

transformation network

Jesus changes people. Changed people transform communities.

RiverStone StoneBridge Vintage242 Awakening Sojourn

Transformation is Happening



In the World...

†In **1900, one person out of 40** in the world was a follower of Jesus Christ. However, only one-third of the world's population had ever heard Christ's name. By **1980, one person out of every 17** people in the world was a follower of Christ. **Today, one person in eight** is a practicing Christian. We are the first generation in history to see the story of Jesus spread farther and faster than the entire previous 1900 years combined. *(Jesus Film)*

Endless Expressions: SOZO Ministry at RiverStone

We are all raised in environments that shape how we view things. Throughout our lives, people and experiences have affected our foundations and took part in creating our "grid." We use this grid to react to things and respond to life. Today, every circumstance and relationship is "filtered" through this grid that makes up who we are (NOT who we were CREATED to be). Unfortunately we use this same grid to view the Father-Son-Holy Spirit. **Sozo** is the tool used to repair our grid AND clean the lenses we see through. The Sozo process renews our grid so we can experience how God created us to see and



react. The process is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to highlight the lies in our grid so we can replace them with God's truth. The word "Sozo" is a Greek word that means to "save or make well or whole." The main goal and purpose of the Sozo Ministry is to heal your relationship to the Godhead – Father, Son & Holy Spirit. In a Sozo session, the Holy Spirit often reveals lies that you believe about Him or yourself. These lies hold you back from walking in

your destiny and purpose and from living the abundant life that God so lovingly and earnestly desires for us. Once you discover the lies in the way, you can then renounce those lies and allow the Holy Spirit to replace them with His truth. In this process, relational healing comes and your level of intimacy with God will greatly increase.

-Ben Barfield, Sozo Ministry Leader

Did You Know?

The Sozo Ministry at RiverStone began in spring of 2008. RiverStone has hosted Basic and Advanced Sozo conferences with attendees from over 25 different churches and seven states.

The team has traveled to six other churches to lead Basic Sozo Conferences and offer Sozo sessions. Currently the team is teaching basic Sozo tools on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. at RiverStone.

Over 1200 Sozo sessions were facilitated in the past four years; approximately 50% were conducted for people outside of our network churches. If you are interested in Sozo, email Pastor Terry Cantrell terry@riverstoneonline.org.

In Our Community...

†Each Thursday afternoon **Vintage 242** ministers to students at Abney Elementary through KIDS BEACH CLUB, an after-school bible club designed to influence the next generation of leaders for Christ. To date, over 62 kids have given their lives to Jesus through this ministry! The volunteer commitment is two hours per week for 24 weeks. Contact Randel Hambrick at Randel@Vintage242.com if you'd like to get involved.

†LOCAL CALL, a small group at **StoneBridge**, serves various local ministries each month. Contact Kaye Cagle at KayeCagle@gmail.com for more information.

†**RiverStone** hosts NIGHT OF HEALING PRAYER and SOZO each month. Over 1000 people in our community and beyond have been transformed by these ministries.

†BORN AGAIN BLESSINGS, a network-wide children's consignment sale, made over \$51,000 at the February sale. These funds are distributed to the network churches for various ministries.

Values Matter: The Power of the Holy Spirit

Gifts or Fruit?

Historically there has been a bit of a skirmish in the American church over the work of the Holy Spirit. One side says the Holy Spirit gives us power to do supernatural ministry. The other side counters that the Spirit gives us grace to live holy lives. And so the battle lines have been drawn. But our value as a network is to go for both

works of power and the grace of holiness offered by the Spirit. After all, the gifts of the Spirit are a manifestation of the supernatural ministry of Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit is a manifestation of the loving character of Jesus. The safest place to do Jesus' ministry is in His character. The best way to grow in His character is to do His ministry. There

is no conflict between Jesus' character and His ministry. They go together. For that reason we value the work of the Holy Spirit by embracing both His gifts and His fruit.

**-Mark Nysewander,
Executive Director,
Transformation Network**

No Limits: Exposing the Truth

God called me to go on a mission trip to Ghana. We were asked to get a Sozo, but I really didn't need one, thank you! What God revealed to me during that Sozo was life-changing! I realized that I never felt pretty. God showed me that there were lies spoken over me since birth. I have a twin brother who had all the hair, which made me look like the boy since I had none. As I grew up I was labeled tomboy and jock, which just further confused my identity. Even after becoming a Christian 13 years ago, I knew God loved me but I still never felt pretty. After praying through all the wounds and lies, God revealed the truth about who I am. He showed me

that I am a beautiful Daughter of the King and that He loves me just the way I am. I was asked to picture myself with Father God and what did I see? I was in a room with Jesus and I was a little girl wearing my favorite powder blue dress. Jesus was beaming at how beautiful I was! I was so happy I wanted to dance for Him. I began dancing and His eyes never left me as He gazed on His beautiful creation. I could feel his love for me in a way I had never experienced before. I felt Him say that if I danced for Him in Ghana that this false identity would break off of me. I have never danced in my life, but I did in fact dance for the Lord in Ghana in a powder



blue dress. Halfway through the dance I felt that false identity just fall off of me. By the end, I knew I felt different as I was twirling all around and dancing so freely. Jesus set me free to be the real me. I never felt so beautiful in my life! I now look at myself the way God sees me and I will never be the same again. Thank God for Sozo!

-Joann Ryan, RiverStone Church

**For more information about the network and our churches,
visit www.transformationnetworkonline.com.**