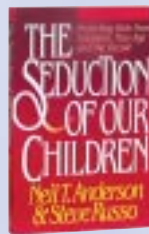


Key Resource: The Seduction Of Our Children

When the publishers of this book decided to take it out of print, FIC offices around the world kicked up a fuss! It's now back in print and we have stock again. We recommend it highly for parents and anyone who works with children. It will help you understand the battle that is raging for the minds of our children and equip you with strategies to win. With New Age thinking commonly found in schools and Satanism, drug-taking and occultic music on the rise, Christian parents need to understand how to defeat the influence of darkness in their family. It costs £7.99 (plus p&p). Code: FC55.



freedom
in
Christ

Newsletter

www.ficm.org.uk

2003 Issue 2

Frequently Asked Questions

Where was God when I was being abused?

God was there, and He was greatly grieved over what happened. Psalm 94 assures us that God indeed does see all forms of abuse and oppression and that He is a God of vengeance and justice. He is also our help, our stronghold, and our refuge. Rather than focus on what God didn't do in his life (that is, stop the abuse in our life), the psalmist focuses on his relationship with God, confident that God will one day mete out perfect justice.

It may also help to remember that God made human beings with the responsibility to choose - even to choose to disobey Him. God does not now change that freedom and prevent people choosing to do evil. Besides, to take away our choice would be to remove the possibility of our choosing to trust God.

In light of the pain we experience at the

hands of others, our confidence and hope lies in the truth that God is able to bring healing and that He even uses that pain to build strength of character - a Christlike character - in us. We cannot guarantee that you will escape evil in this sick and fallen world (see John 16:33), but we can reassure you that you don't have to be a perpetual victim of your past. In Christ, God has provided us with a way to overcome our past, and we have to assume our responsibility to choose the path of freedom.

One more important word about suffering comes from Job, a book which teaches us how to deal with the loss and pain that comes our way in this world. As his suffering progresses, Job never gives up on his relationship with God. He argues, he expresses his deep disappointments, and he even asks God for a trial and the opportunity to plead his case about God's apparent injustice (see Job 9,10). Through all his trials, Job never gives up on God:

"Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him" (Job 13:15). The key is to be honest about your deep disappointments with God and allow Him to speak to you (see Job 38-41).

Don't suffer in denial. Let God know about your anger and disappointment with Him. Then you will be able to see God and yourself clearly enough to follow Job's example and repent of your wrong expectations of God (see Job 42:1-6). Keep in mind, too, that Job's latter state was more blessed than his former state. God never told Job why he was suffering, but God used suffering to increase Job's trust in Him and to bless Job. Romans 8:18-39 assures us that God's plan for our glory includes suffering, but this suffering can never separate us from His love for us as demonstrated in Christ Jesus' death on the cross.

In the next issue we'll ask the question: "Why should I forgive an unrepentant person?"



One recent Thursday afternoon, buried deep in the FIC office engaged in some tortuous mundane activity involving spreadsheets, I found myself musing, "Is all this really making any difference in the big wide world out there?"

Over the next three or four days no fewer than five people e-mailed, wrote or phoned and used exactly the same phrase: "It changed my life". The encouragement didn't stop there. We had a fantastic response to an e-mail we sent out asking people to submit testimonies for a new book (see *News section*) - it's been a privilege to read what the Lord has done through local churches using the FIC approach. Then no fewer than 15 people became Christians at our youth events (which were supposed to be aimed at Christians!). And every week more and more churches tell us how the FIC approach is being used to help many find their freedom.

It's exciting that Freedom In Christ seems to be one of the ministries that the Lord is using to help prepare His Church to impact the nation. But I suspect that before He sends revival, He's waiting for the Church to show that it can make *disciples* (as opposed to *converts*). That requires us to know how to help people dump spiritual baggage and connect with truth. The good news is that church leaders are generally only too aware of that and are crying out for good solid biblical answers. We are helping them more than ever before - but our resources are stretched.

Will you enable us to step up our efforts by supporting us financially? In deciding where to direct our efforts we never make finance an issue and I have a horror of becoming a ministry that's always asking for money... But right now it seems right to make our needs known to the Church that we are called to equip.

If the Freedom In Christ approach has changed your life in some way, please read the article on page 2 and consider prayerfully whether you can help us play our part in equipping the Church to change the nation. Despite all that is happening around us, our Sovereign God is still in the business of setting captives free, binding up the brokenhearted and turning nations around.

Steve

Steve Goss, Executive Director



Youth leaders from whom the new FIC youth team will be formed

New FIC Youth Team Formed



Dave Park, co-author with Neil Anderson of many of our youth materials, visited the UK recently and held events for young people, parents and youthworkers. Quite apart from the unexpected bonus of 15 people making first-time decisions to follow Christ and a further 35 responding to a call to full-time service, Dave trained a core team who will work with churches who want to learn how to help young Christians

walk in freedom. Members of this team will be available to run events in churches around the country from 2004 (See picture below). Tapes are available of: Spiritual Protection For Your Children; Leading Young People To Freedom In Christ; Stomping Out The Darkness; and Purity Under Pressure. More info online (click Youth).

Got a Freedom Testimony?

A book of testimonies is being compiled of those whose lives have been changed through the Freedom In Christ approach. Many have responded to an e-mail newsletter and sent in their testimonies but it's not too late for you to add yours. We are looking for people whose lives have been changed but that doesn't mean you have to have a "dramatic" story. Please send in brief details to the office or download a form at www.ficm.org.uk/news.

Neil Anderson's Visit To London And Spring Harvest

250 leaders who attended "Helping Hurting People" at City Temple listened as Neil Anderson explained why no one is so "messed up" that they cannot find their freedom in Christ. Delegates heard Carolyn Bramhall outline how, despite years of abuse, she was led to freedom by a local church using FIC principles; and Phil Cole and Beverley Hutton from Greyfriars Church in Reading told how they are helping a young lady suffering from anorexia, self-harm and addiction find her freedom.

Neil then spoke to two to three thousand people at Spring Harvest. We have received many reports of changed lives. It was a privilege to take part.



New Discipleship Course

Our new discipleship course designed especially for the UK will be published in Spring 2004 including group and cell study material, Powerpoint presentation and videos of the talks. Full details and an opportunity to reserve a copy in the next newsletter.

More Information Online

Further info is available online where you see this icon. On-line now you can read about: Conference for 10,000 African pastors; praise for the new Songs Of Freedom CD including ability to download samples from the CD.



Setting Your Marriage Free

Friday 21st November to
Sunday 23rd November 2003

Experience a new freedom, intimacy and oneness with your spouse

An opportunity to fine-tune your marriage and find the freedom to enjoy your oneness in Christ more than ever before. Compassionate instruction and direction will help you learn how to put Christ right at the centre of your relationship. You will be given the opportunity to renew your marriage vows and go through the *Steps To Setting Your Marriage Free*, a process that will help you deal with footholds of the enemy that have been holding your marriage back. There will be time and space for each couple to work privately on their marriage, prompted by the leading of the Holy Spirit. It's a life-changing experience - not to be missed!

Topics covered include:

- Establishing God's priority for marriage
- Balancing rights and responsibilities
- Releasing old hurts
- Breaking cycles of abuse
- Breaking sexual bondage
- Unmasking Satan's deception

This conference is especially for:

- Couples who are committed to making a good marriage even better
- Couples who repeatedly struggle with the same troublesome issues
- Engaged and newly married couples
- Couples who want to learn how to encourage other married couples

Please note: This is a follow up for couples who have already experienced the Steps to Freedom individually and wish to go on to establish freedom in their marriage.



Costs and other information

Led by Steve & Prue Magee and Pete & Carolyn Costello at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Cost per couple (including meals) for two nights
Double Standard Room : £200
Double Ensuite Room : £235
Engaged Couples (2 single rooms): £266

Timings

The conference begins on Friday evening with a meal at 6pm and the first session at 7:30pm. It ends after lunch on Sunday (around 2pm).

Booking

Limited availability - book early! To book, see www.ficm.org.uk (the Catalogue section), call 08700 11 41 77 or send a cheque to the office.

