

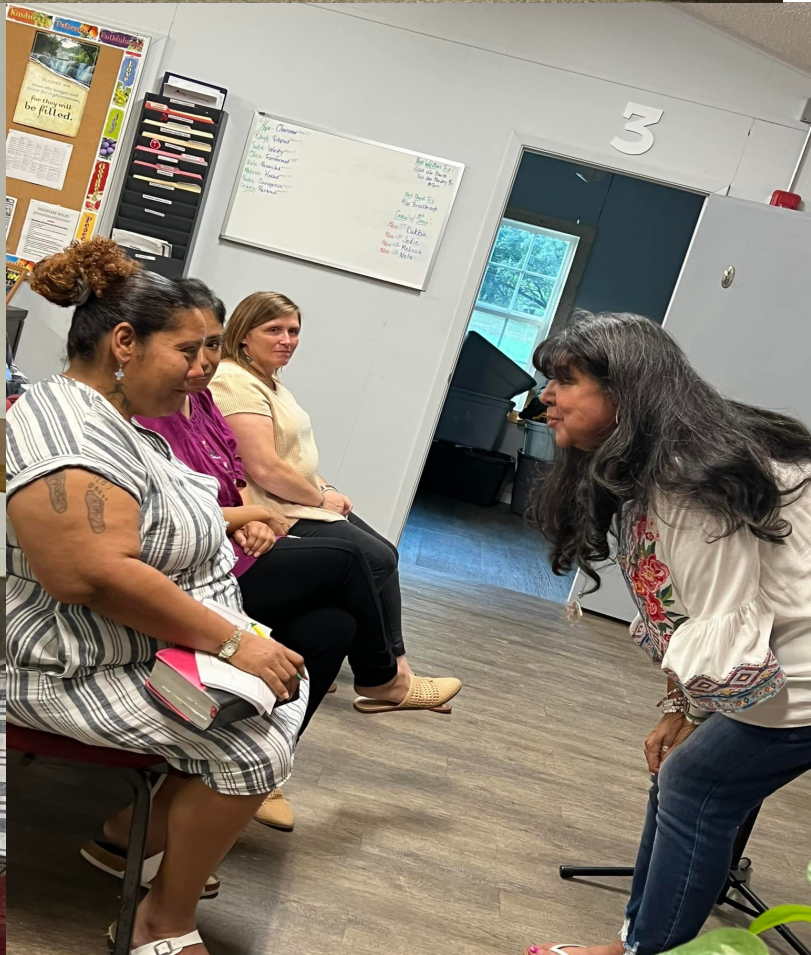
In His Grip Ministries

As I sit here at my desk considering what to write about, my thoughts go to the faces and voices of the men and women who would tell us of the encounters of the love of God they would experience through Connie and I at a Chapel service or an altar. Then my thoughts quickly go to my own words just a few weeks ago while frustrated with people we were trying to help. "These people wear me out," I had said. I repent for those words!

And I recognize that in my own strength I will always be worn out by people. However, God never grows weary of us! His love goes again and again and again until it finally breaks through. I love how God uses the prophet Hosea to show us this. In Hosea chapter 1 verse 2 God tells the prophet to go marry a prostitute who is certain to leave him and cheat and even bear illegitimate children. The Bible goes on to say that he marries her, and she leaves him and finds herself trapped in slavery. Then in Hosea chapter 3 God tells Hosea to, "Go again, love a woman who's committing adultery." When we read, we find that Hosea went to the auction and bought her back in spite of how bad she treated him. You see that's exactly what God's love does!! It goes again

and again until it finally breaks down every barrier! Until it shuts up every lie. Until it completely captures the heart. You see the law could never win a heart. The rules could never capture a soul. **BUT LOVE!!** Love is the key! Love is the answer. "For God **SO** loved." Paul says, "It's the love of Christ that constrains me." My prayer is that I would have just as much love when dealing with someone still in the grips of addiction and sin as I do at an altar in a chapel service.







Project Hope/Saving Grace Spiritual Emphasis 2022



As I close, I think of the words of Jude in verses 22 and 23 of his book. He says, "On some have compassion (Love) making a difference; and others save with fear pulling them out of the fire..." Many of the folks God sends to us to deal with are fearless, it's impossible to scare them into Jesus. But for some reason even the toughest, most tattoo covered hard head can be changed by love. Please pray that God would continue to pour his love through Miss Connie and I as we minister to these precious men and women. Also please pray for protection and provision as we travel this month.

We remain In His Grip,
Jeff & Connie Johnson

Upcoming Events

September 4, 2022	Souls Harvest PCG-Humble, TX
September 11, 2022	New Journey AG Church-Knoxville, IA
September 13, 2022	Sheepgate Men's Center-Colfax, IA
September 18, 2022	Victory Christian Center-Azle, TX
September 20, 2022	Central Oklahoma Teen Challenge- Stillwater, OK

It all began with Adult & Teen Challenge of New Mexico's Spiritual Emphasis 2022. Jeff & Connie Johnson came and shared God's Love and their experience with Adult Teen Challenge. It was amazing to see how God uses them to minister and reach the hurting for the kingdom of God. I responded to an altar call on the first evening. Jeff prayed over me asking me to forgive myself and release me from the strong hold of unforgiveness. As soon as they entered the chapel both him and his wife began to shake hands and give hugs to all us addicts and show God's love and that our lives would not be the same when we left there. Their love and fire for God was contagious. The best feeling I felt since giving my life to Christ. Because of their Love for God and us students, God used him and Connie to love and pray over us to overcome what weighed us down. I am so thankful that God has placed them in my life. God has blessed them with gifts to know exactly how to Love and discernment of what to pray over the hurting. Also because of God's love I now have a thankfulness and gratefulness in my heart to overcome obstacles that come my way. God's love is so plentiful and to know that He's never given up on me is the best thing I could ever know!



~Julie Padilla~

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