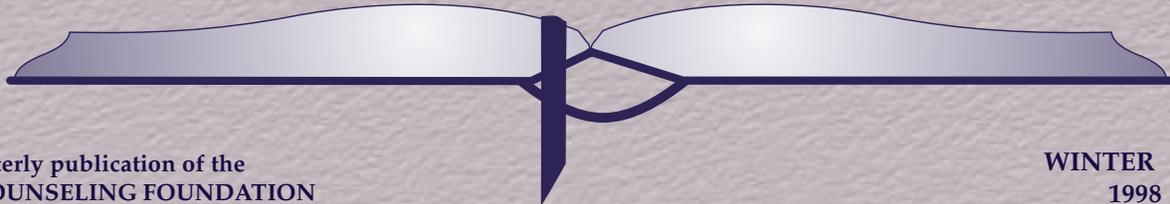


# Standing Firm

*Discipling believers and training biblical disciplers/counselors since 1974*



A quarterly publication of the  
BIBLICAL COUNSELING FOUNDATION

WINTER 1998 BCF

## MINISTRY IN THE LAND OF ETERNAL SPRING

Our trip to Guatemala, the land of eternal Spring, was a rich time of ministry. The BCF teaching team joined together with the leadership team in Guatemala to teach six different courses (during the day as well as in the evenings) for a period of three-and-a-half weeks. The teaching team consisted of Ron and Sally Lee (Kingman, Arizona), Carol Price (Capetown, South Africa), Bob Schneider (Southern California), and Shashi Smith (Southern California). The fact that the teachers came from a variety of places and were willing to give freely of their time and resources gave powerful evidence of their worldwide focus and vision.

The teaching period started with a weekend seminar, followed the next week by Teacher Training (daytime) and Track I (evening and following weekend). The second and third full weeks consisted of Track IV in the daytime, and Track II each evening. Finally, even while Track II was being completed on Friday of the third week, a second weekend seminar was begun. Although the teaching schedule was packed full, many students attended all three weeks of classes faithfully. Some of them had intended to

come only for Track I, but said they were so challenged by the sufficiency of God's Word for living that they had to come for further training.

Students attended from Honduras and Colombia as well as Guatemala. One of the students who came for all three weeks of training is a missionary in Colombia, South America. He and his wife had previously attended two courses in the United States, and has invited us to come to Bogota in September to conduct a Concentrated Course there. The Hondurans are also eager for continued training. The team in Guatemala will follow-up with a course in Honduras, and has also expressed a willingness to help us in Bogota.

One of our major goals was to deepen and strengthen the training of the leadership team in Guatemala. The Guatemalan team did the major work of translating the *Autoconfrontación* manual (the Spanish version of the *Self-Confrontation* manual), and are now busy



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*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you ..."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

# BCF IN-

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.

## CINDY JOHNSON

Twelve years ago, if you had called BCF in Virginia to place an order, more than likely you spent time talking with Cindy Johnson. Within the past several years, if you called our offices in California, you probably talked with Cindy again. No, we did not clone Cindy. Cindy, out of her commitment to the Lord and the desire to serve others, moved to California in July 1992 to serve full-time with BCF.

Cindy attended her first BCF Self-Confrontation course almost 15 years ago, and began working part-time with BCF about 13 years ago.

Her first responsibility was to fill and ship out orders for BCF training materials from our extremely modern and high-tech facility - the basement of her own Virginia home.

Cindy developed a worldwide focus before she became a believer, just by the fact that she has lived in Taiwan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Iran. After receiving the Lord, Cindy's focus has expanded increasingly to a worldwide vision.

For five years now, Cindy has lived in Bermuda Dunes, California, and currently has her son, a junior in high school, still living at home. Her younger daughter is in college, and the eldest daughter was recently married. Cindy attends Family Life Church in Rancho Mirage, teaches four year olds in Sunday School as well as the Self-Confrontation course to a group of single women and women with unbelieving husbands.

She also helps teach in various BCF courses. Recently, she helped teach a weekend seminar at

Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Southern California.

Cindy does much more than fill and ship orders today. She is responsible for oversight of the entire inventory, orders, and shipping process; reproduces and assembles most of the Course materials and booklets; is the BCF administrator for all the weekend seminars; and opens and distributes the mail we receive to the appropriate staff members. Her work load has multiplied manyfold over the years, particularly with the increasing number of courses and overseas requests. She says that



although it is a challenge keeping up with all the work, her supreme desire is to do it in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. Through the many comments we receive regularly, it is evident that the Lord has used her to bless many, even through telephone

conversations and the manner in which orders are handled. In addition, Cindy is a tremendous blessing and example to all of us in BCF, through her loving faithfulness, servant spirit, unflagging energy, and cheerful giving of her very self in all she does.

Cindy especially delights in hearing your accounts about all the things the Lord is doing around the world for His glory. She encourages you to keep sending your testimonies and letters.

We praise the Lord that He has provided a servant such as Cindy to faithfully minister with us. We are also thankful that the Lord has permitted BCF to have office space, so that Cindy no longer needs to ship materials from her basement.

# Notes & Testimonies

David Meengs recently retired early from his job in order to move to India and teach the Self-Confrontation course. He has already begun to organize translation of materials into five of the major Indian dialects. Please pray for David, his wife Mary, and their daughter as they travel throughout India specifically to teach pastors and church leaders there.

