



## **PROJECT ASK**

*“Ask and it will be given to you;  
Seek and you will find;  
Knock and the door will be opened to you”  
(Matthew 7:7)*

## **PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FICM-USA “FAMILY”**

## **FULL REPORT**

*Freedom in Christ Ministries-USA*  
**November 2017**

# Project ASK Progress Report

## PREFACE

Dear FICM-USA “Family Member”,

This is a critical time in our country and around the world - a time when Christians need to be thoroughly disciplined and free from their own spiritual, emotional, and mental baggage and bondage in order to help others find their salvation and freedom in Christ. We (FICM-USA Board of Directors and administration) truly believe that God has maintained, nurtured, and grown this Ministry nationally and internationally for 28 years, transforming thousands of lives “for such a time as this”. (Esther 3:14). However, there are still far too many Christians who do not understand who they are in Christ, who have not yet experienced their freedom in Him, and who are unable to lead the productive lives God has in store for them.

In 2016, FICM-USA’s God-given Community Freedom Ministry (CFM) strategy entered its 6<sup>th</sup> year. We determined that it was time to 1) assess the state of the Ministry as a whole and the CFM strategy in particular, and 2) develop and implement a resulting 3-year, strategic plan. So, we undertook our two-part Project ASK (Matt. 7:7): Phase I - Ministry assessment, Phase II - strategic planning. Many of you participated in Phase I data/information gathering activities, and we completed that phase in late 2016. In 2017 we have moved into Phase II - the strategic planning and implementation phase.

You are more than an interested bystander! You are a vital part of God’s plan for this Ministry, and we need to share with you at this time some of the major findings of the Phase I assessment and what we are planning to do or are already doing about them. Hence, this report! We won’t cover everything we have learned or are doing, but these highlights will tell you a great deal about our efforts to date in response to what you and others told us and what we learned from study of available analytics and statistics, as well as other ministries.

This report consists of two documents, a relatively short “Executive Summary” containing a few of the most important findings and related actions to date and the more extensive report itself (this report) which provides more of the findings and actions and more explanation. But, before you dive into one or both of these documents, we need to explain how we have organized to carry out Project ASK.

To plan and carry out Phase I (assessment), a Project ASK oversight task force was appointed. It consists of seven (7) persons (3 Board members, President, VP of Administration, a field staff member, and a friend of the Ministry). All were selected for particular knowledge, experience, and skills they could “bring to the table”.

When Phase I was completed, the Board of Directors appointed seven (7) additional task forces to address the Phase I findings by developing and overseeing implementation of strategic plans in each of seven (7) areas: Prayer, Care and Training, Communications and Marketing,

Resources Development, Ministry To Millennials, Ministry To Racial And Ethnic Groups, and Financial Development. This action-directed organization reflects the nature of the findings from the Phase I assessment. Members of these task forces include Board members, President, VP of Administration, field staff, regional and state leaders, Community Freedom Ministry Associates, and friends of the Ministry. A listing of the members of all task forces is provided in Appendix A.

Thanks for helping us get to this point in Project ASK through your responses to our surveys and/or participation in our focus groups and your questions and feedback to Ministry leaders! There is much more work to do, but here is a report of what your input has led to, so far.

## **FINDINGS AND ACTIONS**

The body of this report is divided into eight (8) sections of findings from Project ASK Phase I assessment, accompanied by brief explanations of what we are doing in those areas at this time. Those eight sections include: 1) Some Strengths and Accomplishments of the U.S. Ministry, 2) Prayer, 3) CFMs and CFMAs, 4) CFMU, 5) Ministry Resources, 6) Communications and Marketing 7) Outreach to Millennials and Racial/Ethnic Groups, and 8) Financial Development.

### **I. SOME STRENGTHS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

We praise God for:

- What he has done through Neil Anderson, Rich Miller, competent and dedicated staff, previous and current Board members, donors, and many, many volunteers to establish, maintain and grow FICM-USA over the past 28 years.
- Presidents Neil Anderson and Rich Miller who rely on prayer and have led FICM-USA to make prayer our first priority.
- A strong, clear, life-changing Biblical message.
- The “Steps to Freedom in Christ,” a life-changing, Biblical process.
- Numerous books and other resources that consistently convey the message of our freedom in Christ.
- A core of faithful donors.
- The God-given Community Freedom Ministry (CFM) strategy.
- An increasing number of active, trained, dedicated volunteers (CFMAs, regional and state leaders).
- Knowledgeable, mature, experienced, self-supporting field staff.

## **II. PRAYER**

### **A. Prayer Findings**

- Many CFMAs report that they have no local prayer team, nor prayer partners for freedom appointments.
- CFMAs expect regional leaders and the national office to mobilize prayer when they and/or their CFMs experience a crisis and when they engage in teaching activities and freedom appointments.
- Prayer requests from the field (CFMAs, others) have, until now, been sent to and processed through the national office. As the Ministry has grown, that task has become a great burden on the small, central office staff.

### **B. Prayer Actions Taken and Planned**

- The Prayer task force, led by Carolyn Fugate and Jill Prout, is working to “regionalize” the processing of prayer requests from CFMAs and others in the field. Process and procedures are being pilot tested now, and the plan should be ready for rollout nationally by January, 2018.
- The Board of Directors has approved a new FICM-USA organizational plan suggested by President Rich Miller that will respond to issues and problems in several areas of the Ministry. The plan, which is being implemented now creates a National Director in each of three areas; Prayer, Care and Training, and Ministry Expansion. This leadership team then oversees and works with Regional tri-part leadership teams: Director of Prayer, Director of Care and Training, Director of Expansion. (See Appendix B for a list of national and regional leadership team members.)
- National Prayer and Care and Training Directors will be working with Regional Directors in these areas to provide CFMAs with the needed training and assistance in local prayer development.

## **III. CFMs and CFMAs**

### **A. CFM/CFMA Findings**

- While praiseworthy, the number of CFMs and CFMAs at the end of six (6) years was considerably fewer than originally projected.
- A number of those persons who completed CFMA training have “fallen off the map”.
- Some CFMs consist of only one person (one CFMA), and many CFMAs are not active in a CFM because their churches aren’t ready to approve a CFM or because of other reasons.

- Many CFMs are being funded “out of pocket” by CFMAs, but many CFMAs have never asked for church financial support, and many don’t know how to go about it.
- There is limited awareness and understanding of CFMs and FICM-USA within the leadership of many churches and in many communities, even where there are trained CFMAs and operational CFMs.
- Pastors and CFMAs agree that senior pastors are key to understanding, acceptance, and promotion of CFMs in their churches.
- CFMAs want 1) more support, help, and training from FICM-USA leadership and 2) more connectedness with other CFMAs within their geographic region and/or state.

#### B. CFM/CFMAs Actions Taken and Planned

- As previously explained (Prayer section), national and regional re-organization has been undertaken to address findings. National Directors and Regional Directors of Prayer, Care and Training, and Ministry Expansion are now in place, although a few regions have only “interim” directors at this time. (See Appendix B.)
- President Miller, Board members, and National and Regional Directors will develop training and resources (print and non-print) to help CFMAs 1) introduce the Ministry to local churches and communities and 2) gain financial support from their local churches.
- The Care and Training component has been added to the Ministry to enhance the support, help, training, and connectedness desired by CFMAs. This component will help CFMAs in training (CFMU, Practicums), newly minted CFMAs, and those working in their ministries get connected, and stay connected. It should provide encouragement to our volunteer staff and reduce attrition.

