

# FREEDOM M

Fall Issue 2009

[www.ficm.org](http://www.ficm.org)

## Community Freedom Ministries (CFM) Update On the Road and Back to School!

Fall is the time of year when life “revs up” again as those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer begin to fade like our suntans. Vacations end, new programs at church kick in, and kids go back to school. (When I mention the term “back to school” to our kids, they get this frown on their face and mutter, “I really don’t want to talk about that.”)

Despite how students might feel about the transition from summer to fall, here at Freedom in Christ Ministries, we are excited about how the Lord Jesus wants to enlist more laborers for His harvest of freedom. And that’s who all our prayers and plans point to: The Lord Jesus Christ.

It is *His commission* to us to make disciples. It is *His heart* to set captives free and proclaim good news to the afflicted. It is *His authority* which goes before us to open doors and hearts and pushes back the enemy. It is *His presence* through the Holy Spirit which gives us power to do all He has commanded. It is all about *Him* and what *He* longs to do in the hearts of *His people, His saints*.

In our zeal and excitement to create and implement strategies, we must never become more thrilled with our plans than we are with Him. Amen?

Having said that, we are filled with a sense of anticipation about what the Lord Jesus is pulling together for this fall.

First, we are indeed “hitting the road!” In addition to teaching conferences in Vidor, Texas (Sept. 18 & 19) and Mexico City, Mexico (Nov. 20-22) we are conducting **six regional Catalysts** this fall.

What is a Catalyst? A Catalyst is a regional gathering place where those who desire to start a CFM (or are just curious) as well as those already running a CFM can come for encouragement, equipping, prayer, resources and networking. For the first time in our history, we will have a Catalyst event in all 6 major regions of the lower 48 states (Pacific Northwest, Southwest, North Central, South Central, Northeast and Southeast). Each Catalyst starts with a Friday evening prayer time and continues the next day (Saturday) with a morning and afternoon

*continued on pg. 4*



# An Answer to a Nation's Cry

*We have lived through 30 years of war and know its sadness and suffering, its pain and anxiety. Every day, unforgiveness and revenge rear their ugly heads, brother turns against brother, and scores of innocents die – their blood cries out louder than we can imagine. We worship a just and merciful God, who loves the sinner. He works in His perfect timing, and in this present season for Sri Lanka, He ordained **freedom**. And Living Free in Christ, a two-day seminar held recently in Colombo, was an answer to a nation's cry.*

These are the words of an intercessor who attended Dr. Neil Anderson's conference in July in the island nation of Sri Lanka. Dr. Anderson had the privilege of speaking to nearly 6,000 people over a three-day period there. In addition to the core message of freedom, he brought a special emphasis on forgiveness and reconciliation. What better word to bring to

One encouraging note is that the current FICMI laborers in Australia are going to be intentionally praying for and seeking to discover the new leadership for this ministry in that nation. Please pray that God's choice of leaders "down under" would become abundantly clear in the days ahead. Another development out of these meetings is that Stephen Cheah, FICMI Malaysian representative, has agreed to help provide some administrative assistance to the Council. This is much needed!

Ministry in India was also very fruitful as, according to Isaac Manogaram, Freedom Ministries India director, Dr. Anderson ministered to over 8,000 people in that great nation. Many of these people heard him speak in church services (including one service that was part of the 15th anniversary celebration of Freedom Ministries India).

Perhaps the most significant gathering was a training event in Chennai. Dr. Anderson commented on this time of ministry, held over a Friday and Saturday:

*The Discipleship Counseling conference was in English and they had to close registrations at 400 since the room could not possibly have held any more. In attendance was a Catholic priest who was handpicked by Mother Theresa before she died to provide pastoral care for all their missions around the world. He brought 16 Mothers Superior with him who oversee various locations of the Missionaries of Charity in southern India. Father Sebastian's life was changed by our ministry and he shares our message and takes people through "the Steps to Freedom" wherever he goes.*

In addition to numerous pastors and other Christian leaders in attendance, there were a group of about ten men and women involved full-time in counseling ministry in India. They came to learn and be strengthened in this message (they use FICM materials in their counseling), but also to find a place of spiritual protection under which they could serve the Lord Jesus. We may be soon seeing the birth of a Ministry Associate strategy to equip servants like these in India! Pray for a meeting scheduled for the end of September where up to 25 people are expected to come to learn how they can be ministers and presenters operating under the Freedom Ministries India umbrella.

