

THE PEACEMAKER CENTER

SUMMER 2009

THE PEACEMAKER CENTER

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&

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(Hours by appointment)

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OUR MISSION

The mission of The Peacemaker Center is to help people find peace with God, themselves and with others through biblically-based counseling and conflict resolution.

The Peacemaker Center is open to anyone for help with:

- Individual, Group, Family Counseling
- Marital Counseling
- Grief and loss issues
- Depression
- Anger management
- Eating disorders
- Addictions
- Surviving sexual abuse
- Life Coaching
- Financial counseling
- Preparing for marriage
- Conciliation
- Other mental health issues

FUNDRAISER PROCEEDS WILL HELP PROVIDE 200 UNITS OF THERAPY!

There is an old war saying, "The darkest hour is right before the dawn." Sometimes in our lives, it seems as if the darkest hour is actually right before it goes completely black! Many of us have heard testimonies of how God healed someone, answered prayers for marriages or finances in powerfully positive ways. But what if you are living in prolonged agony where circumstances are not changing? How do you keep from despairing? God wants to give you a lifeline in the midst of your darkness so you may have hope.



Ann Bacon Spooner

First, don't be afraid to call darkness what it is, dark. This is your reality. Do not minimize this reality to make yourself look good, to fool yourself or to handle things without any help from God or others. Choose your friends wisely. Choose people secure enough in their relationships with God that they are not threatened or worried by the messiness of your feelings and thoughts. Acknowledge your feelings to yourself and to God. God can handle your mess. He has already entered into it. In fact, it is God himself that draws the boundary line on how much and how long the darkness will last. Because He is faithful in how He draws the limit, He won't let the darkness overtake you or consume you. Lamentations 3:19-22 is a good example of both honest expression of feeling and acknowledgement of God's character: "I remember my affliction and my wandering...and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of God's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail." God even protects us even from our distorted thinking even *in the midst* of our darkness.

God will point you to Himself as the source of truly satisfying water. God has created us with the ability to thirst. In the midst of our darkness, when our circumstances are not changing, we often find ourselves emotionally thirsty, with an acute 'dry mouth'. In reality, this is God's gift to us. He is pursuing us and wants to guide us in the dark. Prayer is where we become honest about ourselves. Out of His love for us, He exposes areas of distrust, cynicism, false guilt and even idols of our heart--those things we cherish more than we do God, e.g. the perfect marriage, family, comfort etc. He shows us our own helplessness to change ourselves let alone our circumstances. If we continue to talk honestly to God and seek to listen to Him, He will show us who He is.

As part of our honest wrestling with God, we can pray His many promises back to Him, acknowledging our struggles to believe and asking Him to help us in our unbelief. Jacob wrestled with an angel, despite great pain, until the angel blessed him. (Genesis 32:22-28) Rather than harshly react to the unbelief of his disciple Thomas, Jesus invited him to touch his side and feel the holes from his crucifixion. (John 20:26-29) God is always changing darkness into light, even if that light is only in our hearts and not shown in external circumstances. Remember, God does contain our darkness. He promises to give us His grace for the moment, not necessarily the amount of grace we desire, but definitely the amount we need.

Prayer, simple honest dialogue with God, is one of the ways by which

While there is nothing pleasant about darkness itself, it does give us a unique opportunity for intimacy with God and personal growth. When dark truly does become black, then and only then does God become truly our ONLY source of light.

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ROMANS 12:18

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: THEPEACEMAKERCENTER.ORG

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When God Himself is truly enough for us, our contentment is not dependent on His changing our circumstances. Our darkness may still be black; BUT we will experience positive changes in our heart. We will have assurance that we are truly not alone. This certainty nullifies the power of darkness. Jesus knew what it was like to be in blackness even before His death. Yet, in John 16:32, he modeled assurance when talking with his disciples: "But a time is coming...when you will be scattered. You will not leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me." We will also know that God IS the 'anchor' of our soul. (Hebrews 6:19) Jesus went through the darkest of the darkness on our behalf to create a pathway to God for us. Thus, as we wrestle with God, we will learn how to come boldly (and honestly) to His throne of grace so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16) Finally, even in our darkness, we find that God (take s out) deeply satisfies our thirst and gives us peace that surpasses understanding.

Right now you may be in a very dark place. BUT there is a lifeline, something to grasp when there is danger of falling or being washed away.

Your circumstances and your soul may be going from dark to black with no dawn in sight. You may be being tossed about by turbulent waves in the storm. BUT your 'boat' is safe, whether or not you realize it. Way below the waves, your anchor is firm and secure. While in the darkness of your storm, being honest with God and holding onto His truths is your lifeline.

-Ann Bacon Spooner, M.S.S., L.S.W.

OUR NEEDS:

We are still in need of the following items:

- Bibles to be given away
- Books to be used as resources
- Children's books, DVDs, and small toy figurines to complement our play therapy room.



FUNDRAISING BANQUET



MANY THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

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Cindy Wanamaker
John & Linda Keeny

We are currently teaching a series on **Contentment** at Calvary Fellowship Church from April 5th until June 28th in room 118 at 10:45am every Sunday. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact us if you would like us to teach a series at your church.



WORK DAY

APRIL 18TH

Volunteers
Jody & Jeff Flecken,
Cathy Lawson,
Kari Morby,
Judy Reid,
Jackie Ahlborn,
Bayo Jegede,
Ken Hunt,
Dan Lawson, &
George Keyes spent two hours weeding, spreading mulch, and cleaning the yard.

