

## June Hunt's Hope[less] for the Heart<sup>1</sup>

Over the years we have been asked about June Hunt and her ministry and radio program "Hope for the Heart." We had declined to evaluate her work because we were devoting our time to reviewing the impact and intrusion of psychoheresy in the church and later to critiquing the psychotherapeutic direction of the biblical counseling movement as it followed the problem-centered format of psychotherapy with its dependence on sinful conversations. Recently, we decided to look into June Hunt's ministry, "Hope for the Heart," and found that her ministry offers both psychotherapy and her form of biblical counseling, which she largely conducts over the radio.

The standard we have used to take on an evaluation of a ministry is the popularity of the person and program and the amount of impact it has on believers. Everything we looked at pointed in the direction of high influence, high impact, and high inundation among believers. One indication of popularity and impact is the amount of money taken in by an organization as revealed by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filings. Some non-profit IRS filings are available to the public online. In the case of Hope for the Heart, only four years (2013-2016) were available for us to examine. A change in status apparently occurred, since their 2017 and 2018 filings were not available. The total revenue for Hope for the Heart for 2013-2016 was \$43,231,765.

### June Hunt

The following information is provided on the cover of all of her numerous "Counseling Calls-LIVE" CDs:

JUNE HUNT is the founder of HOPE FOR THE HEART, a world-

wide counseling ministry impacting over 60 countries with resources in more than 33 languages. June is heard daily on over 300 outlets on her 30-minute award-winning broadcast of the same name and on HOPE IN THE NIGHT—her live 1-hour call-in counseling program.

As an author, June has written many books including, *Seeing Yourself Through God's Eyes*, *Counseling Through Your Bible Handbook*, and *How to Forgive... When You Don't Feel Like It*.

Her landmark contributions to the field of counseling with her 100 topical *Counseling Keys* ... were recently compiled to create the *Biblical Counseling Library*.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, Hunt has various honors and awards from the National Religious Broadcasters, as well as other organizations. She was granted an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Criswell College and an honorary Doctor in Literature from Dallas Baptist University.<sup>3</sup>

Hunt's influence is wide-spread and impacts numerous other ministries through The Hope Center in Plano, Texas, of which she is the founder and CEO. The Hope Center is a \$46 million center, which opened in 2008,<sup>4</sup> and is "a permanent home for nearly 50 nonprofit Christian ministries that share common space, a technology backbone, and amenities under one roof."<sup>5</sup>

To learn more about June Hunt and Hope for the Heart, we went to her website and noticed that she describes what she does as "biblical counseling" and offers a large number of resources on that topic. We will demonstrate that Hunt is guilty of psychoheresy because of her

embrace of psychotherapy and also because she uses the psychotherapy format in what she calls "biblical counseling."

We will be responding to only two facets of Hunt's extensive and expansive ministry. We will respond first to "HopeWorks Counseling" to demonstrate that Hunt is guilty of psychoheresy and second to her "Counseling Calls—LIVE," which provide examples of the biblically errant psychotherapy format of some of her "biblical counseling."

### HopeWorks Counseling

Hunt's website advertises "HopeWorks Counseling" with the following description: "HopeWorks **blends psychological principles with the wisdom of biblical truth** to provide professional and compassionate help"<sup>6</sup> (bold added). The counseling services are offered at the Center in Plano, Texas, but they are also available internationally at "HOPE-sponsored walk-in counseling centers." Hunt's ministry is Hope Center's "anchor tenant and offers walk-in counseling by appointment."<sup>7</sup>

The "Sessions & Fees" section states: "Counseling visits are offered in 50-minute sessions. HopeWorks has established fees for Ph.D, LPC and LMFT counselors," LPCs are Licensed Professional Counselors and LMFTs are Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists. The section also says "Additional charges are incurred for Psychological, Psychoeducational and ADHD [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder] Evaluations." Under "Fees" are the

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Letters

from



our

Readers

Hello Martin and Deidre,

I just finished reading through your latest newsletter about Idols of the heart. I then sat down to do some Bible reading, and without planning the timing, happened to be on 1st Corinthians 4. I read this: 1 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV): "Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God." Only God will disclose the purposes of the heart. What do you know?

