

# STANDING FIRM

Discipling believers and training biblical disciplers/counselors since 1974

A Publication of

**BCF** BIBLICAL  
COUNSELING  
FOUNDATION

SUMMER  
2004

30

years of ministry

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Reflections on 30 years... p 2
- Timeline - BCF History p 4
- Staff Testimonies p 6
- Materials Spotlight p 7
- Prayer & Praise Items p 8

# Reflections on Thirty Years of Ministry

By Robert Schneider



30 years and dozens of countries later, the Lord continues to work in ways we would never have expected.

With John Broger leading, a team of four of us began developing a biblical counseling training program. We thought we were developing the training for people in the U.S. armed forces, but did not even grasp how much this same training was needed by others outside the military. From the beginning, we marveled at the hunger among Christians for biblical direction on how to deal with the difficulties of life. When we began teaching the first classes, we were amazed at the tremendous response of the students. Lives were transformed by the Lord before our eyes. We have continued to see the great work of the Lord throughout the last thirty years. Today, myriads of lives have been changed in over 100 countries throughout

the world, where we have been privileged to minister via teaching and development of translated training materials.

Though I was part of the initial writing and teaching team, I was surprised by how much I didn't know about God's principles on how to deal with the difficult problems of life. This was true of the other members of the team as well.

As we have conducted courses, we have also become increasingly aware of the devastating effect of secular psychology on the body of Christ. Down through the ages, believers have been wooed by the attractions of the world. Over the last century in particular, popular man-made self-help ideas have attracted believers away from God's Word. With the appeal of secular psychology to the flesh through the exaltation of and preoccupation with self, believers

have ignored the solid anchor of the Bible and have flocked to the shifting sands of so-called psychological research—ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of truth (*II Timothy 3:7*).

When we established the Biblical Counseling Foundation in 1974, we recognized that God had called us to train believers, throughout the world, 1) how to live a life pleasing to God especially in the midst of difficult trials and 2) how to disciple/counsel others to do the same. Our source was to be the Bible only, and our dependence for guidance and results was to be on the Holy Spirit.

Since the training was to be for all believers, regardless of age or culture, the aim was to keep it simple and yet effective. This truth is also fundamental to discipling others. Just as Jesus did in His ministry on earth, we determined to keep our focus on helping

people examine and deal with their love for God and others, in dealing with all difficulties of life. Although this sounds simplistic, it is the most profound of all truths. Jesus said that the commands to love God and others summarize the Scriptures on how to live.

From the beginning of our ministry, we realized that the training also had to be thorough (*based on II Timothy 2:2*), so that whatever we taught could not only be learned easily, but also, taught easily to others. Thus, we needed to develop training courses and instructor's guides for each level of training.

As you review on the following pages the history of BCF graphically depicted in the time line, you can see that the Lord has challenged and used us in a pioneering effort of development and service to others. All glory be to Him.

**1974**

BCF established  
First writing of the *Self-Confrontation* manual.

**1975**

First release of *Self-Confrontation* manual

**1976 - 1981**

First official training course conducted in Arlington, Virginia.

Ongoing revisions to *Self-Confrontation* manual.

Mailings, correspondence, and sales are conducted from homes of Bob & Gloria Schneider, and Cindy Johnson. Administrative work done at Steve & Shashi Smith's house

**1982**

First one-week Concentrated Course (Track I) held in Virginia.

**1984**

Third training level (Track III) added to Concentrated Course

First Concentrated Course outside the United States held in Nairobi, Kenya

**1983**

Second training level (Track II) added to Concentrated Course

**1991**

1991 Edition of the *Self-Confrontation* manual is released in spiral-bound version

Courses conducted in Kenya and Swaziland

**1993**

BCF's worldwide ministry expands. Courses held in India, Kenya, Austria, Nigeria, South Africa

First International Leaders Training Course held in Rancho Mirage, California

*Self-Confrontation* manual printed in India for Gospel for Asia

**1989**

Newly revised Course II materials become available for wide distribution.

**1997**

Courses conducted in Guatemala. International Leaders Training conducted in Hong Kong

French version of *Self-Confrontation* manual released

Course II Syllabus, Course III Syllabus, and Handbook released

Weekend Seminars first held (one conducted in a prison)

**1998 - 2001**

First version of BCF website online

Courses held in France, Mali, and Mexico

**1994 - 1996**

First Spanish, Chinese, and Portuguese translations of the *Self-Confrontation* manual. Arabic translation begun in Egypt

Track IV added to concentrated courses

Courses held in Jordan, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Russia, and Brazil

Broadcasting of *Self-Confrontation* into China begins

Translation of *Self-Confrontation* manual into five major languages of India

**2004**

Looking forward to Albanian, German, Italian, and Romanian translations of the *Self-Confrontation* manual

**2002 - 2003**

*Self-Confrontation* manual, and forms released on CD-Rom in PDF format

First release (draft versions) of Haitian-Creole, and Korean translations of the *Self-Confrontation* manual

## Testimonies

We are often asked how the Lord has been working in our lives, or what He has taught us. So, we wanted to give the office staff a chance to reflect on their time working for BCF to testify as to what the Lord has done in their lives through the years.

