



January 2020

What a blessing and privilege helping couples, especially those in ministry, find true freedom in Christ and intimacy in their marriage. It's so refreshing and fulfilling to see two people ready and willing to do whatever it takes to experience healing from the pain in their lives. But why do they come? What's going on in their hearts and lives? What leads a couple to feel like they're going to crash and burn and desperate for help?

Hearts are often damaged by painful events, people, and the pressure of life. A person will graphically describe their heart as damaged, i.e. a dead heart (all life is gone), an empty heart (never filled with love by anyone), a heart stabbed and bleeding, a heart shattered in a million pieces, a broken heart, a sad heart, etc.

A couple, like the one above, though married for several years, may fear trusting another person with their heart. It's amazing how many people have made statements like: "no one is ever going to damage my heart again"... "I can't trust anyone with my heart" ... "I will never let anyone in again."

What if I asked you to draw a picture of your heart: Was it damaged? How was it damaged? By whom? Would you be willing to ask Jesus for a picture/description of your heart, to ask Jesus to heal and bring peace to your heart? God has a beautiful way, through prayer, to make your heart whole again. Ask Him if He would like to heal it.

The Scriptures are filled with statements that God cares about every part of our lives, especially the painful areas where we have been damaged. *Isaiah 42:22 says, "But this is a people plundered and looted, all of them trapped in pits or hidden away in prisons. They have become plunder; with no one to rescue them; they have been made loot, with no*

one to say, 'Send them back.'"

But in Luke 4:18, Jesus says "*I came to release the oppressed and heal the broken-hearted.*" In Luke 7:13 He cared for a widowed woman whose son had died by raising him to life. In Luke 18:15 He cared for children, taking them in his arms, blessing and affirming them. "*Let the little children come to me, for such is the kingdom of heaven.*"

He desires to heal and care for those areas of pain that we have hidden inside and have difficulty sharing with others. Would you be willing to pray, "Jesus, I was damaged by ... Jesus, what did that do to my heart? Can you draw me a picture of my heart that was damaged by...? Jesus, would you heal my heart? How could you heal this pain? Can you bring peace to my heart? Jesus, where is a safe place that I can feel secure with you?"

Each one of us has a need to be loved and accepted. Often, we don't get the love and acceptance we long for as we are growing up, so it is hard to know how to give and receive love in our marriages and family. Jesus is the perfect example of love. He shows us how to love and care for people who are not so easy to love. How did Jesus show people he cared? How did He respond to people? Jesus changed lives through love. He cared for, understood, loved, accepted, and ministered to wounded people.

Imagine Jesus, just like the night of his betrayal, when all the disciples were seated around the last-supper table, and you are there, and He comes to you, kneels down with a bowl of water and washes your feet. Will you let him wash you, will you let Him be your servant and care for your heart? Or, imagine Jesus coming to the door just as you're about to give up: Jesus says, "What if I could come alongside you



Mission

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED
FREEDOM MINISTRIES IN 2019**

God brought in the funds to allow us to meet and exceed our budget for the year!

and care about your heart? It's really hard isn't it? I'm so sorry you feel rejected. How can I care for you and help you with your need for acceptance?" Or, imagine Jesus coming into that dark place in your heart and mind: Jesus says, 'I'm so sorry you're scared, afraid, terrified. I am the light of the world. Would you allow me to shine my light on your fear? I don't want you to feel all alone; I'll be right here with you in this painful place. If you take my hand, I will lead you to freedom from the hopelessness you feel.'

He loves us, not because of who we are, but because of who HE is! He is God! He is the Creator, Sustainer and Protector of the Universe. He made you and me in His image so that He could love us and we could love Him. He doesn't just give us love—He is love. God loves you and me unconditionally. We didn't earn it; we don't deserve it; we couldn't buy it; and we can't sell it. His love is ours whether we accept it or not. We cannot stop His love. GOD LOVES YOU! And he always will!

Upcoming Events

August 2020

Rev. Dr. Gary Maxey, founder of West Africa Theological Seminary in Lagos, Nigeria has invited us to teach a Masters module entitled Pastoral Theology and Counseling. We were there in '04 and '05 and were amazed at the many African pastors studying to be better equipped to meet their congregation's needs.

Please pray for us as we prepare for this teaching opportunity and pray for each of the students that will be coming to the class.



Testimonies

Freedom Ministries was a tool that God used to save our marriage. We were at the point of divorce with papers already drawn up and God used your ministry to force us to face issues that needed to be faced in order for God to come in and work on all that damage we had created in our marriage.

My husband's life was impacted significantly by our time with you. It 'opened up the box' for him in dealing with the issues he discussed and had never looked at before. We praise God for that. I believe that is truly miraculous! I praise God for it. You helped us lay a better foundation in our marriage.

Praise and Prayer

Praise

- ◆ God for His provision through 2019.

Prayer

- ◆ For Wayne as he prepares for teaching this August in Lagos, Nigeria.
- ◆ For couples who are waiting months for their appointment.
- ◆ For God's provision in 2020.

Special Prayer Request

Our 13 year old granddaughter, Lauren, finished her chemo treatments in May and recently had a CT scan that was clear. The doctors will continue to scan every 6 months. Thank you for your prayers!

If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please contact us. Our email address is: freedomministries@att.net or write to: Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 953, Moline, IL 61266-0953