

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

Newsletter—Vol. 2, No. 6
June 2, 2008



Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

Special blessings to you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ! I'm glad for another opportunity to share with you about the ministry.

Praises:

This past Friday (May 30), Angela and I celebrated our 9th wedding anniversary. We praise God for His work in our marriage and how He is refining us as people and a couple. We look excitedly to the years to come.

June is looking to be a busy month. Alan is now playing baseball, and Angela and I still play softball. We are very thankful that our schedules have very few times of conflict with games.

It may sound strange, but praise God that people have called, and emailed, for help. I'm not happy that they need help, but that we can lend a hand. Word has spread to various areas, and those in need have called. It is a blessing to me to be called, and able, to minister to them.

Something to Consider:

It is common for people who come for help to be believing lies from the Enemy. A common lie is that God has willed the troubles for a person to "teach him a lesson." In other words, they deserve the troubles and experiences that are making life very difficult. People often reference different passages to confirm their beliefs.

One passage that is often used is Romans 8:28. It is read with the focus on God determining the events for a good purpose. I realize this issue gets into people's different theological perspectives. These perspectives have been argued on and debated for centuries, so I don't presume to have the final answer. I can only give my perspective from ministering to people with many hurts and wounds. When we discuss Romans 8:28, I encourage the person to read the passage with a perspective that God is at work to make good out of the trouble. It wasn't that God *caused* or even intended that the troubles happened, but He will take that bad experience and make good out of it for the person and for His glory. I disagree with people who believe that we can only learn through crises. If that is the case, then being a teacher is a waste of time!

To carry the point further, I turn to Genesis 50:20. In this passage, Joseph is talking to his brothers about how they treated him. He says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." I'll ask the person I'm sharing with a question like, "What was God's intention for Joseph?"

Various answers can come from this question, but I believe the answer is: to be in a position of authority in Egypt so that food was available for his family and many others. What was the intention of the brothers? Their intention was to *kill* Joseph. I believe God intervened by

influencing one brother, Reuben, to talk the others out of it. Harm was prevented to Joseph. Did God even intend for him to be sold as a slave? Maybe, but I believe God is big enough that it need not even be so painful as that. Nonetheless, God took bad attitudes and actions of the brothers and made good out of it. Did God cause the brothers to have these attitudes? I don't believe so. They made the choice to be mean to Joseph.

In a ministry session, this point is crucial for two reasons. One reason is that a person may blame God for his or her troubles instead of the appropriate person (demons, other people, or even self if sin is involved). Resentment against God is a big goal of the demons to destroy the Christian's life and testimony.

The second reason is that a person who accepts troubles as directly from God is that he or she will believe that God doesn't love him or her. Believing that lie can cause many, many problems. It is important to show the person that God isn't to blame and that he or she is not unloved, but caught in evils of the world due to sin. People and evil spirits make bad choices that can cause disastrous consequences.

The great thing about our God is that He is able to make wonderful things out of the messes that are made. I encourage the person to nail to the cross all bitterness so that God can do a miracle. I believe God cries when He sees the troubles people go through, and wants to bring healing and restoration to wounded people. Telling people "it is just God's will" and "it's for your good" only adds to that woundedness.

Again, many may not like this point of view. It is clear for me in this ministry that the demons greatly like it when God is blamed for the work they do! If they can take away His honor and glory, they believe they have won. Christ is victor, and we work to appropriate it in a person's life so good can come out of the troubles. May the Lord Jesus Christ be praised each and every time a person is healed and set free!

Prayer Concerns:

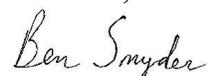
The main prayer concern of the month is pray for schedules to continue to work out. I meet with people as often as I can during the daytime, but sometimes evenings are required. (I've really had to adjust to working "odd hours!"). I want to be available as much as possible for those in need and still be there with my family.

I also ask that you continue to pray blessings on the ministry as a whole so that it can grow and help more and more people.

Final Thoughts:

This month's final thought is a bit different from the past. I want to bless all of you with a great summer. May it be a time where God draws you to Himself through the many activities and events. It is so easy to get busy, but may God work in you so that you aren't distracted and lose focus on the life He has had called you to.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder