

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



APF Newsletter—Vol. 2, No. 3

March 2, 2008

Dear APF Supporters,

Greetings and Blessings to All:

Spring is almost here! Although I am a fan of winter, the idea of spring and warm weather is exciting. On a recent weekend, I was able to work on the office building. It was an enjoyable day with sunny, pleasant weather. The new season always brings for me a nice change. I hope that it is for you all as well. Also, it signals Easter season is here.

Praises:

Anthony Ray Snyder was born on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 10:35am. It was an exciting time! My household is very thankful and blessed. Big sister Allison loves “our baby.” Little Anthony and his mommy are doing just fine.

I also praise God for an increase in the support base. Many people who supported my mentor, Dean Hochstetler, have been contacted to let them know about APF. A special thanks goes to Dean’s sisters, Miriam Hochstetler and Mary Ellen Kaufman, for helping with this.

Some Thoughts to Consider:

Resurrection Sunday is in the month of March, on the 23rd, and I’m looking forward to it with excitement. This week, I read Matthew 28 in preparation for this newsletter. I wanted to write something about Resurrection Sunday, and it seemed the Holy Spirit wanted me to start there.

A verse in the 28th chapter of Matthew caught my attention unlike it had before. In verse 17, the Resurrected Lord Jesus was meeting the disciples on a mountain in Galilee. There, they worshiped Him. Also, some *doubted*. Initially, I was shocked that the disciples would doubt even with Jesus standing right there with them. After some further consideration, it began to make more sense. My experience is that even today when people see something miraculous, a common response is doubt. In conversations with people over the years about the reality of demons and demonization, it has become evident that some people doubt whether a formerly demonized person ever was really demonized. Some believe that the person was faking the problems just to get attention. Certainly some do come for help who just want attention. I try to see through those cases and minister appropriately to that person.

I want to encourage all of you to believe a person who has been healed or set free from demons. Miracles can be very hard to believe and comprehend, but Jesus showed us in His ministry that God is a God of miracles. At the end of Matthew 28, in verses 19 and 20, Jesus tells the disciples to go and teach others what He taught them. His teaching included healing and dealing with demons. Should we not expect the same miracles from the disciples? The book of Acts shows it to be true!

Another verse caught my attention as well in Matthew 28. In verse eight, it was noted that the women who went to find Jesus at the tomb left “afraid but filled with joy.” The Resurrection life

of a person is very exciting. A person being healed or delivered from demons is very exciting. The excitement and joy is a wonderful thing to experience. However, this is a *new life*, one that the person has never experience before. The women who went to the tomb were certainly excited that Jesus was alive. The fear comes in not knowing what to expect or wondering how to live. In the same way, a person who has been freed from the demonic often has never experienced anything different. Fear and joy at the same time. It is a time when a person needs the support of others to walk in Christ, just as the disciples continually gathered together in fellowship.

The similarities of Jesus' Resurrection and a person being freed from demons I don't think are just a coincidence. The Lord Jesus Christ defeated Satan and his host at Calvary, and it is by appropriating this victory that a person is set free. The person can now live a Resurrection life much easier. This year for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, I want to encourage you to think about how Jesus' Resurrection not only gives us eternal life in heaven, but is also a life of victory and deliverance from the powers of darkness. Also, I encourage you to take a person's word to be true that he or she is delivered. Freedom in Christ is a joyful thing; so don't let doubt ruin the joy!

Prayer Concerns:

First, please continue to pray for the planning and development of the open house. I also ask that you help spread the word about the open house. Fliers and so on are being prepared to send out to area pastors and churches.

Second, please pray for the APF board, as they consider adding new members. We've been searching for another member since last November, and need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discern who is best for APF.

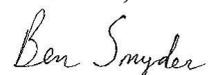
Third, please pray for my family as we adjust to a newborn in the house. I cut back on meeting with area pastors for a few weeks, but look to continue to meet again.

Final Thoughts:

When I first started full time with *A Pastor's Friend* and people would ask what I do, I wasn't sure what to say. I've come to realize that what I do is teach. Prayer is certainly a part of it, and some would say counseling as well. To me though, I simply teach as I did when I was at Clinton Christian school. The number of students is fewer at a time, but my approach is very much like in a school classroom. It is much more fun because I don't have to do grades or discipline! So when people ask about APF, you can share that I teach Christian truth to people in need of spiritual help and pray with them. Indeed, if there are demons at work, I deal with them. The main focus, though, is teaching the Truth of what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ...a saint that overcomes the enemy by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11).

Blessings to you this March!

In Christ,


Ben Snyder