

Deeper Still Ministry Philosophy

The Deeper Still Ministry Philosophy can be visualized as a four-sided box describing our purpose, practices and boundaries. These include: our Mission, Guiding Principles, Central Ministry Focus, and Permeating Culture. These have been defined in order to bring clarity to the mission of Deeper Still. It allows our leaders to empower people within these clearly defined boundaries and brings alignment around our ministry philosophy rather than methodology.



Mission

To multiply ministry teams who bring healing and lasting freedom to abortion wounded hearts.

To Multiply: We implement strategies of multiplication, not addition, wherever possible because:

- There are 1.1 million documented abortions in the US each year.
- There are 50 to 70 million abortions in the world each year.
- It is estimated that 70% of American women who have abortions identify themselves as Christians. So, it is a huge pastoral care issue in the local church.

Our long-term growth strategy includes five primary channels through which to multiply our ministry.

1. Through starting a Deeper Still Chapter as its own non-profit entity.
2. Through Deeper Still chapters in PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER MINISTRIES as a part of their post-abortion ministry.
3. Through Deeper Still chapters in CHURCHES in their women's and men's ministries.
4. Through partnerships with MISSION AGENCIES, CHURCHES AND OTHER MINISTRY MOVEMENTS.
5. Through the WORLD WIDE WEB by our Deeper Still Virtual Retreats conducted by our Virtual Missionary Ministry Team members.

Ministry teams: Our ministry staff and volunteers are more productive and effective when they serve on ministry teams and in community with one another.

Who bring healing and lasting freedom is:

1. Evangelistic – We ensure that our retreat participants and volunteers have been introduced to Jesus Christ, who is the Savior and Healer, and that our team members are Christ followers.
2. Spiritually Transforming – As our participants fully engage in the spiritual legal work and prayer ministry that we lead them through, they are transformed spiritually and emotionally. They are set free from guilt, shame and pain.
3. Deep – God's healing power does a quick work when He is allowed to do a deep work.
4. Lasting – When our participants experience spiritual and emotional transformation, and then live it out in healthy Christian community, their healing is deep and lasting.
5. Holy Spirit Led – It is Jesus Christ who heals through the empowerment and leading of the Holy Spirit.
6. Our Preferred Approach – Good, Better, Best – We believe the *best* approach is to facilitate this healing process in a weekend retreat setting. However, we recognize that some circumstances may require other venues, such as a virtual option.

To abortion wounded hearts – The women who've had abortions and the fathers of those children are the primary focus. However, we acknowledge abortion wounds also extend to family, friends and others who participated in those abortions, such as medical professionals, clergy and counselors.

Our Guiding Principles

Word Based & Spirit Empowered – The word of God revealed by the Holy Spirit is what brings the revelation of Jesus Christ, as the Redeemer and the Healer. Therefore, the teaching of the Scriptures and the empowerment and leading of the Holy Spirit are both fully and intentionally embraced.

Prayer & Worship Saturated – Because we are a Christ centered ministry, our foundation of prayer and worship both precedes and exceeds the breadth of our ministry activities. We saturate prayer and worship into every aspect of what we do.

Healing Differentiated – Healing and lasting freedom can only be found in the stripes, blood, and sufficiency of the cross of Christ. This belief differentiates our ministry methods from other models that rely primarily on traditional counseling or therapy.

Team Led – Believing that there is strength in multi-gifted team members and in the voice of multiple leaders, we are committed to a paradigm of team leadership under a gifted peer leader who is also an organizational leader with vision for multiplication.

Identities Restored – The consequences of abortion are systemic and can damage and redefine core identity issues for both women and men. Therefore healing and lasting freedom can only be secured when a person's core God-designed identity, is restored.

Environments Prepared – We believe that the most conducive environment for healing wherever possible includes: where God's presence and peace are invited and honored; physical and emotional safety; beauty; comforts; privacy and the use of tangible symbols to represent spiritual realities.

Diversity Respected – The abortion wounded heart can be found in all social, economic, racial, cultural, gender, educational and religious strata. We are intentional (as God leads) to reach into all of these strata and to culturally adapt our strategies and methods wherever possible. For example, our outreach to the Chinese and Hispanic communities.

Advocacy Affirmed – The evidence of healing includes the freedom to speak and to act. Advocacy has unique forms of expression, according to the individual. But everyone is strongly encouraged to walk out the fruit of their healing through love and good deeds.

Ministry Resourced – A well resourced ministry is more likely to be an effective organization. We embrace that ultimately, it is the Lord who is the provider of all our resources. Therefore we must both pray and intentionally and effectively work to recruit the resources of people, strategy, and finances.

Our Central Ministry Focus

To Develop, Empower and Release Healthy, Healing Leaders

Develop: to Identify, Recruit and Equip

Empower: to Train, Mentor and Apprentice

Release: to Provide Opportunity & Promotion for Leadership into their ministry calling

We develop and provide venues for:

Training on how to minister in Deeper Still

Educating on the abortion wounded heart

Providing tools and resources

Ministering healing and lasting freedom

Advancing a lifestyle of prayer and worship

Our Permeating Culture

A Culture of Health and Community

Healthy Leaders and Team Members

1. Growing in spiritual, emotional, and relational health
2. Become contributing members of a healthy team culture

Healthy Retreat Participants – Men & Women

1. Living in the light of the truth
2. Free from guilt and shame
3. Spiritually reconciled with their aborted children
4. At peace with their redemptive grieving
5. Walking in health and purity in their relationships
6. Have the expectation for restoration in their life
7. Gain their sense of destiny and find their voice
8. Free to worship God with a whole heart
9. Find their place in Christian community

Community: For men and women to be restored back into authentic Christian fellowship and into the church they need to experience healthy, Christian community so that hope for community can be restored. The Deeper Still ministry team models a community of servant leadership that serves one another, defers to one another, submits to one another and honors one another. This strength and humility restores hope to those wounded by jealousy, judgment and rejection.