

freedom

A Newsletter Update from Freedom In Christ Ministries - USA

FICM-USA Selects Next President

FICM Field Staff member Dan Studt has been unanimously approved by the FICM-USA Board of Directors as the next president of FICM-USA, effective May 20, 2019. After months of evaluating applications, reviewing references and conducting interviews, the Board came to this decision at a meeting January 29.

Dan has been serving as the FICM-USA Northeast Regional Director of Expansion for the past 10 years. Until recently, he had also been serving as a church-planting pastor in the Syracuse, NY area.

The Board is convinced Dan will be a warm-hearted, enthusiastic, administratively-gifted shepherd to FICM-USA. His many years of connection to the Ministry, how deeply the FICM message has transformed Dan's life, and his eagerness and enthusiasm to share that message to everyone he meets were key factors in the Board's decision.

Outgoing President Rich Miller stated, "Dan is a mature brother in the Lord who has been through the fires of testing while maintaining a beautiful marriage to his wife, Jen, and a godly example of fatherhood to his two daughters and two sons."

In late February, Dan came to Knoxville for an official time of welcoming, commissioning and praying by Board members, Field Staff, Office Staff and other friends of FICM-USA. Dan was presented with a "leadership baton" by the current President with an engraved plate with the words: President FICM-USA / 1 Corinthians 9:19-27 / Soli Deo Gloria.

FICM Founder and President Emeritus, Dr. Neil T. Anderson, also attended that commissioning ceremony and shared encouraging words to Dan and to the others gathered.

Current FICM-USA President Rich Miller has served in this position since May 2006.



Rich Miller, Neil Anderson, Dan Studt



Commissioning Service



Dan Studt and family

Let me introduce myself. My name is Dan Studt and on May 20 I will begin serving as the new president of FICM-USA, replacing my good friend, Rich Miller.

My wife, Jennifer (LaCourse) Studt and I were married nearly 27 years ago and the Lord has blessed us with four children. Abigail (Abby), age 22, is soon to graduate from Cedarville College and married Adam Cole last July. Rebecca (Becca) is 19 years old and a student at Liberty

University. Elijah is almost 15 and a high school sophomore. Jacob (Jake), age 14, is an eighth grader. The boys are both students at the school where Jen teaches 2nd grade.

Very briefly, my freedom story began at age 12 when I trusted Jesus to forgive my sins. About that same time, I began struggling with habitual sins and had no idea how to be free. So, I just tried harder. Sports became my route to compensate

for spiritual failure, but frustration and anger toward myself grew because I was failing to live up to the standards taught in church. I was ashamed and believed that if I shared what was going on inside, I would be rejected.

Years later, after graduating with a degree in psychology and working in the mental health field, I realized the futility of the

Continued on following page

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the life of freedom:
experiencing joyful friendship with God and obeying Him because you love Him

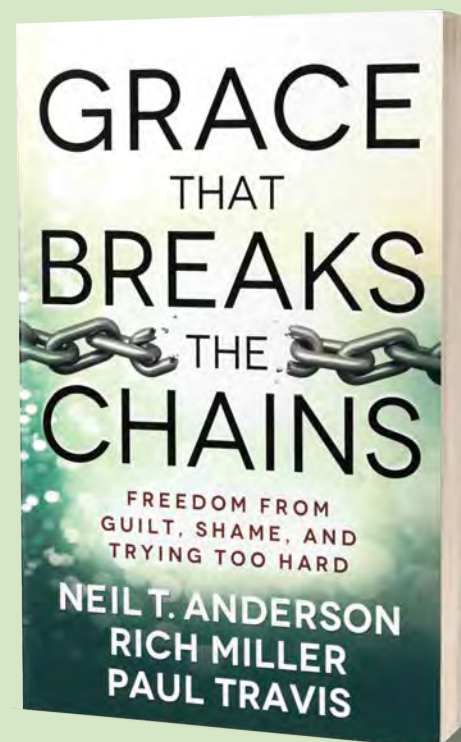
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secular world to provide real answers. This drove me to seminary in order to pursue full time ministry, trusting the Lord had the answers for healing. About halfway through seminary, a friend and accountability partner introduced me to FICM. We helped each other discover our freedom in Christ!

Over the process of a few years of growth, my life was completely transformed! I learned to abide with Jesus according to my identity secured by His accomplished work; chose to believe the truth of God's Word; and learned to walk in the light with other believers.

The self-hatred, anger and depression that accompanied defeat faded into the background. My marriage grew stronger

and I was able to parent out of a desire for my kids' benefit instead of wanting to look good in front of others. Soon after, Jen discovered her freedom as well.