Here are a few testimonies of those attending Dr. Anderson's *Discipleship Counseling* conference in Chennai and *Living Free in Christ* event in Colombo:

*I have been blessed, and what I heard here by Dr. Anderson was something I have heard for the first time in my Christian life after being born again. I will continue in my freedom walk since it has made my heart so light. It's amazing that it feels funny not carrying the burden, like I'm suddenly flying. Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for your ministry and "the Steps to Freedom".*



Isaac Manogaram, Neil Anderson, Clay Bergen, Robert Genock, Rich Miller

such a war-ravaged nation? There are now plans being made to translate FICM core materials into Sinhalese, the national language of Sri Lanka. In fact, the Sinhalese translation of *The Steps to Freedom in Christ* is already completed, and the document is now in final editing.

According to Dr. Anderson, it is very likely that an ongoing ministry of FICM will open up in that nation in the near future.

These meetings were part of an amazing two weeks of ministry in Asia and the Pacific region that involved...not only Dr. Anderson...but the entire FICM International Council. Council members flew to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Chiang Mai, Thailand; and twice to Sydney, Australia to meet with FICMI representatives to encourage, pray with and strategize for future ministry.



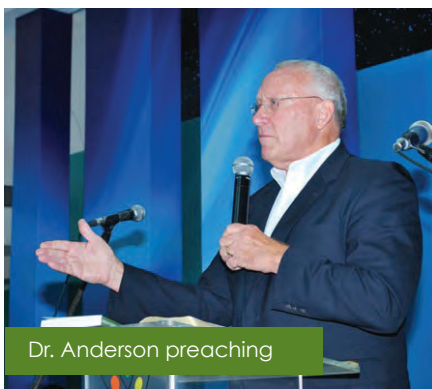


India Mother Superiors attend Discipleship Training

*I was really blessed these two days to be taken on a tour of God's Word – especially to reiterate that I am a child of God. Then to be challenged to go on to repent and then stand firm. Then to have a truth encounter as I faced my sins. Wow! It was great and is great to know that I am forgiven. Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for your ministry.*

*This conference made us understand many complex issues for which we did not have answers. Especially when our country is recovering from the devastation and debris of war. Your message of restoration and freedom will be so helpful to use in ministry for people throughout the country, and also to help in all the work we do in the refugee camps and hospitals.*

Please be in prayer for Isaac Manogarom and the Freedom Ministries, India team as they are both exhausted and exhilarated. Isaac and his wife, Tara, were both hit hard by chest infections after this busy ministry time in July. They are better now after a 10 day bout with the illness, thank the Lord. Freedom Ministries India looks forward to much fruitful ministry as they follow-up from these events in the days ahead. Already the funding for the translation of *Victory Over the Darkness*, *The Bondage Breaker*, and *The Steps to Freedom in Christ* into Sinhalese has come in...around \$7,000! Isaac and Tara, need additional support for their own personal needs, however. Pray for the Lord's abundant provision for them. It was an honor to minister alongside them in India and to be a part of the great things God is doing in that nation. Thank you for your prayers!



Dr. Anderson preaching



International Council members with FICM India staff

continued from pg. 1

designed to help you start and grow a CFM.

There is no better way to get connected with others in your part of the country who are excited about bringing the message and ministry of freedom to their home church or hometown. Don't miss this opportunity! We look forward to seeing you there!

For comprehensive information about these six crucial events as well as a direct link to register, please go to [www.ficm.org](http://www.ficm.org) and click on the colorful Catalyst poster in the upper right hand portion of our homepage.

Speaking of "back to school", FICM-USA is proud to introduce **CFM University**. No, we don't have a mascot and it will be a while before our football team reaches the BCS, but we are serious about providing teaching and training for those who want to be certified by FICM-USA as official Community Freedom Ministries.

