



Freedom

focus

"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God..." (Acts 26:18)



October—November 2005

Jesus Is Glad To Be With You!

If Jesus were looking at you, what would His facial expression be?

Would He be sad? Would He be angry? Would He smile?

I often ask clients that question, because it gives me an understanding of their own perception of their identity in Christ. Many people struggle with a performance-based acceptance. When clients perceive a face that is not accepting or loving, they usually are trying to achieve a certain standard to please God or those around them. This leaves them feeling condemned and hopeless.

Ephesians 1:3-8 is very useful in helping us understand our identity in Christ. I read this passage aloud to my clients and personalize the scripture for them by using their first name. This method has been very helpful in exposing the lies that they believe regarding their identity in Christ. I will use my own name to illustrate.

In Ephesians 1:3-8, Paul writes, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed [Jeff] with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose [Jeff] in Him before the foundation of the world, that [Jeff] should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestinated [Jeff] to adoption as [a son] by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made [Jeff] accepted in the Beloved. In Him [Jeff has] redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made abound toward [Jeff] in all wisdom and prudence"* (NKJV).

This is what God has done for every believer. Do you believe and live by these truths?

1. God has blessed me with every spiritual

blessing. Because I am His child I have His spiritual blessing in my life.

2. I am a child of God, and chosen by Him in Christ. I am special to Him.

3. My holiness is not dependent on my efforts; it is dependent on the finished work of Christ. Therefore, I can STOP trying to get holiness and accept that I am already holy.

4. I am forgiven. I have God's forgiveness, and therefore I choose to forgive myself for my past failures.

5. God loves me unconditionally because Christ died for me. His love for me is not based on my performance.

6. I am acceptable and have worth with God based on the finished work of Christ, not by my efforts. It is a gift through faith. Therefore, I do not have to focus on my works to get acceptance.

7. I can love myself because God created me and accepts me in spite of my weaknesses. I no longer have to hide my failures because God knows about them and has forgiven them.

8. My identity is not determined by my education, vocation, wealth, power, or position. There is no place for human pride because I cannot do anything to earn my worth and acceptance.

9. I am secure in Christ, because my love and acceptance is not based on something that changes with time. Therefore, I do not have to fear the loss of my intelligence, looks, abilities, finances, friends, social status, reputation, and position.

By Reverend Jeffrey Pokone

Rev. Jeff Pokone's Speaking Schedule

November 7-9

EQUIP Training—*Resolving Strongholds in Counseling*
Indianapolis, IN

November 14-18

IBC Course II—

- *Development of Personality Disorders*
- *Fear Disorders*
- *Dealing with Depression*
- *Overcoming Addictions*
- *Legal, Moral, & Ethical Issues in Counseling*

Big Sandy, TX

November 28

Harvest Community Christian Church—*Small Group Leader Training*
Zionsville, IN

Church-Connect Luncheon



You are invited to attend our Church-Connect Luncheon on **Tuesday, November 22, 2005*, from**

12:00-1:45 at the ICBC office.

Our purpose is to equip pastors and lay leaders for effective counseling ministry through their own local churches. Please RSVP by calling our office at 317.582.1123.

**Tuesday before Thanksgiving*

Reaching People Through the Local Church



It is the goal of ICBC of Indiana to help individuals, couples, and families grow spiritually by providing biblical, discipleship counseling. Because the ministry of the local church is foundational to the spiritual growth in believers' lives, it is our desire to serve, assist, and equip pastors and local churches for effective discipleship counseling ministry.

Over the past several years, Rev. Jeff Pokone has had special opportunity to serve in partnership with Pastor Larry Cornett and Bethel Baptist Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio. Once a month, Rev. Pokone provides on-site counseling at Bethel Baptist Temple for members needing help.

Clients have appreciated the Biblical, yet compassionate approach. Some of Rev. Pokone's clients have attributed his effectiveness in counseling to his genuine interest in helping believers resolve problems and his willingness to include all parties in the counseling process in order to provide the most effective solution. They have also appreciated his ability to trace surface problems to root issues, and his own life example of applying the counsel he gives others.

After receiving marriage counseling, one husband acknowledged the difference in his relationship with his wife. "I have learned to listen to my wife, rather than argue," he said. "Our marriage is 100% better!" Another said, "I have learned to understand my wife's emotions. As a result, it has built un-

derstanding, trust, and compassion into our marriage."

One real estate agent, who came to Rev. Pokone for marriage counseling, was so helped, that now, he takes advantage of everyday opportunities to share the same valuable truths that transformed his marriage, with other couples he meets. He said, "I consider counseling my primary job, and selling real estate as my secondary job!"

Pastor Larry Cornett has appreciated Rev. Pokone's partnership ministry at Bethel Baptist Temple. With the heavy load Larry Cornett already carries as the pastor, he acknowledges the great benefit it is to have Rev. Pokone alongside him to assist in meeting the counseling needs within the congregation. Pastor Cornett stated that, unlike some counselors who pull their clients away from their pastor to themselves, Rev. Pokone points people to their pastors. He strives to affirm the role of the local church in the counselees' lives rather than diminish it.

It has been well said that the key to strong churches is strong families, and the key to strong families, is strong men. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve in partnership with local churches toward the common goal of strengthening men and their families.



Welcome New Staff

As we look back over this year to give thanks for God's blessings on the ministry, we thank God for bringing two new staff members to us—Ron Visser and his sister Cindy.

Ron joined our staff this past June, to serve both as an assistant to Rev. Jeff Pokone, and as an intern in counseling.

Prior to coming to ICBC, Ron served extensively with the Institute in Basic Life Principles, both in the United States and abroad. Some of his responsibilities with IBLP included overseeing the development of the IBLP ministry in China, organizing and leading overseas trips for young people interested in teaching English as a second language with the goal of world missions, editing a monthly newsletter featuring IBLP's ministry around the globe, and coordinating logistics for international Basic Seminars.

Here at ICBC, Ron assists with a wide variety of administrative responsibilities. He also is involved as a prayer partner in counseling sessions and helps coordinate *Church-*

Connect Luncheons. With a burden to help people in the scope of world missions, Ron's desire is to better equip himself for counseling ministry.

Cindy Visser began coming to our office to volunteer her time as a part-time secretary for Rev. Pokone in August. In October, ICBC hired her as an additional staff member.

She was first introduced to the ministry of ICBC through one of ICBC's counseling courses conducted in Indianapolis in October of 2004. Then, last month, she attended a second counseling course offered through ICBC to further her training in counseling. We are grateful to have her now serving with us in the office, both as a secretary and prayer partner.



Resource Review—Victory Over the Darkness



Is your life characterized by spiritual defeat? Is the concept of victory in Christ nothing more than an illusion? Do you feel spiritually helpless in the battle against the devil? If so, *Victory Over the Darkness* is for you.

In this book, Dr. Neil Anderson carefully explains the believer's identity in Christ—who s/he already is in Christ by virtue of salvation! Dr. Anderson further explains how to ap-

propriate these realities into daily living. Since it is impossible to live beyond what we believe, it is important to identify the lies of Satan we have believed, and replace them with Biblical truth.

You will be challenged and inspired through this book. Apply its truths, and you will experience victory over the darkness first-hand! This resource is also a valuable tool to use in discipling other struggling believers.