

Teens and Those Desperate for Help By McKrae Game

Each day, Hope for Wholeness gets calls and visits to our website from all over the world. Many we never hear from, they read our devotionals, watch and read blogs and articles. Many though are brave enough to pick up the phone and give our office a call. Many are hurting parents and others are strugglers themselves. Often times, when they call, they are desperate. They're excited in their grief and very thankful that there is someone on the other line, answering their phone call that is attentive with their concerns. Sometimes we have to finish statements for them, because they can't bring out the words. It's just too hard. They've never spoken these words to anyone, but they're calling here and trusting that we won't shame them, but understand.



Recently a 17 year old young lady called the office and spoke with Nylene. I've asked the young lady's permission to share this interaction and all that she has shared with us. As policy, we only help teens that have parental consent, and with teens that want help. She opened up as Nylene patiently listened and attempted to get her to speak with her parents, so we could help her personally, to no avail. She believes that her parents would throw her out of the house if she revealed this part of her life to them. This young lady is hurting and wants help.

On this call, this young lady admitted she was struggling with thoughts of suicide. She told Nylene, "I was taking a walk the other day. I came to the rail road tracks near my home. As the train approached, I thought, just a couple more steps and it will all be over; the pain will stop; just a couple more steps." Nylene was desperate to get this young lady some help. She ministered to her, attempting to calm her, but knew our policy on parental consent. By the time Nylene got off the phone, she was in tears. She felt this young

Cont. pg. 2

We Need Partners Like You

Our conference is approaching, and we need your support to make sure that this event and this organization is a success. We have the opportunity to have a significant impact on individuals and families each day. This event will be one example where people will be directly impacted in many different ways by our ministry.



With this event, there will be many who will not be able to afford the \$250 registration and \$386/\$239 for lodging and meals, to attend, on top of travel and time off from work. We offer a half scholarship towards registration, and a \$100 voucher to teachers and volunteers who need assistance. However, we don't have someone funding this scholarship offer. We are doing this event and these scholarships on faith, believing that we are going in the direction that the Lord is calling us. We need partners like you to help us fund these expenses.

We were very fortunate last year, to have individuals to step up and stand with us to help pay the costs for our conference that were not covered by registrations, like scholarships. We received support above and beyond to help us push through to 2014. One of these was a long time friend of the ministry, who had not been able to give in a number of years. She had been recently blessed by not having to pay a large expense that she was expecting. She felt led to route these funds to us. Her generous gift, and the gifts from many others has helped us to continue on through today.

Ministry support is unpredictable. We have a lot of expenses to cover this ever growing organization, and we need partners at all levels. I've said many times that people feel that they cannot afford to give much, so they give nothing. If everyone who was not giving would start giving something, it would have a large impact. Some could afford to give a sizeable gift, like our generous friend, and we need you to as well. Would you pray about what the Lord would have you give?

Visit www.hopeforwholeness.org for more details.

Hope Rising

Summer National Conference 2014 • June 5 - 8





lady's pain and wanted to help.

When Nylene told me this story, I knew we had a problem and had to respond. We could not hear this confession and not do anything, for this young lady's own safety. I brought Nylene and Jacob Morgan into my office, and Marc Dillworth, our Counselor Coordinator, on conference call. We all agreed that we had to get her to give us the name and number of an adult in her life that we could share this confession with or we were going to have to call the authorities in her area to have her committed to the hospital. We called and were eventually able to get in touch with her. We were praying for her, that she would not harm herself until we could intervene. She was willing to share the number of her 22 year old sister, whom Nylene called. Eventually her parents were told, but nothing of the issue of homosexuality was ever disclosed.

We encouraged her to join our Hope for Wholeness Closed Facebook group, which she did. We do not deny anyone who requests admission. She's been able to ask questions of the members and leaders. In addition, our online resources are available to her and anyone who visits our website. She's been blessed and we've been blessed by her vulnerability. It will be July before she turns 18, when we can then take her within our counsel, part of which will be to encourage her to share with her family. Please pray for this young lady.

This encounter prompted me to write a letter for young people like this, to be able to print and hand to their parents and I'm sharing it with you. Also, this young lady is a talented communicator and poet. I wanted to share with you some of her words and a poem she's shared with us, to give you an idea of the struggle and our encounters with those that contact us each day.

Communication from young lady: "I recently talked to a church member from another church through email and I was told by him that there was no need to tell anyone about my struggles but to seek God and kinda like no one has to know. He doesn't understand because being around the people I love and they ask me certain questions about my life in which I lie to cover up lies. And it's like they don't even know me. Like on the outside I'm a heterosexual happy Christian female and on the inside I'm this homosexual struggler whose not happy at all. And I found it harder to ignore now. Its like the truth that was buried over the years is pushing itself to the surface. But I'm so scared of losing my family and failing."

"I know there are teenagers who are confused and need help but without proper help they turn to the world and end up accepting SSA or whatever they struggle with. You guys don't have to be doing what you're doing but you do and it's a relief to find understanding and love instead of hatred inside of the church. Once I believed that I did something to God that made SSA come upon me so I spent countless hours asking for forgiveness for whatever I did to him to make me this way. But down in those dark places he was still looking after me and cared about me when I didn't care about myself. I've come to realize that having a helping hand will make the long journey a little easier than me continually going alone. So thank you for being that open hand."

Dear Mom and Dad, I am struggling and I'm really scared to tell you what's going on and how I feel, because I don't know how you are going to respond. So, I'm handing you this and hoping that this will help me get the help that I feel I need.

I'm struggling with thoughts and ideas and feeling that I'm attracted to the same-sex. I do not want to think or feel this way, but if I don't admit to it I'm afraid of where I'll end up.

I recently looked online trying to find help, and found a Christian organization called Hope for Wholeness. While they aren't promising or implying that there's a "cure," they work with people every day that struggle with these thoughts and feelings, who feel isolated and alone, and help them "live according to God's design." I've looked over their website, and watched videos, and read their devotionals and articles.

They are a Christian organization and say that they can help me but they have to have parental consent. I don't want to have to wait until I'm 18 to get help. I want help now, but I have to get you to schedule the appointment for me, since I'm a minor.

There's a form on their website that you have to fill out and I have to fill out. Would you do this for me?

Their website address is www.hopeforwholeness.org and their phone number is 864-583-7606, and they said you could call them for any questions and to schedule an appointment for me/us.

Really hoping you're not mad at me. I love you and hope you'll still love me, and hope you can understand that I did not choose to have these feelings. I want things to turn out okay in my life, but I need help to get there. Would you help me please?

Dear Church, Why do you hate me?



Ashamed I am greatly
I'm struggling alone
My family will disown me
They won't love me if I told them
I'm too scared I am a loner
I can't take all the names
You call me fag and insane
I am the problem that has to be dealt with
Scare me off say I'm devilish
You say your arms Are always open
But your words Are judge mentally spoken
You say God is love and we are his children
But you look at me in disgust
I just need someone to listen
To care and you do
Until I tell you what I pursue
Then your attitude changes
And now I am an abomination
Please listen I'm praying
Sometimes I feel like I can't make it
That I'm really born this way
And everything is for granted
Why do you hate me? I'm trying
I don't want to die this way
I just need someone to be there
When I fall to my knees
What if I beg
What if I plead
Will you still deny me
Will you look at me different
If I told you I really did it
That I looked upon the same gender
As if we were opposites
I feel as if I really love her
And this thing cannot be fixed
My mind fantasies about it
Until I'm afraid to think
I've tried calling on Jesus
If that will stop the pain
Try to stop but temptation is around the corner
It is eating me slowly until I'm finally curled up
With nothing to say
And nothing to feel
I can no longer pretend
Inside and outside I am ill
Homosexual You say
As the fingers point my way
Deep in my heart can't see
Church why do you hate me?

Who do you know that may need our help? Give them this newsletter or tell them about our ministry.

CONTACT OUR STAFF: McKrae Game, President of Hope for Wholeness; Nylene Wilds, Office Manager; Events Manager; Jacob Morgan, Local Ministry Director; Christel Novella, Media Manager.

Rita Brown, Partnership &

The Voice of Hope & Hope for Wholeness Network are ministries of Truth Ministries, Inc. This monthly publication is available by email or US mail. For the US mail version we request an annual donation of \$35.00. Your donations are very much appreciated and are tax deductible. You will receive an acknowledgement for your gift and a year end report. We welcome your phone calls and/or correspondence about prayer, counsel or partnership.

PO Box 5781, Spartanburg, SC 29304, 864-583-7606, www.hopeforwholeness.org