



And now I will show you
The Most Excellent Way...



The Christian Solution for Addictions: Jesus!

September 2012

Newsletter

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Message from the Director

We Thank God for You! We are grateful for each and every pastor, ministry leader, meeting leader, team member, and prayer warrior for being willing vessels of the Holy Spirit in "The Most Excellent Way" ministry. May the Lord continue to richly bless your *commitment* to Him, His Word, and to those He brings to you for encouragement and support to become victorious over addictions and life's problems. You and your families are in our prayers.

For 27 years, we have strived to develop and maintain ministry to those in bondage to drugs and alcohol (and other life-controlling sins) in accordance with biblical principles and the Holy Spirit's guidance and power. Our purpose is to help lost and hurting people find (1) new spiritual life in Jesus - the source of all love, mercy and grace, and (2) His spiritual, supernatural solutions to their problems of living. To that end:

- We love the unlovable.
- We evangelize the lost.
- We disciple new believers.
- We comfort those experiencing all kinds of anxiety and distress.
- We lovingly encourage and exhort.
- We pray for God's will to be manifested in the lives of all those we encounter.
- And we show up regularly (and spontaneously) to support anyone and everyone seeking God's love, acceptance and forgiveness.



An Invitation

The Lord's Church needs more safe places where addicted people can come to find Jesus' love, acceptance and forgiveness, and to exhort and encourage each other into growing into the image of Christ Jesus. We're praying you will open the door to ministry of "God-dependency" in your church.

There's a believer in your congregation or ministry who has victory over sins of addiction and who is, therefore, competent to minister to others. Invite him/her to come forward to be used of the Holy Spirit! Whether or not you utilized the ministry guidelines and resources of "The Most Excellent Way," we pray you recognize the need for sound biblical solutions for solving the addiction problems of the souls in your church and community. ♥ God bless you all!

Your Servants In Christ,
Glenn & Judy Wright

Faith Check-Up



"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test ourselves."
2 Corinthians 13:5

This passage urges us to give ourselves spiritual check-ups. We should look for a growing awareness of Christ's presence and power in our lives. Only then will we know if we are true Christians, or merely impostors.

If we're not actively drawing closer to God, we are standing still, or walking in the flesh and away from Him.



"My Commitment to Christ"

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed.
The die has been cast.
I have stepped over the line.
The decision has been made.
I'm a disciple of His and I won't look back, let up, slow down,
back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed.
My present makes sense.
My future is secure.
I'm done and finished with low living, sight walking,
small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions,
mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions,
plaudits, or popularity.

I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised,
or rewarded.

I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer,
and labor by Holy Spirit power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven.
My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few,
but my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back,
deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the
adversary.

I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of
popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up,
prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus.
I must give until I drop, preach until all know,
and work until He comes.

And when He does come for His own,
He'll have no problem recognizing me.
My colors will be clear!

*This "Commitment" was written by a young Rwandan man the night before he was executed by his tribe for not renouncing Christ. It was discovered on our granddaughter, Sydney's, FB "About" page. I was so blessed and moved by the profound statement that I immediately thought, *"I wish I had said that!"* Alas! I too can make the purposeful commitment. May God's Spirit motivate all of us to live a life that echoes *"Me Too!"* Amen?! ♥

Lufkin Leadership Conference Report

By Tish Bryant

TMEW groups in Angelina County had the great honor of hosting the Leadership Conference & Training Workshops on May 11-12, 2012 in Lufkin, TX. It was so good to see our friends and ministry mentors once again, and for most, to meet them for the first time.

The conference was held at Trinity Baptist Church, where the first ever TMEW meeting in Texas began back in September 2001. We're grateful to Trinity's MEW leader, Jim Heberling for setting up and keeping things running smoothly, and Pastor Walter Futch for providing the conference room.

Two days of great teaching, learning and fellowship began with Pastor Glenn Wright speaking to us about ministering God's way versus ministering man's way.



