

Renew

“...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.” Isaiah 40:31

Need Encouragement? Need Hope?

By Tim Sheetz, H*VMI Founder and Ministry Ambassador, BASIS Support Group Leader

These needs are vital to all of us in days of stress and anxiety. We’re living in them, thanks to the world’s chaos, thanks to weather catastrophes and thanks to sticker shock wherever we go to make a purchase of some kind. Add to all this, your personal experience of losing a child. Can you use some encouragement? Some hope? Maybe you wonder, are they “out there?”

The Bible sets us on the pathway to discover and embrace them.

Look with me at **Romans 15:4** as an example:

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

When you need encouragement or hope—for a moment or a lifetime—always always always go to Scripture. Encouragement. Hope. Straight from the heart of God Himself—can be found throughout His Word.

For example—there’s **Psalm 23**. You know it very well. But, have you read it, heard it and recited it so much that you’ve overlooked or forgotten the incredible things God is telling you because He wants to encourage you and give you hope? Read **Psalm 23** again—slowly, deliberately, taking the time to ponder each verse, each line. Yes, it was written by a man, who, by the way, was also a bereaved dad, several times over; a man who needed encouragement and hope in so many situations in his life. David wrote the words but it was under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Think about just this one phrase in that entire Psalm: “The Lord is my Shepherd”—and because of that, “I (you) shall not want for anything”—ANYTHING—not even encouragement or hope.

Every verse of that one Psalm is filled with ways God can provide encouragement and hope for you. God, Himself, the One Who created you; the One Who knows you better than anyone knows you; the One Who is sovereign over everything in this world and in your life (Yes! Even the most painful of situations); the One Who cares about you; the One Who provides for you; the One Whose plans for you, despite what you may be feeling, are absolutely to “give you a future and a HOPE” according to **Jeremiah 29:11**; the One Who loves you enough to send His only Son, Jesus, to die for you... He’s the One Who has filled His Word, the Bible, with words that will encourage you and give you hope.

Then, when you feel stronger, you will be able to share with others what God has shown you. Giving encouragement and hope from God’s Word to others will strengthen them, give more strength to you and bring unity within the Body of Believers. Ultimately, it will bring glory to God which is our chief end now and forever.

There are SO many Scripture passages that can feed your aching heart. When you need encouragement, when you need hope—reach for your Bible.

“Your faithfulness, Lord, will support me. When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your comfort delights my soul.”
Psalm 94:18-19



“See I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.” –Isaiah 48:10

The Lord asked Abraham for his most precious possession, his son, Isaac. Abraham started out for Mt. Moriah obedient, but perplexed. His mind was a cauldron of anxiety and fear mixed with an obedient faith. He walked with his jaw set and his head down.

I was like that when my grandson, Jonathan, was suddenly stricken with a mysterious virus and lapsed into a coma that lasted five weeks. I went about my work in a stoic way, my head down and my mind in confusion. Every moment became a mental and spiritual battlefield, a struggle for spiritual integrity.

“On the third day Abraham looked up...” (Genesis 22:4). It took me a long time too, to look up and make any sense out of our loss of Jonathan. I still don’t know the “why” but I’m not looking down any more and as I look up, I see more and more of Jonathan’s continuing ministry to our lives.

In the death of our loved ones, as in the death of God’s own Son, we see what life really is. The false ideas of invincibility, pride and grandeur come tumbling down and we see ourselves as weak and vulnerable. It is at this point that I lift up my eyes and see the Lord afresh. I see His loving hand; I feel His tender touch and though I remain often perplexed, my faith in a caring God grows stronger.

As long as I live, Jonathan will minister to me in a personal way. He will give me gifts of strength to face life, commitment to God’s service and perhaps most of all, a value system that is not materialistic. In that sense, until we meet again, he will always be with me.

Warren Biebel
Grandson, Jonathan, 3
Viral Infection

Memorial Gifts

January–March 2024

BASIS would like to gratefully acknowledge memorial gifts from the following:

| Given By | In Memory of |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Doug & Ann Bennett | Patty Bennett |
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H*VMI Upcoming Events 2024

Learn more about them/register on our website, hvmi.org; or by calling 717.859.4777.

- June 4-July 10 Day Program, Handi*Camp,**
H*VMI Ministry Center, Akron PA
- August 3 Annual All-Family Picnic** (PIP/Bible Club/Handi*Camp)
H*VMI Ministry Center, Akron PA
- August 24 BASIS Ministries Picnic**
Roland Park, Akron PA
- October 19 Lancaster Area Ministry Luncheon**
Yoder’s, New Holland PA



BASIS

Brothers And Sisters In Support

Ministering to bereaved parents and their families through a support system of personal contact, newsletters, support groups and other activities.



Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™

A Ministry of Compassion Since 1973

Contact us at: PO Box 122, Akron PA 17501

Phone: 717.859.4777

Email: info@hvmi.org

Website: hvmi.org

Blog: hvmi.org/grief-blog

Podcast: hvmi.org/hopeingrief



Enhancing Trust



By Dan Steinman, H*VMI's Director of BASIS

Recently we've had opportunities to begin some new BASIS Support Groups. All our BASIS Groups, including the new ones, are listed below.

Some ask, "What is the value of a support group?" Perhaps, as you read on, you will find the answer to the question.

What do we do at our Support Groups?

- We welcome everyone. Some groups have light refreshments and beverages for people to enjoy as they arrive.
- We make introductions. Members share their own names, and, if they wish, the name of their child who died and the circumstances of the death. NO ONE is pressured to do this.
- We have a devotional thought on a pertinent topic. The goal of the devotional is always to point people to the Source of all comfort, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We have a discussion time. The leader of the group will have a question prepared to share; but, the discussion can take whatever direction the members need.
- There is a time to pray for each other. Sometimes the leader will pray for all. Sometimes a member will pray. Sometimes members will pray for another member, though that would depend on how well people in the group know each other. Not everyone is comfortable praying aloud.

People attend support groups for a variety of reasons. Perhaps they don't have support from their family or friends or even their church. They need a place to share their story where they won't be judged for grieving in a "wrong" way. Everyone there has a story so everyone in the group welcomes the opportunity

to listen or to share. As members listen to each other, under the guidance of the leader, they find helpful ideas on how to grieve; they find others with similar circumstances they can identify with; they hear about books to read or seminars to attend. Our groups are a safe place to speak, to allow emotions to rise to the surface, to find understanding, compassion, comfort, to hear prayers lifted in your behalf, and, most especially, to be reminded of God's love.

A time typically comes when the griever's thoughts are able to change focus from their own hurt to realizing that there are others in their life who also hurt. It becomes important to reach out to family, friends, church family and neighbors who have lost a child. The desire to help them grows and, in the process of that, those who are grieving find their own grief eased—even a little.

God tells us He will never leave us or forsake us. Our groups reflect this God of love, compassion and comfort as we all walk together in this grieving process.

If you have time, passion and a heart to want to become involved with BASIS, here are some ways you can do that.

- Lead or assist a support group.
- Help to develop a Podcast.
- Write notes of encouragement to bereaved parents.
- Write an article for our "Parents Share" column in BASIS' quarterly newsletter, RENEW.

We would love to hear from you, no matter what's on your mind. Call, email, or better yet, if you're in the area of our office or any of our groups, make plans to stop in for a visit.

BASIS Monthly Support Groups

For bereaved parents—join us at one of these locations.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Akron, PA | Daytime Group | 3rd Thursday, | 10:00 AM |
| Akron, PA | Evening Group | 3rd Tuesday, | 7:00 PM (Sept-May) |
| Aldan, PA | | 4th Monday, | 6:30 PM |
| Lavelle, PA | | 1st Monday, | 3:00 PM |
| Lebanon, PA | | 1st Tuesday, | 7:00 PM (Oct-June) |
| Mount Joy, PA | | 2nd Thursday, | 6:00 PM |

| | | |
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| New Holland, PA (Garden Spot Village) | 1st Tuesday, | 6:00 PM |
| Paradise, PA | 2nd Tuesday, | 7:00 PM |
| Quarryville, PA | 3rd Monday, | 3:00 PM |
| Catawba, SC | 3rd Tuesday, | 7:00 PM |

Please contact our BASIS Department by emailing BASIS@hvmi.org if you want further details for the Support Groups listed above.

Don't forget to listen to our BASIS Podcasts!



Dates to Remember



A Prayer Plan

Use the dates below as your guide. Keep *Renew* in a handy place and pray for the parents of the children remembered on each day. You will be blessed, and so will the ones for whom you pray.

JUNE

- 1: David Parrillo-birthday
- 3: Christine Garber, Jeannie Ellis Wilkins-birthday
- 3: Charles Robinson-died
- 4: Chuck Weir-birthday
- 5: Caleb Austin-died
- 5: Baby Manthey-died
- 6: Matthew Mifflin-date of birth and death
- 6: Patty Bennett, Donna Mackin-birthday
- 6: Amanda Halteman-died
- 7: Joshua White-birthday
- 8: Brianne Carter-birthday
- 8: Kevin Barto-died
- 9: Alena Hicks-date of birth and death
- 9: Cindy Kelly, Jessica Simrell-died
- 11: Sarah Yellets-birthday
- 12: Jason McGill-birthday
- 12: Victor Andronie, Benjamin Krawiec-died
- 13: Brent Bissinger, Megan Hayes, Jeff Hipple-died
- 14: Crystal Allison Kline, Ninel Zaharia-birthday
- 14: Noah Lord, Tobyn Wesner-died
- 15: Benjamin Kleczka-died
- 16: Lauren Antonelli, Ron Hickman-died
- 17: John Griffith-birthday
- 17: Rachel King, David Weaver-died
- 18: Bryan Hanson, Justin Mack, Michael Stone-birthday
- 18: Kara Hocker, David Ritchey-died
- 19: Richard Singmaster-birthday
- 20: Corin Hanson, Bryan Hanson-died
- 20: Richard Hollingsworth, Brandon Murphy, Katie Nealy-birthday
- 21: Carl Henninger, Thomas Lavin-birthday
- 21: Bruce Baxter-died
- 22: Nichole Holt-birthday
- 22: Krista Marino-died
- 23: Christopher Burlingame, Ryan Monk, Timothy Ward-birthday
- 24: Justin Novak-died
- 25: Amy Kenavan, Brian Raske-died
- 25: Andrew Steinman-birthday
- 26: Aaron Kramer-died
- 27: Joe Pilotti-birthday
- 28: Paula Nyce-birthday
- 28: Mark Meher, Brian Shoff, Jason Thomas-died
- 29: Caleb Austin, Mitchell Bewley, Scott Hickman, Ashley Romer-birthday
- 29: Thomas Leidy, Mark Lefever, Dawn Wagner-died
- 30: Fred Muller Jr.-Died

JULY

- 1: Luke Searls-date of birth and death
- 1: Lindsay Smallwood-died
- 2: Scott Fischer, Mary Ellen Moore, Drew Nelson-birthday
- 3: Eric High, Daniel Legg-birthday
- 4: Meisha Armstrong, Vicky Gehman-died
- 4: Joshua Brown, Jay Butcher, Megan Hayes-birthday
- 5: Nathan Peters-died
- 7: Colin Erow, Aaron Kramer-birthday
- 7: John Kirkpatrick, Maurice Long, Tyree Long-died
- 8: Mary Grace Drosehn-birthday
- 8: Jamie Gillis, Robbie Gillis, Gala Hershey-died
- 9: Adam Herr, Nikki Pasker, Kasey Rebstock-birthday
- 9: Wilfred Ellis Jr.-died
- 10: Vincent Cellucci-birthday
- 10: Phyllis Ann Ellis-died
- 11: Billy Bauernschmidt-birthday
- 12: Joel Haines-died
- 12: Chelsea Denham-birthday
- 13: Gretchen Watts-birthday
- 14: Peter Toebe-died
- 15: Phyllis Ann Ellis-birthday
- 15: Aaron Wilbur, Natalie Wilbur-died
- 16: Dorian Battle, Jamie Gillis-birthday
- 18: Emilee Davis, David Steiner-birthday
- 18: Cory Golis, Owen Hall-died
- 19: Bill VanDerbeek-birthday
- 19: Connie Eckman-died
- 20: Richard McAfee, David McIlvaine-died
- 21: Peter Gray-died
- 22: Paul Kelley, Wesley Frey Jr.-birthday
- 22: William Steiner-died
- 23: Christina Jones, Eric (Ricky) Radcliffe, Kasey Rebstock-died
- 25: Grace E Lobis-birthday
- 25: Lawrence Latsko Jr.-died
- 26: Sage Robinson-died
- 26: Jeremy Bickling, Joshua Ewing-birthday
- 27: Janice Arrell-birthday
- 28: Daniel Krawiec-birthday
- 29: Ava Perkins-date of birth and death
- 29: Mark Lueder-died
- 30: Douglas Eckman-birthday
- 30: Jeremy Lavoie, Caleb Lewis, Kevin Logan, Dorie Williams-died
- 31: Cindy Kelly-birthday
- 31: Ayanna Henderson-died

AUGUST

- 1: Elena Pascual-day of birth and death
- 1: Dustin Hallahan, Shane Kurtz, Gavin Mentzer-birthday
- 1: Ryan Denlinger, Crystal Allison Kline, Shari Lloyd-died
- 2: Jeffrey Patton, Tiara Selby, Ian Smith-birthday
- 2: Alexander Gustaferrri, Rob Lukens, Daniel Weaver-died
- 3: Alexandru-Valentin Zaharia-died
- 4: James Phillips, Jacob Simpson, Kurt Whitaker-died
- 4: Mirela Zaharia-birthday
- 5: Peggy Floyd, Dustin Hallahan, Gavin Mentzer-died
- 6: Jeremy Bickling, Gretchen Watts-died
- 7: Winifred Ellis, Corey Patches-birthday
- 8: Melissa Bathurst, Vicky Gehman, Shawn Johnson-birthday
- 10: Gareth Marcel-birthday
- 10: Jason McGill-died
- 11: Joshua Brown-died
- 12: Maurice Long, Elliana Ruth-birthday
- 13: Kurt Axe, Jimmy Rubincan-died
- 14: Russell Krepp, Dayne Thomas-birthday
- 14: Lauren Sullivan-died
- 15: Ron Hickman-birthday
- 15: Rocky Saginario, Marcus Smith-died
- 17: Justin Yarbrough-died
- 17: Michelle Patch-birthday
- 17: Amber Leinbach-day of birth and death
- 19: Joseph Tucker, Scott Wolff-died
- 19: Cody James Allison-date of birth and death
- 20: Matthew Hines, Sakina Wilson-birthday
- 20: Karen Benner, Tina Gelnett, Julie Ochs-died
- 21: Ryan DiGuissepe, David Miller-birthday
- 22: Ryan Bradford, David Ritchey-birthday
- 22: Dayne Thomas, Timothy Ward-died
- 23: Christopher Bradford-birthday
- 24: Alexander Gustaferrri-birthday
- 24: Brandon Murphy-died
- 26: Jason Walters-died
- 27: David Hoffman-birthday
- 28: Peter Hallinan-died
- 29: Jeffrey Rhinehart-died
- 30: Laura Reyburn-birthday
- 30: Trevor Binner-died
- 31: Christine Garber, Nathan Mowrer-died

NOTE: If you received *Renew* and your child's name is not shown in the birth and death months, please notify us immediately so we can make those corrections. *Thank you for your understanding.*