

freedom

A Newsletter Update from Freedom In Christ Ministries - USA

UNstuck in Big Sky Country

The Pacific Northwest is one of the most unchurched regions of our nation, and the state of Montana is typical of the independent, outdoor, "I can handle it" pioneer mentality of the area. That sounds like "freedom" to some, but it isn't the true freedom that our Lord Jesus brings. The good news is that since we conducted a CFMU Practicum in Helena, MT in March, 2015, there has been an active FICM presence there, led by CFMAs Tim and Dria Walker.

Dria recently undertook an astounding task of coordinating a week of events (September 16-23) called "UNstuck" with FICM youth and young adult specialist, Chris Campbell. Chris explained, "Over the course of the week we were able to preach to the congregation of the host church. We conducted a **Busting Free** (youth) seminar with a group version of *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*. We also engaged with local pastors, led a human trafficking prevention and recovery workshop, conducted a parenting seminar, ministered in-depth to some teens, led a **Freedom in Christ Jumpstart** for youth workers training and engaged a group of millennials with the **Discipleship Challenge** strategy. Whew! Tiring...but lots of fun."



Chris, FICM staff member and licensed professional counselor, is uniquely qualified to speak on issues impacting current culture from an identity and freedom perspective. He has been involved with numerous governmental and faith-based organizations addressing the minor sex trafficking industry, opioid addiction problem and teenage depression/suicide. He also served for many years as a youth pastor in West

Virginia and campus pastor in the Washington, DC area.

Praise God for new pioneers in Christ, who are bold, dependent and heartily declare, "Apart from Christ we can do nothing!"



I was thrilled that those as young as 12 and as old as 60+ came from at least six churches in three Montana communities. In the weeks since the events, a new millennial small group has started in our own

church using the FICM resource *disciple*. Many have already been working on individual areas of freedom through the "Steps" or the Stronghold Busting booklets. We are working to set up a Human Trafficking Abolition group here in Helena supported by numerous local churches. A new small group started last Sunday night with the new *Freedom in Christ Course* and there are several who are going to finish the CFMU classes to become FICM Youth Specialists. Finally, there is another person who is desiring to help serve with our local CFM.

I am SO VERY thankful for the prayers of many who supported us and held the enemy back as the Lord's work was done. Personally, I left the week encouraged, challenged and exhausted but so excited for all the Lord has done and will continue to do. The best is yet to come, as the work has just begun!"

—DRIA WALKER

SAVE THE DATE



#GIVINGTUESDAY

FICM-USA is participating in #GivingTuesday on November 27, 2018. This year, we are focusing #GivingTuesday to fight the Human Trafficking industry here in the United States. Chris Campbell, founder of Generation Freedom, is putting together a comprehensive packet of materials (in both English and Spanish) to be shipped to 100 safe homes, shelters and recovery centers across the nation-for free! What a great way to invest in the cause of Christ and "pay forward" the freedom that you have discovered in Christ! To find out more or give now, go to: <https://ficm.org/donate/>

Devotional: Reflections on Mortality

by Rich Miller, President FICM-USA

**Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.**

PSALM 116:15

It was never supposed to end like this. In fact, it was never supposed to end at all. Death was simply not meant to happen. God's Plan A was for mankind to live obediently with Him, eating from the tree of life, staying away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and living in freedom and joy forever. Then along came a spider...or actually a serpent...and everything changed. All creation was impacted by this one fatal decision by Adam and Eve so that, for now, we all face the reality of our own mortality.

I doubt that King Solomon was invited to a lot of parties, especially toward the end of his days. As you read through his reflections on life in the book we know as Ecclesiastes, we might describe him as a bit of an Eeyore. But his wisdom was unparalleled in his time. He wrote:

"Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies—so the living should take this to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time."
(Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 NLT)

Notice that the Bible doesn't say funerals are more fun than parties, only that they are better. Better in what way? They tend to remind us of how short our stay on earth actually is. That is, it's easy to forget that the last time we checked, aging has a 100% fatality rate.

In this newsletter, we are honoring four in our FICM family who have fallen asleep (one of the ways the Bible describes those who die in Christ, see 1 Thessalonians 4:14) in the past year or so. Carole Wormser graduated to glory in October, 2017; Joyce White in May of this year; Tom Scarborough in September; and Joanne Anderson in October. All four are greatly missed.

Though in most of these instances, there was time for their loved ones to prepare, death is never convenient or easy in any case. In addition to the initial loss and grief, there is always the challenge of figuring out what the "new normal" of life without each dear saint looks like.

An Irish blessing reads:

"When we lose someone we love, it seems that time stands still. What moves through us is a silence...a quiet sadness...a longing for one more day...one more word...one more touch. We may not understand why you left this earth so soon, or why you left before we were ready to say goodbye. Little by little, we begin to remember not just that you died, but that you lived...that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget. We will see you again someday in a heavenly place where there is no parting, a place where there are no words that mean goodbye."