### IV. CFM UNIVERSITY

#### A. CFM University Findings

- CFMU as a venue for delivery of instruction and outreach to the Christian community is underutilized.
- More than half of those enrolling in current CFMU courses never complete them, because the courses were not what they thought they would be or for other reasons.
- CFMAs and regional and state leaders strongly recommend development of an Encourager training program for those who just want training in how to use “The Steps To Freedom”. (Current CFMU courses and Practicums focus on developing leadership for local CFMs.)
- Focus group participants and survey respondents urged revision and upgrading of current CFMU courses, particularly CFM 101 and 201.

## B. CFM University Actions Taken and Planned

- A basic Encourager training course is in development. It will be filmed in January 2018 and should be ready for use by March. It will be available online (CFMU) and available in a form that can be used by CFMAs and others in group settings.
- CFM 101 will be updated in the next 9 months and CFM 201, thereafter.
- Two additional courses (Introduction to FICM-USA and marriage course) will be added to CFMU in the next 15 months.
- Course descriptions will be updated and improved.
- The Financial Development task force has recommended and the Board has approved establishment of a CFMU scholarship fund to help individuals with limited resources complete CFMA training. Details are being worked out (application criteria and procedures, how to give to the fund), and should be communicated to all constituents by year-end.

## V. MINISTRY RESOURCES

### A. Ministry Resources Findings

- The five best sellers among current FICM resources are “The Steps to Freedom in Christ”, “Victory Over the Darkness”, “The Bondage Breaker”, “Who Am I?” bookmarks, and “Young Adult Steps To Freedom”. Many other excellent resources are not in great demand.
- Resources most desired by visitors to the FICM-USA bookstore and by CFMAs and regional leaders are discipleship resources for “after Steps care”; resources for children; resources for parents; and resources for addressing freedom from pornography and sexual addiction.
- We have done little to develop digital resources that can be delivered via social media.
- A number of persons surveyed did not know/realize that sales of books and materials through the FICM-USA bookstore are a significant source of income for the Ministry, so they have been purchasing elsewhere.

### B. Ministry Resources Actions Taken and Planned

- A chart matching available FICM resources to presenting problems/issues is being developed and should be distributed to all constituents by January, 2018.
- A search is underway to find the “right” person to work with Rich Miller on freedom from pornography/sexual addiction resources.

- Rich and the Resources Development task force are working to identify a creative partner (think “Veggie Tales” quality) to work with FICM-USA on electronic/digital resources for children. (If you have contacts or suggestions, let us know.)
- Focused development of resources to be delivered through social media requires a much-needed Communications department. See Communications section for action planned.
- In addition to resources for children and resources focusing on freedom from pornography and sexual addiction, the Board has identified resources for parents as a “highest priority”. (The new Encourager training course and the rewrites of CFM 101 and 201 will more fully address “after Steps care”.)

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS and MARKETING**

### **A. Communications and Marketing Findings**

- The FICM-USA website needs to be redesigned and upgraded. It does not draw people (FICM-USA “family members”, first time visitors, young people) to it.
- Those who do visit the website spend little time there. Their primary purposes are to seek and/or purchase materials/resources, gain general information, and/or look for upcoming events. They seldom avail themselves of the other “good stuff” on the site.
- As mentioned in the previous section, our current outreach through social media is limited.
- FICM-USA is still a well-kept secret in many areas of the country, many churches, and many communities. Little has been done over the years to market the Ministry to intended audiences.
- FICM-USA desperately needs a Communications and Marketing Department (Director/VP and part-time administrative assistant initially). Communications needs cannot be met by current, small office staff.

### **B. Communications and Marketing Actions Taken and Planned**

- Specifications/criteria for website redesign are in development. By January 2018, an RFP (Request for Proposal) will be ready for dissemination to interested vendors.
- The Communications and Financial Development task forces have recommended and the Board has approved an “immediate” search for a Director/VP of Communications and Marketing. Notice of the position, its requirements, and application procedures will be reviewed by the Board at its December meeting and will be made public immediately thereafter. (If, after seeing these materials, you know someone who should apply, let them and us know.)  
Obviously, the establishment of this position will require substantial, new financial resources. Opportunity to give to and help find givers to this project will be communicated shortly.

## **VII. MINISTRY to MILLENNIALS and MINISTRY to RACIAL and ETHNIC GROUPS**

### **A. Ministry to Millennials and Racial/Ethnic Groups Findings**

- Available analytics and statistics, as well as input from pastors, regional leaders, and CFMAs tell us that we are not reaching those age 35 and younger, and we are not reaching many African American, Latino, and Asian Christians in this country.

### **B. Millennials and Racial/Ethnic Outreach Actions Taken and Planned**

- The Project ASK Oversight Task Force, the Board, President Miller, and the Millennials task force, chaired by Chris Campbell, have done a great deal of research into the needs, desires, and activities of millennials.
- The Millennials task force has recommended to date 1) further training for field staff, regional and state leaders, and CFMAs in how to reach millennials, 2) creation of catalytic podcasts, and 3) “rebooting” of “Setting Your Church Free” targeting this group.
- A Ministry to Racial and Ethnic Groups task force, chaired by Rich Miller, is operational and in discussion of needed actions. Discovery and recruitment of strategic-thinking leaders of color (including Board members) is vital.

## **VIII. FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **A. Financial Development Findings**

- God has been faithful to build and maintain this Ministry for 28 years. We are debt free, and the Ministry has met its annual budget regularly for the past 10 years, thanks to a core of dedicated donors, sales of books and materials, and sound fiscal management by Rich Miller (President), Cindy Bergenback (VP of Administration), and a dedicated office staff.
- Relatively little effort has been given to financial development over the years.
- FICM-USA has received the majority of its annual income (54%) from a small cadre of dedicated donors (50+). Most of the remaining 46% currently comes from materials sales and account administration fees.
- Most churches hosting CFMs and/or regularly purchasing materials do not give to the Ministry ( and may never have been challenged to do so).
- Appeals to charitable foundations have been relatively few, but have had some success, especially for special projects.
- Current donors indicate that they donate primarily because they have seen the Ministry and its message change lives (their own, family members, friends, co-workers), and they want others to hear the message and experience freedom in Christ.

- Pastors are asking for visual (video) resources that portray life changes and resolution of personal and spiritual issues.
- The recommendations of the several other strategic planning task forces cannot be implemented at our current income level. If FICM-USA is to expand its outreach, care for its field staff and volunteers, greatly improve its communication strategies, and develop new, needed ministry resources, significant attention to financial development will be essential.

#### B. Financial Development Actions Taken and Planned

- The Financial Development task force has alerted the Prayer task force and the Board of Directors to the need throughout the Ministry for ardent, dedicated prayer seeking God's provision and how to best tap into the financial resources He is ready to provide - while constantly praising Him for what He has done. We are deeply grateful for all that God has done for us!
- Task force members agree that an ever-expanding donor base, church support, and regular applications/proposals to Christian foundations and other Christian business leaders are essential to accomplish the mission, vision, and goals of the Ministry.
- The Financial Development task force has recommended and the Board has approved an "immediate" search for a Director/VP of Development. Position description and budget are being finalized, and the position will be posted by year end. (If you know someone who should apply for this position, let them know and let us know.)
- The Financial Development and Communications task forces have both recommended and the Board has approved an "immediate" search for a Director/VP of Communications and Marketing. (See Section VI for more detail.)
- The task force has recommended and the Board has approved establishment of a CFMU scholarship fund. (See Section IV of this report for more detail.) Once operational, this fund may help to increase the number of persons taking and completing CFMA training.
- The task force has recommended and the Board has approved building greater awareness and understanding of the role of estate planning and giving in funding this Ministry. Dennis Prout, a certified financial planner and a member of the Financial Development task force, is providing leadership in this area. (It should be noted that policies and procedures needed in this area have been in place for several years.) Pertinent information has already been sent to the FICM-USA family. A copy of that informational piece is provided in Appendix C.
- The Financial Development and Communications/Marketing task forces have recommended and the Board has agreed that a library of video testimonies and stories of life change should be developed for use by Ministry leadership, field staff, CFMAs, and pastors. Organizational and cataloging procedures are in development, and a few

“entries” have already been filmed. Details about how to develop resources for the library and how to access library resources will be communicated early in 2018, as they are completed. An annotated list of library resources will be developed, updated regularly, and shared with FICM-USA “family” members.

