

Set Free Ministries

October 2010 Update



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

Dear Friends of Set Free Ministries,

As the leaves sway back and forth in their final dance before landing, and the flowers take refuge underground alongside the wild animals, we watch with expectancy as our little corner of creation prepares itself for the cold, stagnant, months of winter. Despite its incomparable radiant beauty, fall is the season when nature begins the process of "temporary death" or as close to death as nature will be at this point in time.

As Dean shares the final and highly unexpected chapter of Jim's story, please remember that God is not bound by death- resurrection will follow, just as spring is sure to come even after the longest, coldest winter.



Man Of Sorrows



By Dean Vander Mey

“He was despised and rejected by man,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”

Isaiah 53:3

The above passage written by Isaiah was pointing to the promised Messiah and what Jesus' days on earth would look like. If we earnestly desire to walk in the Master's footsteps, then we should expect the same.

Over the past few months our family has experienced the valley of death with many people we know and love. It has been a season of suffering, sorrow & grief.

I lost a mentor, friend and former youth leader when Gerald Siergersma died in August. We lost a dear uncle on my wife's side named Ade DeKorte in August. We lost a long time

farmer friend who cut our hay for past 20 years named Denny Pitch. We lost a dear neighbor and brother in Christ Dennis Dykstra last month...at age 49. Then, on Friday afternoon Oct 8, 2010, another call came that hit me like a freight train...completely unexpected and out of the blue.

The voice on the other line was unfamiliar. He had called SFM offices and asked for the cell number of Dean Vander Mey. I explained to him that would not be needed as I was the person he was looking for. His voice quivered as he began to share, "Dean I have some very bad news for you.... **Jim is dead.**" (This is the man the Lord brought back to life on July 12th, 2010.)

My mind began to race.....How could this happen? Why? How? Then the full weight of the bad news was shared- Jim had committed suicide in the same way his father did 37 years previous...with a self inflicted gun shot.

The news rocked me, like getting punched in the gut. My emotions raced from extreme sorrow and grief to furious anger at our enemy for his evil schemes against God's children who bring Him great glory with their testimony. The tears began to fall as I wept with a man I have never met over the phone. I was once again entering deep into the valley of death where there is much grief & sorrow. I have learned more about God and his ways in these valleys of death than I do on my mountain top experiences. This time would be no different.

Many years ago a dear brother in the Lord I call "Hill Billy" (because he's from Missouri and talks with an accent) gave me some great advice about how to pray in times of crisis. He said to me "Deano, when you enter into a time of crisis, and we all will, make sure you ask the Lord the right question. Instead of asking "Why Lord?" I suggest you ask "What Lord are you trying to teach me through this crisis?"

Job seemed to have asked the "why Lord?" question in his crisis and was rebuked sternly by the King of Kings in Job 38-40. "Shall the one who contend with the Almighty correct Him?" Job 40:2.

The Lord does not owe us the answer to our "why questions" but if in humility we ask "what Lord are you trying to teach me?" then the answers often times begin to flow and wisdom is given. So, still in my sorrow and still grieving for this man named Jim who I became so connected with over past 90 days, I'm getting the "What Lord are you trying to teach me through this event?" with Jim dying, being brought back to life, only to take his own life a few short months later.

Things the Lord has taught and re-affirmed during this crisis.

1. **The Lord made us into His likeness and into His image. Therefore he gave mankind "free will" to choose good or evil.**
2. **Even if a man is brought back to life from the dead, the spiritual war to destroy his witness for Christ is not over and must be fought.**
3. **The word of God is true. If God's word says the adversary the devil is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour then we better be on our guard and be fit for battle each & every day.**

4. **In all things God works everything for His good. My life was positively impacted the day I met Jim and I will never be the same. My faith in God has grown and SFM is even more aware now more than ever before what is at stake in this cosmic battle over the souls of men. Jesus Christ is King and has been given all authority. We may loose a few battles here on earth but the war is already over.....Victory is ours through the blood of the Lamb!**
5. **Hurt people hurt people. Jim responded to being hurt by others by then choosing to hurt himself and others with this final sinful act done in the flesh and not the Spirit.**

I'm comforted by these words found in the Book of Life. "Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is not longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God- through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Romans 7:20-25

I'm hoping to meet Jim one day in heaven, even though his final act on earth was sinful, hurtful and wrong, the atonement of Jesus Christ remains. Still grieving..... but with hope!