### **Stevie Chapa** with BCF since 2000

BCF is more than a work place or a job, it's a ministry. A ministry that has blessed me with a Christian environment, loving "ministry leaders", and Godly friends for life. I thank God for the opportunity that I have had to work at BCF using my faithful computer that God has allowed to never let me down.

### **Cindy Johnson** with BCF since 1980

I consider it a ministry to work at the BCF office. We have the opportunity to serve fellow believers, and encourage them in their growth in biblical principles. At the same time we are encouraged when we hear testimonies of how the Lord is working throughout the world. It is always a privilege to pray daily as a staff for these dear brothers and sisters.

### **Jaymi Keeran** with BCF since 2002

Working at BCF has been nothing but a blessing to me. Everyday, I get to come into work and be with fellow believers, who help me with my job, as well as my spiritual life. I am encouraged daily by my co-workers, as well as the people who call and share all that God has been doing in their lives. I am very blessed and grateful for God allowing me here to work with all of these wonderful people at BCF.

### **Kate O'Donnell** with BCF since 1991

It has been a privilege to observe principles of biblical discipleship applied to every aspect of the work environment. Our ministry leaders are not just concerned to "get the job done" but seek to serve the staff and encourage each person to grow in grace. It has also been amazing to see the Lord consistently bring just the right people with just the right gifts at just the right time to do just the right things to help us to serve the body more effectively. The Lord has used this ministry effectively in my life and I am grateful.

### **Natalie Shonerd** with BCF since 2003

I count it a great blessing and privilege to work at BCF. It is such a joy to work in a truly Christian environment where the love of the Lord is exemplified by the servanthood shown daily—shown not only to those with whom we come into contact from outside the office, but to one another on staff as well.

I also praise God for the rare privilege of being able to share an office with my daughter, as she is introduced to the working world in the surroundings of BCF.

### **Bekah Shonerd** with BCF since 2004

I am very thankful for my first job to be at BCF. It is fun to work with Christian friends I have known for most of my life, and make new friends. I especially enjoy sending BCF's materials all over the world and knowing the people are learning about Jesus.

### **Spencer Smith** with BCF since 1995

I am so grateful to be able to be a part of this ministry. We reap the benefits of working in a place in which the Bible is used as the only resource for every area of life (including the workplace). Biblical principles are not only taught, but also applied to every aspect of life. It has been invaluable to my spiritual life, as well as to my work ethic.

### **Stuart Smith** with BCF since 1994

I am so thankful to the Lord for the privilege of having grown up with the ministry of BCF and for being able to work here as well. It is such a blessing to be involved in a work of ministry where the sufficiency of God's Word and discipleship are not only taught, but lived out in every area. One of the many astounding benefits of being involved with BCF is to be able to hear so many testimonies of changed lives.

### **Bobbie Van Sant** with BCF since 1999

God's word is not only taught as being sufficient for personal life; it is also the basis for our daily procedures at the BCF office, and for our communication with those to whom we minister. What a privilege it is to be a part of the BCF staff.

## Materials Spotlight

*Coming in September:*

The **Self-Confrontation** manual and Forms for ministry CDs have been available for two years now, and we have heard what many of you think, and have incorporated some suggestions into the new versions.

The new PDF of the **Self-Confrontation** manual includes the facility for you to copy and paste text from the manual for personal study.

Both CD-Roms will also contain the new Victory over failures Plan.

Many extra features will also include:

- a seven-minute video clip on the beginnings of BCF, excerpted from the Self-Confrontation video series
- Clips from the Self-Confrontation and Track II Video tapes
- Bulletin-sized versions of the feature articles for use

**Please note:**

*The prices of BCF materials will be going up 1 July. Please see Page 8 for more details.*

# Special Notice

The prices of BCF materials will be going up 1 July. This is the first time in over 5 years that we have raised our prices. If your order is postmarked on or before 30 June, you will still receive the old prices.

## 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:

- Praise the Lord for those who are working on translations of the **Self-Confrontation** manual and other materials. Pray for health, stamina, and wisdom as they work on these large tasks.
- Upcoming BCF training courses. Pray that those desiring to attend courses from other countries may be able to obtain visas, and finances needed for travel expenses and attendance.
- Churches and teachers preparing to teach the Self-Confrontation course.
- Support for our first missionary family with BCF, the Nygrens, whose primary responsibility is for our worldwide Spanish ministry.
- Our staff, volunteers, and board members. Pray that the Lord would continue to challenge, encourage, and strengthen each one as they minister to many.

If you would like to know how you can pray in detail for the ministry of BCF, we have included in this issue the June - August Praise & Prayer Bulletin. You can also visit our website and download the Bulletin. Just click on "Mailings" at the top of the webpage.

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.

## Contact Information

42-600 Cook St., Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92211-5143  
USA

760.773.2667 - telephone  
760.340.3778 - fax  
877.933.9333 - orders only (USA only)

[www.bcfministries.org](http://www.bcfministries.org) - website  
[admin@bcfministries.org](mailto:admin@bcfministries.org) - general email  
[orders@bcfministries.org](mailto:orders@bcfministries.org) - orders email

## 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.

If you would like extra copies of Standing Firm for distributing to others, please contact our office. There may be a charge for postage due to the weight of this issue.