Though, from a human standpoint, we might say "Painful in our sight is the death of God's saints," to the Lord, our passing into eternity is precious. Since we are not God, we cannot fully grasp His mind and why the death of each saint is precious to Him. But we can fathom a few guesses.

First, our physical suffering is over. Second, all sadness, tears and grief on the part of the one who died have ended. Third, our battle with sin is finally a thing of the past. Fourth, the enemy's ability to afflict us is gone. Fifth, God is able to begin to show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:7). Sixth, God is able to be close to us and us to Him in ways never possible on earth. Seventh, our Lord's ultimate purpose in fully completing the work of making us like Jesus and sharing His glory with us can now happen unimpeded (Romans 8:29,30). And eighth, He is able to reveal to us our inheritance that has been waiting all these years in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-5).

I'm sure there are many more reasons why our death is precious to the Lord, but that's not a bad start.

For now, we wait and we worship and we pray and we work and prepare for that day. As Martin Luther said, "I live today as if Christ had been crucified yesterday, rose from the grave this morning, and is coming back tomorrow." The apostle Paul gave this example to his spiritual son, Timothy, as he neared the end of his earthly life, and I pray we take it to heart as well:

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."
(2 Timothy 4:6-8 ESV)

Carole, Joyce, Tom and Joanne all fought the good fight; they finished the race; they kept the faith. Let us follow their example and never give up. May we too finish well and strong!



In Memoriam

CAROLE LORRAINE WORMSER

April 29, 1932 – October 21, 2017

Carole and her husband, Ron Wormser, joined the staff of FICM at its inception in 1989 after serving for many years with Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru). The Wormsers traveled with Neil Anderson during the height of his conference ministry, developing and conducting encourager training and taking many people through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*. They also helped establish the first FICM office in La Habra, CA. Carole took well over 1500 individuals through the “Steps” during her lifetime.

JOYCE LEWIS WHITE

May 25, 1928 – May 11, 2018

Joyce was a teacher at heart and a faithful, fervent prayer warrior. Whether teaching at a Christian school or a church women’s Bible Study, Joyce loved to study God’s Word and impart the truths of our identity and freedom in Christ to those who came to hear. All whom Joyce met were loved by her and prayed for by her. Many of the staff and families of FICM have been touched by the life and prayers of this faithful and feisty servant of God.

THOMAS KIRK SCARBOROUGH

July 17, 1952 – September 21, 2018

Tom worked as a building contractor for 20 years before serving the Lord full-time (along with his wife, Gay Nell) on the staff of Young Life, Church Dynamics and FICM. Tom was an unflinching discipler of men, including many Christian leaders. Tom and Gay Nell were instrumental in helping lay the foundations for FICM-USA’s Ministry Associate initiative, which has now grown into the Community Freedom Ministry strategy with hundreds of CFMAs in 33 states across the nation.

JOANNE PRISCILLA ANDERSON

February 20, 1941 – October 2, 2018

Joanne and her husband, Neil, were partners in life and ministry for over 50 years. Together they founded FICM after Neil had served in various pastoral roles and as seminary professor at Talbot School of

Theology. Joanne was Neil’s sounding board, providing essential insight into people and wisdom in ministry decisions. Joanne was also Neil’s primary editor and co-authored *Daily in Christ* with him. We will miss Joanne’s joyful, fun-loving spirit, keen intellect and deep, spiritual discernment and commitment to prayer.



Refresh!

Ministry is hard work, especially for volunteers who are also holding down full-time jobs and family responsibilities. Right now, FICM-USA has 274 active volunteers serving in 33 states. And those in national leadership feel a strong call and deep commitment to take good care of them.

Over the last four months, we have held two North Central Regional events designed to refresh our people. In fact, we called them **Refresh**. These weekends, set aside to gather together and be replenished spiritually, emotionally and physically, were held in Lafayette, Indiana July 13-14 and Detroit Lakes, Minnesota October 13-14.

Both **Refresh** events were totally volunteer-led and involved fun games, delicious meals, encouraging discussions, challenging and edifying messages and heartfelt worship. Deeper Walk International Director, Dr. Marcus Warner (Indiana), and FICM-USA President, Rich Miller (Minnesota), traveled in to minister God’s Word.

We are planning more of these re-energizing events over the next 1-2 years, involving the other five U. S. regions where we currently have FICM leadership. Consider yourself invited!





FREEDOM IN CHRIST
MINISTRIES

9051 Executive Park Drive, Suite 503
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FICM

NEW BOOK RELEASE

**EXPERIENCE FREEDOM BY
EMBRACING ONE FEAR—
AND RELEASING ALL OTHERS**

Bestselling authors, Neil T. Anderson and Rich Miller, want to show you how to let go of the common but harmful fears of failure, evil, and death and find safety in your relationship with God. As you uncover the path to true freedom, you'll also see where your fears come from and why it's exceedingly important to break their hold on you now.

Come, trade your worry-filled days and nights for a worshipful life. See how “in the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence” (Proverbs 14:26)—all you need to live courageously and peacefully, even in frightening times.

**For more information visit
freedominchrist.com or call 865.342.4002**