- Since substantial funds must be raised even before a Director/VP of Development is employed, the Financial Development task force and Board are working to identify highest priorities (most immediate needs) among projects recommended by the seven task forces and the financial resources needed to implement them. These projects and needs will be communicated to the FICM-USA family in mid-November, not only to encourage and inform family members’ year-end giving, but, also to solicit their assistance in finding new donors (individuals, organizations/businesses, foundations, churches).

### **A FINAL NOTE**

As previously mentioned, this report does not include everything surfacing from our year-long Ministry assessment, nor everything in discussion and planning within the several task forces and Board. Additional reports regarding decisions and progress in strategic planning and implementation will be sent, as the task forces move forward.

Again, we thank you for the important input you provided in Phase I of Project ASK (assessment phase), and we encourage you to contact us with questions, suggestions and ideas that might help us address some/many of the needs we have identified, and, certainly with names of

- potential candidates for the Communications/Marketing and Development positions to be filled,
- potential “partners” in website redesign and creation of new ministry resources (especially creative digital/electronic resources for children),
- potential new donors (individuals, organizations/businesses, foundations, churches).

Please contact one or all of the following:

Russ French, Director of Project ASK

E-Mail: [rfrench2@utk.edu](mailto:rfrench2@utk.edu)

Telephone: (865) 693-1045

Rich Miller: FICM-USA President

E-Mail: [president@ficm.org](mailto:president@ficm.org)

Telephone: (828) 712-8229

Cindy Bergenback, VP of Administration

E-Mail: [cbergenback@ficm.org](mailto:cbergenback@ficm.org)

Telephone: (865) 342-4004.

## APPENDIX A

### PROJECT ASK TASK FORCE MEMBERS

# **Project ASK Task Forces and Members**

## Oversight Task Force

Steve Becker  
Cindy Bergenback  
Chris Campbell

Scott Holmquist  
George Malo  
Rich Miller

Russ French, Chair

## Prayer Task Force

Cindy Bergenback  
Craig Bess  
Jill Prout, Co-chair  
Carolyn Fugate, Co-chair

## Care and Training Task Force

Steve Becker  
Jill Prout  
Peggy Severance  
Marianne Becker, Chair

## Communications Task Force

Cindy Bergenback  
J. J. Davis  
Rich Miller  
Scott Holmquist, Chair

## Resources Development Task Force

Russ French  
George Malo  
Jill Shafer  
Brian Westphalen  
Rich Miller, Chair

## Ministry to Millennials Task Force

Trenidy Davis  
Scott Holmquist  
Rich Miller  
Millennials panel  
Chris Campbell, Chair

## Ministry to Racial and Ethnic Groups Task Force

Daryl and Stephanie Fitzgerald  
Rob and Nancy Reed  
Frank Sung  
Rich Miller, Chair

## Financial Development Task Force

Steve Becker  
John Fugate  
Scott Holmquist  
Terry Minnihan  
Dennis Prout  
Russ French, Chair

## APPENDIX B

### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAMS

## Expanding Leadership for FICM

**From:** Cindy Bergenback <cbergenback@ficm.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** Cindy Bergenback  
**Subject:** Expanding leadership for FICM

