

"From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people." - Ps. 3:8

Paths of Justice

Lift Your Hands

When faithful to the Lord, the Israelites were blessed and used by God to accomplish His will among the nations. This initially involved many military battles - some of which were very interesting! For example, there was the battle that went in favor of God's people when Moses' hands were raised, but went in favor of the Amalekites when Moses' arms grew weary. When Aaron and Hur finally came alongside Moses to hold up his arms, the Israelites prevailed until they were victorious. After the Israelites' defeat of Jericho by unorthodox methods, the first battle against Ai was a disaster for the Israelites; but after addressing the sin of covetousness, they were victorious in the second battle.

According to Jesus in Revelation chapter 2, Balaam instructed Balak in ways to defeat God's people - by tempting them with idol worship and sexual immorality. These battles favor the enemy when we fail to recognize the threats, and the casualties can include ourselves, our loved ones, and even the most vulnerable and helpless among us.

Nations consist of individuals; in Christ, individuals can be victorious in their battles against sin, resulting in fewer individuals who are sinned against, fewer casualties, and a nation that is more blessed. So when we

ask Jesus to help us turn from a temptation instead of yielding to it, we're not only victorious in the battle against a sin, we actually stop an injustice in its tracks!

Because only Jesus is without sin, He suffered the biggest injustice of all - but was victorious. As a result, we can trust Him to relate to and rescue all who suffer injustice, and we can trust Him to enable us to understand the threats we face and keep injustices from occurring at all.

To lift our hands together against injustice, please prayerfully consider supporting the benefit event on Friday, September 21st from 7 to 9 pm to raise awareness and funds for OneVOICE4freedom. See the insert that has been in the bulletin and the website below for more details. - Tony Ticknor

Healing in Christ

This summer, we had our first SOAR support group for some courageous women in our church and community. We are thankful for all who contributed to it. SOAR stands for:

- S - Shattering the silence
- O - Overcoming lies
- A - Accepting freedom
- R - Reaching out

Materials were used from Nicole Bromley, a local survivor of sexual abuse, who leads a ministry called OneVOICE4freedom



that we highlighted in our March 2018 newsletter. In them, she shares her own story, explains the Good News, and provides biblical wisdom. One of our past participants said:

[T]he books were amazing and they helped me out a lot. Nicole did a fantastic job. The literature in the books helped me towards healing and forgiveness.



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Healing in Christ - Continued

Women are able to break the silence by sharing their story (in confidence) with one another, learn forgiveness, recognize that their abuse is not their fault, find freedom, and be encouraged to help others find the same kind of healing and freedom that they have found. Another participant noted:

It was so good to know that I am not alone in my struggles and that other people have experienced similar things. I felt God healing parts of me that have been hurt for a long time. It was remarkable that a church would care enough to provide a group like this.

We are now working on another SOAR support group to start on Monday, September 17, which will last eight weeks until November 5. We already have leaders for it and someone to make meals that are shared before the meetings begin, which provides convenience as well as a great opportunity to get to know one another.

We need additional help to **provide childcare** if it is needed. Also, we need a man who could **sit in the office** or conference room while the group meets - you can do your own work and simply be

present in case any sort of extra assistance is needed during these evening times, as well as to make sure the doors are locked. We will have an online sign-up for a man to be present and for someone to help with childcare for each of the eight weeks.

Finally, we need everyone's help to **spread the word** about this opportunity! You can post about it on your social media, put up a flier that we will give you on any bulletin boards, and encourage people you know to join.

How about you? If you have been through some type of physical or sexual abuse, we would love to have you be a part of this. The prophet Isaiah spoke of how God heals the brokenhearted, brings freedom for captives, comforts those who mourn, and gives people beauty instead of ashes, joy instead of mourning, and a

spirit of praise instead of despair (in Is. 61:1-3). He is at work through His people in our church, and it is our prayer that you will receive these things, too. You can **sign up here:** <http://tinyurl.com/support2SOAR>, and only the group leaders will have access to your information.



Opportunities / Activities / Resources

- On Sept. 17, the second SOAR survivor group for ladies begins! See the article above about opportunities to help, and let us know what you can do.
- On Sept. 20, PDHC will have their annual "Celebration of Life". Go here for more information: <http://www.supportpdhc.org/upcoming-events/celebratelife/> and email Doug if you can attend. You **must** check out this video about the main speaker: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkrjoJeEiqY>.
- On Sept. 21, Paradise Bound, the band with Tony Ticknor, will have a benefit event for OneVOICE4freedom. Go here for more information and to sign up: <http://paradiseboundband.com>.
- Parents! Go here for helpful tools to protect and teach your children about the dangers of pornography and sexual exploitation: <https://endsexualexploitation.org/resources-parents>.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meetings where prayer happens, plans are made, and investigations continue.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.