I'm currently listening to an audio-book biography of Jonathan Edwards, by George Marsden. Your article will help give me some perspective on the Puritans.

Iowa

Hi Martin / Deidre,

As I read the latest newsletter, for which I am thankful, I could see the parallel of the Puritan's one-up/one-down clerical hierarchy to the ways of Gnostics and Nicolaitans, and of course BCM [biblical counseling movement] counselors.

I think the propensity for people to align under leadership in worldly ways, as opposed to biblical roles, extends the fertile ground for the syncretism we see today.

We need more person to person ministry as your books promote, but also need more Christians to be willing to accept and adopt biblical roles in personal ministry in the body of Christ. People do not want to take up their responsibility to minister, or think that they can't.

The itching ears of the people (2 Tim 4:3) opens the doors for false teaching, which includes so-called biblical counseling, and what we're seeing is as much a symptom of the church as it is of church leadership. In other words, in biblical counseling the people are getting what they want, something that caters to their flesh, rather than fulfilling their ordained roles to help each other. There are many who are willing to provide the carnal teaching the people want. So sad.

Thanks again (and for the reminder that covetousness is idolatry; that ministered to me).

New York

Hello,

Last week I read most of the book *Idols of a Mother's Heart* by Christina Fox, but something seemed off. She often quotes Tim Keller (*Counterfeit Gods*) and Elyse Fitzpatrick (*Idols of the Heart*). On page 64, she refers to Ezekiel 14:3. 'God said that the elders of Israel placed idols on the throne of their hearts.' I do not understand where she gets the 'throne' concept from Scripture. She did not see the distinction which you discovered between IN and OF.

In trying to read the book last week and make sense in applying it to my life, I finally gave up and just glanced through the rest of the book. So your newsletter coming today greatly interested me. I had never heard of the Puritan approach, but that is an interesting historical component to consider. I was able to go through more of the Fox book tonight and mark so many places where idols are mentioned, as if she is trying to help us dig deep into our old self.

Now, I find an over-emphasis on a deep soul-searching and categorizing of idols which reside in the old man of our heart. Focus on all of the sins and idols we can find within, and thus live in guilt and shame. We can confess and repent of all of these idols, move on to

forgiveness in Christ, but then constantly be on the lookout for more idols. When do we get free from this idolatry-search, and focus our life on worshipping Christ and enjoying His mercy and grace which surrounds our daily lives, even in the midst of trials? We are to put off the old man, and to put on the new man in Christ. Live in His joy and peace. His Peace in knowing that I do not have to explore my inner soul and categorize my idols and sins, but knowing that He paid for the sins of my old self. Rejoice in the new life in Christ!

Thank you for explaining this!!

Email

Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Bobgan!

I hope all is well with you. I found your website today and it's refreshing to read from someone else the things I've discovered from being in biblical marriage counseling at a supposedly theologically sound church. The counselor is a woman half my age, who's only been for three years. From the beginning, it seemed to me that she relies far more on psychological jargon and philosophy than Scripture, and the Scripture she does use is twisted to fit her psychological bent. There's no talk of sin or the Gospel, etc., only blame for me and psychological excuses for my wife. And then in the last few days, my wife was given a book by Leslie Vernick. I investigated Ms. Vernick's views and am horrified to see how she thinks and counsels. She rejects the traditional view of biblical grounds for divorce (porneia) and other troubling things. She uses Scripture deftly but uses it to teach heresy, maybe even doctrines of devils. This almost seems to be II Timothy 3:5-8 unfolding before my eyes.

Email

*Thank you for writing to us. We read every letter, even though we are not able to answer each one personally.*



## June Hunt's Hope[less] for the Heart *(continued from page 1)*

words: "We accept credit card, check, cash, and flex spending cards."

The testimonies of two of the state licensed psychotherapists indicate that they use a systems theory approach to counseling. An early developer of family systems therapy is psychiatrist Dr. Murray Bowen. There are many forms of family therapy based on systems theory. These are all psychological systems, none of which existed before the middle of the last century.

Systems theory and family system psychotherapy, along with almost 500 other psychotherapies did not exist before World War II. Each state licenses its own psychotherapists. The first state to license a clinical psychologist was California in 1958, and in 1963 California issued the Marriage and Family Therapy license.