Dear FICM Family,

We are growing! The board and leadership have been praying about the best ways to minister to all the staff and volunteers the Lord is bringing alongside FICM. To better meet the needs of those who are actively teaching the truth, taking people through the Steps and training new encouragers, we have instituted the following structure for those developing CFMs:

***The Regional Leadership Team (RLT)*** – This concept is an exciting development within FICM as we are seeking to build and equip regional ministry teams to carry out the FICM mission. As we decentralize the ministry, it is our privilege and our challenge to develop networks for effective training and care throughout the entire country. Each RLT consists of 3 people, each leader having a specific focus with overlapping responsibilities within the RLT as they seek to develop and nurture healthy CFMs in their region. Each RLT will determine among themselves who leads the team's interactions.

- ***Regional Director of Prayer (RDP)*** - seeks to develop and coordinate opportunities for CFMAs to participate in strategic prayer for the region, help CFMAs build a prayer team and connect people in personal prayer teams. RDP is responsible for building alliances with other prayer ministries in the region and mobilizing prayer for regional expansion of CFMs. RDP also receives incoming prayer requests from their region and distributes them to the regional prayer network. The folks currently serving in these roles:

**National Leadership** – Carolyn Fugate ([carolynfugate@gmail.com](mailto:carolynfugate@gmail.com))

### **Regional Leadership**

- Northeast Region – Alison Cullen ([alisonfisheroriginals@verizon.net](mailto:alisonfisheroriginals@verizon.net))
  - Southeast Region – Lyn Martin ([lynbmart@epbfi.com](mailto:lynbmart@epbfi.com))
  - North Central Region – Jill Prout ([jillRprout@gmail.com](mailto:jillRprout@gmail.com))
  - South Central Region – Sue Jantz ([sue.jantz@gmail.com](mailto:sue.jantz@gmail.com))
  - Northwest Region- Steve and Marianne Becker (**interim** - [freedom@free2help.org](mailto:freedom@free2help.org))
  - Southwest Region – Sheryl Giesbrecht ([sherylgiesbrecht@aol.com](mailto:sherylgiesbrecht@aol.com))
- ***Regional Director of Expansion (RDE)*** - T The Regional Director of Expansion is responsible for seeking the Lord's plans for increasing the number of viable CFMs throughout each state as well as all major urban areas in that region. A large part of that is the discovery, recruitment, equipping and support of State and City Directors of Expansion throughout the region. He/she is also responsible for the running of CFMU Practicum in that region, with the desired goal of at least one Practicum annually in the region. The folks currently serving in these roles:

**National Leadership** – Rich Miller ([president@ficm.org](mailto:president@ficm.org))

### **Regional Leadership**

- Northeast Region – Dan Studt ([dstudt@cnypraxis.org](mailto:dstudt@cnypraxis.org))
- Southeast Region – Ken Martin ([kenlmart@epbfi.com](mailto:kenlmart@epbfi.com))
- North Central Region – Rick Cotti ([rcotti.ficm@gmail.com](mailto:rcotti.ficm@gmail.com))
- South Central Region – Rich Miller (**interim** – [president@ficm.org](mailto:president@ficm.org))
- Northwest Region - Steve and Marianne Becker ([freedom@free2help.org](mailto:freedom@free2help.org))
- Southwest Region – Frank Sung ([franksung01@gmail.com](mailto:franksung01@gmail.com))

- *Regional Director of Care and Training (RDCaT)* - helps ensure that CFMAs are receiving adequate support both personally and in their ministry of building and cultivating healthy CFMs. This includes personal care by way of our Roundtable (freedom friendly professionals, i.e. Licensed Professional Counselor, Financial Advisor, Qualified Lay Counselor, Lawyer, etc.). This also includes training either provided by the RDCaT or by way of pre-prepared webinars, blogs or podcasts (i.e. Leadership workshops, Bondage Breaker workshops, HOFFIC workshops, etc.). The folks currently serving in these roles:

