

freedom

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A Newsletter update from Freedom In Christ Ministries

Freedom in Fiji

by Rich Miller

Fiji. Most people think of it as a tropical paradise and...to some degree...it is that. But it is also a land ravaged by domestic abuse and incest, governed under the control of a military dictator who finds himself in stark opposition to the largest denomination (Methodist) in the country. I can still see the smirk on my pastor's face as he encouraged our congregation to pray for me as I prepared to leave to "suffer for Jesus" in Fiji, but prayer was crucial as we flew to minister to a land once gripped by cannibalism.

The FICM team from the U.S. consisted of Dr. Ken Greenlee (long-time friend of FICM and director of "Teach Us to Pray"), Raymond & Tuggy Dunton (directors of WINGS of Freedom, taking the freedom message to Native Americans) and myself. Most of our time was spent in the capital city of Suva and our way was well-paved through prayer and the prior work of Ken Greenlee, who has been ministering in Fiji for around 7 years. He has been to the island nation around 40 times!

You might appreciate a little background information about Fiji. It is in the South Pacific and the nation consists of around 300 islands, about 100 of which are inhabited. The majority of the population is Melanesian Fijian with a large percentage Indo-Fijians (descendants of Indians brought over by the British crown as slaves years ago). Fijians are typically multi-lingual, often speaking their village language, Fijian and varying degrees of English. Some also speak Hindustani.

When we were there, it was summer so it was very warm and quite humid. When the breeze blew, which was much of the time, it was fairly pleasant. When the breeze stopped, it was not! Most of our time was spent in ministry, though our final two days in Fiji were spent on the west side of the island. Ken, Tuggy and I went snorkeling and Raymond braved the coral reefs to surf.

Prior to our coming, a group of four men: Ratu Osea (ratu means "chief" and Ratu Osea is a very influential man, being a former Parliamentarian and now serving as one of eight "paramount" (or highest) chiefs in the nation); John Samisoni (a very influential business man); Mark Roche (an American who is director of "Homes of Hope," a residential ministry for abused and exploited single moms and their kids); and Peter Schultz (an Australian whom the Lord led to leave it all behind and come with his family to start a prison ministry in Fiji totally by faith) had met to plan our stay there. By the way, Mark graciously opened up one of their guest houses for the four of us to lodge in during most of our time in Fiji. It was up on a ridge and surrounded by tropical vegetation. Very beautiful!

These four men and others opened a wide door for ministry for us while we were there. We kicked off our time with a grace vs. legalism conference that I taught at the Noko-noko church (part of an indigenous Pentecostal denomination). The response was great and John Samisoni commented about how totally

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blown away he was by the grace message. Legalism is rampant in Fiji and so this was a really good launch to our time, helping stir up interest for the "main event" of leadership training Monday through Friday of the next week.

Raymond (with Tuggy helping some) ministered in the mornings and I ministered in the evenings. The Fijians (who are tribal people) took to Raymond immediately, as he spoke of his Navajo and Hopi roots and customs. Raymond encouraged the people to embrace the parts of their culture that are good and not to allow themselves to be stripped of that crucial part of their identity, while teaching on the primacy of our kingdom identity in Christ. This message was life-changing for the people. From the first words out of Raymond's mouth, it was obvious the Lord had hand-picked him for this team!



Ken Greenlee

Tuggy spent most of her time ministering to ladies at Homes of Hope and they loved her. Her gentle, kind, highly relational style of ministry was equally well-suited to Fiji. And her background of coming out of abuse herself helped her connect with the moms. Tuggy

also invested very valuable time in taking the wives of the four leadership men through *the Steps*.

When Raymond and I weren't teaching, we were taking the four leaders and a few other men through personal freedom appointments. All told, we took, I believe, 7 men and 5 women through *the Steps* and around 9 of those people got to also sit in as prayer partners. We couldn't have scripted the training better if we had wanted to!

Every appointment was an awakening for those who went through *the Steps*. That, in itself, was amazing because they were sitting through their freedom appointments largely because they were

leaders and we wanted them to see the process...not because they were desperate for help themselves. Of course, important issues surfaced in every person's life and they left feeling lighter and clean, rejoicing in the great liberating work of the King!

The success of these appointments and the receptivity of the people during all the sessions was, of course, due to the power of prayer. It was also due to the beautiful, child-like teachability of the majority of the Fijians. They are like sponges, drinking in the message of freedom like thirsty ground.

I will never forget the faces of the men I ministered to in both a medium and maximum security prison. Eyes glued. Leaning forward. Drinking in every word. Receiving the message of hope and freedom and grace with incredible eagerness. It was an honor to be with such humble people.

A very key element to the ongoing ministry of freedom in Fiji is the four leaders that we left behind there. They are already meeting together to pray and discern collectively what the next steps are toward seeing the message of freedom spread throughout Fiji. And FICM is committed to standing with them and doing all the Lord would want from us in order to see the ministry flourish there.