TMEW Ministry Team ~ Angelina County, Texas

Pastor Paul Graves from Montana gave a fantastic presentation on what discipleship really is. We find that answer in how Jesus taught His disciples and built them up. He explained to us what sitting under a Jewish Rabbi meant in those days, and told us about the TALID – the Jewish prayer shawl and all the meanings every knot, fiber and color hold.

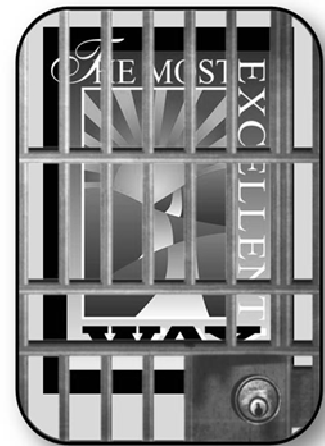
Pastor Lu Wing presented "Cleansing the Addicted Mind-Body-Soul God's Way." There is no way I can explain everything he talked about, but I learned what it really means to be pronounced clean by the Almighty God!

Pastor Ed Day of Horizon Christian Fellowship in San Diego followed with his points on ministering to the Family and Friends of those suffering from addiction, the crux of which is that we also point them toward a daily walk with Christ to be able to deal with what is going on with their beloved family member or friend, rather than focusing on all the problems that have been created by the dependent.

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TMEW Prison Ministry

Rick McClung is Director of the NEW TMEW Prison Ministry. He is working with Florida Dept. of Corrections' officials and chaplains to train inmates to facilitate regular weekly meetings *inside*.



He is currently editing the Leader's Manual, using vernacular familiar to the population. Upon completion, the TMEW Prison Manual will be a resource for ministries across the country.

Rick and his team have been training men and women as facilitators in several jails and prisons with great success. Meeting attendance is high, and the potential for men and women returning to society as New Creations in Christ is exciting! All the more reason to begin more TMEW meetings in Florida for folks to attend upon release.

We're blessed by Rick's TMEW ministry at First Baptist Church in Panama City, FL. A Prison Ministry page with more information will be added to the website soon. In the meantime, you may contact Rick via email: rmcclung@firstbaptistpc.com.

Important Questions & Answers

"During the past [20 to 30+] years a dramatic shift has taken place in American Christianity: Psychology has flooded into the church.



"Christian psychologists are now the ones many Christians primarily look to for guidance in the Christian life. Christian psychologists many of the best-selling books and dominate much of Christian radio. Many pastors use psychological terms and concepts in their sermons.

"When anything new floods into the church, it needs to be evaluated in the light of Scripture, our only infallible guide for faith and practice. Many Christians are confused about "Christian" psychology: Should it be gladly embraced, used cautiously, or rejected outright? What follows are some common questions I've encountered and answers based upon God's Word as I've wrestled with this issue."

Pastor Steven J. Cole
Flagstaff Christian Fellowship

Questions At a Glance

Printer Friendly Article ~ Answers here:

www.tmewcf.org/files/QandA.pdf

1. Psychological truth? Biblical truth? Isn't all truth God's truth?
2. We use modern medicine; why not use modern psychology?
3. What about my inner conflicts?
4. I have trouble relating to God as a loving Father because my biological father was abusive. Can't psychology help me work through the repressed pain from my childhood?
5. Don't I need healthy self-esteem?
6. What about my children's self-esteem?
7. If God loves me, why do I have so much pain and suffering?
8. What can I do when Bible study, prayer, and obedience don't work?
9. What about complicated psychological problems?
10. What about the popular 12-step programs?
11. What about feelings?
12. What about counseling?

**A wise man's heart is
at his right hand,
But a fool's heart at his left.
Ecclesiastes 10:2**



Get Right or Get Left!

