

# freedom

A Newsletter Update from Freedom In Christ Ministries - USA

## Flooding Doesn't Deter Missouri Practicum

The end of April into the first week of May was one of the rainiest periods in recent history in the South Central region of the U.S. Some rivers rose to near record levels at flood stage. Tragically, at least 14 people lost their lives in Missouri and Arkansas.

It was into the teeth of this weather disaster that 16 Practicum participants and around 20 other prayer warriors, presenters, coaches, and support staff traveled to Springfield, Missouri. They came from Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Oklahoma, Michigan, Missouri, Colorado, and North Carolina for this intense equipping event May 2-5. The two participants from Kansas were the first ever from that great state to complete the CFM University training!

Thanks be to God, everyone made it in safely and on time and returned home excited and equipped to start Community Freedom Ministries in their hometowns. One local couple had to drive along goat trails just to get to the meetings since a bridge onto their property was demolished by the storm (see photo).

It seemed highly appropriate that the Lord led us to Isaiah 59:19 (KJV) as a Practicum theme verse:

*"So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."*

*Continued on pg. 2*



*Bridge out due to heavy flooding.*

The sidebar to this article provides a small taste of the impact of the Spirit of the LORD on God's people during this very strategic event. Please be praying for many wide-open doors for our people to develop long term, fruitful ministries in churches all around the Midwest as the result of the Practicum.



*Springfield, Missouri Practicum staff & participants*

## FICM-USA Progress Update

We are so thankful for the input we have received from our constituency regarding the state of our ministry. We have taken the results of all the surveys, focus groups, conversations and discussions and consolidated the data. The result is now seven task forces that are seeking the Lord and developing plans to see this ministry grow and flourish even more. Those areas include: prayer; personnel care and training; new resource development; communication; ministry to underserved segments of the Church; ministry to millennials; and financial development. Would you please join us in praying that we would hear clearly from the Lord in formulating His objectives and plans in all these areas? We will soon be sending out a separate communique to inform you more specifically of progress that has been made.

As we move forward with God's plans in these seven strategic areas, would you prayerfully consider a special gift to FICM-USA? We are approaching the summer when donations are typically down. Your gift at this time would be so helpful and greatly appreciated. Thank you!



*Dr. Russ French, Board Chairman*

## Quotes from Missouri Practicum Participants

**"The whole process of getting here was a big deal for me. I am so grateful for the prayer undergirding the whole Practicum. I'd walked away from God for 10 years. In February (2017), I began the process of getting free and realized it was time to 'confess my sins to each other and pray for each other so that I could be healed.' I dealt with some real core issues that had affected both me and my family of origin."**

**"This was my third time through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*. This was better than the second time and cleared up some more areas. It was my first time to take someone else through the 'Steps' and as I began I did not have much confidence. With my coach's guidance, I now have confidence to assist others."**

**"I had a calm coach and partner who stopped for peaceful, quiet times of teaching. More things came up in my life, and it seemed that God was cementing some of the things that surfaced before. It is the Holy Spirit. I would want everybody who wants to be involved with FICM to come through this process. There is a structure; there is order. I wouldn't want to miss it."**

**"This is the third Practicum I've come to (as a coach.) At my first Practicum (as a participant) and afterward I isolated myself. I was so lonely and had made no connections. What a difference to really connect. So, reach out, share resources, call on one another, pray together. God has put us together."**



# Tennessee Sees Many Volunteers Added

We have been doing Practicums in Knoxville, TN since early 2010. Never have we seen, however, the number of participants that we saw this April 3-6. There were 25!

These students represented North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and California. We also had a couple from Canada, Ken and Cindy Cyr. Ken (see photo) serves as the National Director for FICM Canada. He went through all the online classes and the Practicum in order to get the full student-training experience. He is planning on implementing a Canadian version of our Community Freedom Ministries (CFM) strategy up north in the near future!

We are so thrilled to be able to provide encouragement and equipping to our Canadian brothers. Ken's wife, Cindy, served as our Practicum photographer, for which we were very grateful.

The advantage of having Practicums in Knoxville is that our home office staff is there to provide all the behind-the-scenes labor. And they do an outstanding job. They procure the venue, put together all the notebooks as well as the book table; communicate with the students all through their online studies; set up hotel lodging; purchase, prepare and clean up the massive amounts of food and beverages consumed by almost 50 people at this Practicum. And much more. They make it a five-star equipping event. Here are some comments from Knoxville



*Knoxville Practicum  
Group Shot*



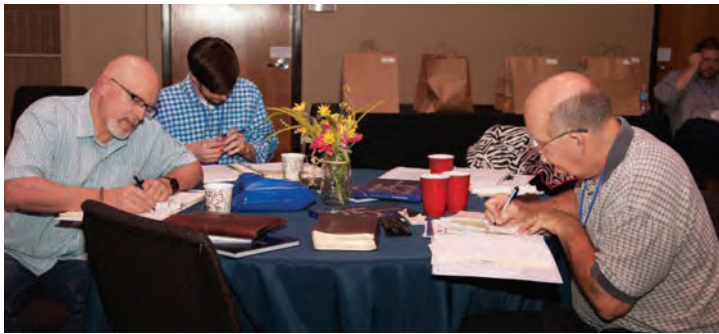
Practicum participants:

