

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



Newsletter—Vol. 4, No. 4
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Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

Wow! The last month went by quickly and it is time to send another newsletter. It has been a full month with a conference and many ministry sessions. Seeing and hearing of God being at work was a wonderful experience.

Praises:

The Deeper Walk Conference in Indianapolis was very enjoyable and a blessing to me.

My family's health has basically returned to normal.

God continues to lead more people to *A Pastor's Friend* for ministry help.

Praise God for the sight of the grass greening and the smell of spring coming to northern Indiana.

Something to Consider:

Proverbs 3:13—*Blessed is the man who finds wisdom...*

At the Deeper Walk Conference, I was given confirmation of the type of ministry that *A Pastor's Friend* is, and was refreshed in material that I had learned in my years of study under Dean Hochstetler. Even greater was that some new thoughts and ideas were emphasized to me. Not all were new to me, but their importance was enhanced.

One thought or message that stands out came in a session with Dr. Neil Anderson. He shared a simple point that quickly caught my attention: *the wise man sees the world as God does*. In ministry, I need to see the person and his or her situation as God does. When people have trouble in life and seek help from secular counselors, the focus of the counseling is of a worldview that does not have God at the center.

The definition for wisdom given in Merriam-Webster is: a. Accumulated philosophic or scientific learning; knowledge. b. Ability to discern inner qualities or abilities: insight. c. Good sense: judgment. d. Generally accepted belief.

The secular view of wisdom does not include God in any way, but seems to depend on human effort and ability. The ministry of *A Pastor's Friend* hopes to appropriate the wisdom that Dr. Anderson defined. If I enter a ministry session and focus on my education, learning, or even my experiences in ministry to help a person, the wisdom of God can be circumvented. It is not that what I've been taught or experienced is not valuable and should be disregarded, but these things cannot be the base from which I operate. I should also note that depending on God's wisdom does not mean that I have a special connection to God that no one else has. Instead, I simply pray for the Holy Spirit to direct the ministry session and that He will help my mind to be clear and know what He wants me to know.

I have found repeatedly that God has already been at work in a person long before he or she comes to my office. Much of the time, I simply am helping the person to sort out what God has

been doing. In a sense, it is lending a hand to the person to be reconciled to Jesus. If I bring my agenda into a ministry session, it may conflict with what the Holy Spirit has in mind for the person. Therefore, in prayer before a session, I ask the Holy Spirit for any insight into the situation so I can be prepared. Often, the sense is "Listen to his/her story. You'll know what to do from there." Without hearing what He has been doing, I would only be operating in my own plan.

Dr. Anderson reminded me again of the importance of God's wisdom and not my own. It was a reminder that the pressure isn't on me, but God! He is the Healer, the Deliverer, and the Savior, and I am truly blessed to serve Him.

Prayer Concerns:

Upcoming Events:

There are no scheduled events yet. However, I hope to start holding Bible study/sharing sessions once or twice a month in the evenings. More information on this will come soon.

Please continue to pray blessings on those who are coming to *A Pastor's Friend* for help.

Please pray for scheduling to work out as many continue to call for help.

Please pray for health and strength to continue to serve God.

Final Thoughts:

I am so thankful I attended the Deeper Walk Conference. It was refreshing and encouraging for me. Having an opportunity to learn, be reminded, and be supported by others in ministry was a blessing. Thank you to the financial supporters who made it possible for me to attend the conference. May God bless each of you, and thank you for prayer and financial support of *A Pastor's Friend*.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder