

Key to Life is Death to Self

Debora Barr

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Marketing firms offer many remedies to achieve a new life of satisfaction and purpose through travel, career changes, educational pursuits, the acquisition of material possessions, and other means.

The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross, so we could have new life--a life no longer controlled by the ways of this world, but by the Spirit that makes us new creations in Him! If we remain in Christ, we die to our former way of life--old things have passed away--and all things become new, making us new creations with a new outlook on life and a new power to live a life that is pleasing to God. We are able to experience the abundant life that Jesus died to give us now and for all eternity!

To be in Christ means we surrender our whole life to His Lordship. Every day we need to die to self and yield our mind, our will, our emotions, our bodies, our finances, our plans, our desires, our future, our everything to Jesus. When we abide in Him, the old things in our lives must die. We no longer operate from our own understanding. We instead seek the direction and guidance for our lives from God.

John 12:24 says unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. The impact and effectiveness of a single grain of wheat is greatly multiplied only if it dies to what it formerly was. This is also what happens to us when we die to our former selves and allow God to transform our lives and fulfill the plans and purposes He intended for us. Our new life in Christ looks as different as the grain of wheat that goes into the ground from the plant that arises from the soil when the seed dies to self.

The amazing thing is that we do not have to do the work or perform or strive for this new life. All we have to do is surrender and remain in Christ. John 15:4 says we are to abide in Christ and allow Him to abide in us. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can we unless we abide in Him. Jesus is the Vine, and He freely gives us everything we need for new life.

*Life Transformation Day by Day: A 31-Day Devotional.
©2018. Reprinted by permission of Debora Barr.*

The Hope Update is an official publication of Restored Hope Network. Copyright © 2019 Restored Hope Network, All rights reserved.

Contact Information

P.O. Box 64588 • Colorado Springs, CO 80962 | Phone: 719.598.0659 | Email: info@restoredhopenetwork.org

Restored Hope Network is a non-profit 501 (c)3 ministry. Your gift is tax-deductible. We are thankful for those who invest in and partner with us in this mission of hope.

www.RestoredHopeNetwork.org



Restoring Hope • Proclaiming Truth • Equipping Churches

Anne Paulk, Executive Director

WHAT A YEAR!

2018 was quite the year personally and for Restored Hope Network's office. The board had encouraged me to consider moving to Colorado Springs for several years and last year it happened! My three sons helped move my youngest son and I immediately after HOPE2018. We then settled in and rested during my sabbatical.

Between August and November, I found an office, registered with the State of Colorado, and recruited employees. Over 125 individuals applied for the two positions which took several weeks to move through all stages. Gladly, Judy Preciado was hired as conference coordinator for HOPE 2019 in the first round. Judy is a friend from Focus on the Family when we lived here 15 years prior. She produced Dr. Dobson's monthly chapel services.



When we did not find the right fit for the second position, I considered who I wished could fill the key Executive Administrator spot and right away Karen Eaglin came to mind. Praise God, she was interested though happy working at Charis Bible College. Karen joined us in mid-February. She had run Love Won Out conferences for many years at Focus on the Family and also helped with one of the first HOPE conferences. Board member Gene Eggman said that Colorado Springs was a rich hiring environment and he was certainly right!

All of this took a great deal of time and I struggled to keep up with emails and social media responses. Mailings definitely suffered as a result. So, you did not hear from Restored Hope the rest of 2018--not even in December. Thank you to all those who gave regardless and continued to make this ministry possible!

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

January--the Board of Directors held our **winter retreat** in Colorado Springs at Glen Eyrie. It was tremendously productive and I introduced the board to Family Talk and Focus on the Family leaders. I am grateful for the Restored Hope Board's leadership and investment in this ministry.

February--Our first **EQUIP Conference** happened in Taylors, South Carolina and was well attended with over 180 Christian leaders. **Garry Ingraham** (RHN Board Member and Director of Love & Truth Network/Transforming Congregations) took the lead on making this happen and he did a tremendous job. Our thanks also to Pastor **Peter Hubbard** and **North Hills Community Church** for sponsoring and making the event their own.

