

Hope for Healing



KAITLYN DONIHUE'S MONTHLY UPDATE



JUNE 2021

Dear friend,

I don't know if you have noticed, but our culture is obsessed with brokenness. We have endless slogans about it. We say things such as, "It's okay not to be okay" and "We are broken and beautiful." Our cultural obsession with brokenness has made its way into the church. We are a people obsessed with brokenness, and we have lost hope for healing.

Our God is Jehovah Rapha. He is *the God who heals*. He first revealed Himself to us as Jehovah Rapha in Exodus 15:22-26. The children of Israel were wandering around in the wilderness, and they ran out of water. They came across water, but the water was bitter. It was undrinkable. Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord told him to throw a piece of wood into the water. When he did so, the bitter water became sweet. This is where God revealed Himself to His people as Jehovah Rapha.

What I love about this passage is that it does not say that God healed the water so that it was merely drinkable. He didn't make it barely bearable. He healed it so that it was sweet. This is our God. He wants to heal the bitter, broken places of our lives. He doesn't take those places and just make them bearable. He doesn't heal them so that we can just limp along, continuing to be burdened by the weight of them.

Our God is Jehovah Rapha. He is the God who heals. It is His desire to heal the bitter and broken places of our lives so fully and overwhelmingly that what was bitter and broken becomes sweet. Sometimes God doesn't heal in our timing or in the way that we wish He would, but that doesn't change His character and nature. He is a God of life and not death. He is a God of healing and not destruction.

Over the past two months, I have had the opportunity to serve with Deeper Still on two retreats for healing after

"I came to this retreat anxious, depleted in spirit, and empty. God filled me up and healed the holes in my heart. He restored my spirit..."

– Deeper Still Retreat Participant (shared with permission)

"I have no real words for how amazing this whole experience was. You all have played such an intricate part in my new-found healing and freedom. It wasn't until this retreat that I realized how much I had been asking God to show me how to feel His love again..."

– Deeper Still Retreat Participant (shared with permission)



abortion. It has been incredible to watch as women find freedom and overwhelming healing in Jesus during the retreats. Many of the ladies who came to the retreats were surprised and overjoyed because they never imagined that healing was possible for them.

If you know someone who is hurting after abortion, I want to encourage you to consider reaching out to him or her. She may not know that healing after abortion is possible. You could be the one to give him hope.

For more information and help on reaching out to women and men who are hurting after abortion, see www.jfaweb.org/bridge-to-healing. There you can download our free resource, *Bridge to Healing: A Practical Guide for Helping Women with Abortion in their Past*. Also, feel free to reach out to me. I would love to talk to you and answer any questions you have about this kind of conversation.

In Christ,



Recent and Upcoming Events

May 2: Workshop – Grove Bible Church (St. Johns, MI)

May 16: Workshop – Geneva Church of Christ (Geneva, OH)

May 20-23: Deeper Still Retreat in Pennsylvania

June 13: Workshop during Sunday School Hour – First Baptist Church (Kingsville, OH)

July 10: *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* Seminar – Ellerslie Mission Society (Windsor, CO)

July 15-18: Deeper Still Retreat in Northern Indiana

August 2: Workshop – Ashtabula Friends for Life (Ashtabula, OH)

August 8: Workshop – Gateway Church – See jfaweb.org/register to register. (Ashtabula, OH)

Various Dates and Times: Love3 Online Workshops (See www.jfaweb.org/love3 to register.)

