

STANDING FIRM

Discipling believers and training biblical disciplers/counselors since 1974

A publication of the
BIBLICAL COUNSELING FOUNDATION

SPRING 2002 

Sowing and Watering in a Thirsty Land

We have been privileged over the years to minister in many countries of the world, but never in nearby Mexico. This is changing dramatically. Last November, we conducted our first week-long Track I concentrated course in Juarez, Mexico. Since then we have conducted Track I in Delicias, Mexico and will be returning to both cities. Also, we have been invited to minister near Mexico City sometime next year.

At the course in Juarez (just across the Rio Grande from El Paso), we

taught about 100 pastors and church leaders. Pastors and missionaries came from all regions of Mexico. Also, people who wanted to take the course in Spanish came from several states in the U.S. Those who attended are eager for further training and have invited us to return this upcoming November to teach both Tracks I and II.

One pastor who attended the Juarez course enthusiastically invited us to teach Track I in Delicias, (near Chihuahua City, Mexico) as soon as possible. When we told him that it would be difficult for him to get many people to attend on short notice, he assured us that this course was desperately needed in Mexico. He said that he would spread the news throughout his region and urge the pastors to come. In spite of the short notice of about two months, 115 pastors and church leaders came in February. The students

included the host pastor's spiritual leaders in his denomination and pastors from the State of Chihuahua and other states in central Mexico.



The testimonies on Thursday evening of the course brought much encouragement. A couple of pastors testified that after many years of serving in the ministry, they were near despair. They testified that their preaching had been very shallow and were so grateful for the many new insights into the power and practicality of God's Word.

On the last day of the course, the host pastor distributed a questionnaire asking who would like

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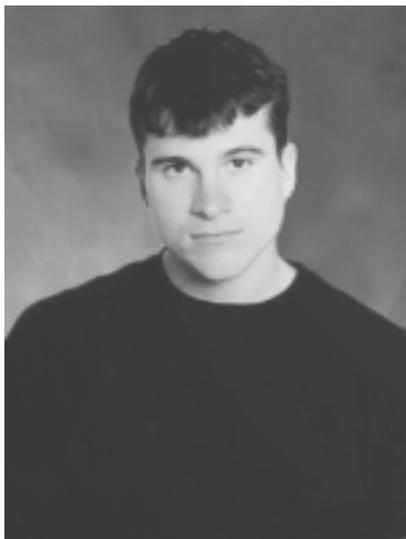
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BCF IN-PERSON

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

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.



Christopher Johnson began working with BCF in January of 2001. Chris' talents and abilities in the area of programming have allowed us to create much of the new BCF website. He has worked hard for the last year with Spencer Smith to implement the shopping cart system to enable people to order materials online securely.

Chris is the son of BCF staff-member, Cindy Johnson. Last year, while he attended school in San Bernardino, he also lived with fellow BCF staff-members and good friends, Drew Hudson, Stuart Smith, and Spencer Smith. Chris is currently majoring in

Asian studies having just finished a semester of study in Virginia. His parents lived in a Chinese-speaking part of the world for a number of years, and have a great interest in China. Chris toured China for 19 days early this summer as part of his studies and will be studying an intensive course in Mandarin Chinese at the University of California San Diego this summer. He has been accepted at the University of California Riverside for the fall semester and will be entering as a junior.

Despite his geographical distance from the BCF Headquarters, Chris still continues to work for BCF, maintaining and creating new features on the website, including the ability to donate online to BCF, and online registration for BCF Courses.

We would be unable to create any of these projects without Chris. As we have been in times past, we are so grateful to the Lord for the various talents He provides for BCF at just the right time.

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to attend Track II next year – 95 signed up. As a result, we have now been asked to return to Delicias next March to conduct Teacher Training the first week and Tracks I and II the second week.

There are other indications that the Lord is moving mightily in Mexico. We know that during the last year, various individuals have taught at least 10 Self-Confrontation courses in Mexico. Spanish materials are being ordered more often than any language other than English. We recently had 5,600 Spanish **Self-Confrontation** manuals printed in Hong Kong and almost half have already been sold.

Now our major task will be to train up biblically-based translators quickly. Track II requires a large teaching staff since much of the training is conducted in small groups. We will also need a translator for each group. The need is great, but we are already seeing the Lord raise up translators both from Mexico and the United States. We praise the Lord for allowing us to meet the needs thus far.

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, we would appreciate your writing or emailing us.

“For 15 years I have blamed him [my husband] for my unhappiness.”

These were the words of one of the ladies who attended the one-week BCF Concentrated Course in Delicias, Northern Mexico last week. Over 100 pastors and leaders were privileged to sit under the teaching of the Word as they were equipped to work on their own lives and to help others.

Translated from Spanish, the testimony reads as follows:

“For the first time, I accept my responsibility.

Now I know that I left my husband 15 years ago because of the hardness of my heart. I have been teaching and preaching all these years and now realize that even though His Word does not return void, I have been so shallow and superficial as I never worked on my own life and character - I rate zero in biblical love, forgiveness, and interpersonal relationships.

“I again thank BCF for their ministry.”

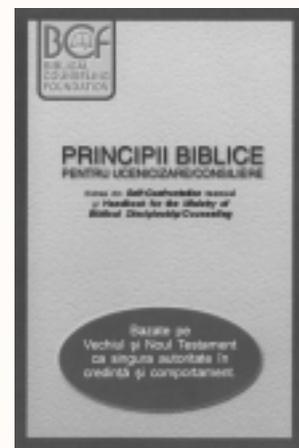
BCF Materials Spotlight

We are very excited about new work on our booklets in other languages. One development is that the Biblical Principles booklet is now available in the Albanian, and Chinese (Simplified and Traditional) languages. Also, the Spanish translation is near completion and will be available soon.

The translations of the booklet are exactly the same as the English version. The booklet contains all 105 principles from the *Self-Confrontation* manual as well as the 31 principles from The *Handbook for the Ministry of Discipleship/Counseling*.

The Biblical Principles booklet has been helpful for many for personal growth, as well as for a continual reference in their ministries of discipleship/counseling. It provides principles to help one handle the difficulties of life in a godly way. The booklet is small enough to slip inside the cover of a normal-sized Bible.

You can order the Albanian and Simplified, and Traditional Chinese *Biblical Principles* booklets from our office. They will also be available for purchase on our website very soon.



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

- Upcoming BCF training courses
- Completion of the *Self-Confrontation* Interactive CD
- Churches and teachers preparing to teach the *Self-Confrontation* course
- Safe arrival from Hong Kong of the new printing of the *Self-Confrontation* manuals (20,000 ordered)
- Ongoing work on revisions to BCF materials

Donating to the Ministry

If you are led to make a donation for the continuing ministry of the Biblical Counseling Foundation, you can send a check to the address below or donate online, using your credit card. Just click on "Contact US" in the top menu, and then click on "Donations."
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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If you are receiving duplicate mailings, or if your address has changed, we would greatly appreciate your notifying us so that we can make appropriate changes.

BCF's
Standing Firm
is a publication of the Biblical
Counseling Foundation. Pub-
lished in Palm Desert, CA.
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