*"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ~ James 1:5-8

Conference Report ... Continued

Saturday morning we gathered together again and **Pastor Lu Wing** brought us a beautiful picture of forgiveness by expounding on the Greek and Hebrew root words and explaining sacrifices of Old Testament days from Leviticus. I think I sat there with my mouth open the whole time, marveling at the realization of what Jesus Christ has truly done for us in His obedience to the Father and taking on our sin, allowing us to be heirs with Him eternally.

The next workshop "Looking Beyond the Meeting" was presented by **Pastor Rick McClung** TMEW Director at First Baptist Church in Panama City, FL. He and his wife Vickie have an amazing and extensive ministry of TMEW in their area. Eighteen MEW meetings and some prayer meetings going on in and outside their church in detox centers, jails, etc. (if I counted correctly). It was mind blowing and spirit lifting to see how God's hand has blessed so many people through their faithful service. Their successful plan has evolved through much prayer, making sure they were staying within God's will, always being prepared, taking the time to promote and advertise their meetings and of course – enduring and persevering through and in the Word of God!

My presentation on "Is God's Word All We Really Need?" came next. I cannot tell you how honored I was to be asked to speak on this topic. The world is so lost in the midst of the wisdom and customs of man, even so called believers have found themselves confused as to whether God's Word really is all we need to live whole and completely healed lives. We are all called to be ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, raising up disciples. If we say we believe the Word of God to be "inspired by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (II Tim-othy 3:16-17), then why are we paying someone to be our friend and give worldly advice to us and our families inside the walls of counseling offices all over the country?

Pastor Ed Day brought our conference to an end with an overview of building a successful ministry team. He had such great wisdom and advice from so many years of experience and tested faith. ►

ATTENTION Ministry Team Leaders!

**PLEASE Update Your
TMEW Meeting Information TODAY.**

www.tmewcf.org/mtg9-update.html

Assist us in providing current and accurate meeting information by reviewing your meeting listing, completing the Update Form.

- Are your meetings "court approved?"
- Do you want your email address to appear on Meeting List?
- Use the Update form to share prayer needs and praise reports.
- Send us photos of you and your ministry team.
- Is your TMEW meeting information posted on your church's website? If not, why not? If so, please provide the URL. Spread the word.

**May our Lord bless you for being a good
steward of HIS ministry!**

There was a little time left at the end in which testimony after testimony was given of how believing upon Jesus Christ had saved lives and families.

We said our good-byes to our new friends reluctantly and went home for a short little break. That night, our TMEW Angelina County ministry team had more work and worship to do! The popular contemporary Christian group **MERCY ME** was performing in Lufkin that night. We had the opportunity to sponsor this great concert in partnership with KSWP Christian radio and our friend Dennis Hinson, of Team Motor Jam Productions. We set up a table with all our information, banners and bibles and talked to as many people as we could about freedom and the power of Jesus Christ.

A blessed time was enjoyed by all! ♥



- **USA Meetings**
www.tmewcf.org/usa-meetings.pdf
- **San Diego County Meetings**
www.tmewcf.org/usameetingsSD.pdf



TMEW Meetings & Social Media

Attention Meeting Leaders!

Please do not allow "texting" during meetings, i.e., "messaging," "tagging" and "checking in." Encourage folks to keep their fingers and thumbs busy navigating through the Scriptures, while respecting the privacy of all in attendance! All electronic devices should be turned off and placed out of sight during the meeting! Maintaining confidentiality creates trust and security for all! ♥



TMEW: Drug Court Approved?

TMEW is "drug court approved" in several cities and states, such as CA, FL, OH and OK. Because of the federal government's Faith-Based Initiative, Christian "self-help" groups are accepted as an alternative to court-ordered (AA) meeting participation.

Ministry leaders have introduced TMEW to local judges, clerks and probation officers who have added TMEW to their referral lists.

If the courts in your area are friendly toward TMEW, please let us know and we'll add this information to the website's meeting list. ♥



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for Addictions:
JESUS!

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