

Set Free Ministries



"Bringing God's healing and freedom to hurting people worldwide."

March 2012

Dear Friends of Set Free Ministries,

I've recently had one of those hair pulling, jaw dropping, "I can't believe I've been treated this way" moments in life. And for the record, it didn't have anything to do with my wonderful husband. I know I do not stand alone; feeling completely and unjustifiably mistreated is an unfortunate biproduct of interacting with other humans. We all slip; even believers have moments of behaving selfishly, which was actually exactly what I wanted to do after I was offended. My plan of action was to engage the silent treatment and then launch the killer scowl, and then top it off with the "you really made a mistake" nose in the air until my offender came crawling back for forgiveness, and that was the way I was going to teach him/her a lesson.

It's laughable now but in the moment it seemed perfectly logical and it possibly could have "worked" in that I may have forced an apology, but what a far cry from behaving like a believer, a failed opportunity to show God's supernatural grace and love in ways that we couldn't apart from Christ.

By God's grace, I chose not to launch my plan of attack, but took a few moments to step back and realize that this person was offending because he/she was hurt and self-centered and that is not something that I should take personally and that this was the perfect opportunity and the perfect person to show God's kindness, grace, and forgiveness.

May you take a few moments to stop and think things through from God's perspective before you devise your own plans of retaliation. Blessings! ~Aubrie Benting

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A Calling to Missions

By Dalene DeGraaf

When people ask how I felt called to the mission field, I think of the process of a sequence of doors down a long hallway. Each door beckoning to step with obedience into the unknown. The largest door, the most important door, was marked "forgiveness." With the help of Pastor Jeff Stam of Set Free Ministries I forgave those who had abused and abandoned me. The transformation from forgiveness to freedom and from bitterness to blessing was beyond my imagination. Emotions were healed and the mind renewed, but also colors were brighter, music was majestic, all sensations were acute. God made it clear to me; He did not heal me just to make me feel better He healed me to give me a testimony of the transformative power of obedience in forgiveness.

Another door was a short mission trip to Uganda with a Set Free Team where I gave my testimony to a group of male pastors. A year later two of them, Pastors John and Julius, told me of how the testimony prompted them to return to their village forgive family members resulting in healing and some becoming Christians.

The question arose "Who was going to teach the women about forgiveness?" because abuse and abandonment is woven into the fabric of their lives. There after a series of doors opened providing a vision, and funding, and selling my home and going to East Africa for a year. During that year hundreds of women were trained in the Steps to Freedom. Time and again they gave testimonies of the transformative power of forgiving fathers who abandoned, family members who ostracized, bosses who cheated, husbands who gave them AIDS. Women have renewed their commitment to serving God or become new Christians.





*Pictured a group of men and women who have been trained for ministry

Last month, a new door, I returned to Uganda to work alongside of a SFM teacher, Lydia. She is a bright passionate young Ugandan woman who has a calling on her life to preach, lead worship, and evangelize. Her testimony is of one of forgiving her father who abandoned her. In order to pay her own school fees she had to carry water morning and night for fellow villagers for a couple shillings. The hope is with discipleship and mentoring Lydia and others will feel the call to do Set Free Ministry trainings in their own communities and beyond.

While in the States I am a psychologist at Compassionate Christian Counseling in Muskegon. The owner has graciously agreed to allow me to return to Uganda a couple of weeks each quarter to do trainings. This blending of trainings in East Africa and individual counseling in America seems to me my "sweet spot" of impacting groups with truth and individuals with relationship. "To speak a word in season to him that is weary." Isaiah 50:4 KJV. But then I never know what exciting new door God will place in front of me next.

Have you ever felt like a complete failure? Unable to measure up to the life you've been called to?

~
"May the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."
I Peter 5:10
~

That's ok. We will fail; we can't measure up. But He can! What we are responsible for is getting up again.

Your Story

Local men and women helping local men and women and making a difference in the community.

"I thank the Lord for leading me to SFM... I had no idea the works God had planned for me in the area of spiritual growth and formation. God amazes me, His love and concern for me!" ~Sharon

"God used SFM to break the bondage of bitterness, to break the bondage of suicidal thoughts, to break the bondage of anger and depression..." DDG

"I was nervous and anxious because I had no idea what to expect. What a day it turned out to be!" ~JB

Upcoming Events!

SFM Discipleship Training

March 30 & 31, 2012.

See homepage of website www.setfreeministries.com for more details.

Neil Anderson Discipleship Training

March 9 & 10, 2012. See website for more details.

Neil Anderson Sexual Addiction Training

March 9, 2012. See website for more details.



Looking for a way to get involved in ministry? Interested in learning more? Check out our new website at:

www.setfreeministries.com

Quick and Easy,



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