



HOPE OF GLORY MINISTRIES

Winter 2003

You Can Run But Cannot Hide

Why does our flesh (sinful nature) run to hide those things that are displeasing to our Heavenly Father? Those things that hinder us in our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Do we yield to the Holy Spirit when the light of Jesus shines in our hearts and exposes sin and even old wounds that continue to fester in our lives? Hiding is no new phenomenon to the human race. In the Book of Genesis, we read about Adam and Eve sinning when they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:6). In verse 7 we read, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings". The scripture continues in verse 8, "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden". We can learn from these scriptures that there is a knee-jerk reaction to sin that leads our flesh to hide. In Genesis 2:25, we know that Adam and Eve were naked and were not ashamed. This was before they committed sin by eating the forbidden fruit. But their eyes were

opened and all of a sudden they were naked and sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves after this revelation of their nakedness. What has the Lord revealed to you that you have covered with fig leaves? We live in a world that makes judgments based on the outward appearance. If you are dressed nice and made up well then we assume that person has it all together, when in actuality that person can be depressed, hopeless and dying on the inside. Another person may have a nice house and nice cars and we assume they have it going on. We even think if I had what they had I'd be on top of the world. When in fact that person may be in debt up to their ears, stressed out from the financial pressures and even contemplating suicide as their escape out. You see fig leaves are anything we use to cover up what really is going on inside of us. We find ourselves hiding behind these things because we don't want anyone to know what we are really like and what is really going on; in fear that we will be found out and embarrassed and possibly rejected by those closest to us! We get so caught up in what people think of us, that we live for the approval of men rather

than the approval of God! In Luke 16:15 Jesus said, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God". Don't we know that Jesus came to do an "inside job" in us? He wants the inside of our cup to be clean so that the outside will be clean also (Matt. 23:26). How clean is the inside of your cup? Is there a secret besetting sin in your life? Do you have unhealed wounds in your heart that have left you with roots of bitterness and unforgiveness? Jesus is bidding us to come and lay these things down and invite Holy Spirit to minister healing and wholeness to our body, soul, and spirit through the power of God's Word. We read in Genesis 3, that Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" Oh, how sweet is the mercy of God. When God could have given up on them, instead He called to them in hope of restoring their fellowship. In verse 10, we find out that Adam was afraid because he was naked and therefore he hid. Because of the things you have hidden in your life, some of you reading this message are afraid. You feel like a time bomb is ticking inside of you and will go off at anytime.

[Continued on Page 2]

Inside this issue:

Message from Director	1-2
God's Gracious Gift	2
"The Rock" News	3
Burning Bush	3
Music Ministry	4
Upcoming Events	4

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

Continued from Page 1

You are afraid of being naked before God. But God is calling you to Himself. He asks, "Where are you?" Our nakedness before God is absolutely necessary for us to acknowledge our need for a Savior and Redeemer. We were not created to hide behind fig leaves but rather to be "hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). This is the surrendered life to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We are undone without Him and complete in Him (Col. 2:10). He desires an intimate personal relationship with you. In Isaiah 64:6 we read, "But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away". But when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, He covers us with His robe of righteousness. Hallelujah! We read in 2 Cor. 5:21, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him". You see Adam and Eve ran to hide themselves with fig leaves because they

had sinned against God. But in Genesis 3:21 we read, "Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them". In order for God to get tunics of skin there had to be the sacrifice of an animal, which meant there was shedding of blood. All the way back in the garden of Eden God Almighty is giving us the picture of the "once and for all perfect sacrifice", who is Jesus Christ. He came and shed His blood on a cross at Calvary, making atonement for the sins of the world so that they who believe in Him and receive Him may be reconciled to God the Father (Col. 1:20). "Without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb 9:22). God is making it clear to us that we are not to try and cover ourselves but to give our lives to Jesus and allow His precious blood to cover us and experience the joy of being forgiven and cleansed from the inside/out. Please do not run from God and foolishly believe that you are hiding something from Him. He knew right where Adam and Eve were the whole time and you can

"All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account".

(Heb. 4:13)

best believe He knows where you are, both physically and spiritually. The Bible says, "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Heb. 4:13). Repent of your sins and turn to Jesus so that times of refreshing may come in your life. He will forgive you and deliver you so that you can walk in victory serving Him who knows you best yet loves you the most! Remember, you can run but cannot hide.

