

freedom

A Newsletter Update from Freedom In Christ Ministries

National Leadership Retreat

The Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone and God's Word is the foundation of any ministry. And, following that metaphor, godly leaders could then be considered the "first floor." Here at FICM-USA, we are graciously gifted with godly, mature leaders...on our Board of Directors, on the field and in the office.

On August 19-21, we had the joy of bringing together 34 of our national, regional and state leaders at Whispering Cove retreat center (outside of Asheville, NC) for a weekend away. This National Leadership Retreat was prayed for and planned out over a six-month period, and saw men and women attend from six regions of the U.S. and 15 of our states. There were leaders in attendance who oversee prayer, expansion and member care for our people...the three pillars of field ministry...that all of our administrative and office staff support.

The retreat was a great time of worship, prayer, relationship-building, refreshment, vision-casting and discussion about where the Lord is taking FICM-USA in the days ahead. It fit beautifully into our summer-long process of surveys, focus groups and evaluations (spearheaded by our Board of Directors' Special

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FICM National Leadership



Fellowship over meals



Discussing the future of FICM-USA

Task Force). All of this sets the stage for this fall as the Board will seek the Lord's guidance while putting together a three-year Strategic Plan for FICM-USA.

Please pray that we will listen well and hear clearly and collectively from Jesus as to what His good, acceptable and perfect will is for this ministry (John 10:27; 1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 12:2).

Setting Your Church Free



Setting Your Church Free site

When many people think of freedom, they think of individuals going through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*. After all, the "Steps" is an important part of what FICM is all about. But have you ever thought about a church needing a "freedom appointment" too?

Years ago, Dr. Neil Anderson and Dr. Chuck Mylander wrote the book, *Setting Your Church Free (SYCF)* in order to help local congregations experience freedom from issues of corporate bondage. This freedom enables them to serve even more powerfully as the "salt" and "light" in the world.

During the weekend of September 8-10, FICM-USA President Rich Miller, along with National Member Care Overseers Steve & Marianne Becker, were privileged to conduct a SYCF leadership retreat with a congregation in Las Cruces, NM. The church's Lead Pastor, Rob Reed, shared his impressions at the conclusion of this impactful leadership retreat:

"It was a powerful gift from God to have Freedom in Christ come and prayerfully guide our Leadership Team through the Setting Your Church Free retreat. As lead pastor, it was important to have



Rich Miller and Pastor Rob Reed

someone outside the church facilitate this process. We identified significant strengths and very good memories. That was fun! The work of facing painful memories and identifying areas of corporate sin, however, was hard work but well worth it. I know this will save us many headaches, spiritual short circuits and time. We now have a Prayer Action Plan where we renounce six areas of corporate sin, announce God's truth, affirm our purpose and commit to an action step in each area. We are praying through this daily and it will orient our decision making process and strategic dreaming and planning. There is still a lot to process, but we can already see, talk and move forward with much more clarity and freedom in Christ. I personally believe every church should go through a process like this."

If you or your church leaders are interested in knowing more about this powerful and liberating Setting Your Church Free process, don't hesitate to contact our office at 865-342-4000 Extension 1.



Setting Your Church Free leaders

Hearing from God

Can God's people today hear from God or was that something restricted to biblical times? That can certainly be a controversial topic and you will receive all kinds of answers to that question depending upon whom you ask and what denominational background and Christian tradition that person is from!

What does the Bible have to say about this subject? Jesus talked about His sheep hearing His voice (John 10:16,27). Is that just at salvation when Jesus calls us from death to life or is that all through our lives? Romans 8:14 says, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." That verse indicates an ongoing condition of being directed by God's Spirit in some way and Romans says it is part of the spiritual DNA of being one of God's kids.

Anyone who has walked with Jesus can testify to countless times asking God in faith for wisdom and receiving it generously from Him (see James 1:5). That wisdom, guidance, direction and leading may not come from an audible voice, but it comes. It may come from Scripture (the ultimate authority); from impressions from God's Spirit; from other brothers and sisters in Christ; from circumstances; even from angels, dreams and visions. Jesus is indeed our Good Shepherd and He still guides us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake (Psalm 23: 3). God

is a personal God who loves us very much. He is our Father; we are His precious children. We talk to our kids. Why wouldn't He speak to us?

Yes, we can hear from God because God is still speaking. The question is, are we listening? Or is there so much noise and busyness in our days that we miss what He is saying? I love what Psalm 85:8 (ESV) says: "Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly." Let's take that admonition to heart today. Let's tune in to God and experience His words of peace and tune out the foolishness that robs us of His peace.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Miller".

Rich Miller
President, FICM-USA





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