

# freedom

A Newsletter update from Freedom In Christ Ministries

## High Expectations by Rich Miller

"You've been pretty impatient with Luke lately," my reluctantly-confronting wife, Shirley, commented one day.

"No, I'm not. I'm just trying to get him to do what I know he can do," I countered.

Shirley wisely dropped it, knowing this was not one of my more teachable moments. But the Lord didn't "drop" it; He just waited a couple of days until I was working on Day One of the *Journey to Freedom* 40-day devotional. I had written it four or five years ago but wanted to go through it again as part of our church wide "40 Days of Freedom" campaign. The Lord used my own words to get my attention.

In that devotional we are instructed to renounce lies we may have believed about God the Father...that He is, for example, insensitive, stern, demanding, never satisfied, impatient, angry, controlling, nit-picking, and so on. As I looked over those distorted perceptions of God, I could honestly say that I did not believe God the Father was like that; but I couldn't deny that lately I had been behaving like that toward Luke. It grieved me that I had recently been a poor representation of the Father to my son.

Shirley had been right, and the Holy Spirit wanted to make sure I realized she was right...not so I would feel condemned, but so that I would be brought to conviction and repent.

I think all of us parents have high expectations of our kids. We want them to excel and do the best they are capable of doing. But it is not always easy to discern between what we think our kids can do as opposed to what they are actually able to do. Luke is really hard to read in that regard. As a special needs boy adopted from Thailand, he is seriously developmentally delayed. Many times it is nearly impossible to tell when he is being stubbornly resistant to doing something versus simply being developmentally incapable of doing it. I had recently been convinced he could do a lot more than he was willing to do, and I

wasn't happy about it.

When I looked over that exercise in *Journey to Freedom*, I was brought face to face with the truth that I had indeed been insensitive, stern, demanding, never satisfied, angry, etc. with Luke. And since the Lord had me in a teachable moment, I asked Him a question that I have found He is very eager to answer.

I asked Him, "Lord, why have I been struggling with this so much?"

His answer was clear. In my zeal to expect Luke to do more, I had lost sight of my need to *accept* him just as he was. In essence, I was putting him under law and not under grace.

You see, Scripture says that we are to "accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God" (Romans 15:7). Only when we *accept* one another can we graciously *expect* them to do better. But if we *expect* but don't *accept*, we end up being critical, demanding, stern and impatient...just like I had been with Luke.

The law never gives us the power to do what we are supposed to do, and being nagged to do what's right only increases frustration (in both the "lawgiver" and "law receiver") and can even cause resistance to change in the one being corrected. God's grace, on the other hand, is the strongest and most powerful agent of motivation and change there is. Our problem is that since it is often slow-acting, requiring patience to wait for real heart change, we become impatient and lay down the law.

*continued on pg. 2*



The Millers: Shirley, Brian, Rich, Luke, Michelle & Emily

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The question is, do we simply desire behavioral change that is pressured and guilt-induced and therefore only temporary, or do we want real heart transformation that is genuine and long-lasting? God has no interest in the former; He alone can bring about the latter.

In my case, godly sorrow fortunately has led to repentance without regret (2 Corinthians 7:10), and my attitude toward Luke has, by God's grace, amazingly improved. I find myself being much more encouraging to him, and in the process I am encouraged.

So in your relationships, where do you tend to fall on the "accept - expect" scale? It's okay to expect people to do what's right as long as you never shift off of the rock solid place of accept. That's how God comes to us: He first accepts us in Christ and then He expects us to walk in a manner worth of that calling.

Let's go and do likewise, treating others as our heavenly Father treats us.

## CFM University Opens!

After 18 months of prayer and hundreds of hours of hard work, CFM University opened its doors for the fall 2010 semester on September 15! This online training system is going to be a key player in fulfilling the FICM-USA vision "to establish and nurture a growing network of Community Freedom Ministries (CFM) all across the nation."

Now individuals, couples and groups of individuals can be trained in the basics of how to start and grow a CFM from the comforts of home any time of the day or night. Right now our first course, CFM 101 is fully up and running and we are busily working to get CFM 201 operational by the middle of October.

There are three options for students to choose from at CFM University. First, they can "get their feet wet" by opting to just take CFM 101. This very practical, "how to" course teaches the basics of how to get a CFM off the ground. Second, students can enroll in both CFM 101 and 201. CFM 201 provides advanced training in understanding how to wage and win enemy attacks against the CFM, how to build a CFM leadership team (including effective conflict resolution) and much more. Third, students can enroll in the "Coordinator" track which includes the two courses, a four-day Practicum (to be held November 16-19 in Knoxville) and other assignments.

So, how many students have enrolled in this first semester of CFM University?

- 10 students enrolled in CFM 101 only
- 25 students enrolled in CFM 101 and 201
- 16 students enrolled in the "Coordinator track" including the Practicum.



A big welcome to the 51 students now attending CFM University!

Please be in prayer for them as they read the textbooks, listen to the online presentations, study (there are quizzes to take!), and seek to understand and apply the principles in these courses. May the Lord raise up many, many new CFMs around the country through these students!

**Could the Lord be calling you to take a step of faith and trust Him to use you to start a CFM in your home church or hometown?**

Registration is now open for spring semester, 2011! Check it out online at [freedominchrist.com](http://freedominchrist.com) and click on CFM University on the right hand side of the page.



## ATTENTION FICM PRAY-ERS!

Due to our main file server's untimely demise, we have lost e-mail addresses for the members of our Prayer Team. If you would like to join our prayer team for the first time or to continue praying with us and receive our prayer e-mail, please send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to [info@ficm.org](mailto:info@ficm.org). Prayer is vital to this ministry and we appreciate you!

## Registration now open for CFM University Spring 2011!

Early Bird	Registration	
\$99	\$119	CFM 101 Student Training
\$198	\$230	CFM 101 and 201 Student Training
\$528	\$598	CFM Coordinator Training (101, 201 and Practicum)

Early Bird tuition rate ends Dec. 1  
Group Rates available for Coordinator Training, see [freedominchrist.com](http://freedominchrist.com).

Visit [www.cfmuniversity.org](http://www.cfmuniversity.org) or call tollfree 866.462.4747 for more information



# FICM International Gathering

Every two years the global personnel of FICM (which is called FICMI) gather for a time of prayer, vision casting, encouragement, instruction, training, rest and fun! The venue this year was just north of Toronto, Canada at the Nottawasaga Resort. Our Canadian staff did an incredible job of hosting and directing a packed line-up of events. We were busy!

From August 2-4 the FICM International Council (which includes Dr. Neil Anderson) met to discuss how to see the message and ministry of freedom more effectively expand around the world. There are now several dozen countries where a "freedom presence" is in place! Then from August 4-8 we had our international retreat which included a conference by Dr. Neil Anderson, based on his new book *The Core of Christianity*. We concluded the marathon of meetings with a FICM-USA Board of Directors meeting August 8-9.

Ten countries with FICM personnel were represented at the international retreat: Australia, Canada, India, Latin America, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA. In all, 220 participants attended the events, with the majority being Canadian and American.

The Lord is opening doors all around the world. We can't wait to see how many countries are represented when FICMI gathers two years from now in the host nation for the 2012 Summer Olympics, the United Kingdom!



**FICMI Council Members & Spouses:** Bob Genock - Latin America Coordinator, Clay Bergen (Carin) - Canada Director, Neil Anderson (Joanne) - Founder & President Emeritus, Steve Goss (Zöe) - UK Director, Isaac Manogaram (Tara) - India Director, Rich Miller - USA Director, Roger Reber - Switzerland Director



Joanne Anderson (center) in a candid shot with friends and staff.



FICM International Staff and Families



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*Thank you for your continued support of FICM!*

## Collections Available to Jump Start your Small Group...

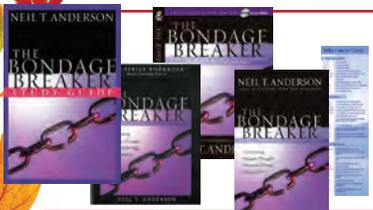
All collections include: DVD, Book, Study Guide or Manual, and (5) Workbooks.  
Some kits include (50) Identity Bookmarks



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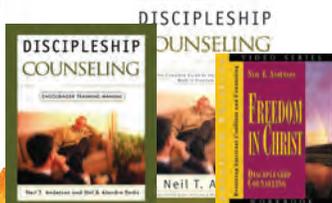
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Collection Sale Ends November 15, 2010



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