


# STANDING FIRM

Discipling believers and training biblical disciplers/counselors since 1974

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BIBLICAL COUNSELING FOUNDATION

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## Unto the Uttermost Parts

One of the most thrilling and unique testimonies of the Biblical Counseling Foundation ministry is the unheralded work of many co-laborers. This is especially true in the translation of BCF materials. We have been privileged to watch God work in a marvelous way in the development of 18 translations of the **Self-Confrontation** manual. For each language group, the Lord led one particular individual to take the initiative.

From the beginning, translations have been financed and led by volunteers who come from or reside in the country of the translated language. BCF only provides funds, as an exception, when translators have special needs such as the purchase of computer programs or replacement of computer equipment needed in the translation process.

For example, an American lawyer from Northern Virginia was used to initiate the Spanish translation of the **Self-Confrontation** manual. After being trained in biblical discipleship/counseling at his church in Arlington, he and his bride moved in 1993 to Guatemala to teach law. After some time, the Lord led him to teach the Self-Confrontation course in a local church. This necessitated translation of the manual, so he, together with some of the students, developed the first draft translation into Spanish. Since then, a team of

translator/teachers has continued the work so that today, ten of the BCF books and booklets are published in Spanish.

The Chinese translations were next. God had burdened a Chinese-speaking businessman for many years. He had become convinced that the great need in mainland China is training in biblical discipleship/counseling. A wonderful spiritual movement had begun in China in 1980, in which millions came to Christ in a short period of time. Whole villages were converted. However, there was no one available to nurture and disciple the new believers. A man might come to Christ one week and have the responsibility to be pastor the next week. As a result, many new converts were not taught biblically and many cults sprang up. Today, one of the biggest problems among Christians in China is the lack of spiritual depth.

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There is a desperate need for biblical discipleship/counseling.

When the Chinese brother was given a copy of the **Self-Confrontation** manual, he studied it, then realized that it was exactly what the Chinese needed. He arranged to have the manual translated into Chinese and invited us to come to Hong Kong to teach a Concentrated Course. Today, four of the BCF training books have been published in Chinese and are being studied throughout the Chinese-speaking world.

The Lord's choice for introducing the **Self-Confrontation** manual to the French-speaking world is an American missionary serving in France. While temporarily home from the field, she was invited by a friend to attend a BCF Concentrated Course in the U.S. She realized that the French people desperately needed to receive this training and so began to seek help in translating the manual. As a result, BCF materials have been translated into French and four levels of BCF training have been conducted in French,

and will be taught again in Lyon, France this fall.

Since then, BCF materials have also been published in Bengali, Hindi, Portuguese, Tamil, and Telugu. Drafts of the **Self-Confrontation** manual are complete in Arabic, Haitian Creole, and Korean, and although they have not been published, these translations are being used to teach the Self-Confrontation course. In addition, translation work is continuing in Albanian, German, Italian, Japanese, Malayalam, Romanian, and Russian.

The special blessing is that none of the translators have been paid by BCF to translate, even though they have been trained by us in Concentrated Courses. They are all volunteers with a clear call from God on their lives to this work. We are so delighted to co-labor in this work that is obviously led and sustained by God.

Nonetheless, there is much need for prayer. In most cases the translation teams do their

translation work as an adjunct to their full time ministry/work. There have been instances of prolonged illness, restarts, and other challenges.

Translating the **Self-Confrontation** manual is a huge task, not only because the manual contains a large number of pages (480), but also because the translator must consider the biblical accuracy of each phrase. Individuals who have attempted to translate the materials without first attending the BCF courses invariably must start the project over again once they have been trained.

Please pray for those who are still in the midst of translating that they may have wisdom, good health, stamina, and persistence to complete their translations in a timely fashion.

# 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.

“...Last year, I would have taken issue with BCF over what I considered no scriptural basis for telling people with chemical imbalances that they know exactly what they are doing, and can make choices not to do them....

God, in his mercy, has brought me through so much, even in this last year, to be able to look back on that dozen years of my life, evaluate it with the help of the Holy Spirit, and see that, according to Romans Chapter One, my unrighteousness (sin) caused me to suppress the truth, and I was without excuse. I could finally see...that it is the **MERCY OF GOD** that one is given over to a debased mind, if that is what it takes, in order for a person to come to the end of themselves and see his utter need for Christ. Every horrible thing that God allowed in my life was used to get my attention. I just happened to be more arrogant and prideful than the “normal” person, and God loves me so much that He pursued me and let me spiral downward until I hit bottom. What kindness! What mercy! Because of the grace and mercy shown to me, how can I be offended when my neighbor sins against me? I deserved death. Love covers a multitude of sins in light of the cross. Grace is amazing when one is cognizant of one's wretchedness, and I have discovered that the more one focuses on one's log, the more clearly one can see... more logs! The other person's speck disappears from view because of your own forest.

This was a major breakthrough for someone who always blame-shifted, believed that it was because of others' sins against me that I responded in sin, that I was genetically predisposed to being chemically imbalanced and have a disorder because of my family and grandmother, and that I didn't choose to be that way. What started out as a postpartum hormone imbalance I now see was not “more than I could bear” and there is no situation God gives you that you have to sin your way out of.

The other most important truth that really was nailed home was the “key to contentment.” If one dies, one recognizes that one deserves to die. Then one will not be conceited and think more highly of one's self than one ought. In light of the fact that it was my sin that nailed Christ to the tree, and in light of the **AMAZING GRACE** shown to me, I can show great grace to my neighbor in loving my neighbor, overlooking offenses, serving from that position, and delighting myself in Him. This will serve to protect me, hopefully, from self-focus, self-exaltation, and help me walk worthy of the calling to which I have been called, in all humility. He will accomplish His purposes in my life!

...I had decided I would never tell anyone that I was bipolar...God gave me courage and grace to share that, because I believed it would serve the people by validating what you were saying from a counselee's standpoint! Praise be to God!”

## 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 their health and stamina 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 attain visas.
- Churches and teachers preparing to teach the Self-Confrontation course

If you would like to know how you can pray in detail for the ministry of BCF, you can visit our website and download our Praise & Prayer Bulletin. Just click on "Mailings" at the top of the webpage.

## 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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