

Standing Firm

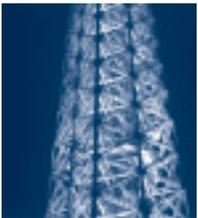
Discipling believers and training biblical disciplers/counselors since 1974



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Le Counseling



If asked to name one of the nations most in need of the liberating truth of God's word, many would reply with a country in Africa or Asia. Perhaps even a Moslem or communist land. But known as "the missionary's graveyard," France has been perhaps as hard to penetrate with the life changing Good News of Jesus Christ as any nation on earth.

When BCF teachers returned to France this spring for the third year in a row, it was with great expectancy of seeing God build upon the seeds that were sown in prayer and in previous ministry. But God did abundantly above all that we could have asked of Him. To Him alone be all the glory.

The schedule was very tight with a continuous 21 days of teaching. Sandwiched between the three week-long courses held in both Paris and Lyon were the Weekend Seminars, as well as Teacher Training. Students came from all over France, as well as from Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire, England, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Spain, and Zambia.

One French pastor, who served as an interpreter for the course since 1998, has seen new people continually coming to this church to receive practical help from God's Word in overcoming problems of life. His church has grown from 75 people two years ago, when he first attended the course, to 150 last year, and it is now at 250 people and growing. For France, which has an average church size of approximately 15 believers, this growth rate is virtually unheard of.

Many testimonies from the courses were deeply moving. One woman, attending from Belgium, signed up to take only Track I in Paris, but was so affected by the Self-Confrontation course, that she immediately signed up for Track II in Lyon and continued her training. Another couple, after hearing about family devotions in Lesson 17 was asked by their teenage daughter (who had just become a Christian two weeks prior to attending the course),

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BCF IN-PERSON SPENCER SMITH

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.

Many of you who have written to the BCF office may have received a reply from Spencer Smith. Spencer began working for BCF at age 17 responding to correspondence received at the office.

The Lord has gifted Spencer with writing ability that takes most people years to develop, and it is obvious from the letters of many people that they have been blessed by his responses to them.

Spencer is the son of Steve and Shashi Smith. He attended his first "official" Self-Confrontation course in 1991 when he was 12 years old. He has attended other BCF training courses since. Spencer has helped on the BCF teaching staff since he was 15 years old, particularly as a role-player in Track II. The Lord has used his involvement in courses as an encouragement and example to both parents and young people. Perhaps as a result, numerous teenagers have attended BCF concentrated courses.

Spencer is a full-time student at California State University, San Bernardino. He and his brother Stuart room together at an apartment close to the University,

and work for BCF from their apartment.

In addition to a very full college schedule, Spencer has been responsible in the past for the administration of BCF correspondence in all forms, whether letter, fax, or email. Now, Spencer works with Stuart in the development of graphics and



informational materials for BCF. In addition, he and Bob Schneider will be working on the writing of booklets and teaching articles for newsletters.

At his local church, Spencer has been guitarist and occasional song leader on the musical worship team, and has helped with teen and college/career ministries. He has also taught guitar lessons. His musical talents have blessed many.

We at BCF are delighted to see Spencer as part of the "second" generation BCF staff. More importantly, it is a blessing to see the Lord powerfully using young people like Spencer to bless many by the godly example of their lives, and their communication of His Word faithfully.

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if they could begin having family devotions. The father replied they could not, as their 22-year old son was not yet a believer. The very next day, during the church service, the son was wonderfully converted. The family is overjoyed that they can now have family devotions together.

The following testimony is indicative of many who attended: "Before coming to this seminar, I had never heard anyone speak of BCF. I had always wanted to be trained on how to counsel people because there is so much need in our ministry in France. Miraculously, I was sent a registration form for this course. I thank the Lord. He leveled every path in order that I could attend."

Please continue to pray for the work of the Lord to continue in France. Those who truly believe and live the Gospel in this needy land are labeled as cultists by the government and suffer much ridicule and persecution.

It was a great encouragement to see not only those from within France attend the courses, but others come to be trained and equipped to take the message of the sufficiency of God's word back to their own nations.



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 pastor who attended a U.S. Concentrated Course during the last year.

As a pastor and full-time Christian worker, I have been involved in biblical counseling for 21 years. I took three counseling courses in seminary that were of very little practical value in the ministry. Since being exposed to the BCF material, I have seen God (i.e. NOT ME) do more positive work in people's lives than ever before. Before, I was almost "apologetic" because I counseled people from the Word of God. But, no more. I am more than ever convinced of the self-sufficiency of the Word of God to move believers towards living God's way. The Self-Confrontation manual puts "meat and muscle" to the "skeleton" called biblical counseling. The arrangement of the material helps move a disciple towards godliness.

BCF Materials Spotlight

TRACK II VIDEO TAPES

One of the newest additions to the resources available through BCF is the Track II video series. The series contains the four Course II demonstration role-plays of team discipleship/ counseling meetings.

It is an invaluable resource for instructors wishing to teach Course II in their churches. The series goes hand-in-hand with the Course II and Track II Instructor's Guides as well as the Course II Syllabus and Handbook. We do not recommend that you purchase the tapes unless you have already attended Course II or Track II.



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

- Tracks I-III and teacher training, 19-27 October, 2000, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- 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.

Contact Information

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

www.bcfministries.org

760.773.2667 telephone
760.340.3778 fax
877.933.9333 orders only

general e-mail-
admin@bcfministries.org
orders e-mail-
orders@bcfministries.org

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.

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