Hunt's website advertises a two-day "Living Beyond Symposium" titled "Get Your Life Back" meeting at the Hope Center in Plano, Texas. In addition to Hunt, two other speakers are listed. Both are licensed psychotherapists with considerable psychotherapy experience. Also, Continuing Education Units are available for the following state licenses: Licensed Professional Counselor, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists in Texas.<sup>8</sup>

As mentioned in a previous article: After six university degrees between us, with one being a doctorate in educational psychology, the two of us concluded that psychotherapy was a hoax being perpetrated on the American public. The doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Colorado qualified one of us for the Clinical Psychologist license in California, which was never applied for. Some years later the president of the Association for Humanistic Psychology, Dr. Lawrence LeShan, said: "Psychotherapy may be known in the future as the greatest hoax of the

twentieth century."<sup>9</sup> It may eventually be recognized as one of the greatest heresies of modern-day Christianity.

### Psychological Seduction

Hunt and many others like her must not believe in the sufficiency of Scripture for the trials, troubles and tribulations of life, or why has she promoted the unholy psychological theories and therapies of the world? No one has at any time, by any means or manner, shown that one of the almost 500 forms of psychotherapy, including family systems, is more effective in helping individuals in need than the God-given ministry found in the Word of God ministered by the indwelling Holy Spirit in the fellowship of the saints.

**Hope for the Heart is a prime example of the psychological seduction of Christianity.**

We contend that the kinds of mental-emotional-behavioral problems of living that are generally therapized by a psychotherapist (psychological counselor) should be ministered to by biblical encouragement, exhortation, preaching, teaching, evangelizing, and fellowshiping, all of which depend solely upon the truth of God's Word, without incorporating the unproven and unscientific psychological opinions of men.

The psychological seduction of Christianity is a most subtle and widespread leaven in the church. It has permeated the entire loaf and is stealthily starving the sheep. It promises far more than it can deliver and what it does deliver is not the food that nourishes Christians. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (John 6:35.) Jesus is

"the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), not Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Alfred Adler, Carl Rogers, Albert Ellis, Erich Fromm, Abraham Maslow, Murray Bowen or any other such men. Jesus, the apostles, and the early church did not send the sheep out to feed in other pastures. They did not turn to man-made systems to understand the nature of man or to discover answers to the problems of living. Jesus offered Himself as the bread of life. He gives the pure water of the Word which springs up into eternal life. When Hunt "blends psychological principles with the wisdom of biblical truth," she ends up with an unholy mixture, which we call "psychoheresy."

### Psychoheresy

We coined the word *psychoheresy* because what we describe is a psychological heresy. It is heresy, because systems theory and all other psychotherapy theories are departures from the fundamental truths of the Gospel as they incorporate using unproven and unscientific psychological opinions of men, in contrast to maintaining absolute confidence in the biblical truth of God. They are denials of the **sufficiency of Scripture** for the issues of life now treated with psychological counseling, which utilizes the very wisdom of man about which God has warned His people (1 Cor. 2). Psychoheresy is also the intrusion of such theories into the preaching and practice of Christianity, especially when they contradict or compromise biblical Christianity in terms of the nature of man, how he is to live, and how he changes. The subtitle of our book is *The Psychological Seduction of Christianity*, which is a seduction that we document as having already happened and that continues to deceive many Christians. Hope for the Heart is a prime example of the psychological seduction of Christianity.

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## Ψ Psych Notes

**Psych Notes are selected from numerous articles from professional journals and other publications. The ones used are chosen for their possible interest to readers, but not necessarily because this ministry recommends them.**

### Alzheimer's & Dental Health

“You may have heard about the link between gum disease and heart disease—how the chronic inflammation associated with gum disease (gingivitis) raises the risk of heart attack and other cardiac problems. In a recent study, researchers in Norway have found a link between gingivitis and Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The research, published in the journal *Science Advances*, notes that the bacteria that cause gum disease can travel from the mouth to the brain, where it produces a protein that can harm neurons. That, in turn, leads to AD and memory loss. The researchers noted that the bacteria alone do not cause AD, but rather the presence of the bacteria is associated with higher Alzheimer’s risk and a faster progression of the disease. Proper dental hygiene, including brushing and flossing daily, should be done regardless of its other health benefits. But if you have been diagnosed with gingivitis—a chronic condition that requires ongoing maintenance—brushing, flossing and regular visits to your dentist or periodontist (a specialist in treating serious gum disease) takes on even more importance. This is especially true if AD runs in your family. The Norwegian researchers are working on medication that blocks the harmful enzymes from the bacteria, which could help prevent or delay the onset of Alzheimer’s disease. The drug should be tested later this year” (“Brush Your Teeth to Help Lower Alzheimer’s Risk,” *Mind, Mood & Memory*, Vol. 15, No. 8, p. 5, used with permission).

### Inflammation and Mood Disorders

“Increasingly, clinical research has found inflammatory correlates of psychiatric disorders, particularly mood symptomatology. Biological measures may provide greater precision in many cases and may capture clinically-relevant inflammatory signposts, such as central obesity risk, inflammation-associated co-morbid medical conditions, or proinflammatory lifestyle choices. In order to expand understanding of the role of inflammation in mood disorders, we propose a more inclusive clinical model for capturing inflammasome phenotype by identifying clinically-relevant inflammatory phenotypes grounded in biology. Our model includes chronic conditions and lifestyle behaviors associated with clinically elevated inflammation in mood disorders.

“Elements of this ‘inflamed depression’ model include: obesity, low HDL [high-density lipoprotein] concentrations, elevated triglyceride concentrations, chronically elevated blood pressure, clinical diagnosis of hypothyroidism, migraines, rheumatoid arthritis, adult onset diabetes, inflammatory bowel diseases, inflammatory skin conditions, and lifestyle factors including smoking cigarettes and chronic stress” (Abstract from “A Clinical Model for Identifying an Inflammatory Phenotype in Mood Disorders,” *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 2/10/2019, <https://www.sciencedirect.com>).

### New Brain Neurons?

“For decades, scientists have debated whether the birth of new neurons—called neurogenesis—was possible in an area of the brain that is responsible for learning, memory and mood regulation. A growing body of research suggested they could, but then a *Nature* paper last year raised doubts.

“Now, a new study published today in another of the *Nature* family of journals—*Nature Medicine*—tips the bal-

ance back toward ‘yes.’ In light of the new study, ‘I would say that there is an overwhelming case for the neurogenesis throughout life in humans,’ Jonas Frisén, a professor at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said in an e-mail. Frisén, who was not involved in the new research, wrote a News and Views about the study in the current issue of *Nature Medicine*....

“Llorens-Martin said she began carefully collecting and preserving brain samples in 2010, when she realized that many brains stored in brain banks were not adequately preserved for this kind of research. In their study, she and her colleagues examined the brains of people who died with their memories intact, and those who died at different stages of Alzheimer’s disease. She found that the brains of people with Alzheimer’s showed few if any signs of new neurons in the hippocampus—with less signal the further along the people were in the course of the disease. This suggests that the loss of new neurons—if it could be detected in the living brain—would be an early indicator of the onset of Alzheimer’s, and that promoting new neuronal growth could delay or prevent the disease that now affects more than 5.5 million Americans” (excerpted from Karen Weintraub “The Adult Brain Does Grow New Neurons After All, Study Says,” 3/25/2019, *Scientific American*, [www.scientificamerican.com](http://www.scientificamerican.com)).

### Useless MBTI Still Popular

“The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is one of the most popular personality tests in the world. It’s also one of the most regularly debunked.... The test sorts people into one of 16 four-letter personality types based on their preferences for Sensing (S) or Intuition (N), Extraversion (E) or Introversion (I), Thinking (T) or Feeling (F), and Judging (J) or Perceiving (P).... Many researchers, however, have long questioned the MBTI’s scientific merit.