**National Leadership** – Marianne Becker ([freedom@free2help.org](mailto:freedom@free2help.org))

**Regional Leadership**

- Northeast Region – Dan Studt (**interim** - [dstudt@cnypraxis.org](mailto:dstudt@cnypraxis.org))
- Southeast Region – Ken Martin (**interim** - [kenlmart@epbfi.com](mailto:kenlmart@epbfi.com))
- North Central Region – Terry Pausch ([terry@detroitlakesrs.com](mailto:terry@detroitlakesrs.com))
- South Central Region – Judy Ingvarlsen ([donjudy6430@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donjudy6430@sbcglobal.net))
- Northwest Region - James Tobin ([rbeyersl7@gmail.com](mailto:rbeyersl7@gmail.com))
- Southwest Region – James Learned ([jimlearned50@gmail.com](mailto:jimlearned50@gmail.com))

Just in case you aren't sure which states are in which region, here is a list for your review:

Northeast Region (CT, DE, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV)

Southeast Region (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

North Central Region (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, SD, WI)

South Central Region (AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX)

Northwest Region (ID, MT, OR, WA, WY)

Southwest Region (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT)

Pacific Region (AK, HI)

The Lord has already filled a number of these leadership roles, but as you can see several folks are serving as interim leaders. Please pray with us for the servants God has already prepared for each of these roles to be discovered.

In Christ,

*Cindy Bergenback*  
*VP of Administration*

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*Helping People Realize their New Identity and Freedom in Christ*

## APPENDIX C

### ESTATE PLANNING AND GIVING (CONSIDER FICM-USA)

## Have You Considered Transplanting Your Treasure?

After 28 years, Freedom in Christ Ministries-USA continues to prayerfully seek ways to extend our outreach. As the Apostle Paul said, “Not that I am looking for a gift, but I’m looking for what may be credited to Your account” (Phil 4:17). Steve Shadrack, Executive Director of The Center for Mission Mobilization, calls Paul a “treasure transplanter” who encourages believers to transplant their God-given treasures of money, time, gifts and talents from their earthly accounts to their accounts in Heaven.

As we engage in strategic planning, the FICM-USA Board of Directors is seeking to leave a legacy of freedom that will impact generations to come. We thank Financial Development Task Force member, Dennis Prout (Certified Financial Planner) for preparing the following information for your consideration - so you, too, might become a “treasure transplanter.”

### Ways to Financially Impact Freedom in Christ Ministries-USA

- 1) Cash given through check, online donation services or credit card.
- 2) Appreciated assets (e.g. actively traded stocks or other verifiable appreciated assets) given directly to FICM-USA for a full tax deduction of their current value. This allows you to avoid capital gains tax.
- 3) IRA charitable deductions – everyone with an IRA is required to begin taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) at age 70-1/2. All or a portion of that RMD (up to \$100,000 per year) can be donated to a 501c (3) non-profit such as FICM-USA. Although this amount is not tax deductible, the benefit comes from not having to declare it as income for Social Security taxation. Actually, it may be of more tax benefit than if you donate cash after taking the RMD personally. Also, highly appreciated stock in your IRA account can be donated directly to FICM-USA, which satisfies the RMD requirement without having to declare it as income.
- 4) What are some additional options? **What if you could start an account; deduct all of the investments made to that account; give out of the account with a future-based strategy and include loved-ones in the decisions? Plus, you could continue to use the account for designated charitable donations, while involving your children and grandchildren to potentially impact future generations.** The possibilities are endless. For detailed estate planning and tax-advantaged giving, please contact your attorney or Certified Financial Planner.

Would you like to be a “treasure transplanter” and partner with Freedom in Christ Ministries? If you have questions or want more information, feel free to contact:

- FICM Board Chair, Russ French ([rfrench2@utk.edu](mailto:rfrench2@utk.edu) – 865-693-1045) or
- FICM President, Rich Miller ([president@ficm.org](mailto:president@ficm.org) – 828-712-8229).