The past 25 years of pastoral ministry have been deeply satisfying but also extremely challenging. I'm not sure where I would be had it not been for the freedom and strength Christ gives to trust in His faithfulness and goodness. God is so gracious.

Now, as the day of my "inauguration" approaches, I'm so excited to grow together with you and do all I can to help you become all God has designed you to be and accomplish the works He has planned in advance for you to do. As incoming President, I pray the Lord allows

us to continue to strengthen and grow this Ministry in the US through encouraging one another and watching God raise up many, many more leaders and laborers for the harvest.

Our country is not getting friendlier to our faith, but what a great opportunity that presents to show the goodness of our God! As Corrie ten Boom said in *The Hiding Place*, "In darkness God's truth shines most clear."

Let's shine the light of Christ in this dark and hurting world... together!

—DAN STUDD



Freedom Encounter in West Virginia



GENERATION FREEDOM (YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY OF FICM-USA) AND SOUTH RIDGE CHURCH TEAMED UP FOR A FREEDOM ENCOUNTER WEEKEND MARCH 17 AT SRC'S FAIRMONT, WV CAMPUS. THE EVENT WAS FACILITATED BY CHRIS CAMPBELL (FICM) AND SETH BROADHURST (LEAD PASTOR).

Chris brought in a team of eight trained encouragers (including two teens) to assist the approximately 100 attendees in working through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*.

Chris, who is also a licensed professional counselor (LPC) commented, "I had a significant number of clients who attended. There were also a couple of other LPC's in attendance who have been asking me how I do Christian counseling. I invited them to come and experience the "Steps." They were blown away and are eager to talk with me further about FICM training."

Above photos, left to right: Chris Campbell; Youth Steps ready for sales at the book table; Seth Broadhurst

This was the first Freedom Encounter, with more expected 2-3 times per year. Here are a few comments from attendees:

"I thought it was a very powerful event. It led me to a place of surrender. I hope it impacted others too. Thanks!"

"The Freedom Encounter was such an amazing experience, helping me to rest in God's truth and who I am in Him! The time to be still before the Lord and uncover deceptions or habitual sins I've held onto helped me to experience the true freedom that our Heavenly Father desires for all of His children. This was a true encounter with my Heavenly Father that I will cherish forever!"

"What an awesome evening. I'm a big fan of taking a good spiritual inventory and that was easily the best tool/system I've used in that regard. Hands down. Step 3 was especially powerful for me, as I let go of some feeling of "betrayal" I have struggled with towards "old friends." The "Steps" helped allow the Holy Spirit to bring greater conviction in certain areas of my life, and closed some doors on issues that needed closed."



2019 Knoxville Practicum

FICM-USA held its annual spring Practicum in the Knoxville suburb of Lenoir City, TN March 25-28. It was the largest Practicum ever held in the United States, with 30 students plus around an additional 30 presenters, coaches, onsite pray-ers and admin staff supporting and serving the students. Those students represented all six regions in the country where we currently have regional leadership. We even had our first student from Utah!

One exciting element of the Practicum was that, for the first time, we invited and hosted pray-ers from around the country who joined the Prayer Room via Zoom (a videoconferencing system). The onsite pray-ers were praying the entire time the students were going through the "Steps."

Here are some comments from students after going through the Practicum:

"It has been so refreshing being here. It's such an environment of freedom. I'm so excited!"

"The Steps to Freedom in Christ booklet is a mercy tool. The Holy Spirit showed me more things, even though I'd been through the "Steps" before. It was a rich experience and I had a fabulous coach."

"Hearing everyone's freedom stories was the most encouraging thing for me."

"The Lord helped me to see, face and receive healing in the areas of fear and abandonment. So many times, I've felt like an orphan or as a foster child. But with this group I feel like an adopted child."

After the Practicum was over, the students all headed home to pursue receiving approval from their respective church leaders. That is a necessary component for them to become official Community Freedom Ministry Associates (CFMAs). This was a very motivated group of students, six of whom are currently serving in pastoral roles. We are excited for what the Lord has in store for them. Please remember them in your prayers.

Devotional: Transitions

by Rich Miller, President FICM-USA

Wise King Solomon wrote, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

ECCLESIASTES 3:1 ESV



It seems like we are always in the midst of or approaching some important transition in life. From the dark safety of the womb to the rude, bright lights of birth. From childhood to adolescence (ugh!). From school days to the working years. Middle age to old age. Work to retirement. Health and vigor to...well, not so much. Spiritual death in Adam to spiritual life in Christ. Physical life to physical death...then to the fulness of Life with Jesus in Heaven. Corruptible to incorruptible.

