

# freedom

A Newsletter update from Freedom In Christ Ministries

## Celebrating 25 Years of God's Faithfulness



What were you doing 25 years ago? Back in 1989 a gallon of gas cost less than a buck and it would set you back a whopping \$.25 to mail a letter. George Bush, Sr. became president of the United States and at long last apartheid in South Africa was starting to dismantle.

And Freedom in Christ Ministries was born under the leadership of Dr. Neil T. Anderson.

To celebrate our silver anniversary, this summer 230 delegates from nearly 30 nations...from as diverse places as Iran, Nepal, Portugal, Liberia, Venezuela, Latvia and Trinidad/Tobago...came to Atlanta for USA2014. Jesus Christ was glorified, our founder was honored, and God's people were encouraged and sent home with renewed energy, vision and joy. We thought you would enjoy reading a couple of people's fond memories of this event, held June 30-July 3...

*"It was a game changer for me to see our early founders in one place after 25 years...still serving with the same spirit, vision, mission and passion. I would like to follow in their footsteps as they have followed in the footsteps of our heavenly Father."*

- delegate from India



*"The fellowship with everyone was just amazing. It really felt like coming home to family. The event was fantastic and we came away even more enthusiastic for the gospel and the message of FICM. We are empowered to take the courses to our local area and beyond!"*

- delegate from the UK

*"From the opening notes of praise I soared and rejoiced in worship to our God with my heavenly-transformed, newly-acquainted brothers and sisters from around the world! This event was a pinnacle of our ministry experience and a great reminder to stand firm and lead our heavy-laden and hurting brethren to the truth that sets us free. What glorious joy!"*

-delegate from the USA

So what comes next? As Neil writes in his devotional in this newsletter, God is doing great things in the USA and around the world, but there is much to be done. Will the Lord grant us another 25 years? We don't know, but today and each day He gives us, by His grace we will spread this message, methodology and ministry of freedom across this nation and around the world!



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# Community Freedom Ministries: An Army of Ordinary People



When people think of Freedom in Christ Ministries, many of them recall the days of large teaching conferences with Neil Anderson or his books, *Victory over the Darkness* and *The Bondage Breaker*, as well as other bestsellers. Well, Neil and other FICM staff are still conducting events and Neil is still writing great books (as you can see from the update in this newsletter)!

But our ministry focus...though never our message... has shifted in the past eight years.

We are now looking for more than a few good men and women to take this message, methodology and ministry to the trenches in their home churches and home towns. Our vision is "to establish and nurture a growing network of Community Freedom Ministries (CFM) all across the nation." In other words, we are asking God to raise up...out of the countless thousands in this nation that have been touched by the freedom only Jesus brings...men and women who will start a grass roots movement of freedom right where they live.

Our main avenue for equipping this army of ordinary people is CFM University. It is an online training institute (utilizing the Moodle learning management




# Devotional

By Neil T. Anderson



**Neil T Anderson**



Several years ago I was on a fall ministry tour that was overscheduled. After three straight weeks on the road I still had two more stops before I could finally go home. I had one more Living Free In Christ conference in Canada followed by a board meeting in California. After my first teaching session on Wednesday evening I stepped out into the hall for a breather. A scruffy looking character approached me and said, "God told me that I am supposed to pray for you." I looked at him rather dubiously and said, "Do I need prayer?" He said, "You do. I see fiery darts stuck all over you." If he had asked to lay his hands on me I probably would have said "no," since I am very cautious about strangers doing that. Being assured in my spirit that this guy was "legit", I invited him to pray for me. His prayer was like spiritual surgery removing fiery darts. I felt quite amazing afterwards. I asked Clay Bergen, our Canadian director, "Who was that man?" Clay said, "Oh, that's John the Baptist," which he is affectionately known as in the community. He commits himself to pray for whomever and whenever, and lives off people's donations.

At the time our message was being grossly misrepresented and I had come under heavy criticism from a certain radio ministry. It was very painful.

I was quite discouraged and was seriously considering retiring from FICM. I wasn't bitter and had no vindictive or condemning thoughts, but I was thinking, "I don't need this." I had just finished my book on depression, and all the way to California I kept thinking, "Neil, believe your own message, and thank you John the Baptist, whoever you are!" I have never been a quitter, but that was about as close as I have ever come. I'm sure the apostle Paul had similar impulses after being stoned and shipwrecked a few times. He is more than qualified to say, "And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

As I reflect back over the past twenty five years I am so thankful for Jerry & Sally Friesen, Tim & Eleanor Warner, Ron & Carole Wormser, and Hal and Alandra Parks, many of whom sat on the platform at our 25th anniversary and shared their wisdom. Frankly, they have grown weary, but not of well doing. I know I could still count on them and they would give it their best, and will until they are no longer physically capable. Now we have handed the ministry off to a new generation, and I don't see any quit in them. They are doing some great work around the world, and the harvest is multiplying in ways I never dreamed of. As the founder and president emeritus of FICM, I want to thank all of you for supporting this incredible ministry in prayer and finances. It is not time to quit. The message and ministry of freedom is having an impact all over the world, and is needed now more than ever before.



# Help us spread the message!

In this newsletter, you have caught a glimpse of the impact of USA2014 on those who were able to attend. Neil has shared from his heart some of his reflections and encouraged our hearts. Rich has enabled us to get excited about what the Community Freedom Ministry (CFM) initiative is producing. I'm here to ask a simple, but very important question, "Will you become or continue to be a partner with FICM-USA as we march (not tiptoe) into the next 25 years?" Your partnership in financial support, prayer, and introduction of the Freedom in Christ message, methods and ministry in your local area is critical, if captives are to be set free.

Two areas of immediate financial need are:

- 1) New computers and software for the office staff and additional video and audio equipment for CFM course production, event filming, and creation of new resources.

Please note: We have the promise of a matching gift of \$11,250 if we can raise a like amount in the next few weeks. Can you help?

- 2) Operating funds. Wonderful people directed their summer gifts to scholarships to help needy international and national staff and volunteers to get to the 25th Anniversary event for training and encouragement. Praise God! But our general fund/operating fund was left in a very vulnerable position. We need \$25,000.

If God prompts you to help, you may make a secure contribution online at [www.ficm.org/donate/](http://www.ficm.org/donate/). Checks should be made to FICM.

Thank you for helping us march forward with the message of freedom!



**Russ French**  
FICM-USA Board of Directors

## Growing Fruitful Disciples

I remember years ago a wise man observing our ministry made the comment, "You have the cure for cancer locked in a warehouse." Those words challenged us. How could we get this life-transforming message of freedom out to more churches, more church leaders and more congregation members?

The Lord has given us an exciting plan to do just that. This fall we will reveal a new strategy to take FICM to potentially more churches and church leaders than ever before. We call it **Growing Fruitful Disciples**.

Now, through live events and online videos, any pastor or church leader anywhere in the country can receive an introduction to the FICM approach to discipleship. They will learn in three dynamic presentations all about the *message, method, and ministry* of Freedom in Christ.

If you would like to know more about this strategy or find out how to watch these presentations, contact the Freedom in Christ office at 865-342-4000 or email us at [info@ficm.org](mailto:info@ficm.org)



**Rich Miller**



system) to teach folks the nuts and bolts of how to get a CFM up and running. A CFM involves teaching the freedom message; taking people through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*; and training individuals to effectively utilize the "Steps" as a ministry tool to help "stuck" Christians become growing, fruitful disciples of Jesus. We thought you'd enjoy knowing how this strategy is doing around the nation. At present we have:

- 173 active Community Freedom Ministry Associates (CFMA) – those who have completed the training and are involved in a CFM
- 29 states that have at least one active CFM
- 74 students who are now taking CFMU classes
- 38 students enrolled in our four-day training Practicums during the next six months

Here are some comments from those who have attended our training and are active in ministry:

*I absolutely loved the online CFM University course – so much so that I took copious notes to keep with my printed class materials! My notes helped me retain more of the course content which I needed when I started up my CFM. To God be the glory for a successful CFM launch!* -CFMA from Florida

*The Practicum connected me with other CFMA's and FICM staff. I truly felt part of a team And God gave me a plan and a purpose to take back home. He showed me that the program in our home church had been like hopscotch...all over the place...and He wanted it to be like building blocks, strong and growing. I left with renewed confidence in the Lord. Since getting back home, we have had three training courses and several Bible studies as well as The Grace Course. We are presently checking into enlarging more to reach out into our community.* -CFMA from Illinois



Leadership is a key to growth and we praise God for the leaders He is bringing to this ministry. In addition to seeing Him raise up regional directors to encourage and equip our CFMAs around the country, the Lord is also starting to provide state directors, so that the leadership load is not so heavy for anyone. Larry & Carolyn Hopkins have taken on that responsibility in Oklahoma. Here's what they have to say:

*"We are excited about what God is doing here in Oklahoma. We have four new candidates who want to register for CFM University courses 101 and 201. We are setting up a time to take them through the "Steps" and give them some training. Our vision is to see Oklahoma saturated with this message and ministry. Most of the CFMA's are on the eastern side of the state and we want to go west!"*

Please join with us in praying that the Lord would raise up state directors for all 50 states. And we are also asking Him for city directors in the major metropolitan areas of our country. These are exciting days and we thank the Lord for your partnership with us.





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*Thank you for your continued support of FICM!*

# New Victory Series!

The first four books of Neil's new eight book series are now in stock! Each book is six sessions and includes a leader's guide for small groups.

**Retail Rate: \$9.99      Sale Rate: \$8.49**

We have individual bulk rates available at [www.freedominchrist.com](http://www.freedominchrist.com)! Call our bookstore to **mix and match** these items and receive the bulk discount.

Quantity	Amount
10 to 19	\$7.64 each
20 to 49	\$6.79 each
50 or more	\$5.94 each

\*Shipping prices not included, prices may change without notice. CFMA's must call/email to receive bulk rates.

