



The Christian Solution
for Addictions:
JESUS!

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — Ephesians 4:11-15 NKJV

Fellowship/Support Meetings

“How to Begin the Meetings”

Our purpose and prayer is that anyone God calls to minister to those struggling with addictions will have the confidence to step out in faith and follow the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. The following suggestions are offered to help you succeed:

- **PRAY.**

TMEW in 1986 as a result of prayer. Several people met together weekly to seek God's will concerning our pastor's desire to have a substance abuse ministry at our church. After a few weeks, people seeking freedom from drugs came to the prayer meeting. That was our confirmation that the Lord wanted us to proceed.

- **OBTAIN SUPPORT from Church /Ministry Leadership.**

Does your church desire to reach out to those in the congregation and community who are affected by addictions? You need the moral and prayer support and oversight of your church leaders. Refer them to TMEW's website to learn more. The most effective ministries have the full support of church leadership. You and your TMEW ministry are accountable to them.

- **BUILD A MINISTRY TEAM** with others who are called to minister to those in bondage to their addictions.

It is helpful if those on the team have experience with the challenges of drug and alcohol addiction, but it is not absolutely necessary. There's no one who hasn't dealt with addiction to self-will. What IS necessary is to acknowledge and believe the root of addictions is sin, not disease. Are you ready to “graduate” from the 12-step philosophies? Is the Word of God enough for ministry? Are you “walking in recovery” or are you “walking in the Holy Spirit”? More importantly: Is Jesus enough?

*Jesus warned:
"He who is not with Me is against Me,
and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad."
Matthew 12:30 NKJV*

*"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and
some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man,
to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
that we should no longer be children,
tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men,
in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love,
may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —
Ephesians 4:11-15 NKJV*

*"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers,
knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."
James 3:1 NKJV*

- **PREPARE for ministry with your team.** The TMEW website offers many resources to help you prepare to be a ministry leader. We suggest you review the following material available at www.tmewcf.org to determine if you are ready to be a steward of the Word of God:

*"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 2:14-15*

Many who have become clean and sober by faith in Jesus Christ have a strong desire to reach out to those in bondage. Many of them believe they need to be certified drug and alcohol counselors, however, certification is not necessary to minister to fellow Believers. In TMEW we seek to win, disciple, mend and send new Christians in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Bible tells us:

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV*

Counseling fellow Believers with the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit effects spiritual change in the inner most parts, while man's counseling practices and techniques can only address the outward symptoms of addiction. Our heavenly Father has provided all we need to be effective disciples of His Word. Obedience to Jesus promises an eternal presence and relationship with Him. And He keeps His promises! Man's counsel can only manipulate outward behavior, and cannot offer eternal promises.

- **ORGANIZE.** Ministry in The Most Excellent Way is spiritual work by a team of (at least two) disciples. It is not a one-man show. The ministry will run smoothly if team members are aware of the many tasks required for running the meeting, and will volunteer to exercise their gifts and talents.

Review the guidelines in TMEW's Ministry Leader's Manual with your ministry team and plan for your support meetings.

- Who will conduct the meeting?
 - Who will teach the Bible study, and who will be the alternate?
 - Who will photocopy the lesson outlines for the meeting?
 - Who will pray for the team and participants before, during and after the meeting?
 - Who will be responsible for the prayer requests generated during the meeting?
 - Who will sign the attendees' court-required attendance record after the meeting?
 - Who will maintain an inventory of tokens and pamphlets?
 - Who will make the coffee?
 - Who will set up and take down the chairs needed for the meeting?
 - Who will be responsible for having Bibles available during the meeting?
 - Who will clean up and lock up after the meeting?
- **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP is important. TMEW ministry leaders are actively involved** with their church. They attend weekly worship services, home fellowships or Bible study classes. They may also be involved with church outreaches. They are servants who offer their services wherever needed — however menial.
 - **COMMUNICATE with TMEW Office.** Provide regular updated, accurate information about your meeting for the Support Meeting List that appears on the ministry website. ♥

QUESTIONS?

Please contact "The Most Excellent Way" ... we're here to serve you!

May our Lord richly bless you as you serve Him by serving others!