Hundreds of powerful "freedom seeds" have now been planted in the deep, rich soil of humility in the Fijian believers. Watered by the prayers of the saints, we believe we will see a wonderful harvest in that nation in the years to come.



Emele and Tuggy



Raymond Dunton, Ratu Osea Gavidi



The Resurrection and a Dull Day in March

By Rich Miller, President, FICM-USA

Today is a dull day in March. Not a lion; not a lamb. More like a pigeon. I'm sure my outlook isn't the greatest either, since I'm just coming off a very nasty stomach/intestinal bug with all its supporting cast of symptoms.

My office staff always wants me to start a devotional with some sort of eye-catching, heart-grabbing statement. But today, I guess I'm just not in an eye-catching and heart-grabbing mood. I'm not depressed; I'm just...well...ordinary.

Maybe you can relate. After all, most of life is...*ordinary*.

Another batch of bills shows up in the mail, just after you paid off a batch (Hey, why is the cell phone bill over \$200 this month!). We really need to get going on our 2009 taxes and...oh brother...the household budget is in need of a major overhaul. How are we going to pay for our kid's college education, once she finally decides where she's going to go? I really need to exercise more consistently. There's laundry (tons of it!) to do. There's dinner to cook, dishes to wash (Why is that confounded dishwasher not turning on again?). And so on.

The following question occurred to me as I was praying about what to write in this devotional: "What does the resurrection have to do with a dull day in March?"

That's actually a very profound question, because if we are unable to make the connection between the power of Christ's resurrection on an *ordinary day*...then we're missing out on the power of Christ's resurrection on *most days*. After all, most of life is...well, ordinary.

Resurrection Sunday (which many call "Easter") is a great time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. I love singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". And every Sunday we actually celebrate the resurrection though we might not be aware of that. But after all, Resurrection Sunday is just one day out of the year. What about the other 364? And Sunday is just one day out of the week. What about the other six?

Since this is a devotional and not a book, let me be brief and to the point on some things I've found helpful in seeing the power and presence of the resurrected Christ infused into the mundane. Because the resurrection has a *lot* to say to us on a dull, pigeon-ish day in March! To help you remember and also to help keep me on track, I'm going to use the letters of **RISEN** to provide the framework for my comments.

R stands for *rejoice* and *rest*. Though you may have been a follower of Christ for a long time and the resurrection is not *new* news; it is still incredibly *good* news. Death has completely lost its victory and sting over us, as has sin and the law! So we can proclaim, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57).

Because He lives, we live also (John 14:19). In Christ our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:27)! I guess **R** stands for *relief* as well!

I is for *intercession* or prayer. Regardless of how ordinary the day, I always get at least one or two emails with people needing prayer for health or healing. Though my circumstances may be *ordinary*, through prayer I have the opportunity to connect needy people with an *extraordinary* God. His resurrection life and power can course through the veins of those who are sick. Romans 8:11 says, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in us."

S stands for *steadfast*. No matter how tough things might be for you right now, what we do in the Lord – whether it's preaching to thousands or cleaning up after one sick child – matters. Christ's resurrection means that He is alive and we are in Him and He is in us (John 14:20). As we depend on Him, His resurrection life and power flows into everything we do. In Christ and for His glory, *everything* is sacred. So hang in there and don't give up. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

E, as you might expect, is for *evangelism*. Nothing helps get one's eyes off of oneself and nothing infuses a sense of the supernatural into the natural as much as telling people about our risen Lord. Is there a neighbor or family member that is currently outside of Christ? Pray for him or her and be open to the Lord leading you to be the messenger with the beautiful feet to bring the good news. Our risen Lord said, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses..." (Acts 1:8). That power is *resurrection power*!

Finally, **N** stands for *nachos*. Just kidding. I just wanted to see if you were still awake. **N** actually is for *not our home*. Earth, that is. Our citizenship is in heaven from which we eagerly await Christ's return (Phil. 3:20). One day these decaying bodies will be replaced by a brand, spankin' new resurrection body...one that is like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21). No matter how *ordinary* or *extraordinary* your day is today, there should always be a twinge of homesickness for heaven. It truly is much better there (Phil. 1:23).

But for now...on this dull March day...you and I can be content knowing that we *have been born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead* (1 Peter 1:3). Hallelujah!



Rich Miller





CFM UNIVERSITY

There are far too many of God's forgiven and freed people who are still trapped in sin. There are countless children of God who don't know who they really are. There are numerous saints who have been raised up and seated with Christ who are being defeated every day by the enemy here on earth. And there are far too few soldiers of the Lord outfitted and equipped to bring this life-transforming message of freedom in Christ to those in need.

How can we see this change?

About a year ago, an idea started to germinate in our thinking... What if we could provide training for God's people any time of the day or night? What if liberated saints with a heart to spread the word of freedom could be trained right there in their own homes?

The idea of Community Freedom Ministry (CFM) University was born!

