

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

I know you are receiving this letter a bit before the holiday, but since Scripture says to “give thanks” in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and for all things (Ephesians 5:20), we didn’t think you’d mind our getting a little jump start in celebrating!

Here at FICM-USA we are celebrating the good news...the gospel...that continues to spread throughout the country and we are giving thanks for the new laborers the Lord is raising up in response to prayer (Matthew 9:37,38). In this letter we’ll give you a taste of both of these elements of ministry from this fall in the hope that you will celebrate and give thanks with us, too!

Celebrating the gospel of grace

Recently, I had the opportunity to present “The Grace Course” live before an audience of 40 folks from around the Southeast...mainly Alabama. Hal & Alandra Parks...FICM seasoned veterans...hosted the event held in a retreat setting near the Talladega Race Track.

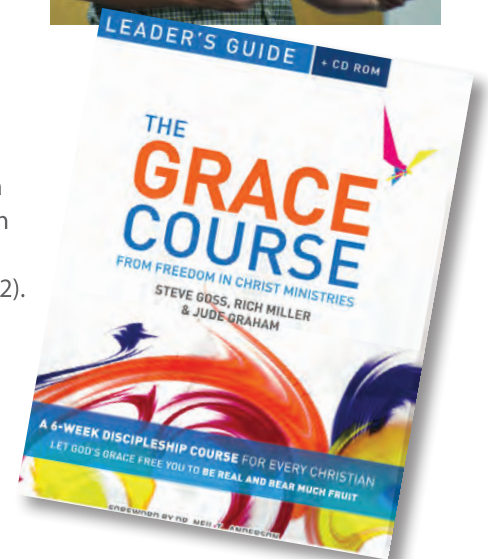
In “The Grace Course” we tackle the issues of guilt, shame, fear and pride and give attendees the opportunity to process through the areas of *dis-grace* in their lives. It seems like the area of “shame” is a deep heart wound for many of God’s people and the Lord has seen fit to touch those attending this event with some even deeper healing. Many people have come to experience the reality of our new identity in Christ as He gives them a “new name” (Isaiah 62:2). Here’s an example from the retreat:

“The Grace Course” was just one more incredible resource that God has used as He continues to orchestrate my healing and recovery from my second unwanted divorce a year ago. As a recovering legalist and co-dependent, I am excited to share that my “new names” are “His Treasured Beloved” (old name - Forgotten/Unloved) and “Helped” (old name - Learned Helplessness).

I am able to see more clearly now how I have been waging war with what my feelings have been telling me. Going through the Grace Steps and asking God to reveal the enemy’s lies and ungodly beliefs and then replacing them with God’s truths was so freeing!! Because of my co-dependent tendencies, it has been very easy for me to just rely on other spiritual leaders/mentors to do the work of freedom in my life instead of allowing God to use me in the process! With His confidence and boldness, I can now gratefully say “the Lord is my Helper” (Heb. 13:6)!!

Now that’s something to celebrate!

It was wonderful to have quite a few well-trained volunteers at the retreat who were able to minister one-on-one to hurting individuals there. And that brings me to something we are really giving thanks for...the raising up and training of new laborers!



Giving thanks for more workers

Back in early 2010 when we did a pilot test of our new online training institute, CFM University, we had about 55 volunteers nationwide. Now, just four and a half years later, we have about 170 operating in 33 different states. Glory to God!

The “punchline” of our online training is a four-day, in-person Practicum. During this intense but highly relational event, participants go through a personal “freedom appointment” (being taken through *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*) and they also take someone else through the “Steps”...both under the tutelage of a veteran coach. They also come up with a “nuts and bolts” action plan to take back home, learning how to develop prayer support for their Community Freedom Ministry (CFM); how to relate to church leadership; and much more! There is such a warm, family atmosphere (with lots of good food!) during the Practicum that participants can’t wait to sign up to be part of our nationwide community of volunteers...the CFM NETWORK.

Recently we trained eight new laborers for the harvest (from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina and New York) in Rockford, IL. Here are some of the comments from these new “recruits” after their freedom appointments:

“I was so surprised at the issues in my life that God put His finger on.”

“I never realized how many damaging lies I had believed and their impact in my life.”

“I found such compassion in these brothers that it was safe to share and expose this place in my life so that God could heal.”

“I felt like it was the night before surgery...and now I feel so freed...and a little raw. Yeah, it hurt so bad but now it feels so good.”

“This was my first one-on-one appointment that I actually did all the way through, though I’ve taken several through their freedom appointments. It was so helpful to go to those places that needed cleansing and freedom.”

We are excited as these folks go back home, connect with their church leaders and begin the process of developing a new CFM in their home church and hometown.

We are eagerly anticipating four more Practicums in the first half of 2015...in Minnesota, Montana, California and Tennessee. Right now it is looking like 50-60 more individuals will be trained there!

So...there you have it...a glimpse of what the Lord has been doing through FICM-USA. I hope you joined with us in celebrating and giving thanks. We so appreciate your partnership in this ministry!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Gratefully in Christ,

Rich Miller
President, FICM-USA



FREEDOM IN CHRIST
MINISTRIES