Love in Christ,

Clark Stallings

Thank you very much for your gifts and prayers!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

Hope of Glory Annual Celebration is set for September 13, 2003!

USED BOOK OUTREACH

Your used Christian books may be a huge blessing to someone else! These books will be made available for check-out and hopefully be a valuable tool in helping some-

God's Gracious Gift (a Food, Furniture, & Clothing Outreach)

Aaron Kennedy, son of Pastors Greg and Deana Kennedy (Church of the Open Door), will be joining our ministry team as overseer of God's Gracious Gift, beginning February 17, 2003. Please join us in both welcoming and praying for him as he takes this step of faith in pursuing what God has called him to do!

We are also very thankful for the generous financial gift that was given to help seed this new outreach! We are believing God for a building to be soon forthcoming, but until then, we are using a section of the Ministry Center to help carry out this part of the vision. Please pray for fulfillment of grant requests.

We are very excited about what God is going to do in and through God's Gracious Gift. Not only will the physical needs of our community be addressed, but also the spiritual needs. If an individual is fed and clothed but does not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, they will still be hungry and naked. The Lord has told us this is to be a "seasonal ministry". We will come alongside these individuals for a season and teach them God's principles on Kingdom-living. Stewardship/Financial Planning and Bible Foundation classes will be offered to impart wisdom in these areas—with the ultimate goal of obtaining victory!

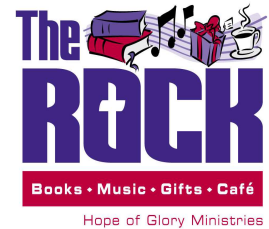
Another aspect of this ministry will be to hold four tent crusades per year in various parts of Pitt County, as the Holy Spirit leads. We will be partnering with other local churches to carry out this mission. Our hearts cry out for the lost! Please join us in prayer that many will come to the knowledge of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will also need volunteers during these crusades..... If you would like more information about this ministry, or feel led in some way to serve, please call Aaron at 321-6857.

GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFT is now in the receiving mode! We are collecting clothes, household items, furniture, non-perishable food, etc. to assist in meeting the needs within our community. You will receive a tax deductible acknowledgment for donated items.

If you are interested in donating items, or would like additional information about this outreach, please call Aaron at 321-6857.

Blessings to you and yours in 2003 from the Rock! Thank you for the wonderful support you have shown us in our first year. We are excited about what God is doing and the favor He has already shown us is immeasurable!



This is the "LOVE" month....and we have many gifts, books, and music for all ages that exemplify love and God, who is Love!



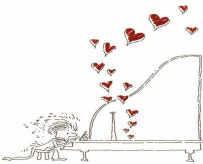
Let's wear our love for Jesus for others to see....come check out our new T-Shirt designs!

Spring is about color....and you will find a lot of it in here as "market-finds" roll in. We always pray before we make any purchase and know God leads us to many desires of many hearts.

KID'S...It's never too early to start thinking about summer reading....be sure to check out our Summer Christian Reading Program (look for more info in the Spring newsletter). We have a great selection of books, Bibles, and devotions.

We have lots of new kid's music for those young worshippers! Coming soon....."Shout to the Lord 3".

We have great books and devotionals on audio too!



We also have a variety of gifts for infants. How's this for a great gift idea?....We have infant boy/girl Bibles and books—they can be wrapped up with a stuffed animal or a toy on top!

We have a variety of titles by Sheila Walsh and Lisa Whelchel....these are noted authors that will be visiting our area soon!

.....MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....

**Date: SATURDAY,
March 1, 2003**

Time: 7:00 PM

Please join us for "A Second Chance Event" to see Jonah (a Veggie Tales movie). Bring your whole family (and a snack) for a free night of entertainment. The VHS/DVD release will be March 4, 2003...come to The Rock and reserve your copy today (pre-payment is requested).

Call today to reserve your seats!

What do you think about a Family Fun Night at Hope of Glory?

We are thinking about showing a family movie on the "big screen" one night per month (either Friday or Saturday night). Admission would be free and each family could bring their own snack and drink. This would be a huge undertaking for just one person due to setting-up and cleaning afterwards. We think it would be awesome to see families & churches come together and take turns overseeing each night. Please be in prayer, and if this is something you are interested in, contact Lisa Stallings at 756-5546.



Can you read to me please??? If you would like someone to come to your Preschool or Elementary School and have a reading-time once or twice a month, please contact Lisa Stallings at 756-5546 to set up a time. It's another great way to share Jesus with others!

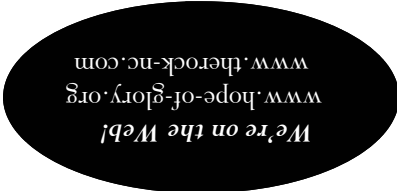
POWER PERK

If you were on a train that went through a dark tunnel, would you try to jump off and ask for your ticket back? Of course not! You would sit quietly and wait, trusting the conductor to see you safely to the other side. Over the past year as we have worked diligently toward the vision God gave us for The Burning Bush five years ago, we have had the blessing of ministering to all of our wonderful food suppliers, coffee growers, equipment suppliers, furniture designers, and many more. There may not be a physical Burning Bush quite yet (existing only on our front porch and dining room table), but the Lord has already used this coffeehouse to bring people to Him and back to Him. Even if that was all The Burning Bush was to do, we have been honored and blessed, and would be satisfied with that. But we don't think that's the end of the Lord's plans for this coffeehouse. In the first eight months doors opened so fast we could barely get through them before another opened...we had our train ticket, had boarded, and the adventure had begun. We are now in the tunnel, and we have purposed in our hearts to sit quietly and WAIT; trusting The Conductor to see us through to the rest of the trip. There are times when we are given a vision, and darkness follows. Not the darkness of evil—but the darkness of excess light...or as Oswald Chambers puts it: the shadow of His hand. When we are brought to this place of darkness it is best to be still, wait, and listen. Thank you for your prayers—they are greatly felt and appreciated. Until next time....

Waiting at The Bush ~ Keith & Daune

You can contact us at burningbushcafe@aol.com or visit our Website at www.burningbushcafe.com.

"The Lord said, 'Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run, For the vision is yet for an appointed time, it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, WAIT FOR IT; For it will CERTAINLY come, it will not delay.'" (Habakkuk 2:2-3)



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- Upcoming Ministry Events:**
- Worship Service every Thursday @ 7 p.m.
 - Monthly Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon
 - Feb. 20 (9:15 AM): 10-week Women's Bible Study Begins (Calm My Anxious Heart- A Woman's journey to finding contentment)
 - March 1 (7PM): Showing of Jonah Movie
 - April 5 (6 PM): Easter Drama
 - April 26 (9 AM-3 PM): Women's Conference
 - April 29 (9:30 AM): Women's Brunch w/Guest Speaker, Ann Conway
 - May 3 (7 PM): New Life Worship Center Youth Rally
 - To be announced soon...a Men's Conference (Friday night & Saturday)

- Prayer Requests:**
- Powerful move of God's Spirit in all ministry services
 - Mighty wall of protection surrounding ministry, staff, and volunteers
 - Continued prayer & financial support for ministry
 - Area churches to partner with God's Gracious Gift
 - Prayer & financial support for The Burning Bush Café & Coffeehouse
 - Ministry to be debt-free

UPDATE ON THE MUSIC MINISTRY.....Thank you for your prayers , as they are much needed and desired. Our hope is that the Holy Spirit visits us every Thursday night and as we enter into worship we would be renewed and strengthened.

Our desire is to continue to develop the music ministry by adding musicians. We are currently in need of a keyboard/pianist and bass player. Please be in prayer for these individuals, as we know our Lord is already preparing them. The only requirement we want from these individuals is a heart sold out for our risen Lord. If you are interested in any of these positions, please call me at 756-8933. God Bless You All!

Jimmy Robinson

- Needs:**
- Laptop with PowerPoint software
 - 2 small monitors; 1 for drums & 1 for keyboard
 - A 3-Tape Duplicator
 - Bookcase
 - Card Table
 - Standing Clothes Racks
 - Enclosed Trailer
 - Portable Sound Equipment
- The following needs have been met since the last newsletter:
- Powered Floor Speaker
 - Commercial Vacuum Cleaner

Praise be to God who supplies all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus! (Phil. 4:19)

MISSION STATEMENT

To stand in the gap between our community of believers and the church, and between the church and the lost. We will come alongside these three groups to proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and minister through Christian resources, evangelism, discipleship and community outreach.