



# GRACE HAVEN

Biblical Renewal Ministries, Inc.

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## *I have tasted the goodness of God!*

I grew up in a good Mennonite home. I was endowed spiritual knowledge by my parents. I have many memories of my Grandfather and Father speaking of spiritual concepts and theologies. At an early age I understood my sinful state and need of Jesus Christ. I accepted Jesus Christ at the age of 8. I had a deep desire to do right and to serve God with all of my heart. Just like the Pharisees of Jesus day I was well suited to live for God from my head (knowledge). As I grew older I began to realize that when I prayed it seemed as though I was on a one way street. When I was honest with myself I knew that there was a wall between God and me, that our hearts were not connected. As I struggled with this, I came to the conclusion that this was the Adam effect. I concluded that because of my sinful nature, I could not have that heart to heart connection with God, which I longed for. I came to believe that when I reached heaven the bridge between God and man, which had been broken by Adam, would once again be rebuilt. I would then connect heart to heart with God. As I grew older and studied more of the scriptures, this concept did not seem to coincide with the teaching of the New Testament. Jesus Christ was that bridge. I spent many hours praying and pleading with

God for a heart to heart connection, but could not find it. I did not realize that my chosen response to emotional pain was the wall that separated me from that heart to heart connection that I so longed for. I had chosen to live from my head (knowledge) and to put up walls around my heart as a method of protecting myself from emotional pain. On the outside I looked like a successful Christian. I had spiritual knowledge. I was called to a number of leadership positions in my local church. Yet, I was not connected to the heart of God. I had a wife that I loved and who was my best friend. I had four children who I loved and was striving to raise them in a healthy environment. Yet, I was unable to connect with their hearts. God allowed me to go through deep conflict and pain in the past 13 years. I began to break under the weight. I became depressed, fatigued, and listless. Nothing satisfied my loneliness and my deep longing to have a fulfilled heart. God used the increasing pain and pressure of conflict to prepare my heart. Finally I broke. I cried out, "God this is not good enough for me anymore, I want to be connected heart to heart with you". Through a series of events, some natural, some divine, on Feb. 3, 2010, my wife and

I found ourselves sitting in the office of Grace Haven, broken and ready to give all to Christ. As we began to clear out our hearts God began to bring peace to our pain. I took all of the shameful and sinful deeds that God brought to my mind and confessed them individually. Oh, the peace! Jesus came and healed all the pain in my heart and for the first time in my mind's eye, I was able to look into the face of Jesus. Oh, the compassion, mercy, and love that flowed from his heart to mine. We were connected heart to heart! As I left Grace Haven and began to process all of the principles that we learned, I began to realize that this was not a onetime event. It was now my responsibility to make it a life style. Daily coming before Jesus and making sure that I am connected with him. I also came to understand, that once I was connected to God's heart, I could live from my heart instead of my head. This has allowed me to begin connecting with my wife and children's hearts. As I am walking this journey I am discovering, that once God filled my heart with His love and compassion, I was then able to experience that same love and compassion, from my heart, for the people around me. No matter who they are, what they have done, or where they are going. With this love of Christ

*continued on other side*



*By this  
shall all men know  
that ye are my  
disciples if ye have  
love one to another.*  
John 13:35

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New!

Mailing Address

Take Note! We will no longer be using our post office box address. Our new mailing address is:

67163 CR 43  
Millersburg, IN 46543

GRACE HAVEN  
Biblical Renewal Ministries

Located on CR 43  
1/4 mile south of CR 42

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# Lasting Relationships

God desires that all of us experience fulfillment in our relationships with others.

The first key to fulfillment in our relationship is communication. In marriage, a couple must be able to communicate in order to understand each others needs. When both husband and wife get their needs met then their relationship is going to be successful. Everyone needs to feel valued and important. Lack of attention and communication can make your partner feel you no longer care, which will cause them to hold things in and not discuss issues. This will lead to an unhappy marriage and unresolved concerns. Marriage is about imperfect people doing their best to care for one another in love.

The next key to a lasting relationship is love. The scriptures tell us in 1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." This kind of love reaches out to others and is willing to forgive many faults to build lasting relationships. This kind of love becomes a matter of choice. The only way a person is able to have a love that can cover a multitude of faults is to allow God to love through us. God's love has No strings, no expectations, no hidden agendas, no secrets. His love for us was, and is, up front and clear. "I love you," He says. "Even if you let me down. I love you in spite of your failures."

- Menno Yoder

*continued from other side*

in my heart, the people I meet each day are my mission field. I long to point people to the goodness of God and leave a simple testimony about my experience with this loving, compassionate, and healing Savior. Although it is a journey, I am finding it a great pleasure as God molds me in to the servant leader that He has called me to be. Because of the healing I have found, I can see the pain and conflict, which Satan meant for bad, was something God could use for good. In hindsight, I would walk that same path again, if it were the only way to experience the healing of God as I have experienced it. Each day I set out to show the compassion, mercy, and love of Jesus through my interactions with those around me. I have made it a choice to live from my heart. I have tasted the goodness of God!