



Vol. 5 JAN 2021

OUR STORY...

In the beginning ~ GOD....

Before June 2020, there were two women who were called by God to begin a new journey in their lives as God birth a new vision inside them and brought that vision to reality. That vision is now the ministry we know today as Paula's Hope, Inc. This is their story in their own words:

Interviewer: How did you two women meet and decide to make Paula's Hope, Inc. a reality?

Laverne: Sheryl and I met through another counseling ministry. We each have a passion to serve and give back to the community. The more we worked together, the more we realized God was moving us to a bigger plan than we could dream of being part of. As we prayed the more evident God was in control. I could feel the foundation forming even though I could not read the floor plan. I just knew in my heart God was going to use us in a unique way to serve in our community.

Sheryl: Laverne and I have been in ministry together for several years. God has given us both a heart for women. We both saw the tremendous need for free Christian counseling, so we just live out on the limb trusting for God's provision.

Interviewer: It's amazing how God worked that out! What would you say has been the biggest blessing and challenge of such a journey?

Laverne: My biggest blessing is knowing God! To Him I give all the glory. My Blessing is seeing a broken soul walk through the doors of Paula's Hope knowing God is on the move. My blessings are knowing my God is bigger than any situation. My blessing is knowing I can and will trust God to restore brokenness. You see I've walked that mile. I've had broken challenges on my journey. By faith I learned to trust in the Holy Spirit. Along my path I have found peace in the pieces. A broken heart needs an ear to hear. A place to feel loved, without borders.

Matthew 19:26

**"...With men this is impossible;
but with God ALL things are possible."**

NEWSLETTER

The WORD

by Sheryl McAfee



It's the New Year, one we have anxiously anticipated.

2021 promises a fresh start, and a new hope. We are so glad to say "Good-bye" to 2020, a year that left us staggering from the pain and heartache of losses and turmoil that infiltrated every family for an exceptionally long nine months.

Know that God was not surprised by any of it. He was and is in full control. Though we don't understand it all, we know that joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5), that all things work for the good of those that love the Lord and are called to His purpose (Romans 8:28). We have the assurance that He will never leave us or forsake us (1 Kings 8:57), that we are just passing through, sojourners to our eternal home.

We know these things because God has promised in His WORD.

"Therefore, encourage and comfort one another and build up one another..." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Blessings,
Sheryl

Sheryl McAfee & Laverne Weems
Founders & Directors of Paula's Hope

Laverne (con't): A place of safety to land. A place to heal by God's grace. My personal journey has led me to Paula's Hope, a place I can give back.

Sheryl: We both went into this knowing it would be a challenge, but the Lord has led every step of the way. And seeing someone experience freedom in Christ is an amazing blessing to us.

Interviewer: God is able, isn't he? How has this journey God has brought you on changed you?

Laverne: When God places a passion in your heart to serve, obedience takes over. Being obedient I follow in the steps of Jesus. I pray daily for ears to hear his voice. My heart overflows with love to serve because Christ loved me enough to die for me. My journey of brokenness led me to seek and read God's Word. I prayed for God to cleanse my heart. As he carried me, HE restored my heart. I was overwhelmed by His love. God's Word said, "Seek and ye shall find". I'm changed by digging into His Word, by allowing the Holy Spirit stir my heart. By faith, I obey God's truth. I am changed by being obedient to God. The Lord said, my precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you...During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that He carried you.

Sheryl: I go into the Center always expecting the unexpected and looking for divine appointments. There is always a list of to-dos, but I am much better at being flexible.

Interviewer: Do you think God can change those who come to Paula's Hope can make a change in their lives?

Laverne: Absolutely! When we've lost all HOPE who better can we trust. Battle scars can run deep, open wounds can bleed out. A broken heart can be pieced back together. Never to be whole again as we thought we knew it. Without HOPE we have nothing. Psalm 147:3 says, "He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." God created each of us to look, act, and feel differently. That does not mean he loves us any different. We at Paula's Hope offer free Christian Counseling because of our own brokenness. Jesus loves me and you because the Bible tells us so.

Sheryl: Absolutely! When someone knows who they are in Christ it puts everything in perspective.

