

# RESTORATION Ministries



August 2020

## *Praise or Prayer Items*

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

It is time to update you on what God is doing in and through Restoration Ministries. Please take a few minutes to browse through this newsletter. We want to thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. Be sure to check out "Insights for Relationships" on how to guard yourself against a spiritual pandemic that causes relational distancing.

In Christ and For His Kingdom Purposes,  
Roger and Brenda Daum

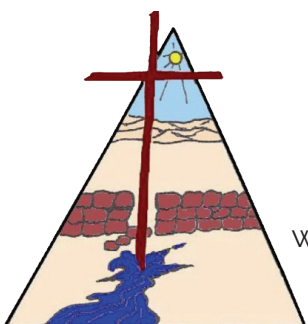
## *Testimonies*

A wife writes: "We continue to pray for you and those you are serving. Our relationship continues to be sweet. I feel loved, and so does my husband. Thanks again."

A couple writes: "No words can express how grateful we are for your ministry used by God to bring us and our marriage back from the brink of destruction. This is a new beginning and we are so excited to see what our Lord and Savior does next in our lives."

A wife writes: "My husband and I wanted to say thank you for all the help, healing, guidance and knowledge we gained from you. Our counseling had a huge impact on our lives and relationships and opened our eyes on how to handle situations with grace and understanding."

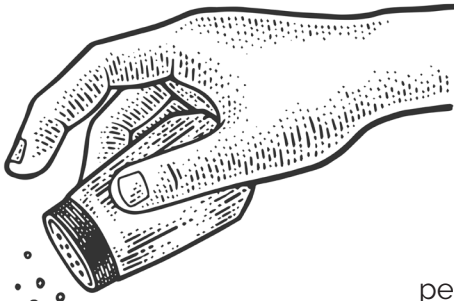
1. Roger has or is working with 32 households so far in 2020. Pray for receptive hearts so those counseled will grow in Christ and live in His love and freedom.
2. Due to a very high concentration of the Covid virus in our county, our office was temporarily closed for nearly 3 months. However, counseling continued online using Zoom. Our office is open again.
3. For 7 individuals or spouses who trusted Jesus as their Savior during counseling so far this year.
4. The completion of our new series "An Old Testament Love Story" from the book of Ruth illustrating how the Lord Jesus meets the four basic needs in our lives and how we can participate with Him in that process. The webinars of this series and handout notes are available at [www.restorationministriesonline.org/old-testament-love-story.html](http://www.restorationministriesonline.org/old-testament-love-story.html)
5. Interns who have completed their internship in our office are now counseling in Lincoln and Sidney NE. Pray God raises up additional individuals or couples to take training.
6. For the privilege of ministering to pastors and missionaries and their spouse to encourage them in their relationship with God and one another.
7. For God's faithful provision and those who partner with us in prayer and giving to make this ministry possible.
8. Pray for our partners in the Philippines (Ed and Norma Gaston) who continue to train and equip pastors, church leaders and missionaries from Asia. They have now started using Zoom and Facebook Live which enables them to connect with workers in different parts of the Philippines and other countries.



### **Restoration Ministries: Roger & Brenda Daum**

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### Insights for Relationships:

Our nation is experiencing the devastating effects of the Covid-19 virus. Mandates and guidelines have been put in place to slow the spread of the virus, resulting in travel bans, quarantines, postponement/cancellation of events and activities that bring people together. This has resulted in social distancing from our families or church families.

There is also a spiritual virus that spreads like a disease to the hearts of people, resulting in a spiritual distancing from God and others including family, and friends. The virus is **bitterness**. It takes root in the heart when we have been offended or experienced injustice, and we fail to take God's grace to bear the injustice and forgive the offender (Heb. 12:15).

In 2 Kings 2:19-22 the people of Jericho were suffering because their water source was poisonous and bitter resulting in the ground being barren causing everything to die. This is a picture of a marriage, family, church, community, or nation troubled by bitterness and unresolved emotional pain resulting in a condition of barrenness and death (social distancing) in relationships.

Are you experiencing the effects of bitterness in your own life? If so, what is **God's cure for bitterness**? The prophet Elisha gave the men of Jericho guidelines to cure the source of the bitter water producing death and barrenness. This illustrates God's cure for bitterness in our lives.

Elisha asked for a bowl of salt and threw the salt into the fountain. Salt was used because it **purifies**. A person with an infected wound can soak the wound in salt water to draw the infection out. Bitterness defiles the hearts of people or of a married couple, or family. Salt speaks of the redeeming and cleansing grace of the Lord Jesus that removes the bitterness from our hearts when we forgive.

Salt is also used to **preserve** food. When bitterness is cleansed from the heart it results in the **preservation and the healing of relationships** rather than destruction.

Resolving bitterness also protects a person from falling into other destructive sinful patterns such as sexual immorality (See Heb. 12:16).

In Bible times salt was used to **confirm a covenant** between two parties. When a husband and wife love and forgive one another, they continue to confirm their marriage covenant. However, bitterness over unresolved hurts in a marriage cause a couple to emotionally or physically separate or divorce.

Salt is also used to **flavor food**. In Col. 4:6 we read "let your conversation be always full of grace seasoned with salt". When a person is bitter, critical harmful words will flow out of their mouth. Words of death instead of life.

What did Elisha do with the salt? He threw it into the source of the bad water. To resolve bitterness, we must pray and ask the Lord to **reveal the source of our bitterness**. Who hurt us? How were we sinned against? Who or what circumstance have we become bitter towards? The source of the hurt and pain must be identified and validated. Then we must give up our right to get revenge and hurt those who hurt us and pray to send the offender and offence over to the Lord Jesus, and open our hearts to receive God's grace in exchange for the hurt and damage we experienced. (Heb. 12:15)

What happened after Elisha threw salt into the spring? We read in v. 21 he said "This is what the Lord says, "I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive." Vs. 22 says - "the water has remained wholesome to this day, according to the word Elisha had spoken."

What will be the **result of forgiving from the heart** to resolve bitterness?

- 1) Our lives and relationships will be transformed by the grace of God.
- 2) Our lives will be purified from the defilement of bitterness.
- 3) We will be emotionally and spiritually free in Christ, which will protect us from falling into other sins.
- 4) Our lives will be flavored with positive emotions from God to be a blessing to people around us.

### Testimonies, continued

A couple who came 14 years ago and on the verge of divorce write: *"In honor of our 20th anniversary we wanted to send a donation. Thank you for all you do! Can't believe it's been 14 years since we met with you."*

### Coming up...

Conference at Zion Community Church in Wilmot, SD November 6-8