Dean Vander Mey

Your Story... ~SFM USA

"Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the World." John 1:29

My Secret Sin had been Exposed

"I was a children's ministry pastor for 2 years and my 15-20 year bondage to pornography had finally bitten me. I have an awesome wife and 5 precious gifts from God. The Lord had allowed me to go through losing my position as pastor after my "secret" sin had been exposed. At that moment I knew God had finally called me to repentance in a true and genuine way. I knew that I was finally on my way to a freedom like no other. Going through the "steps to freedom" was the very next thing I knew I needed to do. I was nervous and anxious because I had no idea what to expect. What a day it turned out to be! God used His surgical knife that day and cut out a lot of old stuff that had been hindering my walk in Christ. It's all gone! I was emptied that day. God spoke to me very clearly that I am appointed by Him to bear fruit. My days in ministry are ahead and He will lead me daily. My job will be as Peter's was...to strengthen my brothers!" -J.B. August 2010



SFM USA has been very busy and we still have 40 people on the waiting list to get an appointment! There is such a dire need for this type of Biblical Discipleship. One of the goals of SFM is to join hands with churches and teach them this freedom ministry so that they might have it available to their own communities and congregations in partnership with us. Please contact SFM if this is something that would be of interest!



SFM Worldwide

Forgiveness & Freedom in Rwanda (SFM E. Africa)

SFM East Africa staff & volunteers, along with SFM Missionary Dalene DeGraaf, traveled this past month to the tear-stained plains of Rwanda, where just 16 years ago a genocide that wiped out half of its entire population left survivors who are dealing with heaps of pain. Wives have been raped, parents murdered, children abducted, and hearts turned to bitterness. To the glory of God, many men and women attended the conference which taught them about the steps to freedom with a major emphasis on forgiveness! What a joy to see hearts of bitterness melted into hearts of forgiveness, and stored anger replaced with joy! The people who attended are now going to their own congregations and communities to share the freedom in following God's Word.

SFM India Gospel Crusade

Another SFM Gospel Crusade took place last month in the Central Jail, the largest jail in Mizoram, India. 85% of the inmates chose to attend and took part in the singing, worship, and services of repentance. Almost 100 inmates came forward and offered prayers of repentance and submission. The SFM teams will follow up and meet with these new believers on a weekly basis. Praise the LORD!

Testimony from Christine Osale (SFM Orphan)~

"My name is Christine Osale. I am 7 years old. My father and mother died of HIV/AIDS when I was a baby. I was told this by my aunt who is taking care of me. At home we do not take porridge and no food for lunch. When I came to school, I found children taking porridge and eating food. I thank God for Set Free Ministries for the help they are sending to us. Now I take porridge during break time and also get lunch at school. I like now my education and Set Free Ministries. We have clean water at school here filtered and nice. Thank you very much Set Free Ministries!"



*Pictured is orphan girl from SFM schools/orphanages in Uganda.

Touching a world in desperate need of the Savior...

Matthew 25:31-36

Our Mission is through **Christ's power** and **prayer** to set captives free from bondage by **encouraging** them to **know** and **walk** in **God's Word**. Set Free Ministries is fully committed to empowering believers and reaching non-believers worldwide.

Did you know? Today, there are more than six billion people on earth. Each one of them will have to make a decision for eternity one day. That's why Set Free Ministries is dedicated to sharing the truth of the Gospel and the importance of living in obedience to it with people worldwide.

We want to tell everyone that there is a never-ending source of hope, peace, joy, and love that's available to anyone....anywhere. The sole purpose of life is to have a strong, personal relationship with the one true, living God and to glorify Him by the way we live our life. There is so much pain in this world and so much hurt, that many Church members and non-believers alike are missing the opportunity to live that life of hope, peace, joy and love. Thanks to your faithful prayers and gifts, Set Free Ministries is able to reach out to a lost and hurting world.



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www.setfreeministries.com

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aubrie@setfreeministries.com.

Set Free Ministries
700, 36th St. SE Suite 108
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

(616) 726-5400
Office Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am- 4:30 pm

