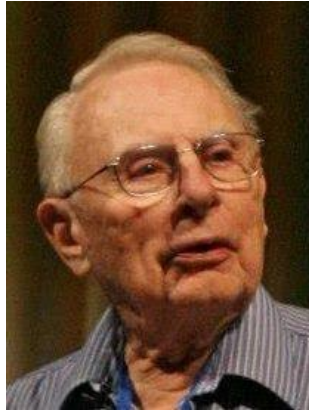




# New Hope Ministries

FEBRUARY 2017



Greetings,

Several months ago I wrote that Frank Worthen, the founder of New Hope Ministries had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of kidney cancer. He was given only a few more months to live. Upon hearing the news, he went into a frenzy of activity. There were two things that he wanted to make sure he accomplished. The first was to make

sure that all his personal affairs would be in order so that Anita, his wife, would not have any problems after he died. The second was he wanted to have all his teachings put into a format where they could be easily shared online with anyone who wanted them. It is with mixed emotions I am informing you that Frank died February 11 at 7 AM. Both Anita and I were there when he departed this life for a much better one with Jesus. I say mixed emotions because, on the one hand, he is now truly alive, and for that I am deeply grateful and rejoice. However, Anita lost her soul mate, and I lost the man that I had come to love as the father that I never had. I will share some of my own feelings, but I also want to share part of the tribute that Joe Dallas wrote about Frank, for it captures the wonderful impact Frank had on so many lives.

—Howard

New Hope Ministries is a charter member of Restored Hope Network.  
For more information go online to: [www.restoredhopenetwork.org](http://www.restoredhopenetwork.org)



We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 N.I.V.

I have known Frank Worthen for 22 years. I met him when I came to New Hope's live-in program. Once I entered into a leadership position in the ministry, I began having opportunities to spend personal time with him and Anita, and a friendship quickly developed. He soon became to me the father I never had. I have been honored to spend countless hours with both Frank and Anita, and honestly, we have become family to each other.

Since his death, I have come to realize that I took for granted all that he had accomplished for the Kingdom of God through his work in ex-gay ministry. What brought me to this realization was reading some of the tributes that were written about him after his death. Men and women who he had worked with for decades, soon filled various social media detailing his accomplishments for the years. By far the most touching for me was written by Joe Dallas, someone for whom I have a tremendous respect, and who is in his own right a pillar in the ex-gay community. He has graciously given me permission to quote him. You can read the entire post at [joedallas.com](http://joedallas.com). Here is some of what he wrote.

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"Hero" is an overused word. Though it's technically defined as "a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities," it's often misapplied to someone who simply does

something unusual, or to someone who said or did something we really like, so *voila!* He's a hero. But true heroes do more than that. They take a stand, resist the tide, set an example, break new ground, and benefit others. Our lives are inspired and enriched by them, and when they're gone, we feel the loss.

I'm feeling it now, because this morning one of my heroes left us. Frank Worthen, author, speaker, founder of Love in Action, and the foremost pioneer of ministry to people who are same-sex attracted, is now absent from his body and present with the Lord.

He'd become a Christian as a teen, then began engaging in homosexuality as a young adult. Well into his 40's, he encountered a young man who'd recently been born again, whose testimony impacted Frank and helped him reconsider his own spiritual state. Eventually, convinced God was calling him back, he recommitted himself to Christ with this young man's help, re-establishing himself as a believer above all else.

Soon, at the urging of both his friend and his pastor, he began making cassette tapes of his testimony. (Remember, this was the mid-1970's, a time when testimonies like this simply weren't talked about!) Then, as if that weren't innovative enough, he placed an ad in a liberal San Francisco newspaper which read "Do you want out of homosexuality?"

Yeah, I know. Crazy. That's why I'm comfortable calling the guy a hero. I'm certain that by now he's located Noah, and the two of them are comparing notes on what it's like to build something no one believes in, endure mockery most people run from, then maintain the sort of consistency few people maintain. Yet crazy or not, the response to



his ad – over 60 men saying they wanted help – birthed his ministry and his approach, which combined teaching, group support, and discipleship principles, establishing Worthen as a pioneer in what would later be called “ex-gay ministry.”

He would go on to co-author the first Christian book on record assisting people wanting to overcome homosexuality, establish a flagship ministry (including a live-in program), expand his services to the Philippines, and become one of the most reliable, steady voices in the ongoing conversation about homosexuality, theology, and ministry approaches. But it’s his consistency over the decades that impresses me most. While many leaders make their marks with charisma and flash, he chose the steady, ongoing route of sincerity and reliability. Despite astonishing changes in the culture and church regarding sexuality, his voice, approach, and calm manner have been among the few “reliables” for me. He had much to say, but was never a media hog. He had tremendous clout, but was never arrogant. He had conviction, never failing to call a spade a spade, but always trying to show the spade grace, even when the spade didn’t want it.

I should know, as should plenty of other women and men who have the honor of walking alongside people wanting to manage their sexuality in the most God-honoring way. We’ve got our own ideas and approaches, for sure, and hopefully, we’ve taken the baton he passed us and ran with it in ways that would do him proud. But all of us have been fortified by the teachings and example of this man of con-

science and conviction, rare qualities these days when shallowness is business as usual. For all of that, Frank, we’re grateful, although as usual, too many words get in the way when we try expressing our gratitude. After all, you’re not a man whose life is easy to sum up. But if we had to compose a one line epitaph about you, mine would go like this: We’re better equipped, both to lead godly lives and to lead others to do the same, because of Frank Worthen.

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I wish to end with some of my own words about Frank; though they will not be as eloquent as those written by Joe, they are as heartfelt. There is not another human being that has had the profound impact on my life that Frank had. I look back at the man I was 22 years ago, and compare it to who I am today, and I can only attribute the changes to God working in and through Frank Worthen. I grieve his passing, as I will deeply miss all that we did together, yet at the same time I rejoice, for the man that I came to so deeply love has entered into his eternal reward with Jesus. I have come to know the meaning of bitter-sweet in a whole new way. His life is proof that once you surrender to Jesus, nothing is impossible. God grant us grace to follow his example.

There will be a Memorial service honoring Frank’s life on March 25, 2017 at 2 PM at Valley Baptist Church, 3 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael. In lieu of flowers, Frank had asked that money be donated to New Hope Ministries, which will then be given to the ministry in the Philippines, Bagong Pag-Asa. Please make note of this on your donations.



## PRAYER AND PRAISE

Please pray for Anita, her life is going to be much different with Frank gone. There are many details that need to be attended to, so please uphold her in prayer that she would have the wisdom in knowing what are the priorities. Pray also that God's peace and presence would be very deeply felt over the coming days.

God Bless You!

New Hope Ministries upholds God's standard of righteousness and holiness which declares homosexuality as sin, but also affirms that His love and redemptive power can bring wholeness and restoration to the entire individual, including their sexuality. New Hope offers phone and group support, seminars, lay-counseling programs for men, and help for friends and family members.

Office and counseling hours: by appointment only (P.S.T)

**New Hope Ministries**

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