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## Psych Notes

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“In social science, we use four standards: are the categories reliable, valid, independent, and comprehensive?’ Adam Grant, a professor of industrial psychology at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, wrote.... ‘For MBTI, the evidence says not very, no, no and not really.’... ”

“Research has since found that upwards of 50% of people got a different score when they re-took the MBTI just five weeks later. Studies have also shown that the test is not effective at predicting people’s success in different jobs.... So why do people continue to take a test that reporters from *Vox* said in 2015, ‘has about as much scientific validity as your astrological sign?’ ”

“[Merve] Emre, the Oxford professor, explained that unlike other personality tests, the MBTI is appealing because it is ‘nonjudgmental’ meaning that that all the results are positive. It was designed that way because its creators ‘thought that would be very motivating for workers to believe the only purpose of the indicator was to match them to the best job that was suited for them,’ Emre said. She added that the test satisfies an innate desire to know more about ourselves and an easy way to describe that self to others” (N’dea Yancey-Bragg, “Here’s why people still take the Myers-Briggs test—even though it might not mean anything,” *USA Today*, May 7, 2019).

### Anti-anxiety Drug Warnings

“While the epidemic of opioid overdoses in the United States usually takes center stage in news media reports, fewer alarms have been raised about a group of sedatives called benzodiazepines. Like opioids, benzodiazepines have a long list of side effects and a high potential for abuse and overdose.

“The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) suggests that older adults avoid using benzodiazepines because of their

increased sensitivity to the drugs and the harms associated with them. Still, the rate of benzodiazepine use in older adults remains high, according to a study in the July 2018 issue of *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

**“A wide range of side effects:** Benzodiazepines like lorazepam (Ativan), alprazolam (Xanax), diazepam (Valium), clonazepam (Klonopin), and temazepam (Restoril) depress the central nervous system and slow brain activity, which makes them helpful for treating anxiety as well as insomnia.

“The drugs may be beneficial when taken intermittently for less than one month at a time. But their side effects are heightened in older adults because of age-related changes that cause the drugs to remain in their bodies longer and prolong their effects when compared with younger people. Potential side effects include slurred speech, confusion, headache, light-headedness, dry mouth, problems with movement and memory, lowered blood pressure, and slowed breathing. Sleepiness and lack of coordination are common in the first few days of starting the drugs as your body adjusts to them.

**“Benzos and Opioids: A Dangerous Mix:** Are you taking both a benzodiazepine and an opioid at the same time? If so, your risk of a fatal overdose is four times that of people who are taking an opioid alone. This drug combination is so deadly that, in 2016, the FDA issued a black-box warning—its strictest warning on drug products—cautioning about the risks” (excerpted from Stephanie Watson, “How Safe Are Anti-Anxiety Drugs?” *Berkeley Wellness Letter*, <https://www.berkeleywellness.com>).

### Female Brains Stay Youthful

“Women tend to have more youthful brains than their male counterparts — at least when it comes to metabolism. While age reduces the metabolism of all brains, women retain a higher rate

throughout the lifespan, researchers reported Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

“‘Females had a younger brain age relative to males,’ says Dr. Manu Goyal, an assistant professor of radiology and neurology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. And that may mean women are better equipped to learn and be creative in later life, he says.

“The finding is ‘great news for many women,’ says Roberta Diaz Brinton, who wasn’t connected with the study and directs the Center for Innovation in Brain Science at the University of Arizona Health Sciences. But she cautions that even though women’s brain metabolism is higher overall, some women’s brains experience a dramatic metabolic decline around menopause, leaving them vulnerable to Alzheimer’s:” (excerpted from Jon Hamilton, “Scans Show Female Brains Remain Youthful As Male Brains Wind Down,” National Public Radio, Feb. 4, 2019, [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)).

## PsychoHeresy Awareness Letter

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Unless otherwise indicated, articles are written by Martin and Deidre Bobgan.

*PsychoHeresy Awareness Letter* is a free, bimonthly publication of PsychoHeresy Awareness Ministries, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of California. If you wish to contribute to this nonprofit ministry, please make your tax-deductible donations to:

**PsychoHeresy Awareness Ministries**

**4137 Primavera Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110**

805-683-0864

[bobgan@pamweb.org](mailto:bobgan@pamweb.org)

<http://www.pamweb.org>

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## June Hunt's Hope[less] for the Heart *(continued from page 3)*

We have observed many psychotherapy counseling sessions of a variety of types and theories and we have not yet found one that is not in violation of biblical admonitions, prohibitions, and restrictions. We offer our book *Psycho-Heresy, Revised & Expanded*, as a free ebook for a limited period of time at the following website: [www.pamweb.org](http://www.pamweb.org). Read it to see why psychotherapy is a psychological heresy and why those like June Hunt who promote it are guilty.

