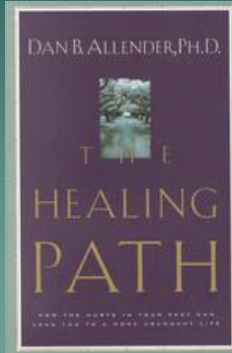


**UPCOMING TRAINING - RESOURCES - SUPPORT**THE HEALING PATH  
Dan Allender

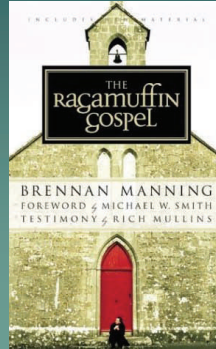
Healing is not the resolution of our past; it is the use of our past to draw us into deeper relationship with God and His purposes for our lives. Allender shows us how we can move beyond the hurt and respond in healthy, God honoring ways.

## HELP AND HOPE CARDS

These small business card size brochures contain information about abuse and telephone numbers for SPM and local, state and national domestic violence hotlines. The Help and Hope are designed to be to given to victims of abuse or those who care about them, and can be displayed in places where a woman can safely pick one up and tuck it easily into a pocket or purse for later reference. If you or your church would like to use this resource, please give us a call.

THE RAGAMUFFIN GOSPEL  
Brennan Manning

Brennan Manning's classic work on God's grace has been updated, but the original message stays the same: God loves us rags and all. If you need to remember anew God's wondrous grace, this is an excellent place to start.



Contact us at 323-2169 or [splace@spro.net](mailto:splace@spro.net)



Safe  
Place  
Ministries

P. O. Box 4892  
Boise, ID  
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SPM, P. O. Box 4892, Boise, ID 83711, or call 208-323-2169.  
An annual tax deductible gift of \$10.00 is welcome to help cover expenses.

## SAFE PLACE NEWS

Promoting safe places, consistent with the character of Christ,  
for women and their families to heal and grow.

Issue 25

April 2005

## REDEEMING LOVE

Jackie Thompson

It is the time of year that we celebrate the *good news* of Jesus' life and his redemption for all of us. I would like to tell you a story of a modern day redemption that fills my heart with the joyous *good news* of our Savior's love and His grace in letting us "be Jesus" to hurting and wounded women.

I first met Carrie in a secular setting. She was drunk, and had just given her second child up for adoption. She was alone, addicted to alcohol, facing legal charges due to her drinking and driving issues, and had just been diagnosed with a mental illness.

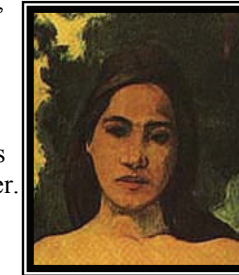
Her physician kindly treated her for her mental illness, detoxed her from alcohol, and offered her the option of coming to SPM for her counseling and social service needs.

Carrie walked into SPM facing eviction, recently fired from her full time job, and desperate for any help that she could latch on to. We offered to house her, clothe her, and assist her in reaching her long range goals, all from our faith-based perspective. This was a new concept for her.

Carrie's biological father had killed himself at the age of 28, leaving behind a wife and two small daughters. Her mother, deeply wounded and vulnerable, allowed very unhealthy people into her life. There were men who physically, emotionally, and sexually abused her young daughters, putting them in a double bind. If they told, they feared they would lose the only parent they had. If they didn't tell, the abuse would continue.

It became *the* secret that would taint and affect the rest of Carrie's life.

For Carrie, like many women



who walk through our doors, the idea of religion was very confusing and frightening. She didn't understand the *good news* of the gospel, only the condemnation that can come from

never hearing the truth about God, or knowing the life giving core beliefs that genuine faith is built on.

Safe Place Ministries (and another program we have been blessed to partner with) placed Carrie into an apartment where her rent would be paid for a year, allowing her time to obtain unemployment benefits, assistance getting to her legal

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## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES MANAGER NEEDED

Safe Place Ministries is currently looking for a person to fill a half-time (18-24 hours per week) position as our Supportive Services Manager. This is a vital position at SPM, supporting directly or indirectly everything we do. Our next Supportive Services Manager will need to have strong organizational and communication skills as well as education and/or experience in office, information, and financial management. This position also needs an individual with strong computer skills and who is able to effectively use WORD, EXCEL, OUTLOOK, QUICKBOOKS and PUBLISHER. Of course, we are also looking for someone with a vital appreciation for the SPM mission and a real sense of calling to be a part of our team. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this position, please call the SPM office and an application will be mailed to you.