Our desire and current plans are to be open for education by early-mid fall. Through a learning management system called "Moodle", we will be eventually offering four online courses to help those seeking certification as authorized CFM Coordinators. Complete with text books, reading assignments, quizzes, a mentoring program and an on-site practicum **CFM University** promises to be the most thorough and comprehensive training that FICM-USA has ever done. We will "go public" with CFM University at our six regional Catalysts. Stay tuned also to our website to learn more about this dynamic educational opportunity this fall!

# Committed to Prayer

"We are excited and looking forward to great things through prayer!"

"I am blessed to be part of this awesome experience of prayer..."

These comments were made by those who have been participating in our newly established regional prayer phone calls. Thirty minutes on a conference call linking regional prayer hosts across the nation is making a difference!

Andrew Murray said that the greatest hindrance to prayer is "not doing it." Wholeheartedly believing that prayer provides the essential undergirding of FICM, the U.S. Board of Directors took decisive action almost a year ago. Board members now join together every Tuesday morning for a 30-minute conference call, covering the ministry and one another in prayer. These times have been exciting, exceptional, empowering and enjoyed by all!

Recently, we took a powerful step forward in increasing prayer coverage for FICM-USA by organizing prayer conference calls in each of the six regions of the lower 48 states (Northwest, North Central, Southwest, South Central, Northeast and Southeast). These prayer conference calls are led by six regional prayer hosts. During these phone calls, participants from each region pray for Community Freedom Ministries (CFM) that are being birthed across the nation as well as for other FICM needs, as the Spirit leads.

We deeply appreciate all those who are investing their time in prayer and look forward to even more opportunities to deepen our relationships with one another as we unite in worship, confession, thanksgiving and bringing our requests to God. We anticipate these prayer calls will branch out and multiply in the days ahead to the glory of God.

**Would you like to join us in this powerful opportunity to pray over the phone? It's easy and can be done from the comforts of home! If so, call the FICM office at 865-342-4003 and let us know!**

Prayer is the engine that empowers and advances God's kingdom on earth!





# Strengthen the Knees that are Weak

By Rich Miller, President, FICM-USA

My alarm yanked me out of a deep sleep at 6:30 this morning. Normally that wouldn't have been so irritating, but I had stayed up reading until about 1 am the night before. As I staggered over to the blasted thing to shut it off...hoping my wife, Shirley, would not awaken...I must've looked like a comedy act. I was groggy enough from sleep as it was, but I've also recently had an aching left knee. I almost fell several times as I flung my arms out like a drunken sailor on a pitching vessel, trying to keep my balance with an uncooperative weak knee. I made it safely across the room, but I suspect several angels had "dawn duty" today.

Injured knees in need of repair seem to be the rage here at FICM. Dr. Neil Anderson has had two knee replacements in fairly recent history. I told him he should change his name to "Kneel" now that he can! Carolyn Fugate, one of our Board members, has had two knee replacements this year. Judy King, another one of our Board members, has had one with a second on the way. Neil's sister and FICM staffer, Peg McCabe, is now in rehab for very recent knee surgery.

Knees are not necessarily the most attractive part of our physical bodies, but they sure come in handy when it comes to walking. Like most things in life, you take them for granted until they start hurting or not working too well. Then you are very aware of their presence. Even my Siberian husky, Scout, noticed something was wrong with me when I was taking him for a walk last evening. He kept turning around to look at me when I wasn't able to walk at the pace I (or my kids) normally keep. Amazingly, he slowed his pace rather than trying to force me to go at his. That act of canine kindness touched my heart and relieved some of my frustration at not being as ambulatory as I would like.

Scripture talks about knees. There are two places in the Scripture...one in the Old Testament and one in the New...that I'd like to look at briefly in this devotional, though there are others as well. First the Old:

*"Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear.'" (Isaiah 35:3-4a)*

The context of the Isaiah 35 passage is the prophet's prediction of the return of the Israelites to their land after the exile. The chapter is a joyous one, with imagery of a desert bursting into bloom and the people of God singing and shouting as they journey home. The road they take is called "The Highway of Holiness" and it is a place protected from ferocious lions.