### Public Purging of Private Lives

Before discussing Hunt's call-in counseling programs, we describe the historical background of her pursuit of the public purging of private lives. In our book *Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* we reveal how the privacy of private lives became public and how the therapeutic mentality became ubiquitous throughout America.<sup>10</sup> Early marriage education classes prior to World War II mandated a move from lives being private to a need to reveal as much as possible about one's personal life, thoughts, and relationships in order to be helped. It was primarily women who sought the help. During the post-World War II era, women's magazines carried and conveyed a so-called necessity to express publicly what had previously been unexpressed and private. Also during the pre-war and early post-war periods the psychotherapeutic gospel, in which private lives are made public to the counselor, was the leaven being infused into marriage education and women's magazines that eventually came to full loaf with licensed psychotherapists and the psychotherapeutic gospel permeating society and even the church. The sinful problem-centeredness began with the psychological counseling movement after World War II and was later adopted by the biblical counseling movement.

Alongside the post-World War II counseling movement came the almost

simultaneous arrival of the media-driven exposure of personal lives becoming publicly proclaimed and drastically displayed in a new and unprecedented way. While men and women are both guilty of the publicizing of private lives, men were instrumental in initiating such exposure in therapy, but women led the way as eager users and are, thereby, primarily responsible for its current popularity and expansion.

**As with other counseling we have examined, Hunt's biblical counseling follows a psychological format of problem-centeredness that engenders sinful conversations.**

Complementary to the psychological counseling movement was the rise of media moguls like Oprah and others, who capitalized on women's interests by corrupting women's strengths to their own detriment. All of this gave rise to all of life in the United States being viewed through the lens of the psychotherapeutic gospel. At the same time the media madness with its expression and often sinful practices moved into the online availability of almost everything from benign banter to devilish debauchery through such social networking sites as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, and through search mechanisms such as Google and Yahoo.

Without the history of the public undressing of private lives, fostered by Oprah and others, and the complementary psychological counseling movement, Hunt's ministry would not exist today. It took all these worldly, fleshly, and sometimes demonic events to pave the way for Hunt and others, who call themselves "biblical counselors," to thrive. As with other counseling we have examined, Hunt's biblical counseling follows a psychological format of

problem-centeredness that engenders sinful conversations.

### "Counseling Calls—LIVE"

Hunt offers "Biblical Counseling Keys" with "100 topics available" from Abortion" to "Worry." Each Key topic is discussed in an 8 ½ by 11-inch paper publication. A number of the topics have CDs titled "Counseling Calls—LIVE," which are taped conversations between Hunt and her callers from her previous radio call-in programs.

To examine what Hunt does on her live counseling calls, we read through her list of 100 topics for which she provides *Keys* (booklets) and many CDs. We ordered 10 of the Counseling Calls—LIVE CDs on the following topics: Anger, Boundaries, Codependency, Conflict Resolution, Depression, Domestic Violence, Forgiveness, Rejection, Self-Worth, and Stress. Each CD includes six to nine separate calls, each from a different person for a total of 93 calls. We wondered how long the on-air conversations were for many of these topics. By adding the on-air conversation times, we found the average on-air time for these conversations to be **nine minutes!** Within that brief period of time Hunt listens, analyses, draws conclusions, and gives advice.

Short-term psychotherapy is often defined as 12 sessions or less. Each session is typically 50 minutes. Short-term psychotherapy is provided for problems viewed as simple, short-term situational problems that can be resolved or relieved by one or more 50-minute-hours of therapy. Hunt's quick-fix counseling approach is co-terminus with the demands of a quick-fix society. However, no licensed psychotherapist would believe that all the counseling problems on the 10 CD's we received could be resolved or mitigated in an average of nine minutes. It is doubtful that such a quick fix

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will lead to permanent change, but no one will ever know except the caller.