## CLIENT'S CORNER

*Dear brothers and sisters,  
we always thank God for you,  
as is right, for we are thankful  
that your faith is flourishing  
and you are all growing  
in love for each other.*

*We proudly tell God's other churches  
about your endurance  
and faithfulness in all the persecutions  
and hardships you are suffering.*

*II Thessalonians 1:3-4*

There are no magical formulas for change. But there are some helpful principles.

First of all, change happens little by little. This text tells us that our capacity for trust grows more and more and our

ability to love and to receive love increases. These changes, like all the most important changes in life, do not happen as a one-time event. An important change may require us to make a decision at a certain moment but it also requires a process that takes place over months and years.

Second, change is not a race. The change process can not be rushed. We often want to hurry it up but we can't. Change that is real and long-lasting requires patience and perseverance. When we have been practicing our dysfunctions for decades, we can expect that unlearning them will also take time.

Third, change requires that we practice the disciplines of honesty and fellowship. *There is no recovery unless we find ways to move out of denial and isolation.* What a wonderful gift it is to

be able to share our struggles and victories with people who will "always thank God for" us and who will encourage us, affirm us and hold us accountable.

*Lord, I want my faith to grow.*

*I want my capacity for love to increase.*

*Little by little.*

*One day at a time.*

*Help me move out of denial  
and out of isolation.*

*Help me to do my part to make change  
possible in my life.*

*Amen*

Dale & Juanita Ryan, *Rooted in God's Love: Meditations for People in Recovery*, InterVarsity Press  
(Currently out of print)

## ALBERTSONS' CARD UPDATE

Albertson's Community Partnership Card has now been linked to the Albertson's Preferred Savings Card. Safe Place Ministries will still receive up to 4% of each of your Albertson's and Sav-on Drugs purchases, even those you make online. If you currently

have a Community Partnership Card simply present it the next time you shop, along with your Preferred Savings Card. The checker will scan both into the computer system and you will not have to present both cards again (just your Preferred).

If you are not currently an Albertson's Community Partner and would like to be, please call the SPM office (323-2169) for more information. With enough help, SPM can receive as much as \$7000 annually through this generous program.

## SHEPHERDING THE WOUNDED: THE POWER OF HOPE

*The goal of evil is to destroy our future by stealing our hope.*  
Dan Allender, *The Healing Path*



We are reminded daily that abuse, in its many forms, seeks to destroy hope in the hearts of victims. We also witness daily that hope is tenacious, it's roots entwined firmly around some invisible, immovable core in the human spirit. It is only when the victim of abuse begins to feel powerless to stop the abuse or mediate the damage in her own heart or those of her children that she is tempted to give up hope and sink into despair. But even there, hope is seldom dead, beyond any sense of resurrection.

The abuser's own loss of hope may leave him feeling powerless to change his world, except through the misuse of power and control to "drag others into his impoverished and hopeless state." (Allender) Yet, even for the abuser, hope may still sometimes be stirred to life.

The process of re-engaging the heart to hope again begins with a sacred discontent that whispers that there is more, that we are made for more, and the belief that our longings are God-given invitations to choose life. It is a tremendous privilege to prayerfully walk beside those who have been so wounded and to see the first glimmer of new hope as they begin to dream of a future. But it is never enough. Fragile hope is a great beginning, but it must be tended and nurtured before it can stand in the face of evil. Faithful shepherds are those who willingly walk alongside to rekindle trust, celebrate the first glimmer of returning hope, and continue to be involved (or entrust the wounded to the care of others who can) as the individual faces the battle to embrace past pain, struggle with a God who did not rescue them from abuse but offers LIFE and HOPE for the future.

## REDEEMING LOVE (cont. from page 1)

appointments with her probation officer, and time to make long range plans.

During this journey, the idea of depending on someone outside herself became too frightening and once again, she became involved in another abusive relationship. At some level, she did not trust us to assist her into growing into an independent woman of God. She became pregnant, then found out her mother was dying of breast cancer. During her mother's funeral, her boyfriend became physically abusive to her and she finally informed us of the abuse. We educated her on the need for safety and expressed our concern for her and her unborn child. Then we prayerfully watched and waited until she became brave enough to file a police report after her partner threatened to kill her.

In the midst of all this, Carrie's unemployment benefits ran out and she was once again totally dependent on others to meet all of her tangible needs. We escorted her to prenatal appointments, and probation appointments, paid her phone bill, and assisted her with food and the basic items needed for daily living.

We accompanied her on several middle of the night trips to the emergency room. Another organization adopted her for Christmas and she was given beautiful clothing for herself and her baby and food for her Christmas dinner.

Then, she went into labor and I (Jackie) actually had the pleasure of being with her, to hold her hand through the labor process and witness the miracle of birth. She even allowed me to be the one to cut the cord. I felt blessed beyond words. Other staff and volunteers visited her, took her home from the hospital and provided meals and encouragement as she adjusted to a newborn.

We have taken Carrie to follow up care, pediatric, and Health and Welfare appointments. We have held her precious little one in our arms and loved Carrie and her child without conditions, all the while gently and slowly sharing the gospel with her.

Many others have joined us in providing for Carrie's needs. Her need for reliable transportation was mentioned at our annual dessert and auction and before the evening was over a kind and generous individual had started a car fund. Others added to it and Carrie now has her own car and with it the ability to move toward her goals.

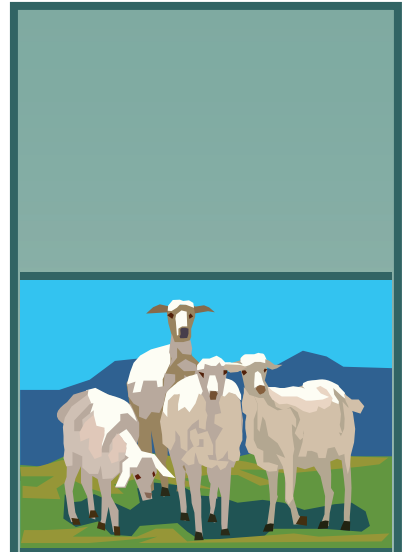
During this last year this young lady had begun the process of repairing her broken relationship with her sister. She humbly apologized for the lies and deceit that had strained their relationship through the years of her addiction. She has remained sober and her sister opened her heart to her. She sold her a van for a small sum of money and then offered her employment in her daycare. Now Carrie can not only work but also be with her daughter during the day.

Our long range plan is still in place. Carrie is returning to school to gain the skills needed to earn a living wage for herself and her daughter.

I just met with this client yesterday and with tears in her eyes she said: "Jesus saved me and did it through Safe Place Ministries." In one short year Carrie's faith has grown as she has experienced the daily grace and unconditional love of Jesus. It is because of clients like Carrie that I come to work each and every day. They are the reason why I am happily, gleefully, joyfully celebrating the *good news* of the gospel this year. Jesus is alive and working in each of our lives.

I hope Carrie's story warms your heart and helps you celebrate the *good news* this year. Your prayers, financial contributions, time and willingness to tackle loving others as Jesus does make this ministry possible.

I would like to thank the Lord for allowing me not only to become a part of this young lady's life but also to have the opportunity to work with such a gracious and loving staff, a board of directors that allow us to do what we do, and our donors who continue to support us without personally seeing the outcome. Thank you all.



*He brought me forth into a broad  
place; He rescued me, because  
He delighted in me.*  
Psalm 18:19

*I will feed my flock  
and I will lead them to rest,  
declares the Lord God. I  
will seek the lost,  
bring back the scattered,  
bind up the broken and  
strengthen the sick. . .*  
Ezekiel 35:15

*The LORD is a refuge  
for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.*  
Psalm 9:9

*The LORD is near to the broken  
hearted, and saves those who are  
crushed in spirit.*  
Psalm 34:18