The symbolism is hard to miss. Even as the fulfillment of the prophecy came in the literal return of the Jews from exile, its fulfillment is found every day in those who have discovered in Christ their freedom from bondage. Those who experience the chains of slavery to sin and Satan's vicious tyranny falling off, beautifully radiate with joy, as gladness and singing fill their hearts and "sorrow and sighing flee away" (see Isaiah 35: 10). Perhaps you have seen this happen. Perhaps it has happened to you.

A dear lady from our church who spent seven hours with another woman who had suffered terribly in her life told me yesterday of the awesome wonder of watching the Lord Jesus tenderly set this captive free and bring healing in marvelous ways. She tried to describe the glory of those hours with that lady but words were inadequate. It was like being on holy ground.

Indeed it was. It was the Highway of Holiness. One of the ran-

somed of the Lord was returning (see Isaiah 35:10).

So we have the privilege of helping folks like that begin to walk again on their journey to freedom. We stand with them. We steady them. We walk with them.

Many have fearful hearts. They have been in exile so long that they aren't sure they can be released. They're not sure freedom is really going to come to them. And their hearts are afraid, unsure that they can continue to walk on that holy path of freedom.

So we speak kindly and tenderly to them, "Be strong...in the Lord. Do not fear". When we turn around and see them struggling to keep up, we slow our pace. But we keep on walking...reverently...because we are indeed on holy ground.

The New Testament passage comes at this subject in a different way:

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 'Make level paths for your feet' so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed." (Hebrews 12:11,12)*

The context of this passage is undergoing the Lord's discipline or training so that we cease walking in sin and walk instead in righteousness. Don't you love the candor of this Scripture? You could paraphrase the first part of it, "Okay, let's get real here. It ain't exactly a barrel of laughs when God takes you out to the woodshed. In fact it's really a pain in the..." You get the picture!

Earlier in that chapter of Hebrews 12, the Lord makes it clear that every one of His children gets disciplined. It comes with the territory, and is in fact a reassuring sign that we're really one of His kids. He disciplines us in love so that we can be holy like Him. Like Father, like son or daughter.

Are you willing to let Him do that in your life? Do you see the tough times you're going through as part of God's pruning to make you more like Jesus? Are you letting Him have His way or are you being carried along, kicking and screaming?

You see, this passage in Hebrews 12:11,12 contains a command and a warning. Unlike the Isaiah passage we looked at, the command to strengthen your weak knees is given in regard to yourself, not in your ministry to another.

We are clearly told to cooperate with God as our personal spiritual "trainer". Sin weakens us and hobbles us so that we are not walking in the Spirit, with the Lord. God's discipline is designed to strengthen us so that we can walk with Him and fight the spiritual battles of life we encounter. If you do what God says, you get stronger. If you skip class or try and take the easy way out or ignore your "trainer", you don't.

In fact, God warns that the discipline will get tougher. You actually won't be able to run away anymore because you will not just limp, you'll become lame. And you really will not enjoy that.

Will you join me today in saying "Yes, Lord" to our loving, caring, relentlessly pursuing, good God? We are His children and He loves us like He loves the Lord Jesus!



Rich Miller

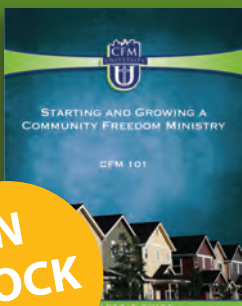


Freedom in Christ Ministries  
9051 Executive Park Drive, Ste. 503  
Knoxville, TN 37923

*Thank you for your continued support of FICM!*



# Book Sale!



**CFM University 101:  
Starting and Growing  
a Community Freedom  
Ministry**

Retail: \$14.99

**Your Price: \$9.74  
SAVE 35%**

**IN  
STOCK**



**CFM University 201:  
Building and Strengthen-  
ing Community Freedom  
Ministry Leadership**

Retail: \$14.99

**Your Price: \$9.74  
SAVE 35%**

**Taking  
Pre-  
Orders**

Visit our newly improved online store: [www.freedominchrist.com](http://www.freedominchrist.com)  
Call toll free 866.462.4747

[www.ficm.org](http://www.ficm.org)