

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



Newsletter—Vol. 4, No. 2  
February 2, 2010

Dear APF Supporter:

**Greetings!**

February seems to be birthday month in my home, as two of the three children were born in February [Allison and Anthony]. I'm looking forward to Angela's homemade cakes! I know many don't like the cold and the snow, but I'm a fan of winter...maybe it is the birthday cakes. If winter is a dreary time for you, keep in mind the good news: baseball spring training starts in February. That means spring is near. ☺

**Praises:**

Praise God for the work being done in Portland, MI, at the Epic Community Church. I was invited to share with a group called "180" on January 19. It went very well. In fact, an email was sent a week after the event stating that a couple people in the group applied what I taught and victory was won! The church is a church-plant that is reaching the lost of the Portland area (just west of Lansing). May God bless them!

I praise God for His allowing me to minister to more people. The numbers have been increasing, and yet the scheduling has worked out. A number received ministry over the phone!

The teaching series at Griner Mennonite Church has gone well. Though it has been over the course of a number of months, the group continues to be attentive and asks many questions.

It has been encouraging to me, as I visited different churches with my family, the focus and vision for reaching out to the lost and hurting of the community. I am encouraged to continue to minister as well.

**Something to Consider:**

**1 John 3:15**—<sup>15</sup>*Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.*

Last month, I addressed the need of obedience in regard to avoiding occult practice, focusing on Exodus 23. This month, I'm taking it a step further. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, took God's commands of the Old Testament and "raised the bar." For example, instead of the issue of murder, He makes it about the attitude of hate.

When a person comes for help, two main areas that I explore for ground that allow evil spirits to torment a person are occult practice and resentment. Resentment is a fancy word for hatred. Hatred, resentment, bitterness, anger, or unforgiveness toward another person is dangerous. First John 3:15 is quite blunt. If a person hates someone else, it is the same as wishing that person were dead. In other words, holding hatred for someone is essentially putting a death curse on that person!

It may seem easy for humans to make light of saying, "I wish he was dead!" In the spirit realm, the demons take such a statement *very seriously*. Holding such a view sends demons to that person to attack and torment. The torment does not help either person. Revenge isn't truly

given, and neither person is likely to draw to Christ. At its core, what is being done is sorcery: using evil spirits for some purpose, and the Bible condemns such practice. Instead, God instructs us to allow Him to avenge wrongs (Deuteronomy 32:35 & Romans 12:19). I often share with those who can't forgive: "Wouldn't God do a better job at punishing someone than you?"

Hatred doesn't bring any good, but only brings destruction. Forgiving a person does not mean that the wrong done to a person is "ok." Rather, the wrong is surrendered to God for Him to address. Not being able to forgive only maintains the hurt and pain and ties the wounded one to the offender! Forgiveness allows the Holy Spirit to begin to minister healing in each person. The demons have power to interfere when one holds resentment.

Once in a ministry session, I asked the Holy Spirit to bring a painful memory forward in a person for healing. The person only saw blackness. I believe the Holy Spirit revealed to me the issue. I asked, "Is there someone you're angry with?" Sure enough, the person was angry and hadn't forgiven someone else. Once the choice was made to forgive, the Holy Spirit brought forth the memory and the person received healing. Such a thing happening should not be surprising. In Matthew 18:32-35, Jesus teaches through a parable that God will punish those who don't forgive others. If we want to receive His forgiveness, we need to forgive others!

One last point on resentment must be made. In my experience, the most difficult person for those coming for ministry is to forgive himself/herself. Self-hatred is a death curse for oneself! The guilt and shame that one feels can be very powerful, and must be addressed. In some cases, even when another has harmed the person, blame is placed on oneself. The guilt, shame, and blame must be taken to the cross, and the person must choose to forgive himself/herself. It is essential for freedom in Christ.

### **Prayer Concerns:**

#### Upcoming Events:

February 4—*I am not* speaking at Griner Mennonite Church on this day after all. The event has grown too big for the facility and has been moved to Clinton Frame Mennonite Church. Because of rental costs and times, the extra session in which was to speak was cancelled.

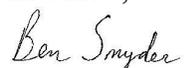
February 11—APF open house at the APF office—6:00-8:30pm. If you were unable to attend the one in December, you have an opportunity to come and see the building. If you came in December, feel free to come again for hot drinks and cookies!

March 3-5—Attending the biannual Deeper Walk Ministries Conference in Indianapolis, IN, to learn more for doing ministry. Deeper Walk was formerly known as International Conference of Biblical Counselors in Sioux City, Iowa. My mentor, Dean Hochstetler, was a board member.

### **Final Thoughts:**

Sometimes, people believe that a person should not ever be forgiven for "what they did is horrible!" Often, those people are correct. What was done was indeed horrible. Jesus on the cross, however, is our example. He showed that no matter how the offender responds, we are to forgive. "Father, forgive them..." (Luke 23:34). Forgiving someone may not even bring reconciliation, but it does free one from the bondage of hatred and murder. I encourage all to see if there is a person who troubles you and choose to forgive. Freedom and healing waits for those who do!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder