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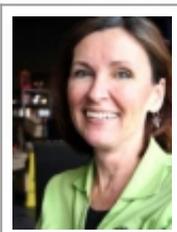
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Bridge to Hope: A Biblically-Based Addictions Program

Julie Ganschow July 7, 2014

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38



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Several times a week we get calls into our [Reigning Grace Counseling Center](#) office and someone says, “I am addicted to drugs,” or “I am an alcoholic,” “I am a compulsive overeater,” or “I have a sex addiction.” They all want to know the same thing—can we help them?

Through our program, [Bridge to Hope](#), we bring honor to God and positive life change to individuals struggling with drugs and alcohol who are clinically diagnosed as alcoholic, drug addicted, or dependent. We facilitate heart and life conversion from man’s diagnosis to God’s solutions. Our goal is to improve families, society, and our community by ministering to those who struggle with the life dominating sins of drug and alcohol use and abuse, and by promoting sobriety and abstinence through application of Scripture and biblical principles.

In addition to the treatment of those with alcohol and drug issues, [Bridge to Hope](#) also ministers to those with other “addictions.” We have had great success with people who were considered addicted to sex, pornography and food.

Why Bridge to Hope?

Daily our staff sees the ravages of addictions of all kinds on individuals, families, and communities. Our staff members who have worked in the secular arena have seen that treatment programs are valuable for changing behaviors on a limited basis, but they do not reach the root of addiction. We believe addiction is the lust in



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the heart for pleasure, escape, and relief ([1John 2:16](#)). Therefore, a secular program's ability to truly help a person is limited to modification of behaviors.

We believe that the addict can be set free from their enslaving lusts as they begin to understand the heart of addiction. Part of the solution is teaching our counselees that addiction is idolatry, or the worship of something or someone other than God.

Through the Scriptures, the enslaved person can begin to experience transformation by the renewing of their mind ([Romans 12:2](#)), and learn how to live a sacrificial life of worshiping God rather than self. We teach our counselees to look at their lives and situations from a biblical perspective. We want them to understand that God is sovereign over the people and events of life and that He intends to take the worst of sin and the most impossible situations and bring our good and His glory from them.

Next Steps

Going forward, ***Bridge to Hope*** intends to incorporate the required Substance Abuse Traffic Offender Program (SATOP) into our counseling model for those who have legal trouble due to operating a vehicle under the influence.

This aspect of ministry is intended to serve two groups of people. The first group would be those in the Christian community who are battling with substance use and abuse and have entered into legal trouble due to their use of alcohol and other drugs while driving. They often prefer to have faith-based treatment and counseling for their substance abuse issues rather than secular treatment. We will also gladly serve those who don't presently see their need for a spiritual transformation in their lives. Their legal troubles resulting from their addictive behaviors and illegal actions give us months to fill their hearts and minds with biblical truth, providing a wide open door for evangelism.

We have a credentialed Substance Abuse Provider/Biblical Counselor on staff to perform the needed SATOP services. This will allow us to satisfy the legal



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requirements for the offender education programs, while addressing the heart-level spiritual issues plaguing those who suffer with addiction and substance abuse.

What We Believe God Will Do

Our present location does not have adequate space for the multi-phase program expansion we have planned. We are trusting God to provide the needed capital for Phase I, which will allow this critical aspect of ministry to *expand* our existing program into new facilities and *add* two full-time staff members dedicated to the addictions program, as well as dramatically increase the number of service hours available to the community. Phase II is a short-term residential facility that will provide for those needing detox, and Phase III will take us into the uncharted territory of biblically counseling those on Methadone. As heroin makes a dramatic comeback, these services will become more and more necessary.

We know this ministry has potential to change the lives of those we serve. Is this a great big vision? Yes it is. Will it require a large sum of money? Yes, it will. We also know we serve a great big God who made the heavens and the earth by His great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for Him ([Jeremiah 32:17](#)).

As biblical Counselors, we know we have the answer to the root of the problem of addiction and it is found in the Gospel and the Word of God. We are excited to share more of the vision for Bridge to Hope, the first completely biblical “treatment program” in our area. We welcome your questions about our program!

Join the Conversation

How does the gospel provide us with the resources to overcome heart addictions?

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Samuel Austin

What if my wife is always saying things like mmm look at that? Am I responsible for her actions? I am a blood bought child of God but she is not and it seems as if she wants to be. I have witnessed...

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Randy · a year ago

Awesome. We are starting this in the Indianapolis and this is the concept. Always work. Thank you.

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10 Ways that Satan Loves to Watch Marriages Fall Apart · 16 hours ago



Meg

Hm... There are a lot of reasons to stop or continue

having children. Yes, God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and fill the Earth. Dude... The Earth is full! LOL What if two people love each other...

[15 Wisdom Principles on Deciding When to Stop Having Children](#) · 3 days ago



Brenda

More than a decade ago, the church I attended sent all their

ministry leaders to a NANC 2-day workshop to better prepare us to serve those under us in ministry. I attended, and was shocked by some...

[Have You Been Burned By A NANC Counselor?](#) · 4 days ago



Yulon Huddleston

I have been married to a man for two and a half years to

some one I have known for about 20 years. He always feels as if any thing I say or do I'm disrespecting him. Rather it's giving a suggestion...

[10 Ways that Satan Loves to Watch Marriages Fall Apart](#) · 5 days ago



fee



This is nonsensical, I appreciate aspects of it and each point is a proactive step any addict needs to incorporate into his life. But you do any points you have a disservice by discounting the...

[5 Mindsets of “Addictive” Thinking](#) · 6 days ago

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