

# freedom

Summer 2013 | [www.ficm.org](http://www.ficm.org)



A Newsletter update from Freedom In Christ Ministries

## Community Freedom Ministries... Still Growing Strong

It's hard to believe three years have already gone by since we flung open the doors to CFM University and started enrolling students. I remember those first 10 days of "going public" well. Not a single person "knocked" at the doors of our new online training institute. Even though we had prayed and worked hard for 18 months to prepare for our first semester, those first 240 hours severely tested our confidence. Had we really heard from God?

By the end of the semester we had 41 students! You could probably hear our sigh of relief all the way from Knoxville to your home!

Here we are in the summer of 2013 and we now have 148 CFMAs (Community Freedom Ministry Associates) serving in 34 states and two foreign countries (Trinidad and Uganda). The Lord keeps "tapping people on the shoulder" who have been touched by this message and ministry and thrusting them into His kingdom service.

Our last two training Practicums, Miami (January) and Knoxville (April) saw 35 additional students equipped and launched into freedom ministry. These two Practicums were our largest so far. We are looking forward to two more Practicums this fall... Traverse City, Michigan (October 9-12) and Jacksonville, Florida (November 4-7).

*There's still time for you to enroll in our online courses and get signed up for one of these Practicums! If you are interested or even just curious, please check out the introductory video on the home page of [cfmuniversity.org](http://cfmuniversity.org).*

What are our CFMAs up to back in their home churches? We thought you'd never ask! Here are some of their comments:

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*What kind of support are you receiving from the FICM national office?*

*You do such a great job already, I don't know how you could do more. Thank you for your availability to answer our questions; your prayer support; and the resources you offer us. CFMU is a fabulous tool and we greatly appreciate the many, many hours dedicated to having this teaching resource available to us. We receive great encouragement from our Regional Director and Regional Prayer Coordinator. We greatly appreciate you! This is an amazing organization of people who love the Lord and love people. It's obvious that the staff of FICM-USA truly live the message they preach.*

*-CFMA, Southeast Region*



We have taught the message of freedom through small groups, Sunday School classes and one-on-one. After going through some teaching, we give folks in our church the opportunity to go through **The Steps to Freedom in Christ**. Recently, we trained two new "encouragers" to help us take people through the "Steps". One of them has taken FICM to our local recovery program and has already started taking men there through the "Steps" as well! - CFMA, Southeast Region

The Lord led me to CFM University and I have been on a significant growth curve upwards since. God is GOOD! We are still on the front end of developing our CFM. I currently have a study with 15 women, including some that are also reading "Victory Over the Darkness" and "The Bondage Breaker." I am also taking my two adopted children (ages 12 and 14) through the youth versions. The goal is to take as many of the women through the "Steps" as possible; some have already mentioned that they want to do this! - CFMA, Southwest Region

I have led a group of 14 people through "Victory Over the Darkness" and "The Bondage Breaker." Twelve of them went through a group "Steps" appointment and are continuing to meet as a group to discuss the devotional, "Walking in Freedom." I'm also currently leading a men's group of eight guys going through "Victory Over the Darkness". We will start "The Bondage Breaker" in about a month. - CFMA, Northeast Region

We are so excited to see this message of freedom multiplying. Will you pray with us that by the end of 2015 we could...by the grace of God...see at least a CFM in every state in America?



Knoxville Practicum 2013

# Going Global with the Freedom Message

The Bible is clear. God loves all people and all peoples. There is no individual so obscure, no people group so culturally or linguistically isolated, no nation so insignificant on the world stage that God isn't pursuing a love-trust relationship with them. In God's kingdom, nobody falls through the cracks.

The apostle John heard the four living creatures in heaven sing to the Lamb of God (Jesus):

*"Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth."*  
(Revelation 5:9,10)

There are numerous ministries seeking to reach those who still remain outside of God's family. For example, *The Jesus Film* now has over 1000 translations of the Gospel of Luke. Though the focus of Freedom in Christ Ministries is primarily discipleship rather than evangelism, we still are very serious about "planting" the message of freedom in every nation. We are thrilled with the progress the Lord has enabled us to make so far.

Here are some of the highlights of what has taken place this summer in terms of the global expansion of FICM:

- A group of leaders who have been taking the message of freedom to the Netherlands was invited to the FICMI Council. They are selecting a delegate to represent them.

Rob Reed, the director of "CREED" (a ministry in Spain of evangelism, church planting, discipleship and publishing), has been invited to join the FICMI Council.

We appointed a new Regional Director for Latin American, Pastor Jaime Perez (current Venezuelan FICM leader). He will transition into this new position during the summer of 2014. Rob Reed will work with Jaime in order to make FICM resources more accessible in Spanish speaking nations.

Isaac Manogarom, National Director for India, will assume some additional responsibility for regional leadership by overseeing the FICM leaders in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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- Stephen Cheah has been the East Asian Regional Director for FICMI and there are already inroads of the Freedom Message to Chinese speaking peoples. Additionally, the Council recently commissioned him as Assistant International Director to work globally with International Director Steve Goss.



- Clay Bergen (National Director for Canada and Global Prayer Coordinator) will oversee the development and implementation of a strategy of pastoral "Member Care" for our leaders...especially those in developing nations. This is so crucial as our ministry expands around the world.

In addition to all these developments, we are beginning to pave new inroads into nations such as South Korea, Philippines, Uganda and Jamaica.

Right now, including those four nations just mentioned, there is an established or soon-to-be-established FICM presence in the following nations: Albania, Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, France, India, Iran, Latvia, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, UK (including England and Northern Ireland), USA and Venezuela.