Hunt's counseling is a combination of psychotherapy and biblical counseling. If one removes the biblical counseling portions, she would be labeled as a psychotherapist, since she functions that way. At times Hunt appropriately advises a caller to see a medical doctor. However, her referrals to professional counselors conflict with the sufficiency of Scripture and perpetuate faith in psychotherapy, which reveals that she must not believe in the sufficiency of Scripture for issues of the soul. Hunt's promotion and use of psychotherapy to remedy the issues of life (HopeWorks Counseling) and her use of psychotherapy in her biblical counseling deserve our charge of psychoheresy.

Even though Hunt may desire to offer biblical solutions and at times gives good biblical advice, she provides a psychological format, which opens the door to conversations that violate biblical principles regarding the tongue and regarding God-ordained relationships. Hunt's callers are free to demean or denigrate their spouses or ex-spouses, complain about people who are not present, and simply speak evil of others on-air, which is so typical of psychologically oriented counseling conversations and talk-show blather. These sinful kinds of conversations are both allowed and fostered within the psychological format where people are encouraged to express themselves without biblical principles and restraints on speaking, such as: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" (Ps. 19:14).

## Sinful Conversations

Hunt quickly and easily answers matters with sparse information gleaned in only a few minutes. However, Proverbs 8:13 says: "He that answereth a matter

before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." Hunt would have to hear from all the people her callers talk about behind their backs. She has not done this. How could she? Psychotherapists do not check out the details of the stories they have been told either. It is impractical and almost impossible to do so. Hunt evidently believes her callers, who could easily be lying to her or at least distorting the facts through personal bias or leaving out personally incriminating information.

**If one is to minister biblically, every word, every sentence, every expression, and every emotion expressed must conform to Scripture.**

An article in *Psychology Today* reveals:

Nearly everyone who attends [psycho]therapy has lied to the therapist. Approximately half of patients fessed up to some form of sofa subterfuge in a 2015 study conducted at the University of Maryland. A staggering 93 percent of 547 clients could recall at least one instance of lying outright to their therapist or omitting part of the whole truth, according to a 2015 Columbia University study....

What they've found is that deception comes in many degrees between the truth and a lie—from simple omission to full-blown fabrication—and clients serve up lies ranging from merely concealing their real feelings about a situation to covering up a criminal act.<sup>11</sup>

One psychotherapist with experience once said: "90 percent of the time [clients] distort the truth to make themselves look good." However the Bible advises getting the facts before believing

tales: "He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him" (Prov. 18:17). Hunt probably never discusses this verse with her counselees in reference to what they say about others. She follows the psychotherapy format of accepting each word and expression as worthy of belief and response. If Hunt questioned the veracity of what her callers say, she could discourage people from calling and cause some people to hang up on her.

There are good sound biblical reasons why the psychological format of unrestrained counseling conversations should **not** be emulated by those like Hunt, who claim to counsel biblically. If one is to minister biblically, every word, every sentence, every expression, and every emotion expressed must conform to Scripture. Jesus' very words condemn the psychologically formatted conversations in Hunt's Counseling Calls—LIVE:

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. (Matt. 12:36-37.)

## Deceitful Hearts

We have to remember that even a believer's carnal nature has a deceitful heart. Jeremiah 17:9-10 describes the deceitful heart:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

The sinfulness of mankind has been an undeniable plague upon the earth from the first bite of the forbidden fruit. Rebellion against the Creator has repli-

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## June Hunt's Hope[less] for the Heart *(continued from page 7)*

cated itself throughout the progeny so that "There is none righteous, no, not one.... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:10, 23). The verdict is in; the judgment is true. Each and every person is a sinner. The only exception is the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to save mankind from the condemnation, power, and eternal results of this putrid condition.

The reason we emphasize this ugly fact regarding the sinful nature of humans is because no one in counseling is free of this evil. Whenever two or more people meet together, even for seemingly good purposes, they are sinners in the nature of their being. Yes, they may be saved sinners who have a new life and the imputed righteousness of Christ, but even saved sinners are not free of sin, because sin yet dwells in what the Bible refers to as the "flesh," the very nature of the "the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (Eph. 4:22). Furthermore, if we deny that we are sinners, we are deceiving ourselves (1 John 1:10).

