

PLEASE NOTE!
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As mentioned in the last issue of *Standing Firm*, the Course II and III materials are now available in final form. Please see the materials price list and order form or your Summer issue of *Standing Firm* for information. If you need more information to place an order, please contact us.

Partnering In Prayer

Please place this section in a place where you and your family will be reminded to join with us at BCF in prayer. Please pray for:

- Praise for the completion of the Course II and III materials.
- Continued open doors to those teaching the sufficiency of God's Word in the prisons.
- The upcoming Nighttime Track I in Sarasota, Florida in January.
- Protection for the core team of disciplers/counselors in Hong Kong.
- Increased financial support for the BCF ministry.
- The 3-week training course to be held in Guatemala this November
- Completion of the French translation of the *Self-Confrontation* manual in time for the Lyon, France course in March 1998.

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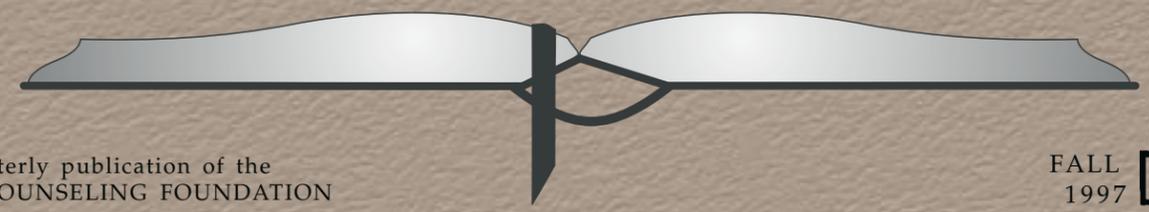
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Psalm 115:1, "Not to us, O Lord ... but to Thy Name be all glory and honor because of Thy lovingkindness and truth."

Standing Firm

Discipling believers and training biblical disciplers/counselors since 1974



A quarterly publication of the
BIBLICAL COUNSELING FOUNDATION

FALL 1997 BCF

BCF TEACHERS GO TO PRISON

The Lord is continuing to expand the ministry of His Word through BCF. On the 26th and 27th of September, a team of four instructors taught the Introduction to Self-Confrontation Weekend Seminar at a location not far from BCF's headquarters, but far-reaching in opportunity.

five units at Chuckawalla) were present for the seminar. Not only were they present, but they were vibrant, participatory, and hungry to hear the Word of God. Clearly, the teachers were blessed as much or more than the students.

BCF was invited to teach the seminar at Chuckawalla Valley State Penitentiary by Dean Parker, a religious volunteer at Chuckawalla and a chaplain at Eagle Mountain, another prison nearby. Chuckawalla lies in the Southern California desert, about 20 miles from the Arizona border. Dean teamed up with Bob Schneider, Steve Smith, and Stuart Smith to teach the first nine lessons from the *Self-Confrontation* manual in concentrated format.

Some of these men have a relatively short time remaining in their sentence, while

With a national prison population of over five million, there is no question that this is one of the great mission fields of America.

others have life sentences. Regardless of the length of their sentences, these men are learning how to handle all of life's tests and trials in a biblical manner, both where the Lord has them now, and when they return to difficult life situations outside. Many of the long-timers have already been active in developing ministries within the group of 780 men in Facility A.

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"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you ..." (Matthew 28:19-20)

BCF IN-PERSON

God has greatly blessed the ministry of BCF with staff members who are dedicated to the sufficiency of God's Word and continuing discipleship/counseling. Many of you have talked on the phone with or received correspondence from one of us, but we thought it would be good to place a face with the name. We also hope you will join in thanks to the Lord for providing just the right people for the daily ministry necessities. This will be a continuing feature with a different staff person featured each time.

JOYCE McDANIEL

In July of 1995, the Lord provided Joyce McDaniel just when we needed a new accountant.

Joyce has been a long-time California resident and has lived in the city of La Quinta with her two daughters for the past eight years. For a little over two years, Joyce has been faithfully getting the BCF accounting system in order and diligently keeping up with a truly worldwide ministry. This is not a simple task. Although BCF has relatively few staff persons, there are many facets of the ministry, all needing accounting. Some of the areas Joyce must deal with on a daily basis are non-profit organization issues, overseas transactions,

donations, accounting for different courses, dealing with bookstores, and the production and sale of various materials.

Joyce says she treasures several things about working with BCF. She likes most the opportunity to pray daily with the other staff members in the office, "being like part of a family" and hearing the testimonies of those whom the Lord has impacted through the ministry.

Joyce is a precious part of the BCF staff family and it is obvious that the Lord has used her tremendously in the BCF ministry. We praise God for her abilities, vision, and testimony, and sweetness.



New Feature Articles

As you may have already noticed, there is a special feature article included in this issue of *Standing Firm*. These articles will be longer and more in-depth than a smaller newsletter article could permit. The subjects of the future articles will feature various aspects of discipleship/counseling. They are three-hole punched and numbered to make it easy to save.

Continued from page 1

There are opportunities to teach the Weekend Seminar in the other four prison yards of the Chuckawalla facility, as well as follow-up teaching and discipleship on a weekly basis. One couple, Ben and Vivian Germaine, already has been using *Self-Confrontation* at the prison on a weekly basis. But there are many prisoners not being reached, and the prison population is ever-changing. The opportunities are plentiful at Chuckawalla alone, not to mention the other facilities nearby. With a national prison population of over five million, there is no question that this is one of the great mission fields of America.

Please pray for the prisoners' strength to live their lives God's way, and for their families. Many prisoners asked how they could obtain a *Self-Confrontation* manual. Although we conduct seminars in prisons at no charge, our only means of providing manuals is through our special fund designated for prisoners. If the Lord leads you to contribute to that fund, please send a check accompanied by a note designating the prison fund.

Notes & Testimonies

Editor's note: The following testimony is an excerpt of a letter sent by a prisoner whose name shall remain undisclosed.

I am currently serving a 21 year sentence at (*site withheld by editor*). I have claimed to be a Christian for at least twenty years, though the reality of this is in question. I had "played" the part on the outside, though I conducted a "secret" life that included the eventual reason I came to prison, embezzlement from three friends who were also clients and fellow believers. I kept my ruse hidden for several years, and had become a deacon, Sunday School teacher, worship leader, youth leader, prayer meeting leader, and was being considered for elder. Then I went to a Biblical Counseling conference (can't remember the official name) at Grace in Panorama City. That is where I picked up a copy of your *Self-Confrontation* tape series. The result was that I had to face some hard facts, and eventually screamed out to God to show me He was real by stopping

my madness. That is exactly what He did. Though it has been very difficult, especially being away from my wife of 23 years and my two teenage children and toddler (born soon after I came to prison), I have used the time very effectively, studying God's word, getting straight with Him, and evaluating exactly what my sins were. Embezzling was just the symptom, but that's for another chapter

I have been saving to buy the entire tape series and manuals to finish what I began and to use it in my next step, hopefully biblical counseling, Lord willing. Thank you for the timeliness of BCF's original arrival on the scene, and more thanks for the encouragement since arriving on this new journey, which now is truly from and for the Lord.

BCF Materials Spotlight

As you may know, BCF has a variety of materials and teaching helps available. You may not, however, know of all of the specific resources that are available. Another feature section that will continue from this issue onward will be this spotlight on individual materials. Each time, you will see the purpose and possible uses of a selected BCF publication or production.

The *Biblical Principles for Living* booklet is available partly as a response to those of you who asked if it would be possible to have the biblical principles found in the *Self-Confrontation* manual and the *Handbook for Biblical Discipleship/Counseling* available in one package. This booklet is a half page (8½" by 5½") size publication that is easily handled and presented to other people.



Many have found this inexpensive booklet useful for:
Giving to friends
Showing pastors the basic biblical principles which are the core of BCF training materials,
A quick reference when discipling/counseling another,
Teaching an overview of the discipleship/counseling ministry.