Interviewer: If someone was interested in being a part of this ministry, how would they do that?

Laverne: All of our staff at Paula's Hope are volunteers, there are no paid positions. Anyone interested in coming on board with us is welcome to stop by the center anytime. We are located at 317 W. Poplar St. in Rogers, AR, check out our website at www.paulashope.org or check out our Facebook page as well. We have a place and positions for anyone interested in volunteering with us.

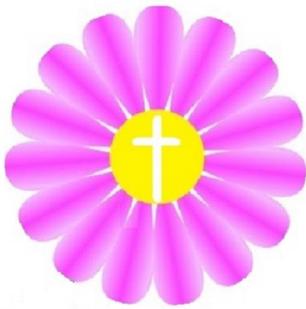
Sheryl: Contact us via email: director@paulashope.org; our website, Facebook, or just walk in the door. We would love to meet you. We just recently have expanded to provide counseling to men. We have one gentleman on staff and are looking for additional volunteers to join us.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you'd like to share regarding this journey God has call you to walk in at Paula's Hope?

Laverne: This journey that God has me on here as the Director. Began, by meeting a unique person called Paula several years ago. Paula was one of those people that inspired me. A sister in Christ that would light up the room. The passion I saw through her eyes to share the love of Jesus with everyone around her, was a great encouragement. She brought Christ alive in her daily walk. She had a passion to pray and seek God. A breath of fresh air when she walked into the center.



Paula



Laverne (con't): She served up goodness, leaving cards of encouragement in the hand of another. Her love for family, and her gift of kindness. Showing her role model of Christ, she is dearly missed. I am encouraged as I think of Paula. God brought us together for just a short time, but through her, Paula's Hope is now a place to find peace in the pieces of life's brokenness.

Sheryl: Many years ago, the Lord gave me a heart for women. My mission has been to educate and encourage women to know their identity in Christ and to experience the freedom He has for them. This is our mission statement at Paula's Hope, Inc. I know this is the heart of Laverne and it was the heart of Paula. Laverne and I long to

continue Paula's legacy in helping others find encouragement and freedom in Christ.

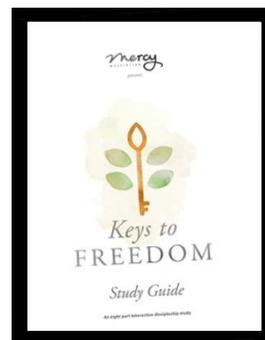
Interviewer: You've seen His hand throughout all this. Can you share what you think the future is for Paula's Hope?

Laverne: The future of Paula's Hope...Love others like Christ loves each of us. It's our mission to educate and encourage others to know their identity in Christ and to experience the freedom He has for them. I am thankful for this opportunity to serve as director. God's gifts are freely given...I Thank my heavenly Father God for this opportunity to serve, and for HIS leadership. I Thank Him for each person that walks into Paula's Hope as a volunteer, client, or supporter. I give God all the glory.

Sheryl: I want to be open to what the Lord has in store. To be able to think outside the box. To follow His lead because His ways are so much higher than ours. And we will give Him the glory!

Interviewer: Thank you for sharing your story with us and our friends today. We pray God will continue to bless Paula's Hope, Inc. as you continue to hear and obey God's leading as you lead this ministry for his glory!

If you have questions you'd like to ask Laverne or Sheryl or would like to learn more about Paula's Hope, Inc., you can contact the office at 479-372-4370 or go to their website at: www.paulashope.org. You can also learn how to volunteer at Paula's Hope on their website. Online giving is also available on their website. We hope you've learned a little bit more about Paula's Hope and its humble beginnings and how God is raising up this ministry in a day and hour that this world needs such a ministry. So many losing hope, feeling lost, and giving up but God has brought a light in this darkness with this small but significant ministry called Paula's Hope!



Would you consider becoming a MONTHLY PARTNER or give a onetime needed donation to the ministry of Paula's Hope, Inc.?
(Paula's Hope, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.)

Thank you for considering us in your giving!
You can also give online at: <https://www.paulashope.org/donations.html>