

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



Newsletter—Vol. 4, No. 5
May 5, 2010

Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

Once again it is time for another *A Pastor's Friend* newsletter. As I said in last month's newsletter, time just keeps sailing by! Being able to be more active outside with work and play seems to make the days go faster for me.

Praises:

This past month, I've tried to be more aware of the many "small" blessings that God gives each day. I'm sure I still miss some, but it is evident to me how He intervenes in my life. I praise God for His faithfulness.

Something to Consider:

Matthew 25:40—*"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*

This month, I have a challenge for all of us. Yes, the challenge includes myself as well. The challenge is to be more loving and caring for all people, because there are many hurting people. In our churches, we have a great opportunity to reach out to a hurting world. The passage above makes clear that we are to reach out and care for those in need. I believe that includes those who are in great spiritual and emotional need.

Recently, I finished reading a book entitled *Breaking the Circle of Satanic Ritual Abuse* by Daniel Ryder. The book focuses on recognizing ritual abuse as well as helping individuals to recover from the horrendous experiences. Many of these experiences are beyond our imagination and I leave it at that. It is a good book as far as sharing about the reality of satanic ritual abuse and all that can happen in a coven. However, the author and those who he interviews greatly minimizes the reality of evil spirits and Satan himself. Nonetheless, the book did offer some good insight into dealing with people who experienced these horrors.

The most important thing that stood out from the book was that a person recovering from satanic ritual abuse greatly needs a group of people to support him or her. A Twelve Step group, similar to Alcoholics Anonymous, was the main method for counselors and therapists who were consulted for the book. I believe that a Christian church should be a much better place for a person to find support and encouragement. Whether it is ritual abuse or any form of abuse or trouble that a person goes through, even if demons aren't involved, there is no better group of people to lend a hand to a hurting person than the church. Think of it: the church is a group of people where each believer is a sanctuary for the Spirit of the Living God! Wow! How empowered we can be to help others as Jesus helped people when He was on earth.

We may not encounter people who have experienced the very tremendous atrocities that happen with ritual abuse, but we may not even be aware when we do! I don't believe it should be a matter of looking for abused or hurting people, but loving each person as God loves that person. That can be quite challenging! Each person that comes for ministry at *A Pastor's Friend*, I try to

treat with the same respect and love that God would have for the person. Doing ministry work makes it a focus. However, I have to keep it in mind as I'm doing other activities: love each person as Christ loves me. Each of our churches can be a part of God's healing work by reaching out and supporting people instead of being critical, judgmental, and rejecting people because they are a little different than us. Quite frankly, it could save a person's life for all eternity.

At the Deeper Walk Conference this past March, a woman shared a brief testimony. She was once deeply involved in Satanism. She noted that it was the love of a church that saw her through to freedom. The church battled right with her and watched over her, in some cases even put their lives at risk. It was quite humbling to hear. Am I willing to do that? Can I join a group of believers to help a hurting person? It challenged me to view church so that it isn't just about *my time* of worship and fellowship, but seeking to help others as well. I guess you could say God has been convicting me!

I encourage you to remember that people we meet each day need the love of Jesus. I do! 😊 We have a great ability to share the love of Jesus, and I encourage us all to do so.

Prayer Concerns:

Upcoming Events:

Monday, May 10 at 6:30pm. I will host a Bible study and sharing time at the APF office. All are invited to come. The focus of the Bible study won't necessarily be about spiritual warfare, but it is quite possible that it will be discussed.

Please pray for continued growth of discernment and wisdom to minister to those who are hurting.

Final Thoughts:

John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends." Jesus, of course, did that for us. I have been challenged to think about whether I truly am willing to do that for someone. What all am I willing to sacrifice to help a person? I may not physically die, but what will I give up? I want to pass this challenge to you and encourage you to minister to those in need around you. May God bless us with the courage to bless others!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder