

Springs of Hope Ministries

AN UPDATE FROM JEAN JONES

July, 2004

Dear Friends,

The past few months have flown by so fast that it is hard to believe I haven't written in several months. Thank you for your love and continued support. Your faithfulness to pray, to write, and to send support overwhelms and blesses me.

My calendar has been full even though the doors have not opened for me to travel to churches as I thought. It is still my privilege and delight to help Shiloh Place Ministries whenever they need me. In February and in March, I helped with the teaching and also led a small group for the SPM retreats held in Conway, SC. I love the small-group retreats and seeing the fruit it brings.

In April, I spent some wonderful time in Nashville, TN with my son Doug and grandson Cole. Cole will be one-year-old on July 31, and he is so precious. Right now Doug is in the midst of a custody battle and the whole situation could use your prayers if the Lord lays it on your heart.

Our church sponsored a 4-day counseling seminar in May called Restoring the Foundations by Chester & Betsy Kylstra in which I participated. May was also the kindergarten graduation of my adopted granddaughter, Kaitlyn, of whom I am very proud. And in May, I had a visit from my friend Evi from Germany.

And that brings us to June and another SPM retreat. Mark, our SPM pastoral director, taught The Truth Will Set You Free, and I helped with a small group. It is such a joy to work with the SPM team and staff. Whenever possible, Jack & Trisha come over and have lunch and fellowship with us.

Right after this retreat, I took off traveling to Virginia to see some old friends, Doug's three sisters, and my aunt who will soon be 90. I stopped along the way to have breakfast with Carol, a friend I met at the January School of Ministry. It was so good to get away and relax and see everyone and also to read two books.

Sometimes I feel like I'm not doing enough since I'm not going out teaching, but I have to remember, just like you do, that it's not in the going and doing—it's in the "being" and loving the Father, and I know He has me right where He wants me. When I'm not helping SPM, I am still busy traveling 1, ½ hours to help my daughter Kim (she is still in a wheelchair but working and going to therapy), traveling 1, ½ hours to spend time with my 5 adopted grandchildren (#6 is due August 3), and driving 10 hours to Nashville to see Doug and Cole. That's why I'm always playing "catch-up" with mail and e-mails. But it's worth it. Children and grandchildren are a priceless investment.

Thank you all for your encouragement. The notes have continued to come in even as April 28 marked the two-year anniversary of Doug's homegoing. My daughter, Kim, and I decided not to stay home and be sad, so we spent the day together shopping and eating out. Sometimes I get sad when I see hurting men, and I wish Doug could minister to them, but I know Father is raising up some men who are full of compassion and "teddy-bear" hugs and can impart the love of our Father.

What does the future hold? Wait and see with me. I plan to continue helping with the small-group retreats and to travel with the SPM team whenever finances are available. I'm hoping to save my money and travel with SPM next year to England in March and to Japan in June, and I hope to help with the second School of Ministry the month of October.

Seasons may change, but the God of all comfort still comforts, heals, and delivers.

In Father's Love,

Jean Jones



Nana & Cole



Kaitlyn & her teacher



SPM February Retreat

Testimonies

(On April 28)

I was just thinking about Doug and knowing that he's got to be so proud of you continuing the work. So today reflect upon his strengths (not his weaknesses—as, yes, we have idolized that rascal Doug into a saint 😊 and don't dwell on the might have "been's" but spend the day enjoying the company from heaven. Have a blessed day.

(From a friend in South Carolina)

I believe the Lord is going to continue to use you in this ministry of healing the broken hearted and will open doors for you that you may never have imagined. Don't let any natural fears or inhibitions hold you back from moving forward into the things God has planned for you. I know your heart is open and as you continue to draw close to Him and remain in committed relationship with those the Lord has placed around you, He will take you step by step. Just know that you are a "happy thought" to us as you are to the Father.

(From Nova Scotia)

I'm so glad that you're going on and able to minister. Father has deposited such a great treasure inside of you, it's got to be opened and spilled out for others to see and experience.

(From Massachusetts)

Itinerary

1. Aug 19 – 21: EFI Women In Leadership Retreat, Myrtle Beach, SC
2. Aug 27 – 29: SPM Team, Winston-Salem, NC
3. Sept 16 – 18: SPM Retreat – Healing the Wounded Heart
4. Oct 4 – 29: SPM Father Heart School of Ministry, Myrtle Beach, SC
5. Nov 19 – 20: SPM Team, Greenville, SC