

Changing Flavor...

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In October we will offer an opportunity for married couples to work in group together to bring growth and healing to their marriage. You can find out more about this in Mary Jane's article in this newsletter. We've come a long way, baby!

And we're just getting started. This past spring we wrote and published a second 12-week Grace Group curriculum called "My Journey Continues". Available now to use in groups, the first leader training with this material will be offered to alumni in April, running concurrently with the basic SALTS training.

So, if you haven't been to SALTS lately you will discover that while the basic ingredients are still present, the flavor has changed significantly. People continue to come from all over the world to taste and see what God has for them on their healing journey. It gets better all the time.

Order "My Journey Continues" this fall and be ready to launch with this second twelve week curriculum in January. This new material is a fantastic way to continue with those who started Grace Groups this fall. Leader Guides (\$28) and Participant Guides (\$23) are available now. Order on line: <http://openhearts.gospelcom.net/bookstorell> or contact the OHM office: 269-383-3597.



Confessions.... *continued from page 2*

the opposite! I could safely feel my wounds in an atmosphere of acceptance in a group of other wounded people who really cared who I was. SALTS turned out to be much more than an analytical exercise in which I would leave the experience in a notebook buried in the bottom of my file cabinet.

My small group turned out to be a super group of people who clicked in the first hour of day one. The group was led by two loving and yet tough-minded co-leaders who proceeded

to pursue me in love and not let me hide behind my analytical mind and my defense mechanisms. Our group was mutually reinforcing. So, I found myself actually able to help others as they helped me. I wasn't used to that; it surprised and pleased me. The bottom line? SALTS was a fantastic



Sandy Burdick

A message and update from Sandy Burdick, who has been undergoing treatment for cancer:

I am very grateful for the many friends who have visited, sent emails, mailed cards and called to say that they have been praying. I asked that I be spared nausea and vomiting during chemo therapy and God answered that prayer. There were/are side effects but right now I am three weeks out from chemo and

experience of a life-time. It was designed to point me down the road of experiencing God's healing of my wounds, while also training me to help other people do the same. That it accomplished both missions was a God thing — He was in control, not me, and that turned out to be just fine.

What would you say to other men who are thinking about attending SALTS?

DO IT! Let yourself be pursued in your "woundedness". It will strengthen, not threaten your identity as a man and improve your relationship with your spouse, your children, and others around you. You will come out the other end a better and

more empathetic person.

How are you hoping to use what you learned from SALTS?

I hope to use what I learned to cultivate new and more intimately positive relationships with my wife and my daughter.

I'm also aiming at using the experience to improve how I interact with other people who come my way—friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Finally, I hope to become a Grace Group leader at my local church or elsewhere whenever the Lord opens the opportunity door.

I'm looking forward to doing SALTS again in 2009 with my wife.



A Message from Our Founder & Director

feeling better physically than I have for months.

Radiation therapy started on September 8 and will continue every weekday for five weeks at the Cancer Center in Kalamazoo. It is an answer to prayer that I will be finished by October 10 so that I can be at SALTS. As my daughter, Amy, says, "I will show up even if they push me in a wheel chair." After that another round of chemo therapy will be scheduled.

Also, I want you to know where I struggle so you can pray for me. One

of the side effects for me is some anxiety/depression. I have been talking to friends, doing some warfare praying and have a call into my doctor to see what she would suggest as treatment. I have so appreciated people's honesty saying that they have been there too and letting me ask questions to help me articulate what I am feeling or not feeling. The reality that strikes me is the importance of the body of Christ. Small and large acts of kindness have been a healing balm to both Bill and me. Thanks for being on this journey with me.