March--**National Religious Broadcaster's Proclaim19!** was in Anaheim, CA and Restored Hope once again had a booth at the convention. Interviews and connections for RHN member resources were some of the many blessings of being there. **Denise Shick** (Living Stones Ministries/Help 4 Families), Debora Barr (All Things New), **Brian Barlow** (Living Waters So Cal), and Debora's mentor **Ramona Moore** helped staff our booth.

Looking ahead--Our 8th national conference--**HOPE2019**--will be in the Twin Cities, MN area on June 21-22. We are so glad to have these tremendous keynote speakers: **June Hunt, Alex McFarland, Juli Slattery,** and **Phil Courson.** Lovely Salem Radio host **Georgene Rice** will join us again to emcee HOPE. Visit our website to learn more or register: RestoredHopeNetwork.org/HopeConf. After our conference, we hope you can join us for an open air worship and testimonies day with **Freedom March** on Sunday, June 23 from 1-5pm at the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul.

Blessings out of challenges. The withdrawn AB2943 threat to religious freedom in California in 2017 & 2018 united Restored Hope Network with broader community in the Church, counseling, policy, and legal groups. God is good--as always--bringing good from evil intent!

To Jesus be the Glory,

Anne

MEMBER NEWS

Albany, OR--**Mid-Valley Fellowship** is a ministry for those dealing with unwanted same sex attraction, overcoming childhood sexual abuse, or porn addiction. You can find out more about Mid-Valley Fellowship here: midvalleyfellowship.org.

Springdale, AR--**aboutHOPE** is a ministry of Cross Church and is a support for **family and friends** of those involved in the homosexual lifestyle. crosschurch.com/abouthope

Yuba City, CA--**Hearts of Hope** provides confidential support groups for **family and friends** of LGBT identifying loved ones. They offer classes and seminars for churches on How to Develop a Compassionate, Biblical Response to Homosexuality and more.

Taylors, SC--Pastor **Peter Hubbard** of **North Hills Community Church** recently hosted our inaugural EQUIP Conference for pastors and Christian leaders. Peter and his leaders have a real heart for the hurting including those dealing with unwanted same sex attraction. website: <http://nhcconline.com/>

West Lafayette, IN--Pastor **Linda Seiler** oversees the campus ministry at Purdue University when not working on her AGTS doctorate and is currently doing research on transformed lives. Please do pray for her. To read some of Linda's research visit: lindaseiler.com

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN--**Outpost Ministries**, host of **HOPE2019** conference in June, has offered care for those dealing with unwanted same sex attraction since 1976. They have groups for men, women, spouses, and family. "Outpost emphasizes obedience to God's Word, which begins the healing process. As we grow in our submission to Jesus Christ, we also grow in friendship with Him. It is in relationship with Jesus that we are healed and transformed."

FEATURED RESOURCE

ALL THINGS NEW

Debora Barr

ALL THINGS NEW is a resource for people who want to experience an intimate personal relationship with God.



It will help release you from the bondage of sin and the shame associated with sin as you experience the true love and healing power from the Lover of your soul, Jesus Christ. If you are not currently experiencing the abundant life that is promised to you in the Bible - this resource is for you.

Life Transformation begins when you get connected with the One who created you!

- Learn what God thinks about you
- Receive healing for your heart wounds
- Discover your life's purpose

For ANYONE who desires release from bondage to life - controlling issues. Embark on a life transforming journey of healing and intimacy with Jesus!

Based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, for sample pages and ordering visit: AllThingsNewLifeTransformation.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8, 2019--Gainesville, FL

Alone No Longer

Debora Barr speaks Identify Ministry Conference
For more information, identifyministries@gmail.com

May 9, 2019--Tampa Bay, FL

Pastors & Counselors Luncheon

New Hearts Outreach
For more information, www.NHOtampa.org

July 6-12, 2019--Kansas City, KS

Leadership Training Seminar

Desert Stream Living Waters
For more information, desertstream.org/events-2/

August TBD--Raleigh, North Carolina

Transforming Grace 2019

Beyond Imagination Ministries
For more information, life@beyondimagination.org

August 25-31, 2019--Kansas City, KS

2019 International Summit

Desert Stream/Living Waters
For more information, desertstream.org/events/2019-international-living-waters-leadership-summit/

September 20-21, 2019--Ft. Worth, TX

HOPE Gathering 2019

Help 4 Families
For more information, help4families.org/hope-gathering-2018

For a full listing, go to restoredhopenetwork.org/events