

# STANDING FIRM

Discipling believers and training biblical disciplers/counselors since 1974

A publication of the  
BIBLICAL COUNSELING FOUNDATION

SPRING **BCF**  
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## Weekend in the Word



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In this increasingly hectic world, taking an entire week off to attend a course is nearly impossible for many. We often hear from people who say they would like to either attend or bring someone to a week-long Concentrated Course only to say that it just isn't possible because of their schedule.

Regardless of their busy schedules, people still expressed a desire to receive training in biblical discipleship/counseling. We at BCF recognized the need and developed weekend seminars as an attempt to provide this initial training. To our delight, the Lord has powerfully used the biblical truths taught in the seminars to change people's lives.

The Weekend Seminar is an introduction to the Self-Confrontation course and breaks the normal Concentrated Course into two parts. Part A covers the first 12 lessons in the Self-Confrontation manual, covering topics such as the Biblical foundation for change, the Biblical view of self, of anger, and of forgiveness. This allows students to have

a firm foundation on which they can finish the Self-Confrontation course on their own or in Part B of the Weekend Seminar. Part B deals with marriage problems, parent-child conflicts, depression, fear, anxiety, and life-dominating practices of sin.

For many, a Weekend Seminar is their first opportunity to see that God's Word truly holds the answers for all of life.

Many of the testimonies from Weekend Seminars are deeply moving. One woman remarked after attending the Weekend Seminar that her children had already said to her "What has happened to you? You are different now." She had already begun to practice God's Word.

Others testified as to how they had been convicted by the Lord of being critical, and of their plans to change.

In France, a Weekend Seminar

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# BCF IN-PERSON

## BOBBIE VAN SANT

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.

If you have placed a phone order for materials, you have likely communicated with Bobbie Van Sant. Bobbie retired from her job with the Department of Commerce in the Washington, D.C. area in January of 1999 and came to spend her "retirement" years serving full-time with BCF.

A woman with many talents, Bobbie has greatly blessed

seminar participants over the last 20 years in heading up the cooking for various courses around the country. The meals, and the loving way in which they are served, are always highly ranked on the evaluations we receive.



Bobbie was introduced to biblical counseling in northern Virginia, when she attended a course at her church back in 1974. She knew immediately that the Lord wanted her to be committed to in-depth biblical discipleship/counseling. She began sitting in on counseling sessions to learn how to disciple/counsel from the Scriptures, and after a year, she led counseling sessions with a team. She also began role-playing and assisting with some of the teaching at

Concentrated Courses in Virginia and California.

Bobbie has a gift of serving others with gracious and loving hospitality. She is currently helping co-teach the Self-Confrontation course to prisoners at a prison near Blythe, California. She is also involved in her church, serving in the children's ministry and with her church's Welcoming Ministry.

Bobbie told of the lasting impact and deep significance of her attendance at that first biblical counseling course at her church in Virginia. "The first real change was when I learned how to forgive during that class in 1974. I learned

that it is not pleasing to the Lord to depend on my own "common sense" but to rely on God's word instead. Isaiah 55: 8-9 says that God's ways are not man's ways. His ways are not only different but are higher than man's ways."

We at BCF are humbled and grateful to the Lord for sending Bobbie to serve with us. She has blessed thousands over the years with her gifts and the Lord continues to use her daily to bless others in practical and helpful ways.

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participant remarked, "This seminar has truly enlightened me . . . For a long time I have been afraid to go farther in my commitment . . . Today, this Weekend Seminar has confirmed my commitment to the church that I attend. Today I understand the connection we must not make between emotions and actions. I have also really understood that it is the Word that helps us raise our children. I must return to the Scriptures. This *Self-Confrontation* manual is a precious tool to turn us again to the Scriptures."

Last year, Weekend Seminars were held in California, Florida, Virginia, Ohio, Washington, and Texas. Additionally, outside the USA, Weekend Seminars were held in France.

Weekend Seminars are open to all who can attend. The cost to attend in the US is \$55, which includes materials. Additional members of the same household can attend for \$40 (no materials given). A \$5 discount is available to those who register more than a month before a seminar is held.

Please look at the enclosed inserts for information on dates and locations of upcoming seminars. For more information about a Weekend Seminar, or if you are interested in hosting one at your church, please contact the BCF office. Also, please continue to pray for those who attend Weekend Seminars.

## Testimony

We at BCF are always delighted to hear of the Lord's tremendous work in the lives of those who have been affected, in some way, by the ministry He has given to us. Many who are involved with teaching, or supporting BCF through financial giving or prayer are also blessed to hear such testimonies. If you have a testimony of how the Lord has used the ministry of BCF in your life, you can write or email us.

The following testimony was given by a participant who attended a Concentrated Course in Vienna, Virginia this past year

*This course - rather God through this course - has caused me to look intently at His purpose for my life. Why He "saved" me. I am grieved that so much of my Christian life has been about what God can do for me. Yet, I am grateful that by His Spirit He is using His word to show me this life is about Him: His glory, conforming to the image of His Son, oneness with Him . . .*

*I think that I have lived my life around being "saved" and "going to heaven" but didn't know how to live between the two - so to speak. This course has made me aware of my responsibility in the sanctification process: confronting myself biblically and walking/obeying what He shows through His word.*

*This course came at a time when God has been bringing [people] from different walks of life to me. I hear the world's wisdom coming from them, excusing why they do what they do. I have been praying for God to show me how to clearly show His truth to bring deliverance/hope to them. This material has been so helpful. It relieves me knowing that I am not responsible for changing their hearts, but declaring the truth in gentleness and love.*

## BCF Materials Spotlight

### BOOKLET: GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

The *God's Plan for Your Life* booklet is one of several booklets available as stand-alone resources through BCF. It is excerpted from chapters one and two of the *Self-Confrontation* Manual (You Can Change Biblically Part One and Part Two). The booklet presents principles dealing with salvation, the purposes of self-confrontation, and the foundation for biblical change.

The *God's Plan for Your Life* booklet is a useful tool for evangelism, discipling new believers, or teaching on biblical truths regarding salvation. It has been used effectively in Sunday School classes and small group Bible studies either as a topical study or as an introduction to the *Self-Confrontation* materials. The retail price for the *God's Plan for Your Life* booklet is \$2.00, with discounts available for quantity orders from BCF.



# STANDING FIRM

## Partnering in Prayer

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

- The continuing the discipleship process through those attending courses in France and Mali
- Tracks I-IV and teacher training, 26 April- 4 May, 2001, in Vienna, Virginia.
- Arrangements and finances for printing of the **Self-Confrontation** manual in French, Korean, Russian, and 10 languages of India
- Weekend Seminars throughout the year.
- Various translators throughout the world working on BCF materials.

## Donating to the Ministry

If you are led to make a donation for the continuing ministry of the Biblical Counseling Foundation, please send a check to the address below. BCF is a nonprofit organization, and your donation is tax deductible. We appreciate your continued partnership with us through prayer and financial support as the Lord provides.

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