

Urban Initiative Biblical Counseling Newsletter

January-March 2010



Karen and Jerome Hime

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What's New in the Biblical Counseling Ministry? Three Things!

First, let us thank those of you who have encouraged us with your prayers, love and financial support. God's amazing grace is just that, amazing. As we reflect on our journey (45 years of marriage on February 12), we must thank God for His mercy, love and grace. In 1986, when our marriage was in shambles, the Lord provided hope and help at Faith Baptist Counseling Center in Lafayette, Indiana. There, Dr Bill Goode and Dr Bob Smith skillfully ministered the Scriptures and God changed our hearts. We do not tire of praising God for Dr Goode's desire and vision to train pastors and lay people to counsel others biblically. We are humbled and very blessed that the Lord has given us the privilege of coming alongside others for 21 years.

Second, one of our goals for 2010 is to develop a list of individuals in Minnesota who are committed to counsel Biblically. Why? We receive phone calls and emails from people who live more than 100 miles from Minneapolis who are seeking counseling. Such a request in December motivated us to begin a search for someone nearer to that person. Although the NANC (National Association of Nouthetic Counseling) has a registry, not all skilled biblical counselors are certified with NANC. Praise God, that search brought us in touch with a couple who are skilled and trained in nouthetic (Biblical) counseling who were glad to meet with this fellow Christian to help.

Third, we are very thankful! God has answered our urgent prayers for help in the counseling ministry at Family Baptist Church. Recently, we have had more requests for counseling than we have been able to accommodate. We are thrilled that our dear long-time friends, Jim and Peggy Murschel, have joined us. In addition to counseling individuals and couples, they are a valuable asset to the counseling study group.

Welcome to Jim and Peggy Murschel

Our long time interest in nouthetic (Biblical) counseling has, in recent years, been distilled down to a more and more dominant part of what we do and why we do it. We are convinced that the Word of God and the Holy Spirit of God are sufficient to provide hope, help and answers for the problems of life. Jerry and Karen Hime have been a large part of that direction in our lives for more than 25 years, as our paths have crossed in various circumstances, churches and ministries.



Jim and Peggy Murschel

Our interest in learning to more effectively minister the Word of God to hurting people led us to attend the Biblical Counseling Training Conference in Lafayette, Indiana. Our friendship with the Himes grew, driven by our mutual interest, as we met again and again at the conferences. For the past two years, we have been part of the Biblical counseling study group that meets at Family Baptist Church. Jerry and Karen have been friends and mentors to us, and gracious examples of Christ-like self sacrificing love.

Recently, a unique combination of circumstances have worked together to lead us in a more specific direction and to allow us more expendable time. We sold our house in Coon Rapids in order to downsize to a town home and found our best option, to our surprise, to be in Robbinsdale. Then with my job loss in January of 2009, Peggy and I realized the possibility of becoming personally involved in Biblical counseling

The church we belonged to at that time was not interested in promoting "Biblical" counseling and we believed God would have us move on. After much prayer, thought, and seeking advice from others whose wisdom we respect, we believe God led us to Family Baptist Church. We are gratefully humbled by the warm and gracious way people have welcomed us, and we have been invited to join the counseling ministry team.

We are now co-counseling individuals with Jerry and Karen, and we have begun to counsel couples and individuals. We thank them, and God, for this opportunity to learn, and to serve Him, in this capacity. We do have a lot to learn, but we believe this is exactly where God would have us. We covet your prayers for much needed wisdom. We thank the pastor, Dr Lee Ormiston, Karen and Jerry, and the entire church family for the warm welcome extended to us, making our transition very enjoyable. We are honored to be part of this body, as we make it our goal to live up to your fine example.

And Baby Makes Three

This is an excerpt from Emily's Story from the Urban Initiative Biblical Counseling July-Sept 2009 newsletter: *"That first (counseling) appointment was very difficult and filled with tears. I knew that I was far from God and cynical about the work he was doing in my life, but in this session I started to see again how sinful I was. My heart had become hardened and my evil thoughts about God had seemed justified somehow. I remember Karen working to impress upon me that the reason I felt so miserable was because my thinking about God was faulty. This felt like a breakthrough to me. Another thing I remember from this first session was Jerry asking me, 'If you had a child right now, what would you have to offer?' The only thing I could think in that moment was bitterness – in other words, NOTHING. This grieved me greatly. I realized that I had made a mess of things. God wanted my attention. He showed me that I had come to the end of myself and I was absolutely miserable".*



Emily, Chris and Erika Drager

God works in wondrous ways! In a previous newsletter, I shared a testimony of the work He had been doing in me through the trial of childlessness. I looked for fulfillment in motherhood, rather than in Christ Jesus alone. He was gracious to reveal this to me through the ministry of Jerry & Karen. "Anything becomes an idol when it keeps us away from God" (Charles Spurgeon).

The Lord, the Giver of all good things, has now seen fit to bless Chris and me with a precious daughter, Erika Grace, born on November 17th, 2009. We met her amazing birth mother in October and were then selected by her to raise this little one.

It has been an incredible and humbling and exhilarating journey! She is the most beautiful and wonderful little person we have ever met. Our hearts are overflowing with love for her and thanksgiving to our Savior.

