.

On May 24, 2009, I experienced something very similar concerning the next phase of New Hope's ministry. I put it all down on paper, and we have been praying over it ever since. For quite some time, God had been giving hints of His vision for New Hope's future. Then over the past year and a half, He has been revealing to us that things are going to change. He has been revealing His plans for this ministry and it's now time for us to cast this vision to you, our faithful family of supporters. Here's part of the story:

On March 27th, 2010, a very dear New Hope Volunteer passed away (Betty Russell, who had put together all of the books New Hope produces). We knew that we wouldn't be able to assemble all of the New Hope Handbooks ourselves forever...*things would eventually have to change*. It was a very emotional day, and right after the funeral, we received some news that jolted us even further. But I knew right away that God had arranged for us to receive this news on the very day of Betty's funeral. We found out that the building God had so miraculously provided for New Hope to operate in all these years— *was going to be sold!* Please keep in mind as you read the rest of this letter, that God first began to reveal His vision for the future, and *then* we found out the building was being sold. The sale did move slowly (which we know was God working out His perfect timing), but it is now *official*—the building has been sold.

We so love the facility we are in, but have known for awhile that as God continues to increase things here, He would at some point ask us to step out in faith and trust Him for a new facility. We are forever grateful to Connie Drake for all she has done in providing this place for New Hope all these years—rent free. In each of our lives God brings changes. When those changes come, we can embrace what He is doing and step out in faith to obey Him, or choose not to. God has been ordering circumstances for both Connie *and* New Hope which require change and a move in the near future. He is doing this to bless Connie, to bless New Hope, and also the person who bought the building (Mike Craver, a local attorney). Connie said it was only after my sharing with her the vision God was giving us for the future that she even considered selling the building.

I think I always knew that "someday" New Hope would need its own building, but my heart just wasn't in it, because the facility the Lord first provided for us was so perfect to fit our needs—and so very special to us—because of the "Upper Room." I could not imagine leaving it. How could we leave the actual "Upper Room" where that prayer group had prayed for this ministry for so many years?

Well, God began planting the seeds with several people over the years who suggested to us that New Hope should think about holding *retreats*. Each time, I thought that sounded like a nice idea, but couldn't see how it could possibly work. Then in May 2009, one of our New Hope Volunteers (Kevin

Wiskus) came to me with an idea he believed the Lord was giving him for *New Hope Retreats*. These retreats could be a means of equipping Believers to use the New Hope materials faster, by getting them through the meat of it in a matter of just a few days. This would train and equip people to start ministering to those who need the New Hope program *immediately*, instead of 16 weeks or more later.

New Hope has ministered to hundreds of Counselees and Seminar Participants over the course of this ministry, and our waiting list is increasing every month. The needs in our communities are great. People need the Lord and the knowledge of how to live according to His Word. Not only is there a need for the free Biblical Counseling services offered here, but a need to quickly train and equip Believers for the work of ministering to hurting people that needs to be accomplished in other communities, cities, states, and around the world.

Kevin said that when it came time in the Seminar Class to do the Main Root Problems as assignments, it was hard to get them done. There are people who go home and have every intention of doing them, but life gets in the way. He thought that it would be so much easier for some people if they could be there for an entire week or weekend, go through it together, and do the assignments *right then*. That started to get me a little more interested in the idea. But the biggest hindrance was obviously not having a place for people to stay.

Kevin said all he could think of was somewhere like the Honey Creek facility at Lake Rathbun—but that wasn't very realistic, because cost would be prohibitive. I went home that night still pondering it. The next day (a Saturday), I woke up *with laryngitis*. I didn't feel sick at all; I just couldn't talk. My husband and kids each had somewhere to go, so I was home alone all day. I spent the day reading and working on the computer. But many times throughout the day, thoughts were coming into my mind concerning *retreats*. I couldn't figure it all out, but I would stop and write them down.

The next day, Sunday morning, was when God caused it all to come together and become clear. I want to share with you what I wrote in my journal that day:

As I sit here—for the first time, God is giving me the picture in my head. I'm at home alone on a Sunday morning because I have completely lost my voice—nothing more than a whisper. I think now that maybe God arranged this so that I would have this time of absolute quietness, so that I would for sure hear Him, and in hearing, then see.

I was so stuck on not leaving our first facility, because of the "Upper Room" and all that it means to our ministry—and to me personally. Whenever I did try to think of a new building, I was adamant that it would have to have an "Upper Room." Somehow—some way—it had to. But I couldn't see it. All I could ever see was an office complex building—ugh!