Pretty amazing, isn't it?

As FICM International Council chairman, I (Rich) have the privilege of working closely in this mission of global expansion with our International Director, Steve Goss and the rest of the Council members. It is a rewarding... though very challenging...task to beseech the Lord of the harvest to thrust out laborers into His harvest field, seeking to maintain the integrity of this freedom message and ministry globally while discerning the leaders He is raising up.

Please keep praying with us and for us. We will not be done until people from every tribe, tongue, people and nation are ushered into Christ's kingdom...not just as converts but as growing, fruitful disciples.



FICMI Council 2013

# Weather to Worship

By Rich Miller, President, FICM-USA

I have to admit that I am sort of a weather geek. My favorite channel to flip on when I plop down on my motel bed is The Weather Channel®. When I was a kid during the spring and summer, I would look excitedly toward the western sky when I saw the dark clouds of a thunderstorm approaching. My Mom would have to practically haul me into the house as the wind was whipping around me, lightning flashing and thunder cracking and booming overhead. I was a little bit crazy.

It was no surprise to anyone when I decided to go to the university and major in meteorology, earning my bachelor's degree in that field. If I weren't married and in the ministry, I am sure I would be a storm-chaser somewhere in the Midwest.

It probably comes as no surprise to you, then, that the Lord often speaks to me through the weather. I am reminded of death and rebirth in the chill of winter and the thawing warmth of spring. I am prompted to worship God for His mighty power during storms. I am humbled when I recall how the wind and the waves obeyed Jesus' word and that I could yell at the sky until I am blue in the face and all that would happen is that I would get...blue in the face.

Weather is a faint echo, an imperfect reflection of the mystery of God. Weather is predictable and then again...it's not. Meteorologists can predict that there will be showers today in a region, but they can't forecast ahead of time exactly where they'll be. You can know today that God is love and will pour out His love, but you can't know ahead of time exactly how He'll choose to shower you with it. In light of this often perplexing mystery, you would think that meteorologists and theologians would be some of the most humble people on the planet, but the reality is that...hmmm...well, that's another sermon for another day maybe!

I was recently driving from my home near Asheville, NC to our FICM-USA office in Knoxville, TN...as is my custom. Some people have said that the DOT that oversees Interstate 40 ought to start charging me rent, I spend so much time on that road. The weather early that morning was rainy and foggy as I wound my way through the Smokies. Heading west and nearing the NC-TN border, the clouds broke and the morning sun brilliantly spotlighted the lush greenery along the Pigeon River. What an eye feast!

Just before I drove into the one westbound tunnel on that stretch of I-40, I happened to glance up and spotted a rare morning rainbow smiling at me above the mountains. I happened to be on a conference prayer call with our Board of Directors and told them about it.

A moment later I plunged into the dark tunnel.

Coming out of the tunnel, the sun was still shining. I was curious whether the rainbow would still be there. After a few seconds of a disappointed search, there it was...fresh and beautiful as before!

As I mentioned earlier, God likes to speak to me through the weather. And He spoke to me that morning.

First, He reminded me that even when life is boring, drab and dreary...like a rainy, foggy morning...that doesn't change the reality that God is still on His throne, reigning in brilliant radiance. Think of that reality the next time you take off in a plane and break through the overcast, up and above the clouds into blinding sunshine.

Second, He encouraged me to remember that His promises are like that rainbow I enjoyed. He is faithful to His promises *before* we enter the dark tunnels of life. He is faithful to His promises *after* we emerge from the tunnels of life. Most importantly, He is faithful to His promises *during* the tunnels of life where all we can see is the darkness around us and we wonder if the rainbow is still there.

It is.

Maybe you find yourself today in a season of life that is mostly cloudy, overcast, rainy or even foggy. Remember the sun. Remember the Son. Or maybe you just plunged into a tunnel or you've been in one for quite a while. Remember the rainbow. Remember God's faithful promises are as true in the darkness as they are in the light.

Hebrews 10:23 reminds us: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful..."

Indeed He is.



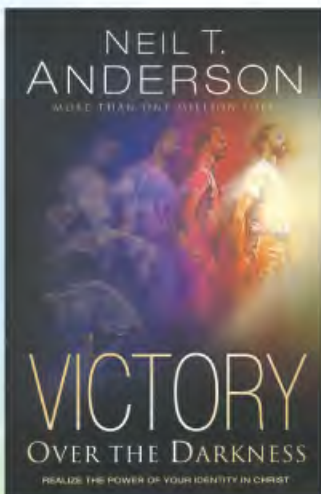
Rich Miller



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*Thank you for your continued support of FICM!*

## Victory Over the Darkness in 3rd Edition



The year 2000 marked the 2nd edition of what our office refers to as "Victory". Since its first release in 1990, "Victory" and its follow-up book, *The Bondage Breaker*, have each sold over 1 million copies. Gospel Light has recently released the 3rd Edition of "Victory".

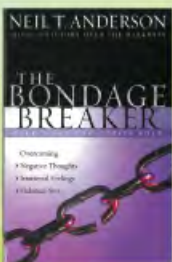
To celebrate, we are offering both books at an even steeper discount than normal!

**Retail: \$14.99 each**

**Sale Rate: \$9.49 each**

**Purchase 20 or more for only \$7.99 each**

Sale will end without notice.



### **Plan ahead and save!**

Purchase *Victory over the Darkness* or *The Bondage Breaker* for your Fall/Spring Small Groups. Both of these life-changing books are on sale for \$9.49 each (or our bulk rate of \$7.99 each) as we celebrate!



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