

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



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Dear APF Supporter:

### **Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ:**

I hope that the spring is going well for everyone. Yet another month has passed, and here it is the last month of the school year. That means that Angela and I will have been working with APF full time for a full year! It is hard to believe it, as the time has gone quickly.

### **Praises:**

The open house went well...almost! The numbers weren't as high as I had hoped but that wasn't the issue. Set up and preparation went real well. I had very good help. When it was time to speak, the microphone did not want to cooperate. It is interesting that I prayed a blessing over all of the equipment being used for the open house, except for the PA system. It seems the powers of darkness didn't want me to be heard. Doug Hernley, who was operating the system, could not find a reason for the mic to not work. Nonetheless, the open house went on, and I was able to share with those present.

The progress of the office building has continued steadily. I really enjoy working on my "off days" and testing my abilities in carpentry.

### **Something to Consider:**

On a recent weekend, my wife and I decided to watch a video. During my college days, I recorded a number of episodes of M\*A\*S\*H, as that was a show I watched with my family growing up. (I learned many values watching that program, as my parents used the show to teach about making good choices). Angela agreed to watch a show or two with me. Surprisingly, an episode we watched is very useful for helping to explain the need for our ministry.

In this particular episode, a well-known soldier from the Korean War was wounded and was taken to the M\*A\*S\*H 4077 for surgery. The staff knew of him and his heroics. After surgery, a nurse spoke to him about his amazing acts of bravery. The doctors and nurses were happy to tell him that he would be sent home, as he had served his time and had been wounded enough that he could go home. Unfortunately, he didn't see going home as a good thing and attempted suicide.

The attempted suicide shocked the staff, and a Army psychologist was sent to help the mighty soldier. Although I don't support the form of therapy used for diagnosis, hypnosis, the psychiatrist discerned that the soldier was loaded with guilt. He was a Chinese American fighting against Chinese Communists in Korea. For all he knew, he was killing his family! He went on many daring missions hoping that he would be killed himself. Since the soldier was being sent home, he saw no other option but to kill himself.

To solve the problem, the psychiatrist told the soldier during hypnosis that whenever he felt the guilt, to twitch his arm. The soldier went home happy, with a twitching arm, and didn't even realize it was twitching (which explains why hypnosis is dangerous—without control of ones mental faculties, a person cannot know what the therapist is actually doing to one's mind!) The

M\*A\*S\*H staff marveled at the psychiatrist's work in helping the soldier. Yes, the soldier was helped, but he was not healed.

The reason this story is helpful for the ministry of APF is that many who are troubled are that way because of guilt and shame. The guilt and shame can come from a number of things: personal sin, ancestral sin, personal traumatic events, abuse, and believing lies. In the M\*A\*S\*H episode, the man's guilt wasn't really addressed, but focused in his brain to make his arm twitch. The Lord Jesus Christ offers life that is better than having a twitching arm to deal with guilt!

First of all, we are encouraged to confess our sins (1 John and James 5) for healing. If guilt is being caused by sin, keeping it to oneself allows the powers of darkness to heap the emotions of guilt and shame on a person to the nth degree. A person's whole emotional well-being can be eroded to nothing because the demonic will tell a person that he or she is a terribly horrible person for the sin and that God doesn't love him or her. It is clear though, that God forgives us of our sins when we confess them. In John 20:23, Jesus tells the disciples to tell someone they are forgiven when they confess sin. The relief that is expressed when one is told he or she is forgiven is remarkable.

Second, Scripture makes clear that the shed of blood of Jesus Christ cleanses of our guilt. *Cleanses*—it is washed away, not just covered. Hebrews 9:14 and 10:22 says that our consciences are washed clean because Jesus' blood deals with our guilt. We don't need to have a twitching arm. We can take whatever it is that causes our guilt and nail it to the cross, and Christ takes away our guilt. If a person can accept that Jesus has paid the price for our guilt, then there will be no need to carry the guilt.

Here is where lies come into the picture. Many times lies, or misunderstandings of Scripture, have allowed the demons to torment a person and cause guilt for something that they shouldn't. For example, a sin that has already been confessed, or an event that wasn't their fault. Whatever the case, learning the truth and seeing that Christ has forgiven and taken the guilt peace and emotional healing begins.

I am not trying to put down the work of psychiatrists. My point is to show that the Lord Jesus Christ and His work on the Cross and His resurrection is such a powerful event that it is so much more than giving salvation after death. It brings healing to us now. Christians do not need to walk in guilt and shame...and that is why He is the Prince of Peace.

**Prayer Concerns:**

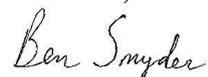
The main prayer concern of the month is pray for those to whom we are ministering. The more people that are blessing people in need and prayer the better.

Also, please continue to pray for the growth and development of APF as an organization.

**Final Thoughts:**

To all who pray for us and support us financially, I thank you so much. The ministry that God has called us to can be difficult, and we could not make it without your support and encouragement. THANK YOU!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder