



freedom



A Newsletter Update from Freedom In Christ Ministries

Spreading Freedom in Africa

What comes to your mind when you think of South Africa? The World Cup games last year with all those annoying vuvuzelas buzzing in the background on TV? Apartheid? Nelson Mandela? Safaris in Kruger National Park? Gold and diamonds? True, all those things are there or once were there in this great nation, but there is much more going on in South Africa than that.

In June of this year, a small army of FICM leaders from around the globe "invaded" that land, ministering in Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban. Seeking to provide a ministry "shot in the arm" to FICMI National Representative, Jonothan Christie, the FICMI Council spread out across that nation, proclaiming the message of freedom to hungry crowds.

Dr. Neil Anderson, along with Steve Goss (UK Director), Roger Reber (Switzerland Director) and Clay Bergen (Canada Director) conducted a "Living Free in Christ" conference in Durban (where Jonothan lives). Isaac Manogarom (India Director), along with psychologist Dr. Hal Baumchen, ministered to believers in the Indian community in that same city. Steve and Roger ministered to several hundred believers from nine different churches in Cape Town. And I conducted a "Breaking Free in Christ" teaching conference in Pretoria, where Neil came a week later to speak to several hundred counselors and other leaders. One of our Board members, Judy King, spoke at that event as well.

Relationships built in Pretoria and Cape Town are almost certain to bear lasting fruit, adding a couple of new members to Jonothan's national team of freedom ministers!

It was exciting to me that two brothers in Christ from Zimbabwe rode the bus down into Pretoria, South Africa to attend my conference and one brother flew all the way down from Nigeria! They are leaders with a parachurch ministry in their respective nations.

Tucked between all these teaching events, the FICMI (Freedom in Christ Ministries International) Council convened for four days. It was incredibly exciting to hear what God is doing around the globe with the message and ministry of freedom. We spoke by Skype with representatives from

France, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand, and approved new representatives for Spain, Portugal and Nepal! Also, there are beginnings of new FICM "outposts" in Hungary, Romania, Netherlands, Iran, Uganda, Sri Lanka, South Korea, and Albania with some resources already translated into Chinese!

Throw into the mix a series of events that Neil, Clay and Judy also conducted in Liberia, West Africa under the direction of FICMI representative, Christine Norman, and you get a little bit of the picture of the labor of love invested in Africa and beyond this summer!

Next year will be our International Retreat in the UK (England) (June 5-8, 2012) and in 2014 we will be celebrating our FICM 25th Anniversary here in the States. More info upcoming on that event soon. For now, save the dates for UK2012. We hope to see you there!



Jonothan Christie



Conference in Pretoria



Neil and Liberia Ministry team

CFM University Reaches Century Mark

Have you ever come up with an idea and thought it might be from the Lord but you weren't quite sure? That's how I felt early in 2009 when the idea of "CFM University" popped into my brain. The idea came on the heels of several years of online webinars and face-to-face "Catalyst" events around the country... seeing the interest that was out there for training in how to start and grow a Community Freedom Ministry (CFM). But could we actually pull off the design and production of online courses in an online university? We had never tried this before, but we knew that if God were in this idea, we had to do it!

Fast forward about 30 months, hundreds and hundreds of hours of prayer and labor (much of it volunteer!) and I am excited to announce that this summer, CFMU has not only opened but has now gone over the 100 mark in enrolled students! Starting with 14 pilot testers back in the winter of 2010 to 26 enrollees this summer (and about 65 in between!) this is a landmark we are thrilled to reach. This translates out to currently around 65 CFMs operating around the nation!

This is just the beginning, we believe, of the plans God has for expanding the message and ministry of FICM across this land. Please keep praying for the Lord of the harvest to thrust out laborers into His harvest field!

Here are a few "sound bytes" from CFMU students:

• "The best part of the Practicum [four-day face-to-face training event after completion of online component] was developing relationships with fellow students."

• "The online training fits into your own schedule. You can work on it any time of the day or night, any day of the week!"

• "The training was incredibly empowering, in a methodical, strategic way, to help me move forward to the place the Lord had already called me to go. It was a great opportunity to help me mobilize our CFM."

•“I think one of the most valuable aspects came from the course content designed to make sure our hearts are in the right place. I really appreciate the extra attention given to the student’s character...not just to learn the content but to do a personal assessment of how free you are in Christ.”

