

# A Word Of Hope

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

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Vol. 5

## “A Vessel in the Making”

### Part II -The Firing

*Jeremiah 18: 1-6 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.*

Our last issue took us on a journey to the potter's house – the place of molding and yielding – the place of surrender as the Potter, who is more wise than we, worked His work in us. But clay is of no use if it cannot hold its form. It has no lasting value if it cannot hold its contents. And the only way for a clay vessel to hold its form and content is to be placed in the furnace for firing. Firing? Just the thought of it causes us to shudder. Being placed in the fire?



It sounds unbearable. And at times it may seem to be that, but the firing process is a most important step that cannot be skipped or shorted because of its temporary inconvenience to our personal comfort.

If you have ever been in the furnace of life, whether through a trial or circumstance, you know that at times it feels as if you cannot stand it another minute. However, the fact that you are reading this newsletter suggests to me that you did indeed make it through the situation without destruction.

When a piece of pottery is placed in the furnace, the heat is brought to a temperature just short of melting the vessel.

...continued on page 2

### From the Founder's Pen ~~~

Dear Readers,  
Praise God! A Word of Hope has a new look, a new feel and more encouraging content. In an effort to make this newsletter more effective in both cost and ministry I have made several changes. A Word of Hope is now a 4-page quarterly letter filled with feature articles, study devotions, ministry news and other uplifting information designed to offer even more hope. I appreciate your patience as we skipped the July/August issue in order to make this change. Please pray for Restoring Hope Ministries as the Lord continues to open new doors and avenues of outreach. Change is good! I hope you find this new Fall issue a blessing.

*In His Service,  
Cheryl Botelho*

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**Psalms 71:14 But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.**

*James 1:3,4 “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*



*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.  
Psalms 119:105*

## **“A Vessel in the Making”** *Continued from page 1*

One degree too hot and the vessel will burst in the process and be destroyed. Only a skilled potter knows the exact pressure and temperature that his created vessel can stand. Only a skilled potter knows how long it needs to stay in the furnace to complete its process and become a vessel of use. The potter’s desire is never to destroy the vessel.

Though at times it may seem as if the heat of our trial will destroy us, we must remember that God is in control. We may feel that we cannot last one more minute, but I can assure you that the One who created you, knows exactly what you can stand.

The Lord will not give you more than you are able to bear. He knows exactly what temperature will cause you to purify and harden properly to be a vessel of honor to Him. And you can be assured that His hand is on the control. He will not leave you in the furnace one minute longer than is necessary for His perfecting. You are a valued vessel to the Lord. He has molded and created you for a purpose. He will not allow you to be destroyed. *✠*

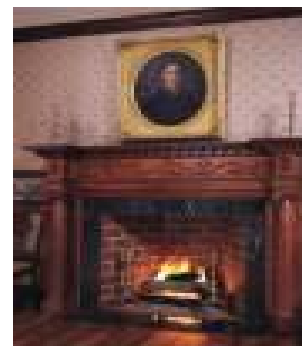
*“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”  
Philippians 1:6*

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## *Silent Conversations By the Fireplace*

I love sitting by a warm fire. There is something about it that makes me feel at home no matter where I am. Finding the secret place with Jesus reminds me of being by a fireplace. Whenever I take the time to go there I find Him patiently waiting. It’s like arriving at an expected appointment and being greeted by the one who has been eagerly longing for me. In a moment I feel welcome. I open the Word and begin to read. It seems to unfold before me like a curtain that has been pulled back to let the sun into a dark room. I settle back into the chair and relax as the world fades into a memory. Nothing matters except right now. All the burdens that lay upon my mind roll away to make room for peace - His peace - the kind of peace that passes all understanding. No one but Jesus can give it to me. I read on. The words on the page stir something in my spirit. This is what I heard today...  
“Be still and know that I am God”, His voice whispered in my ear as a gentle presence filled the room.

“Come and stay awhile. Find rest for your soul.” The flames cast a glow that dance on the walls of my heart. He is here! My spirit knew it even before I had realized it. The room is quiet, but yet I hear Him speaking. My heart converses back to Him without words – just a silent conversation in the warmth of His presence. In the entire world there is no place I would rather be. No other on earth can calm my soul like being in the secret place with my Lord. Another verse catches my breath. I pause and then read it again. My soul leaps at the sound of His voice. The flames of His fire consume me. Time has slipped away. I hate to leave but I must. He understands. I tell him I will return soon. He reminds me that He will be waiting. *✠*



*“Be still and know  
that I am God”*

## Ministry News Update:



### A New Arm of Ministry...

## Teen Talk

*Do you know or have a Teenager who struggles to keep a Christian Witness among their peers?*

I believe that today's teens are not tomorrows' leaders, but are already leading the way in many areas of society. They influence more than you may realize from fashion to food to attitudes.

Teens look to their peers for acceptance and love, and Christian teens are no different. They also need to feel accepted just like the rest, but being a Christian often makes it difficult for them to find good healthy friendships. Their standards are usually not the same as the standards of their peers. They are often misunderstood and ridiculed for their faith. Those who want to stand for Christ sometimes find it hard to do so. They need someone to come along and encourage them in their relationship with Christ. And who better to do that than another teenager?

Restoring Hope Ministries is proud to offer a new arm of outreach on the web called **Teen Talk** by Danielle Kelly.

Danielle journals her feelings and experiences with the Lord to help encourage and keep her walk strong. When God shows her something or as she says, "Drops it in her spirit", she writes it down. After reading some of her entries, I was impressed at her writing ability and her sensitive insight into the Word of God. Her journal writings come "straight from the heart!" They are honest, sincere and very encouraging as she shares about the struggles, temptations and victories she experiences in her everyday life.

We thought that other teens would be able to relate to these also and decided that a Teen web link would be a great way to do it.

We will be posting excerpts from Danielle's journal that we think will encourage other teens in their walk with Christ. And that, as they say, is how **Teen Talk** was born.

We hope that you will encourage your teens to check out Teen Talk. Please see the information below on how to get to the page.

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Danielle is sixteen years old, a sophomore in High School, and the favorite niece of RHM's founder (not that the founder is biased or anything).

### Keeper

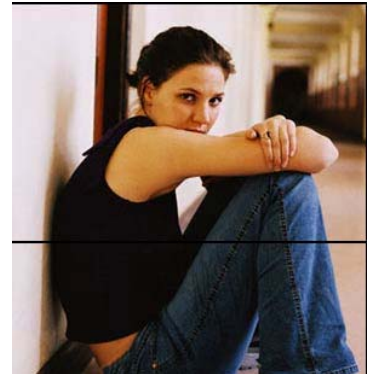
*Keeper of my heart  
Lord of all my tears  
The One who feels my pain  
The God who calms my fears*

*Keeper of my dreams  
Lord who sees the shame  
The One who knows my hurts  
The God who calls my name*

*Healer of my wounds  
Restorer of my soul  
A Friend who hears my cries  
The One who makes me whole  
cab*



## Look To God



# Teen Talk

*Straight from the Heart!*

"Journal Excerpts From A Christian Teen View"

[www.restoringhopeministries.org/teentalk.htm](http://www.restoringhopeministries.org/teentalk.htm)

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## *Holding Out HOPE to the Hurting!*



### *StreetLight*

*Shining the Love of Christ to those who live on the streets.*

*StreetLight* is the homeless outreach ministry of RHM. Last winter we were able to collect over 200 blankets and other winter items through our blanket drives. These items were distributed to New Haven area shelters and also handed out directly on the streets through other Ministry outreaches. *We want to extend a special thanks to all those who helped support this need with their donations to us.*

As the winter approaches this year, we are again asking for your help to help us meet the needs of those living on the streets. This year we are enlarging our outreach to help support shelters and ministries in the Greater Waterbury, New Haven and Bridgeport, CT areas.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Blanket & Coat Drive and want to know how you or your group can help, please contact us at the address below and we will be glad to send you information along with a promotional kit to help you get started. You may also go to our Web site ([www.restoringhopeministries.org](http://www.restoringhopeministries.org)) and click on the *StreetLight* link. Remember... Little becomes much when you place it in the Master's hand!

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“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40