

Dear Friends,

I lost my composure and tears ran down my face as an overwhelming sea of hands went up from the 590 young people committing to ask God for one person to disciple. It was at the ATI conference in Knoxville on June 7 and 8 that Paul, Matthew, Anna, Joshua, and I had the profound privilege of speaking to young people on how they can change the world through discipleship. It was also wonderful to see a good friend again, Bruce Wilkinson, and to hear his message "The Secrets of the Vine." Bill Gothard and the ATI ministry continue to have an incredible impact with a Biblically-based home education program.

We continue to get very encouraging responses from people who have received our brochure. One CBMCer invited us to speak at his homeschool conference in his city. Another said the brochure answered all his questions about what we are doing and how it complements, without competing, with other ministries, while a host of others wrote and called giving thanks for updating them on what God was doing with the Downers.

We have always found that family conferences have been one of the most vital forums to make disciples because the whole sphere of a person's life is impacted. Our time at the CBMC Family Conference in Cannon Beach, Oregon was no exception. Steve Farrar's message on the 23rd Psalm was a great blessing. We gave a workshop presentation on discipleship, and had a wonderful reunion with old friends and made plenty of new ones. But the greatest blessing was hearing the testimony of a man and his son. In his sharing, very appropriately on Father's Day, June 16, the Dad told about being led back to the Lord by Bill and Mary Ann Hammerbeck. His son wept telling about how his father coming to Christ had impacted his own coming to Christ just a month before, and the Dad choked back tears as he described how Jesus and his son had forgiven him for his sinful life. Before his message with an arm around his son, the Dad said, "This is the son in whose face I blew my marijuana smoke when he was just a few months old. So, in every sense I took personal responsibility for his drug use later in life." But now this father and son and their past, present, and future sins have been washed by the blood of Christ and they know the forgiveness of unfathomable depth.

What about you and me? Are we still beating ourselves up or those close to us, for our past sins or theirs? Are we truly living the truth that says, "It is for freedom we have been set free"?

It is always an honor and thrill to have people come to Christ right before your eyes, which is what a number of men told me following the CBMC breakfast outreach on June 15. Thirty-three indicated they prayed to receive Christ at the Portland meeting where I shared my testimony. Portland has a faithful group of men who are active in follow-up.

According to Wayne Shepherd, the Director of New Programming and host of Open Line on Moody Broadcasting Network, our discussion of how discipleship is the hope for men in America and therefore the families in America, went out over the airways of 150 radio stations. Zondervan, the publisher of our new book, "Effective Men's Ministry," set up book signings and a radio interview on the book which we did in Atlanta at the Christian Booksellers convention July 9-11, 2001. This is the book which God used me to do two chapters in and to pull together a team of 24 leaders in the men's ministry movement, all associated with the National Coalition of Men's Ministry, to contribute one or more chapters. NCMM includes most of the parachurch (servant ministry) and over 30 denominations, representing over half of the churches in North America. Below are the authors and chapter titles of the book. Please pray that its words are used by the Lord to incite new fire in the winning and discipling of men throughout the country. The book's retail price is \$19.95 and you can order it for \$14.00 from us.

Table of Contents

Building the Lives of Men - Pat Morley

Developing the Plan

1. Modern Man in Contemporary Culture - Dan Erickson and Dan Schaffer
2. What is Men's Ministry? - Steve Sonderman
3. Vision That Drives Ministry - Vince D'Acchioli
4. Getting Things Right -- The First Time - Gary G. Bateman
5. The Pastor's Role - Jack Hayford

Preparing the Ground

6. Building a Leadership Team - Chip MacGregor
7. Organizing Your Men's Ministry - Steve Sonderman
8. Purposeful Planning, Effective Implementation - Steve Sonderman
9. Upside-Down Leadership - Stacy T. Rinehart
10. Foundations of Christian Leadership - Chuck Stecker
11. The Mark of Leadership - Dan Schaffer

Laying the Foundation

12. Getting Men to Jesus - Gordon England
13. Teaching Men to Pray - Dale Schlafer
14. Learning to Worship - Rick Kingham
15. Encouraging Vital Relationships - Geoff Gorsuch
16. Overcoming Prejudice - Robert Sena

Building the Framework

17. Transforming Your Men's Ministry - Rod Cooper
18. Becoming a Spiritual Parent - Phil Downer
19. Working with Men Who Fail - Steve Farrar

20. Men of All Colors: Unity in Diversity - Haman Cross and Thomas Fritz

21. From Success to Significance - Phil Downer with Chip MacGregor

Creating the Structure

22. Training Men for Significance - Chuck Brewster

23. Becoming Irresistible Husbands - Ed Cole

24. Fathers and Sons - Steve Farrar

25. Life-Changing Short-Term Missions - Warren Harding

26 Successful Men's Retreats - Larry Kreider

27. Doing Together What We Can't Do Apart - Willie Richardson

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- My live interview on Moody Radio Open Line on Tuesday, July 24, on the subject of DNA Ministry.
- My 8 day trip to five cities next week.
- Our preparation for 10 speaking sessions at a family conference at Maranatha in Muskegon, Michigan, August 25 – 30, out of which we hope to have three new video series. (Your gifts have made this videotaping possible.)
- For the construction of our web site. (This work has also been made possible by gifts designated from some of you receiving this newsletter.)
- Our monthly support.
- We praise the Lord for how wonderfully He has continued to heal us and others.

QUOTABLE QUOTE FROM A WELL-TRAVELED CHILD:

After reading the story of the fall of Adam and Eve from her Bible storybook, Susanna asked Susy if the Garden of Eden was still there. Susy replied that she didn't think so as it wasn't needed after Adam and Eve had to leave. Susanna said, "Well it sure would be great for tourists!"

We are grateful for you, our friends, who help make possible the exciting ministry of winning and discipling others to become disciple makers. Let us know if we can pray for any specific needs in your life.