Christmas this year was new and exciting – and not just because it was “baby’s first Christmas.” Looking at our tiny baby, we came to understand a little more of how humble and helpless the Christ Child was. To think that Jesus – the Son of God! – came not as a man, but as a tiny helpless baby. Like our little one, He too was swaddled to feel safe and warm. He cried to express his hunger. He needed His diaper changed! Jesus willingly and lovingly humbled Himself for us! He was born to die! These truths took on new meaning for us this Christmas.

I am amazed by the work God has done in my heart – and so grateful He loves me enough to refine me. Had He not done this work, I would be unchanged. I would perhaps have the baby I longed for; but without the heart change, I would not be able to receive her with true thanksgiving or be able to impart anything of spiritual value to her little heart. The Lord loves me enough to get me where He wanted me! He wanted to be on the throne of my heart.

I was finally at peace with God and confident that I could find all of my contentment and fulfillment in Him alone – baby or not. Seven months later, He blessed me beyond what I could have imagined. This is His work and His story. May my life, desires, words, and actions always reflect that.

Emily and I (Chris) are having a lot of fun with our new little bundle (an altered sleep schedule to be sure, but we couldn't be happier). We daily see the Lord's grace in working on our hearts before He gave us this blessing. We appreciate it so much more and we know this little miracle only came from Him (Soli Deo Gloria).

Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands:

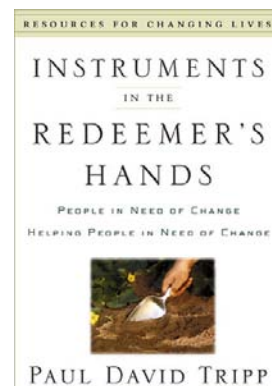
People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change by Paul David Tripp

“I am using *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands* with the College & Career group in my church. It has been a great study and has opened a lot of doors for conversation and getting to heart issues. The question guide has been helpful for getting the group into the reading (it keeps us honest and forces us to read for detail). I use it as a springboard for discussion when we meet and ask group members to respond to the concepts presented or give personal examples. That helps to personalize the conversation and go deeper. We also go deeper into the Scriptures presented in the book and others that apply. I always want the theology presented to be clearly shown to be coming out of the text. We are finishing up chapter 9 this week and are having a great time together; the group has never been so close.”

Chris Drager, Elder, Twin Cities Bible Church, Maplewood, MN

“We believe that we hold the world record—three years!—of using this exceptional book for study and discussion. Each chapter and the five appendixes are rich with truth and have taught us to apply Scripture more effectively and specifically. Paul Tripp’s writing style is unique. The reader quickly realizes that Dr Tripp is one of us, still laboring to understand and apply God’s truth in practical ways. As a result of this study, we have learned to ask ourselves the hard question: what is ruling my heart right now, instead of the Creator?”

Women’s Bible study group, Family Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN



“The title and subtitle of this book is well chosen, accurately describing Paul Tripp’s message: we need the help of others to interpret life biblically in a fallen world. We either do that through the clear lens of Scripture and its Truth, worshipping the Creator of the universe, or we worship something else. We do what we do, because we want what we want! Many Christians possess knowledge of the Bible, but struggle to think Biblically. We need help to grow and change not only in the way we think, feel and act, but in what motivates us. Reading *Instruments*, helped us change the way we instruct or correct others. Several years ago, our two year old grandson threw a tantrum. My own children would have heard the ‘Jesus is not pleased with that behavior’ lecture. Instead, what came out was, ‘Karsten, we all want our own way, that’s why Jesus came’. We are so thankful for the transparent examples in *Instruments* that help us to repent of our own sin, and to humbly respond to the failures of others.” Jerome and Karen Hime

What Did You Expect: Redeeming the Realities of Marriage by Paul David Tripp



It won't take long for you to realize that your marriage hasn't escaped the reality of sin or the brokenness of the world. It's what you do next that will make all the difference in the world in the character and quality of your marriage. The key to marital unity and love is not romance, rather, it is worship. It is only when I worship God as Creator, Sovereign and Savior that I will ever love as I should. Have you ever wondered why some couples reach a place of unity, love, and understanding in their marriages while other couples seem trapped in the same struggles year, after year after year? The surrounding culture would lead us to believe that a marriage of unity, love and understanding is rooted in romance. Scripture would rather say that a good marriage is the result of worship. Does this confuse you? Then, this is for you. Learn how practical these insights are for the everyday issues and situations of a real marriage; and learn the practical steps that will help couples know how to get from where they are to where God wants them to be. This DVD series, available at www.paultrippministries.org provides downloadable study questions and leaders guide.

Additional Resources

Counseling study group meets every other Friday morning 9:00 to 11:00. Our goal is to first apply the truth to our own hearts, then to increase our skills in using God's Word to help others change and grow. Jim Murschel is developing a "fast track" for those who wish to become NANC certified in one year. Email Jim for details: Job9teen25@comcast.net

Urban Initiative Biblical Counseling newsletters: all previous newsletters are posted on the Family Baptist Church website: www.familybaptistchurch.org

Sermons: Dr Lee Ormiston, Pastor of Family Baptist Church available at: www.familybaptistchurch.org

Women in the Word, a women's Bible study, airs daily M-F at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on WCTS radio, 1030 AM. Current and all previous studies are available on line at: www.WCTSradio.com

Study questions for *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* are available on request at: jwhime@aol.com.

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