

Freedom FOCUS

“...to turn them
from darkness
to light...”

September—October 2007

NEWSLETTER

www.indianabcc.com

Fellowshipping with Christ in His Sufferings

It is our joy at the Indiana Biblical Counseling Center to see people find freedom and healing in Christ. Reflecting on her recent counseling experience here at IBCC, a woman gives the following testimony:

When we allow ourselves to feel pain, we are enabled to begin the healing process from the hurts in our lives. Bitterness and forgiveness are tied together in the fact that when we are hurt by the words or actions of another person we have a choice to forgive or not to forgive. Forgiveness is the willingness and follow through of letting go and not making others pay for their offences towards us, but on the other hand being willing to bear that pain ourselves. It is also trusting that God will use every painful event or circumstance in our lives to bring glory to Himself, to conform us into His image, and to teach us what it truly means to fellowship in His sufferings.

Facing the pain of the events of our lives involves learning to fellowship with Christ in His sufferings (Philippians 3:10). Not every believer is willing to let God take them through this fellowship of sufferings. However, it is imperative if you are to have a real and living union with Christ, because Christ's sufferings are such a vital part of His life and ministry. The entire purpose of His earthly ministry was that He might be our Savior and our Intercessor Who knows and feels all of our infirmities in Himself (Hebrews 4:14-15).

Addressing the pain of the circumstances of our lives is different from addressing the bitterness involved in these circumstances. Addressing emo-

tional pain requires that we first be willing to come to the place of forgiveness and be willing to let Christ bear our pain. Because we are in Christ, He feels all of our pain. The only way we can learn to fellowship in His sufferings is if we, too, suffer....God uses the hurts in our lives to teach us to fellowship with Him. Christ desires to go through each hurt with us, healing the pain of those events. Thus, we fellowship with Him in sufferings because our pain is in Him.

It is extremely important that we allow the Lord Jesus to walk through each pain of the past and heal it. We build walls in our lives, one hurt at a time. Behind each wall and in the depth of each pain is a lie either about ourselves or our God which Satan has attached to our pain. God allows us to build walls for a time just so we can go on with our lives, but at some point in time each wall has to come down, each lie has to be exposed, and each truth has to be learned for true healing to take place. The end result will be great freedom in Christ, and the sweetest fellowship one can have with his Savior.

After the counseling I received at IBCC, I am beginning a process of healing from some very devastating abuse in my past. After my first week of counseling, God has already given me an incredible sense of freedom, and a fellowship with Him that is precious and sweet. The counseling I received was practical and very helpful. I am especially grateful for the tools I was given to continue to aid me in this process. I appreciated so much the gentleness and the professionalism of the staff at IBCC.

FALL PRAISE BANQUET 2007

Join us for our annual Fall Praise Banquet as we share what God has been doing through this ministry over the past year. The highlight of the evening will be firsthand testimonies from individuals who have followed the Lord Jesus to find life-changing, spiritual healing and freedom. It is our purpose to encourage pastors to help hurting people by sharing how we can join together for this common cause. Make plans to attend, and invite your pastor to come with you!

Date

Friday, November 2nd

Time

7:00-9:30 p.m.

Location

Indianapolis Training Center
2820 N. Meridian
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Cost

\$10/person
Pastors and their spouse or
guests attend free

Please RSVP at
317.585.1845

Thanking God for Dr. Jacobson's Dedication to Serving Others



We extend our great appreciation to Dr. Michael Jacobson for ten years of faithful service as a founding board member of the Indiana Biblical Counseling Center, Inc. He was indeed a great asset to this ministry, and we praise God for his great heart for helping hurting people.

God has moved Dr. Jacobson, his wife Susie, and their two sons, Nathan and Joshua, to Virginia, where Dr. Jacobson is now actively serving as Flight Commander at the Langley Air Force Base Flight Medical Clinic. He is soon to be deployed to the Middle East.

Reflecting on the Armed Forces Code of Conduct, to which every American soldier is required to pledge his life, Dr. Jacobson draws some key parallels to the believer's life as a soldier in the Lord's army.

“Consider the impact [of an Armed Forces Code of Conduct] on the church, should every believer commit themselves to honoring Christ and their eternal citizenship by affirming such to one another. Imagine the strengthening

of Christian marriages were each husband and wife to recognize that our betrothal is not really about our own personal happiness. It is really about learning to die to self, and according to the Apostle Paul, it is all about our citizenship in the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:22ff). What if each young Christian were challenged (and accepted) the call that Christ issued to forsake ALL temporal guarantees and follow Him? Would they respond? I think they would. It is amazing what men (and women) will do in response to a purposeful challenge. When Ernest Shackleton placed the following ad in the Times of London, he reportedly had 5000 volunteers.

Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages.

Bluer cold. Long months of complete darkness.

Constant danger. Safe return doubtful.

Honour and recognition in case of success.

I must never forget that I am a Christian, fighting for true, enduring freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles that made me and my fellow believers free. I will make no deals with the enemy, and never cooperate with the enemy's plan to bring harm to my fellow comrades. I will not write or say anything disloyal to my heavenly family or that would be harmful to its cause. I will trust in Jesus Christ and in His enduring church. I will Return (to Him) with honor.”

Dr. Michael Jacobson, DO

ARMED FORCES CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.
2. I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.
3. If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means possible. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.
4. If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.
5. When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.
6. I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.