This morning I went up to the loft overlooking our living room area to pray. As I was sitting there, the Lord revealed to me that He had given me my own personal "Upper Room." Oh, my goodness. (I started to cry.) He knows how much that has meant to me. I have lived in this house for six years now. Why have I never thought of the loft as my own Upper Room before? Then as I looked down over the living room area, I thought of the past two year's staff retreats we had held here, and how perfect the setting was for it... Then I saw it...our new facility...I've been living in the heart of the building plans for the past six years! This house that my husband designed for me and built himself—this is the design! We have the heart of the plan right here! It would just have to be enlarged three or four times bigger. A lodge-looking, open great room with huge

windows overlooking a beautiful wooded area (somewhere), with a massive stone fireplace—and a loft above, overlooking the main room. The loft—is the Upper Room!!

A wing off of the right side of the main building would be New Hope Counseling Center, and a wing off of the left side would be New Hope Production Center (or that’s what I thought at the time).

I went in search of a blank piece of paper to draw out the details of what I was picturing, and just happened to find a blank *sketch pad* that I didn’t even know we had! Every detail was there for the main lodge part, the Upper Room area to hold our seminar classes, meetings, and retreats, the counseling center wing...but the other wing (for what I thought must be the production center), I had nothing. I couldn’t picture it. I had no details, no floor plan, just an empty rectangle on the page. I figured the details for that would come later.

I also recorded all of the thoughts God had been giving me concerning the Retreats. Anyone could come to these, but I think part of our ministry *could be* for Pastors, Missionaries, and Full-time Christian Workers to come *free*. This would be our ministry to them—sort of like our Biblical Counseling services have always been provided free of charge as a local *mission work*. How awesome would it be to have a beautiful, secluded, lodge-feel, retreat place that Pastors, Missionaries, and Christian Workers could come to for a week of refreshing and renewal? *I know*, it sounds like it would be impossible financially, but God specializes in the impossible. During the retreat, we would take them through a condensed form of the New Hope Series. Then at the end, they would know all about the materials that were used to revive, renew, and refresh them personally, and then be given the opportunity to take them back to their mission field or ministry area with our different ministry kit packages. This would be a mission work that could affect the world!

I believe that our God—the God Most High—can certainly have something like this, right here in south central Iowa, for His Kingdom purposes! I was envisioning a simple lodge-looking main building, with a wing off of each side. But I am certainly not going to limit God, as I know personally that He is able to do “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20). Who knows? The detailed picture I was seeing of a building for New Hope may not have been a literal, *this is exactly the way it has to look*. God may have had me start picturing it to get me to see the vision for the future, the possibilities, the turning of my heart toward the plans God has for us.

I am so thankful for the Board Members we have in this ministry. I guess we’ve been through so much together with the Lord by this time, that as I shared this vision with them, it didn’t even stagger them. We have seen God do so many incredible things that *it didn’t* seem unbelievable to them. To the natural eye—this does look and seem outrageous! But we know how big our God is. Well, I don’t think we’ll ever know all of *how* big, but He is way bigger than we used to comprehend.

So—here we are—believing Him. We teach in our materials that God just wants to be believed. He’s looking for people who will *believe Him*. We are determined to be those people! I know people thought Noah looked foolish building that huge ark—but he just kept believing God and continuing the work. We’ve been believing God and continuing the work, knowing that God would have to do something to reveal to us the first step...His timing...there was so much we didn’t know. But we should have known one thing—that for something like this to even begin—something would have to change.

It was an emotional day to attend the funeral of someone we had come to love very dearly and then to find out about the building being sold. I spent the whole next day at home praying, crying out to the

Lord, and simply worshipping Him. Over the past couple years, God has been teaching Andrea, Julie, and me so much about *worship*.

During the time that the Lord was teaching us about it the most intensely, He revealed to me why one wing of the detailed plans for the new facility was left completely blank. We were already realizing that assembling all of our books ourselves could not continue forever. That other wing was not to be a Production Center—it is supposed to be a Prayer & Worship Center. God has been showing us how important *continuous* prayer and worship are to Him and to His plans and purposes on earth. This Prayer & Worship Room would incorporate 24/7 prayer and worship into New Hope's ministry. See the **enclosed article** for more details on why we have a heart for a **Day & Night Prayer & Worship Room**.

