

## *Supporting Pastors by Ministering to Christians in Need of Guidance and Deliverance*



APF Newsletter—Vol. I, No. 4

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Dear APF Supporters,

### **Greetings:**

I hope that life is good for all of you. I've heard many say that as the summer winds down and autumn comes around that things "should slow down." For me, the ministry only increases, which is exciting. As I have helped people, they have told friends and family. Therefore, I have had more people make contact for sessions or for just a question and answer session. I'm glad that I can be helpful to people in need.

### **Praises:**

I have a few of praises to share this month. First is the tremendous healing I have seen in three different women that I'm counseling. None of them are "out of the woods," yet, as they are still learning to walk in Christ, but all three had many hurts and wounds from their childhood healed. It is wonderful to watch the Lord Jesus take the pain from a memory that has tormented a person for many years. The person can walk out of a session knowing once again how much God cares.

The second praise is that God has provided a few more people that are supporting the ministry monthly. We are getting closer to the halfway point of what is needed in monthly pledges. God has blessed us so much in a short amount of time! In fact, one of those who is supporting has said he will spread the word at his church for others to support *A Pastor's Friend*. That was very humbling to hear and I am extremely thankful.

The third praise is that I have made some progress on the office building. With materials purchased over the last year, my dad and I have done more framing on some beautiful Saturdays. The building still has a long way to go, but I get excited about it nonetheless.

### **Something to Consider:**

Many times, when people are receiving counseling, especially from someone like me who deals with the demonic, the person is stigmatized. When others become aware that person is getting help from a "deliverance minister," they look at that person funny. Some may ask questions about the person: "How can he/she sing in choir with so much love for the Lord?" "How can he/she share in a small group or Sunday school about the Bible like that?" "How can he/she even go out in public?" "I wonder what's wrong with them." "I wonder what sin he/she committed." I've overheard questions of this nature and even had some people ask me directly.

Such thinking about people who are getting help for problems, even if they are demonic is misguided. For example, if someone wonders how a person can sing praises in choir or during a worship meeting and not show guilt or embarrassment consider Luke 7:36-50. In this passage, a "sinful woman" anointed Jesus with her tears and perfume. Jesus explained to those around the table that because she has been forgiven of more, she is more grateful than the others there. The same holds true for those who are delivered from demons or receive healing from the Lord Jesus: they are very grateful and will express it—even if they are not totally healed or set free at that point.

Another example is the person who questions how a person being delivered can answer Bible questions or even give spiritual advice. The person in deliverance has to learn biblical truth, and teaching biblical truth is a big part of what *A Pastor's Friend* does. Therefore, the person being set free has to study and learn the Bible to understand how to deal with the demonic. Combining that truth learned with the experience the person has allows him or her to have good insight.

To sum up the point of this section, people who receive deliverance counseling or counseling in general are not evil people. In fact, most have not even done evil things. When a church body stigmatizes and ultimately then ostracizes these people, the work of healing is slowed and God is not given glory. This area is probably the greatest tool the enemy uses in keeping people from getting help: it might be embarrassing. It is true that most don't understand spiritual warfare or the demonic. Nonetheless, I encourage everyone to love people in Christ. If you hear others speaking in negative ways about someone who is getting help, I encourage you to confront them. Remind them that it takes a great amount of courage to get help and that the person simply wants to live for Jesus the best he/she can. I might be the one do the "counseling," but caring for the delivered, and each other, is a job that all Christians can do. In other words, those being counseled need your help by just being supportive and caring. If you have questions about helping those receiving counseling, please contact me so we can discuss this further.

### **Prayer Concerns:**

The first prayer concern is for putting together the details for an open house for *A Pastor's Friend*. It is hoped to have an open house on a Saturday evening this fall. I will be giving more information about this to you, and hope that you can come and bring others along. The open house will be for all who are already supporting and for those who want to learn more. I also hope to include area pastors so they can learn about the ministry. God has richly blessed the ministry, but I believe He wants me to increase the base of support and to spread the word about this ministry for those who might want help.

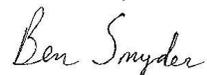
Second, please pray for those who coming for help. I can't give specifics, of course, but pray for them to have courage to continue with the process. Pray blessings on the people that they will experience the truth of God's love in the process.

The third request is for my family. We all are still adjusting to a new "work routine." Until the office is done, most of the work I do is at a desk in our home. All of us, but especially the children, have a difficult time remembering that I'm "at work." Please pray for them to have an understanding of the situation.

Lastly, I ask that you continue to pray for me as I work with people. Wisdom and strength are essential, but so is courage and patience. Sometimes I have to confront a person and "step on toes," which takes courage. Other times, I have to be patient as I'd like to address many issues with the person, but must go slower because it is so overwhelming. When I know what needs to be done and what the end result will be, I'm ready to go in and get it done. Sometimes it just can't get done in one session!

The prayers that cover us are vital to our success, and I thank you all so much for them. I pray blessings over all of you and your families that you too may experience His love daily.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder