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2014 January Newsletter

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It's True!
Life & Relationships
Are Fixable!

Have You Heard It?

At some point in life, everyone hears it. It's a still, small voice calling your name, an audible voice directing your thinking or at least endeavoring to. Maybe it's a shout, a screeching sound that halts you from taking the next step or entering a doorway of doom.

Young Samuel heard it in the middle of the night as he slept in the temple with Priest Eli. He knew how to respond – “Speak Lord, for your servant hears.” Our neighbor Chuck heard it as he was driving along toward the liquor store in his pickup. At first thought, he checked his radio, and found that it was off. And then it came again – “Chuck.” He slowed his speed, shook his head, and entertained the thought that he was hallucinating. After taking a couple of deep breaths, he moved along, determined to make the liquor store before going crazy. And it came a third time – loud and clear. This time, he pulled his truck to the side of the road, and shut it off. Then, when he was all ears, it came again, but there was more than just his name. “Chuck, you have taken your last drink!”

“It has to be you, Lord,” he replied out loud. “Ok, I’ll go home.” And when Chuck got home, he immediately phoned a friend, a frequent attendee of AA. “If there’s a meeting tonight, John, will you take me with you? Can you pick me up?” Chuck never did take another drink.

In her book entitled, *The Call*, Oriah Mountain Dreamer states:

“The call is always there, whispering in the soft places of our bodies and hearts, In the longing that reminds us what we ache for at the deepest level.”

- * **Who** is it that’s doing the calling, you might ask?
- * **What** is it that we are aching for at our deepest level?
- * **Why** does the call come?
- * **How** does the Caller know when to make the call audible enough for us to respond in some manner?
- * **Where** are you when the connection is made?

Proverbs 8: 4 – *“To you, O men, I call. And my voice is to the sons of men.”*

Isaiah 42: 6 – *“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; . . .”*

Isaiah 43: 1 – *“But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by your name; You are mine.”*

What is it that we ache for? We ache for CONNECTION! An expert in this field, psychiatrist and professor, Edward M. Hallowell, states in his book – *Connect*:

“To thrive, indeed just to survive, we need warm-hearted contact with other people. Like a vitamin deficiency, a human contact deficiency, weakens the body, the mind, and the Spirit.”

Beyond the need to connect with family and friends and even with a marital partner, is the God-given need to connect with our Creator. Considering that He is the One who created our parents and gave them the ability and desire to come together to create the joining of egg and sperm, which was our beginning, He is our real creator. It is with Him that the heart longs to connect!

Why does the call come? Think about it for a minute. You’re a parent. Your child is still young and he or she is playing in the yard, but still you call, just to make sure the child is OK; just to connect. Your child is grown and away in college, and still you long to connect – you want to make sure your “baby” is surviving the rigors of college classes and getting enough nutrition to thrive. And there comes a time that you wish that your child would call you. You want to know that she wants to connect.

Imagine then, why God calls. He simply wants to connect with His Beloved, and wants you to call upon Him too.

When does the call come? The all-knowing Parent knows exactly when to call, when we need to connect, when we need His comfort, His counsel and His caring. Perhaps it’s when you have experienced a loss, or just before the loss, so that He can carry you through. Perhaps it’s when you are fearful. You call upon Him and suddenly the fear dissipates. Actually, the greatest comfort arrives when it’s least expected, and when He knows that you can hear Him.

Where? These are some of our experiences:

- In a small boat on an angry sea, when waves nearly capsize you and your stomach feels like it will soon fly out of your mouth into the ocean.

- While, in the middle of the night, you watch your dream home and ministry go up in flames (literally).
- When you KNOW that your precious daughter is making the worst decision of her life and you helplessly stand by, because all the talk in the world makes no difference.
- When you are facing a surgery that terrifies you, and your surgeon arrives to pray with you before the 5 hour operation.
- When your bus is stuck on a steep mountain-side and you cannot move any direction.
- When your heart and your body are aching, and you feel alone and terrified.
- When you get a diagnosis that causes your life to become a big question mark.

In the day to day experience when you have lost your keys and your plans make finding them a desperate search. You frantically call, “God, please help me!” Now it’s you doing the calling and you know that He hears. You wait for His answer, and it comes when and where you least expect it, but it comes! Yours is a relationship with God, a give and take, a cooperative exchange of questions and answers, a comfort in distress. A call and a response sometimes takes silence to hear; a willingness to “be still and know that I am God.”

As we begin 2014, a year of frightening unknowns at a time when the world is in great turmoil, perhaps it’s best that we quietly walk, sit or lie in a comfy spot, and listen for the Call. God wants to know that you are OK, and that He can connect with you because you will hear His call and plug in to connect. Will you answer, as did Samuel, “Here I am, Lord.?”





Recovery Groups in Progress

El Paso, Texas – Anglican Church

Nanaimo, Vancouver

- **Where:** Prison

Denver Area, Colorado

Longmont, Colorado (30 miles N of Denver)

- **Leaders:** Matt & Amy Miller
- **Class:** The Mode, The Route, The Destination
- **Contact:** mattman@integrity.com
amymiller@integrity.com

Ruidoso, New Mexico

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Portland, Oregon

- **Leaders:** Audrey Woods, Paul Luchsinger
- **Class:** The Mode
- **Contact:** Audrey@yourlri.com
- **Where:** Healing Hope Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship

Newberg, Oregon

- **Leaders:** Sherri Mahurin
- **Class:** Binding the Wounds
- **Contact:** gracerecvd@gmail.com

El Paso, TX

- **Class:** Binding the Wounds
- **Where:** St. Clements Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

- **Leaders:** Adrienne Lee
- **Class:** The Journey

Missy

We are heartbroken to announce that our precious Missy, Ron's 70th birthday gift, was laid to rest on Monday, December 23rd. She sneaked out the door, down the driveway and was hit by a speeding car going by.

To all of you who contributed to his Birthday gift just 2 years ago, we are very grateful to you for two of the most enjoyable years it's possible to have with a dog. She was the most loving, cuddly and intelligent dog ever, and loved most everyone – except the UPS man.

Replacing her is impossible! Getting another from her line will take quite a while of saving up, but they are worth every penny! We hope that we will get to be with her again on resurrection morning. Many think not, but we serve a merciful God, to be sure, who knows our need!

FACILITATORS!!!

PLEASE . . . If you have a group of *Binding the Wounds*, *The Journey*, *Journey to Nai*, *Heart Connection* or *Created for Success* in progress, please e-mail us with your name, place of classes, and when you started. If we have the information, we can post it on the website and in our newsletters.