The following is the pledge used by the prisoners at the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison. It was recited by the prisoners in yard "D" during a recent weekend seminar taught by the BCF team. This is a tremendous testimony to the work the Lord is doing in the prisons, and a reminder to us of the greatness of our God.

### THE ONLY PLEDGE

I pledge allegiance to my God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

And to His righteousness for which He stands;

I thank you Father for remembering man!

You said Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God; so I thank you Father for your Son, Your Prince, our King, your rod.

I confess with my mouth, Lord Jesus is the Head;

And I believe in my heart- that You have risen from the dead!

Therefore, "I know," that I'm in Christ, and have become a part of You; So I thank You Father for doing away with the old, and making all things new.

Father, Your Son You sent I have received,

And in His name, I do Believe;

that I'm born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God!

Amen!!!

revising the initial translation. They have also been translating all of the new materials for Courses II and III. At the same time, they have been teaching first- and second-level courses in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and El Salvador.

It was a delight to fellowship and co-labor with these men and women who are totally

It is refreshing to see the faithfulness of the few who have kept firm to the sufficiency of God's Word in discipling/counseling others to face, deal with, and endure the problems of life.

dedicated to spreading discipleship/counseling training throughout Latin America. To give you an example of their commitment, the leader of the team, Gerald Nygren, pastors a church where he teaches Self-Confrontation during the time when a sermon normally would be preached each Sunday morning.

In addition to our normal teaching responsibilities, the team also was privileged to visit two prisons - one for men and the other for women. In the men's prison, the prisoners are being taught Self-Confrontation on a weekly basis. Some of the prisoners have been in the prison facilities for many years already, and are

desperately hungry to learn how to live victoriously in the midst of their problems.

During our second week in Guatemala, Gerald's wife, Ruth experienced a mild heart attack while she was attending Track IV. She is recovering, but the progress has been slow. Please pray for her. The Nygren family had to cut their Guatemala trip short and return to Canada so that Ruth could get the necessary medical care. In the midst of this trial, the Nygren family maintained a marvelous testimony of trust and rejoicing in the Lord.

Guatemala, like so many other countries, is inundated with worldly teaching of counseling theories and methods. It is refreshing to see the faithfulness of the few who have kept firm to the sufficiency of God's Word in discipling/counseling others to face, deal with, and endure the problems of life. This trip once again pointed out the importance of BCF standing ready to provide the training and help to those who commit themselves to disciple and train up others in biblical discipleship/counseling.



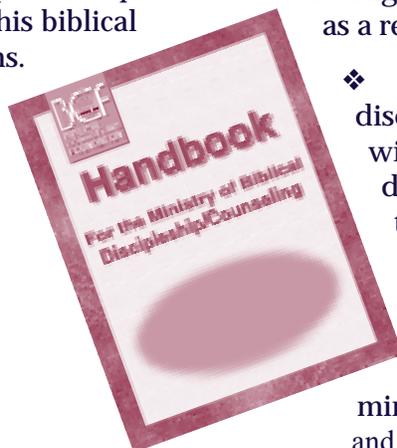
# BCF Materials Spotlight

## HANDBOOK FOR THE MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP/COUNSELING

The **Handbook** is the training reference for all BCF discipleship/counseling courses beyond Self-Confrontation. It has also been developed to help the biblical discipler/counselor maintain his biblical focus in ministering to those with problems.

The **Handbook** consists of four major sections, which include:

- ❖ Biblical principles for the focus and conduct of both the discipler/counselor and the disciple/counselee,
- ❖ A master plan for the ministry of biblical discipleship/counseling,
- ❖ Essential precepts for training the biblical discipler/counselor, and
- ❖ Resource helps and forms for use in the ministry of biblical discipleship/counseling.



This **Handbook** is an outstanding tool to be kept at hand by all disciplers/counselors through years of ministry, and can be used as a resource for:

- ❖ Planning and conducting discipleship/counseling meetings with all who ask for help in facing, dealing with, and enduring the trials of life,
- ❖ Training others in the ministry of biblical discipleship/counseling,
- ❖ Evaluating one's own ministry for biblical focus and conduct, and
- ❖ Photocopying useful forms.

# Partnering In Prayer

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

Please pray for:

- Weekend Seminar, 6-7 March, in Santa Rosa, CA
- Weekend Seminar and Track I, 23-29 March, in Lyon, France
- Completion of the French translation of the **Self-Confrontation** manual in time for the March course in France
- Tracks I-IV and Spanish Track I, 27 April- 1 May, in Vienna, VA
- Weekend Seminar, 15-16 May, in Atlanta, GA
- Tracks I-III, 27-31 July, in Portland, OR
- Tracks I-II, 14-25 September in Bogota, Colombia
- Tracks I-IV, 12-16 October, in Greenwood, IN
- Three-week Intensive Course, 9-27 November in Jos, Nigeria

PLEASE NOTE!  
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## PLEASE NOTE!

### Spanish Concentrated Course in US

In addition to the Concentrated Course to be held in Vienna, VA, 27 April – 1 May, there will be a separate Track I taught for Spanish-speaking people. The course is identical to the course taught in English and will be held in the same building but different room. All of the necessary materials will be available to the students in the Spanish language.

Registration information is provided on the insert. For more information, please contact the BCF office.

Please keep this course in prayer.

If you are led to make a donation to 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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