



Words of Hope



Irises symbolize hope, faith, wisdom, and courage.

HopeKeepers®Indy - Christian Support for Chronic Illness

HopeKeepers®Indy Celebrates 2 Years of Ministry

Our Mission

Through supportive small-group meetings and website education and resources, HopeKeepers®Indy shares hope and faith in Christ, as well as emotional, relational, and practical means to meet the challenges of chronic illness.

Our Vision

- ◆ To glorify God through understanding His purpose for illness in our lives
- ◆ To offer a sanctuary of honesty, understanding, and trust in our meetings

HopeKeepers®Indy

Timeline of God's Blessing

March 2015 - God led Marie Miller to start a chronic illness support group. We affiliated with Rest Ministries, Inc. and ordered training materials.

April 2015 - We were sponsored by Hope Community Church in Brownsburg, IN. We secured our email address and built our website hopekeepersindy.com.

May 2015 - We contracted a meeting venue in Brownsburg School Admin. Bldg. and began advertising in the church and community. We set up our Facebook site and began building our Pinterest Boards.

- ◆ To learn what God's Word says about illness, through Bible study discussions
- ◆ To involve others in serving the chronically ill, and to encourage the chronically ill to serve others
- ◆ To further understanding in the church about the daily challenges, sufferings and struggles of people living with chronic illness and physical conditions
- ◆ To reach beyond the church doors and bring the message of Christ and His love to our community



June 2015 - We launched our first HKI chapter, meeting on 2nd Saturdays.

October 2015 - We moved meetings to a member's completely accessible home.

January 2016 - We launched the first edition of our monthly "Words of Hope" newsletter with ministry goals for 2016.

November 2016 - We interviewed two senior communities about HKI chapter.

January 2017 - Information meeting at The Reserve at Hamilton Trace in Fishers

February 2017 - New chapter launch at The Reserve meeting on 3rd Saturdays.

April Discussion Theme

"Not Enough Faith?"

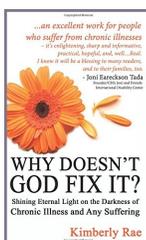


Join us for our April HKI meeting as we ponder an age-old question:

"Is my lack of faith the reason God has not healed me?"

Here is a quote from Bible study author Kimberly Rae:

"It's hard living with chronic health problems, and harder still when well-meaning friends (or random strangers) imply our problems are somehow our own fault. This is not a new problem - Job's friends did it thousands of years ago and people have been doing variations thereof ever since. "



APRIL 2017

Volume 2, Issue 4

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL 1

MAY 13

JUNE 10

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Email us for meeting location in Brownsburg, IN

HopeKeepers®Indy is a Christian ministry for adults who live with chronic illness or physical condition - either personally or as a caregiver.

Contact Information

Website:
hopekeepersindy.com

Email:
hopekeepersindy@yahoo.com

Facebook:
facebook.com/hopekeepersindy

Pinterest:
pinterest.com/hopekeepersindy

HopeKeepers®Indy Theme Verse

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 is the principal verse that guides the ministry of HopeKeepers®Indy. We believe that there is divine purpose in our suffering. God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Father of Compassion and the God of all comfort.

“The Apostle Paul is clear that these divine comforts are not only to see us through our own trials but are meant to train us in the ways of the Father and Son, to become comforters ourselves who can mete out the grace and mercy and comfort we’ve received.” Ned Berube



HopeKeepers®Indy Affiliations

Lisa Copen was diagnosed in 1993 with rheumatoid arthritis. Her life at age twenty-four was changed dramatically. Lisa was unable to locate a Christian support group for chronic illness. She began Rest Ministries in 1996 and incorporated it as a 501(c)3 Religious Organization the next year. Since then Rest Ministries has reached hundreds of thousands of people. The website restministries.com reaches and ministers to over 80,000 each month.



Rest Ministries is also honored to be affiliated with [Joni and Friends International Disability Ministry](#), the ministry of the inspirational Joni Eareckson Tada.

HopeKeepers® groups are designed to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the person who lives with chronic illness or pain, through a Christian environment.

There are hundreds of HopeKeepers® groups across the nation. HopeKeepers®Indy serves in Brownsburg, IN, and is facilitated by Marie Miller. HopeKeepers®MadisonPark, serving in Anderson, IN, is facilitated by Linda Teeple. Marie and Linda co-lead a new chapter of HKI at The Reserve at Hamilton Trace, senior community in Fishers, IN.

Notes from Marie

“Following A Ministry Call While Living With MS”

I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis over 37 years ago, and live with the daily realities of this unpredictable, quirky disease. My “daily normal” involves bone-deep fatigue, unstable balance, frequent migraines, burning neuropathy, brain fog, muscle spasms, inflammation of rib cartilage, insomnia, bladder and bowel control issues, and vision limitations. Then there are relapses, called exacerbations, when old symptoms are exaggerated or new ones appear.

2014 was a particularly difficult year. I went through several extended MS relapses, then underwent total knee replacement in August. It was a time of brutal pain and suffering. 2015 did not start well, either. In January our whole family was exhausted with care giving when my mom was in the hospital for three weeks. My exhaustion caused another MS relapse and lowered immunity, and I faced yet another health problem. Due to MS, I live with incontinence, and I went to my doctor with a simple “diaper rash”, for which she prescribed Diflucan. One Diflucan pill caused a violent allergic reaction that led to a two-month struggle with rampant Candida



Marie Miller
HopeKeepers®Indy Facilitator

rashes covering much of my body and causing my face to repeatedly swell, burn, and peel.

I vividly remember one Wednesday in January during that long struggle, when God impressed on my heart to found a new ministry offering support for those who live with chronic illness. **The call was clear and unmistakable, the vision was big, and the passion was strong. I want to tell you today, two years later, that the calling is clearer than ever, the vision is growing, and passion for the ministry is even deeper.**

Has this ministry been easy? No. Have I been discouraged at times? Without question. Have I felt inadequate? Often. Have I thought about giving up? Not once.

Our HopeKeepers® friends have given one another sweet encouragement, support, understanding, and love. We have cried together, laughed together, prayed together, praised together, and shared insights God has revealed to us through His Word. I have never met more courageous and spiritually strong individuals. God is doing His work in and through us as we live out 2 Cor. 1:3-4. I look forward to God’s plan for the future of HopeKeepers®Indy.