Even though biblical counselors may attempt to remove the "logs" from their own eyes before examining the "mote" in their counselees' eyes (Matt. 7:3), they are nevertheless more vulnerable than they realize to their own sinfulness, especially in the process of listening to and participating in the ensuing sinful communication endemic in problem-centered counseling.

Hunt would agree that there is an ongoing, relentless spiritual battle raging between the flesh and the Spirit, between the old order of the natural man under the ruler of darkness (Eph. 2:2-3) and the new man in Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Galatians 5:17 tells us that "the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other."

Since the deceitful heart resides in the natural man, it continues on and becomes active as soon as one begins thinking or acting according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. In fact, as soon as a believer entertains sinful thoughts, the deceptive heart has already become active. Thus, one can see that the deceptive heart is very active during Hunt's counseling conversations as callers describe situations, speak evil of others, and justify self, and as she enables such talk in an effort to help her callers.

**The fleshly, unbiblical activity involved in her psychotherapy-formatted counseling cannot be justified, no matter the amount of Scripture she uses.**

The deceptive heart is active in both psychological counseling and in what Hunt calls "biblical counseling." The psychotherapy counseling format activates the deceptive heart by opening the door to sinful thinking and speaking. Thus, even during Hunt's attempt to fix the inner man through her counseling, deceptive hearts are activated and deceive her callers and her listeners, as they become privy to private matters that may soil the soul (Ps. 19:14; Prov. 11:13; 26:22).

Jeremiah 17:9-10 and many other Scripture verses give the reasons why we are opposed to the psychological counseling format. What we reveal in this article alone should be a wakeup call to Hunt and her many callers. In ministering to fellow believers, Hunt has crossed biblical lines set down by God in Scripture in her efforts to help callers with their problems of living. The fleshly, unbiblical activity involved in her psychotherapy-formatted counseling cannot be justified, no matter the amount of Scripture she uses.

## Conclusion

June Hunt's biblical counseling is a corrupt mixture of sound biblical advice and a variety of psychotherapeutically-driven sinful conversations that violate the Word of God. Hunt's major error and biblical undoing is her use of the sinful psychotherapy format of receiving, believing, and advising on the basis of what the caller says.

For all the above reasons, we conclude that what Hunt offers as biblical counseling is sinful and the psychotherapy she offers (HopeWorks Counseling) is doubly sinful. With her world-wide ministry and with the millions who have heard her Counseling Calls—LIVE, Hunt has communicated, through her psychologically corrupted biblical counseling conversations, a contaminated message of hope that depends on the worldly wisdom of men (psychotherapy) rather than on the Word of God. Therefore, June Hunt's ministry is more hopeless for the believer than Hope for the Heart!

## Endnotes

- 1 The brackets are used to indicate that the suffix *less* is not part of Hunt's ministry title.
- 2 "June Hunt Biblical Counseling Audio Series," Hope for the Heart, PO Box 7, Dallas, TX 75221, back cover.
- 3 "June Hunt," Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June\\_Hunt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_Hunt).
- 4 "New 'Hope Center' Campus to Be Home to 14 Christian Ministries in North Texas," Business Wire, May 20, 2008, [www.businesswire.com](http://www.businesswire.com).
- 5 "June Hunt," Wikipedia, *op. cit.*
- 6 "HopeWorks Counseling," [www.hopefortheheart.org](http://www.hopefortheheart.org).
- 7 "June Hunt," Wikipedia *op. cit.*
- 8 "Get Your Life Back," <https://www.thehope-center.org/events/get-your-life-back-/2019-08-23+00%3A00%3A00>.
- 9 Lawrence LeShan, *Association for Humanistic Psychology*, October, 1984, p. 4.
- 10 Martin and Deidre Bobgan, *Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* Santa Barbara, CA: EastGate Publishers, 2011, Chapter 1, pp. 13-47, ebook temporarily available at [www.pamweb.org](http://www.pamweb.org).
- 11 Ryan Howes, "Why You Lie to Your Therapist," *Psychology Today*, Vol. 52, No 3, pp.44-46.