*"Each day was like a family reunion and I was moved to learn that we were all being prayed for by name. I'm leaving here with a community and friendships."*

*"I came focused to learn about process: training on how to start a ministry. I questioned my own need to go through **The Steps to Freedom in Christ** again. In my appointment, in Step 7 (Curses vs. Blessings), a big, huge layer came off of me. The Lord was there; I've been healed greatly!"*



Training Workshop at Knoxville Practicum



Ken Cyr (left) at Knoxville Practicum

*"As I went through the 'Steps' the Lord revealed that I had forgotten my true identity; it had been misplaced into my business. When I realized this the JOY came flooding back in. This has really been huge in my life."*

*(From a pastor) "I've been impressed that the central idea of ministry is identity in Christ. I'm coming out of semi-legalism into grace-based ministry."*

*(From another pastor) "I am on staff at a very 'busy' church. My prayer is that this message of identity in Christ will replace less relevant 'busy things', and that the leadership will come to understand this."*

*"We are all grateful to the Lord for giving us opportunity to train over 40 new volunteers through these two spring, 2017 Practicums. We are currently seeking the Lord for a possible additional Practicum in the Southeast this fall."*



# Are you searching for tools to produce growing, fruitful disciples?

## CFMU is for you!

Experience an environment of spiritual refreshment, academic challenge and ministry training through online courses, face-to-face Practicums and ongoing relational connections at CFM University!

To find out more about CFM University  
[www.cfmuniversity.org](http://www.cfmuniversity.org)

# The Battle for the Will

In FICM we talk a lot about the battle for the mind, and rightfully so. We can't possibly make right decisions if we are running on wrong information. We need to take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). But is having the truth in our belief system the only thing necessary for righteousness? Is right living simply a matter of the left brain?

If that were the case then the doctrinal portion of Paul's letter to the Romans would have concluded with chapter 6. Instead, we read of Paul's tortured struggles in Romans 7 and the words, *"Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin"* (Romans 7:24,25).

Clearly, there is something beyond the mind and the assimilation of biblical truth that is necessary for spiritual freedom. But what is it? I think a little biblical history reminder might help answer that question.

In God's original, perfect creation, there was only one "will" in the universe...God's. All that changed when Lucifer said to the mirror on the wall, "Who's the fairest of them all?" He got the wrong answer and all of a sudden, a second "will" came on the scene to defy God's will. Isaiah 14:13,14 says of him:

*"You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"*

In the Garden of Eden, the devil infected the entire human race with this independent, defiant "will" and the whole universe has been terribly altered as the result.

Jesus, however, came to our rescue. He said of Himself, *"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of Him who sent me"* (John 5:30).

The supreme test of our Lord to undo the damage of the Garden of Eden came in the Garden of Gethsemane. In this anguished cry of our Lord, we see His horror, humanity and humility:

*"Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me, but not what I will, but what you will"* (Mark 14:36).

It took the complete submission of the will of our Lord Jesus to undo the works of the defiant will of Satan.

And so it is with us. Knowing all the truth in the world will do us no good if that knowledge is not accompanied by a will that is surrendered and submissive to Almighty God. That's why the "formula" for freedom in James 4:7 is *"Submit, therefore, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* There is no fleeing and therefore no freeing until we wave the white flag and surrender our will to the Lord.

Praise God for Romans 6. We need to know our identity in Christ. But it isn't the full answer because we still battle the flesh and its attempts...often through demonic enticement...to bend and bind our will to sin. We also need Romans 8 where we become acquainted with the power source for our surrendered will to find the strength to walk in freedom. *"In order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit"* (Romans 8:14).

The battle for the mind is pivotal. If we lose that battle, there is no freedom. But ultimately, the battle is for our will...the day to day choices and decisions we make that chart the course of our lives. To win this ultimate battle, we must not only know the truth of God's word (John 8:31,32) but we must also know the Truth Himself, Jesus (John 8:36), and walk by His Spirit. Then we will be free indeed.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Miller". The script is fluid and cursive.

Rich Miller  
President, FICM-USA







FREEDOM IN CHRIST  
MINISTRIES | USA

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

*Thank you for your continued support of FICM!*



# JOY BOOKMARK

Declare the joy of the Lord with these  
14 statements gleaned from Scripture

FOR A LIMITED TIME **ONLY \$7.99/50 PACK**

*For more information visit [freedominchrist.com](http://freedominchrist.com)  
or call 865.342.4002.*



[www.freedominchrist.com](http://www.freedominchrist.com) | 866.462.4747