If you've been following these newsletters, you've been hearing about CFM University for a while. You may be wondering where we are in "building" this university. Great question!

Here's the latest.

From early January to mid February we did an initial pilot test of 14 participants. They studied hard, took a challenging entrance exam, then took two online courses, CFM 101 and 201. Each course had four parts (modules) with a reading assignment, narrated online presentation and reflection questions. To move on to each new module, the participants had to pass a quiz. It was described as "rigorous," "challenging," "a lot of hard work" and "a true college course" by pilot testers.

Well, that wasn't the end of the pilot test. From February 16-19, the 14 were joined by about 15 FICM Board members and Staff

who served as coaches, pray-ers, teachers and encouragers. The 14 had their skills as freedom presenters sharpened and they all went through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ* and took someone else through *the Steps* with supervision.

The results?

We were thrilled with the relationships built and the growth and development that came to all of us, and especially to the 14. Here's a word from one of the participants:

I just wanted to say thank you for the entire on-line training and in-person Practicum experience. What God did with me from around the time of the fall '09 Catalyst through the Practicum was nothing short of a loving Father restoring one of His kids to a relationship rooted and grounded in the truth that HE LOVES ME. I look forward to being transformed by His love for me as I trust Him to allow another drop of His love to fill me each and every day. I'm in such a different place now, and many of the freedom teachings are making much more sense to me. I see how much I need this personal time with Him, less hindered by pressing ministry needs. God bless you as you move forward in Christ. I'm delighted to be connected with FICM and CFMU.

So, what's next? We are now working diligently on improving an already solid curriculum. We will then run it through another select pilot test in the summer and we are hoping for a mid-August opening of our doors for the first official semester of CFM University! Please keep us in your prayers.

And keep watching for news of our Grand Opening!





Break Forth

At the end of January, Dr. Anderson traveled to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to be a part of Break Forth 2010 – the largest equipping and renewal conference held in North America. Each year this event sells out at 15,000 attendees. This was Dr. Anderson's second time to speak at Break Forth – he was invited in 2009 and then quickly invited again for the 2010 lineup.

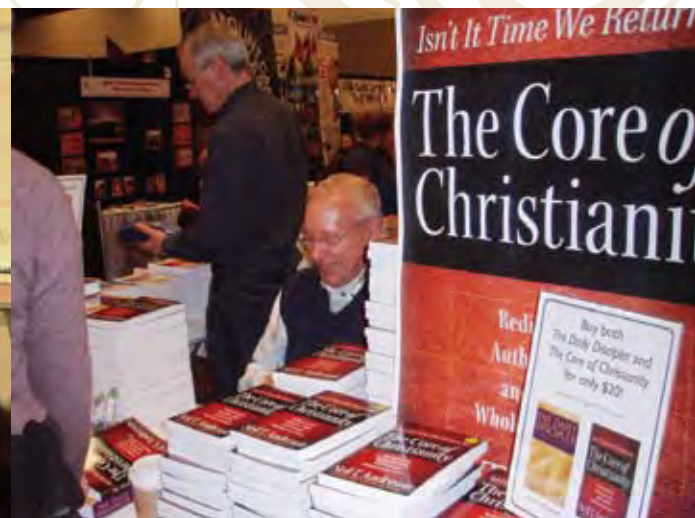
Dr. Anderson was one of approximately 100 all-day workshop and breakout session speakers. His topics this year included Discipleship Counseling, Fear, Anger, Depression, Sexual Addiction and Chemical Addiction. All were well attended with numbers ranging from 100 to 500 per session, with over 1,500 in total attendance.

Freedom in Christ Canada staff joined Dr. Anderson at Break Forth for the second year in a row to help with questions and counseling after

the sessions. They also staffed a booth of Freedom in Christ resources in the Shaw Conference Centre, where many good contacts were made.

Freedom in Christ Canada continues to see fruit in and around Edmonton, Alberta with regular conferences/events and several Ministry Associates being raised up in the area. In fact, at the end of March, Freedom In Christ Canada will have done four events in the Edmonton area in just three months! We pray that the spiritual hunger and awakening in this area will spread to the rest of this great nation, and ask you to keep our first event ever for Freedom In Christ Ministries in the province of Quebec, Canada this fall in your prayers. It is a very hard mission field.

Submitted by Jill Laycock
FIC Canada Staff



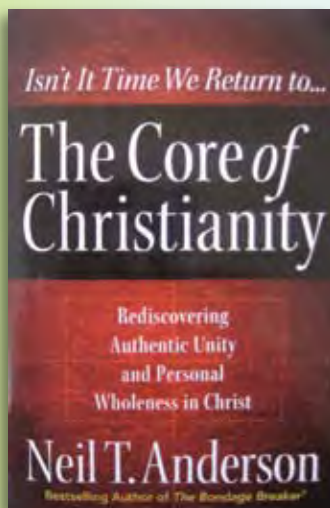


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