# RESTORATION Oinistries !



Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas we are reminded and overwhelmed with gratitude to God for all the blessings He richly gives through Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the privilege to share with others how they can experience God's love in their lives and relationships through His Son. Please take a few moments to look over this newsletter and prayer update, and rejoice with us in the goodness of God.



### Praise & Prayer Items

- 1. For the Lord's provision of a new location for our primary counseling office and a one bedroom apartment for couples and individuals to stay in while at Restoration Ministries. Be sure to see the attached file that accompanies this update.
- 2. For the team of people and local churches God has brought alongside this ministry that enables us to see the Lord work powerfully in those who are seeking help.
- 3. For the healing of hearts and relationships through Jesus Christ.
- 4. For an excellent conference in St. Francis, KS. (See photos above.)
- 5. For God's faithful provision.

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#### **December 2017: Upcoming Conferences**

**Essentials for Enjoying Marriage** February 9-10, 2018 Northwest Community Church in Malcom, NE, near Lincoln. (Watch our website for more details.)

## Jestimonies

#### **Alumnus of Restoration Ministries write:**

"Our sessions with you are always life changing, and our recent visit was no different. We are truly grateful God has equipped you and Brenda for this ministry."

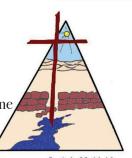
**A couple write:** "Thank you and bless you for doing such tremendous work for the Lord in the area of marriage. We were heading down a dark path and can see a light up ahead!"

A pastor & his wife write: "Our week spent in Cozad was priceless – Spirit led – redemptive - truth filled - relaxing - lifegiving! We are forever grateful for your ministry."

A couple write: "We so appreciated that you took us to Jesus to find healing and forgiveness for our sins and woundedness, so He could unlock our hearts to be able to fully love each other."

**A wife writes:** "We are doing great!! Life is amazing and the Lord continues to work in our home. Thank you for restoring so much!!"

> Don't forget to check out our Facebook page: facebook.com/ restorationministriesonline.



Isaiah 58:11-12



#### 2017 Ministry Report

- 49 households (couples and individuals) counseled. 33 households from NE, 16 households from other states.
- At least 6 salvations
- Editing & production of the "Tools for Your Relationship Toolbox" DVD series completed, this new resource is now available & being used of God.
- Marriages strengthened; in many of those marriages, wounded hearts & relationships are healing. We continue our monthly on-line video meeting to help alumni continue to receive Biblical teaching & relationship coaching.
- 3 Marriage conferences in the region with excellent responses.
- Remodeling of a new counseling office located outside of our home and an apartment for people to enjoy while with us. Both office and apartment are now in use.
- Continued training & equipping of several interns; several others want to take training.
- Started 2 weekly on-line Bible studies for men using the "Every Man a Warrior" series to help men grow in their relationship with God, their spouse, their children, in everyday Christian living issues impacting men. Leaders being developed & equipped, so men begin using these materials to disciple other men.
- Continued partnership with Ed & Norma Gaston in the Philippines. Provided additional resources to expand their pastoral counseling ministry, weekly radio counseling broadcasts throughout the Southern Philippines, training pastoral counselors, & strengthening marriages of Christian leaders in the Philippines and 3 other Asian countries.

Thank you for partnering with us to help fulfill our Lord's Great Commandment and Commission.

#### Insights for Relationships by Pastor Roger Daum



Americans benefit from an amazing road system that enables us to drive hundreds of miles safely and quickly. Road signs guide, or warn us, of danger ahead. Wise, safe drivers pay attention to those signs.

God gives us warning signs for the road of life. We find many of those signs in His Word. Hebrews lists six warning signs that will help us safely arrive at our eternal destination. These warnings also have a very practical application for marriage and family relationships. What are these warnings?

- 1. "Pay more careful attention ... so we do not drift away." (Heb. 2:1) Just as a driver can drift out of their lane and have a wreck, so we can begin to drift away from God, resulting in a relationship wreck that hurts others and ourselves. We must intentionally pay close attention to obeying God's Word and wisdom. A similar warning to not become spiritually "lazy" is found in Heb. 6:12. If we've started to "drift" or become spiritually complacent it's time to turn back to the Lord and His Word to avoid a relationship wreck.
- 2. "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." (Heb. 3:7-15) The writer of Hebrews uses the Israelites and their refusal to walk by faith and enter the Promised Land as a warning to us. They knew what they were to do, they had the presence and promises of God to go before them and empower

them to live by faith, but they drifted away from God's plan and hardened their hearts. The same thing can happen to us. The writer continues, "See to it brothers, (fellow believers) that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, ..., so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (v.12-13). Broken relationships and marriages are the result of the hardening of the hearts of those who make up the relationship. We must not allow our hearts to become insensitive or hardened to God or one another.

3. **Do not stay spiritually immature.** (Heb. 5:12-14) – These believers should have matured spiritually to where they were teaching others the meat of God's Word, but were still in need of "milk" and were spiritual babies "unskilled in the Word of righteousness." They heard God's Word but were not applying it and remained spiritually stunted. Spiritual maturity results when believers use and apply the Word in their lives and relationships in order to "distinguish good and evil". Believers in the church at Corinth were unloving and experiencing all kinds of relationship problems because of spiritual immaturity (1 Cor. 3:1-3) demonstrated by a lack of love. It was time for them to grow up spiritually and put childish relational behavior behind them. We must do the same.