I wonder if there will be transitions in Heaven as well...? I hope so. If there are, they will be stages of growth without grief. Transitions without tears. Expansion of heart and mind and spirit and body, all without the sadness of loss. As the Unicorn cried in C.S. Lewis' *The Last Battle*: “I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it until now...Come further up, come further in!”

On Earth, we meet some transitions with a hearty “Good riddance!” to the old. “Bring on the new; the old was a train wreck!” I think all of us would say a robust “Amen!” to that as we think of the old skin we shed and the new man we put on as we went through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*.

Some transitions, though, are met with more of a sense of wistfulness. We realize the change is good and necessary, but what is being left behind wasn't so bad. In fact, the memories of those days are filled with life and joy.

I expect you've experienced most of these: Moving away from close friends. Changing schools. Graduations. Needing to get up every morning early to go to work. Having to do your own shopping...and taxes! Taking care of life insurance and health insurance and auto insurance and making sure all the bills are paid on time...

For those with families we experience this ambivalence when

our kids leave home for their first day of kindergarten. When they start to drive. When they have their first date. When they go off to college. When they spend a holiday at their spouse's family home. When their life calling calls them...and the grandkids...to move far away from us.

Some of you are thinking, “Hang in there, Rich. They'll be back!” True enough. They aren't called the “boomerang generation” for nothin'!

For me, there is no question that these last 13 years as FICM-USA President have been the most challenging, stretching and growing of my adult life. Kind of like a growth spurt in the spiritual realm, I would say, complete with growing pains. But it is clear that the time is right for this Ministry to have a new “head coach.”

As I prepare to transition out of the position of FICM-USA President, I feel a wide array of emotions because there have been...as in any vocation...things I've liked and things I haven't. The latter category consists mainly of administration; the former consists of relationships. Above all, I will miss the people. As my position transitions, so will the relationships. That's inevitable, part of the changing “seasons” that Solomon wrote about.

As May 20 approaches, the exciting thing is that all of us on the Board of Directors are confident that, by the grace of God, Dan Studt will do a great job. Yes, he will be overwhelmed at times, just as I was. Pray for him. Over time, he will watch his shoulders broaden to fill the mantle that has been put on him. Celebrate the growth and victories with him. He will make mistakes, as I have made many. Be patient with him. Not everything he does will be the way I would do it (I certainly hope not!). Trust him or...really...trust God working through him.

As for what lies ahead for me, the FICM-USA Board of Directors has granted me a sabbatical period to find needed rest in Christ; to be refreshed in spirit, soul and body; to take a road trip with Shirley and reconnect; and to research and write a new book.

Since this is my last newsletter devotional for the foreseeable future, I'll close with some words from the apostle Paul that echo my heart:

“For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”
Romans 16:19,20 ESV





COMING SOON

The Lightbringers

a Freedom in Christ Course for Kids

The Lightbringers is a powerful resource for churches and parents to use with 5-8 year-olds and 9-11 year-olds. It consists of 10 action packed sessions (plus *The Steps to Freedom in Christ* ministry session). It is designed to equip them to become fruitful disciples who stay connected to Jesus into their adult lives. The children will understand: who they are in Christ; what they have in Jesus; and how to become fruitful disciples who follow Jesus closely.

CONTENT:

PART A – KEY TRUTHS

Jesus said that we will know the truth and the truth will set us free! In the first three sessions, we look at some of the key truths we need to know to understand what it means to be a Christian.

Session 1: I Am Special, Safe, And Accepted

Session 2: I Am A New Creation

Session 3: I Can Trust Father God

PART B – THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL

Every day we struggle against three things that conspire to push us away from truth. Understanding how the world, the flesh, and the devil work will enable us to renew our minds and stand firm.

Session 4: I Can Choose To See Things As God Says They Really Are

Session 5: I Can Make Good Choices With God's Help

Session 6: I Can Choose To Have Good Thoughts That Come From God

Session 7: I Am Protected Because God Is Stronger Than Anything

PART C – BREAKING THE HOLD OF THE PAST

God does not change our past but by His grace He enables us to walk free of it. In this section of the course, we look at how we can take hold of what Christ has done for us in order to do just that. The Steps to Freedom in Christ at the end of the course will complete this process.

Session 8: I Can Have Peace Because God Will Help Me Whatever I'm Feeling

Session 9: I Can Forgive Others

PART D – GROWING AS DISCIPLES

We now need to turn our attention to developing mature disciples. This section, with a final teaching session, will look at how children can stand firm and become more and more like Jesus in character.

Session 10: I Can Live Every Day Walking In God's Truths

The Lightbringers Trail: *The Steps to Freedom In Christ For Children*

The Lightbringers Commission