•“If you are thinking about starting a Community Freedom Ministry in your home church or hometown, this is the next step.”

•“I would say to anyone that is considering getting involved with CFMU, to just step forward, lay the fears aside and just do it!”

So how about you? Is God calling you to take what you have learned and which has been liberating for your life and pass it on to others?

We can help!

Just contact Cindy Bergenback, our CFMU registrar, at cbergenback@fcm.org and she'll explain how to get up and running right away!

So come on, as one of our students said, it's time to just step forward, lay the fears aside and just do it!

CFMU Dates

Fall registration dates: August 10-Sept 10

Date fall classes open: August 17

Dates and cities for Fall Practicum

New York City: November 3-6, 2011

Dallas: November 15-18, 2011

Escondido, California: November 29-Dec 2, 2011

For more information check out the complete CFMU brochure online at www.fcm.org

An Intersection at 35,000 Feet

by Rich Miller

Even though I am well on my way to being 60-years-old, I still have a soft spot in my heart for teens. I guess it's because I worked with them in ministry for nearly 20 years and I'm in the process of raising four of my own!

On my recent 15-hour flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg, South Africa, I was in an aisle seat and a 16-year-old kid who I'll call Colby was assigned to the window, two seats away. In chatting with him I found out he was traveling with his roommate (who was further back in the plane) to meet another classmate from the private school they all attended in Virginia. Turns out Colby's two older brothers, dad, grandfather and great grandfather had all attended this exclusive school. He was a friendly kid and very polite...obviously well-brought up.

Shortly after take-off I noticed Colby pulling out a book that I had recently read. The book was *Unbroken* and was his assigned summer reading from school. It is the remarkable (true) story of Louis Zamperini. Louis had competed in track for the USA in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Later he joined the Army Air Corps as a bombardier. While on a rescue mission, his plane went down over the Pacific. The story of his survival at sea, his eventual capture by the Japanese, and his subsequent internment in various POW camps would make a riveting film. But the most remarkable part of this story is that, toward the end, the book beautifully describes Louis' conversion to Christ after World War II.

During one of our meals I asked Colby a question that must have been from the Spirit of God because I don't recall ever asking it of anyone before. "Colby, as a parent of four teens, I'm really curious what teenagers are thinking. What would you say are the three or four most important things in your life right now?"

Colby smiled and looked thoughtfully up in the air for awhile. "That's a really good question. I don't think I've ever thought about it before. Let me see...probably my school...then my family...then fly fishing." He told me that one of the things he was going to get to do was fly fish in South Africa. He was excited about that.

As I prayerfully wondered where our conversation would go next, this polite young man returned the favor. "How about you," he asked, "what are the most important things in your life?"

Bingo! Talk about an opening. "Well, Colby, I have to be totally honest with you. Far and away the most important part of my life is God."

During the next 20 minutes or so I explained to Colby about my life as a teen growing up without any spiritual foundation; how I had come to put my faith in Jesus; the changes He had made in my life and how I now spend my life helping people come to know Him. I got the distinct impression that this was all new information into the database of Colby's brain. He wasn't hostile at all; it was just that spiritual truth had apparently never found its way onto his radar screen before.

As we were preparing to land in South Africa, I said to him, "Colby, by the time you reach the end of your book, you are going to be reminded of our conversation." I said that, of course, because I knew how the book *Unbroken* ends. He blinked at me not quite comprehending, but I handed him my business card and invited him to call or email me if he ever wanted to discuss spiritual things again. He eagerly accepted it.

I doubt seriously if I'll ever hear from Colby again, and that's fine. It was just a privilege to be perhaps one of the first stepping stones toward the kingdom of God in a young man's life. By the way, I forgot to mention one thing. Colby wasn't supposed to be on that plane. His original flight had taken off the day before, but Colby had forgotten his passport and had to return home to get it, and so he missed that flight and was rebooked on mine a day later.

Funny how that happened, eh?

Freedom means being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit to fulfill one of our God-given, heavenly kingdom job descriptions: to be ambassadors for Christ.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(2 Corinthians 5:20,21)

Why not ask the Lord this summer to empower you and direct you to be an ambassador for the kingdom of God? You just might find your life intersecting...perhaps even for a very short time...with the life of a lost soul who needs Jesus.

I fully expect to have a reunion with Colby in heaven one day. Who knows? Maybe you'll meet another "Colby" tomorrow.