It is now time for you to receive this news, because this ministry belongs to the Lord, and to all who are a part of it and support it. We need you like never before to unify with us in prayer, in purpose, in faith. We believe God *may* have someone donate a piece of land that He has chosen for this new facility. We have no idea who or where, but we believe God could cause this to happen, and He would bless that person abundantly for their generosity—far beyond what the property is worth!

God revealed something to me that day after Betty's funeral—something that had not even crossed any of our minds. What if...what if He were to give us a piece of land that already has an existing structure that would be perfect to house New Hope Counseling Center? This way, we wouldn't need to rent a separate facility for the in-between stage while launching and carrying out a building project. This way, we could be right there operating New Hope Counseling Center and it wouldn't matter how long it took to start a building project, or how long it would take to complete it! We don't know God's timing. This could still be a very long-range vision or it could take place in stages. We will follow God's leading and direction as He may give the provision for the project to be completed over a course of many years.

Or, He could give us the use of a place to run the ministry from as an in-between stage. But again, we do not want to limit Him in any way either, knowing that He *could* provide the entire amount to complete it all at once—or even a larger existing facility that could house the entire vision from the beginning. There are many different possibilities. We are praying for the fulfillment of the entire vision while, at the same time, will be delighted with whatever He provides for us in whatever His timing is. We have enclosed a separate page, giving you more details for the Retreat Center ministry, plus the funding plan we are going to follow (see **“Here's the Funding Plan”**).

The ministry of New Hope was birthed in July 2001. Now, over ten years later, it is well-established, having proven our commitment, faithfulness, and good stewardship. The local mission work of New Hope Counseling Center will always be our first priority. We will expand our borders to include the New Hope Retreat Center and New Hope Prayer & Worship Center as the Lord provides.

We believe we have been given a promise for New Hope's future and we want to be like Abraham, who put all of his faith and trust in God. God made a huge promise to him, one that would *seem* impossible—but Abram *believed God*. God is looking for people who will just *believe Him*. Romans 4:16-21 describes the kind of faith Abraham had and it's the model of faith we want to follow: *Who against hope believed in hope...being not weak in faith...He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.*

So the time has come for all of us who are a part of God's work through New Hope Ministry & Counseling Center to step out in faith and step forward with God into the next phase. All of the circumstances we are now in are both literal and symbolic. The Lord is saying: *It's time to move...*

We are so excited! Even though Mike Craver is being so gracious with us—*not* just expecting us to move out, but we will eventually need to have our own facility anyway. Mike has met with us and shared his plans for the building and the provisions he has made for us. We are going to be able to stay here with the same rent free agreement through the end of the year. There is some remodeling being done on the building, so our Library is being moved downstairs and my office is moved in with Julie's. By the first of the year, the Abstract Company will move upstairs and the downstairs will have been renovated into a leasable space. At that time, we will have the option to lease the downstairs. At this moment, that doesn't look possible for us. We may need a new place to move to in January. We don't know, but we do know the Lord does. He will provide a place for us. How awesome to be able to walk out our faith in an even greater way, as a testimony and witness to the miracle-working power of the God we serve! He has given us a magnificent vision—one that would *seem* impossible—but we know that with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23). "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

We are determined to be faith-filled and faithful. Our responsibility is to share this testimony and vision with all of you, because you are all a part of New Hope. This is also your *opportunity*—to join with us on this faith journey. What God is calling each one of us to do will not only bless us at New Hope, but will flow through us to bless many more people, probably more than any of us can imagine.

I guess the biggest thing we want to announce is that we believe the Lord doesn't want us to begin by asking people for money. We believe He wants us to ask you to join us as we pray for Him to give us the land and the money that is needed. Even though He does work through people, we need to look to *Him only* as our *Source*. We don't yet know what exactly that means, but we believe it has to do with looking only to Him and then obeying whatever He reveals He wants *us* to do each step of the way. We want to follow His instructions on *what* we are supposed to do and *when* we are supposed to do it.

He has brought us to a point of decision and we have made the decision to obey, by announcing to you these things He is calling us to do. This places everything totally in God's hands (just the way He likes it). God's Word says: "Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). We believe He will do it.

Yes, we are faced with a dilemma...but this is how we feel about it: "*This is but a light thing in the sight of the Lord...*" (2 Kings 3:18).

In The Service Of The King,

Cindy Farrington – Executive Director,

Andrea Clark – Counseling Director,

Julie Woodley – Production Director,

Dennis & Judith Miller, Dick & Jan Allen, Jake & Trina Settles – Board Members