Comments from people who have attended previous retreats:

...A breakthrough for our marriage. We have been married as singles for 23 years. Today we have Christ in our marriage and great hope for the future...

...The conference is excellent. It addresses issues that destroy our marriages and then challenges us to deal honestly with each one...

...We had tried all kinds of counselling but this process dealt directly with the source of our conflict and brought a life-changing transformation...

...Yes, it was difficult. Through honest and vulnerable discussion, the Lord led us through problems, anguish, hurts, fears, all the way to forgiveness, resolution, love and commitment...

...This broke the strongholds in our marriage and allowed us to continue...

...This was my last resort. But this real, honest, heartfelt, truthful, godly way softened my heart, gave me back my hope, and a desire to truly love my husband...

Help Us Help More People...

Included with this issue of our newsletter is a leaflet asking you to consider giving regular financial support to Freedom In Christ. But why should you? Steve Goss explains....

“Why has FIC produced a leaflet asking people to give?”
Because we want to see lots more lives changed. All the time we hear from Christians bursting with thanks because they are now walking in freedom. We want to accelerate that process.

“But I thought FIC was already a large, well-funded organisation.... I mean, the leaflet itself looks very professionally produced as does your other material....”

Well, in fact we're a very small organisation - we have the equivalent of just one and half full time paid staff. There are a lot more than that in the whole FIC team, of course, but most are not paid. For example, the 25 or so people in the teaching team receive only out-of-pocket expenses - they do it because they are passionate about seeing this country won for Christ. In addition, people like Carolyn Bramhall who runs our “deeply wounded” ministry rely on people supporting them personally. I'm glad you like our printed material by the way - we are given the services of a professional graphic and web designer free of charge.



Neil Anderson signs a book at Spring Harvest

“So you don't get funding from the States?”

We really appreciate the support we get from our colleagues in the States but none if it comes as financial support. They have their own financial challenges and it's right that we should stand on our own two feet.

“So where does your funding come from?”

It splits fairly equally into three parts: donations from churches and individuals; profits from events; and profits from sales of books and other resources. Every book, video or tape you buy from us helps.

“How much is your total income?”

Last year, the funds available to us from these three items totalled around £60,000. As well as staff costs that has to cover: rental of our office and warehouse unit; telephone and utility bills; printing and posting our newsletters and catalogues; costs of running our internet site; and so on. We also give away a proportion of our income. If you do some quick sums, you'll find that's a very tight budget indeed. In fact, to be honest, it doesn't actually cover it!

“You mentioned giving money away. Who do you give to?”

We particularly like to support the introduction of FIC principles in other countries. For example, we have made gifts to FIC India and

we are helping establish an office in New Zealand. Particularly on our heart at the moment is a conference in West Africa for 10,000 pastors planned for Spring 2004 - a further £80,000 or so is needed to make this possible and we can contribute in a small way. This will have a huge impact on that important continent.



The planning team for the West Africa event

“How do you go about persuading people to give?”

To be honest I find this really difficult. I believe very strongly that it is the Lord who provides and that, if we are doing what He tells us to do, He will meet all our needs. He has always proved faithful. I remember once I remarked in the office that we could really do with £5,000 to print some decent publicity material. The very next day someone handed me a cheque for £6,000! On the other hand, the Lord works through people and we feel that it is right at this time that we make known some of our needs.

“How will my gift be used?”

This year we need £15,000 more than last year to cover the costs of expanding the support we offer to churches so that they can impact more people. I have a particular vision to reach young people - £20,000 would enable us to employ a leader for our new youth team and make an enormous impact. I also believe that the Lord will in due course provide the funds required to open a training centre for Christian leaders.

“Those amounts sound way beyond my budget!”

Don't worry - I'm not expecting you to come up with it all! In fact it's likely to come in through lots of small gifts. What we really appreciate is not so much the size of gift - no gift is too small - but that it is given regularly. That enables us to plan and budget. I am so grateful to our faithful regular givers and see them very much as part of the team. Plans are afoot to make sure that they receive a regular update from me on the effect that their gifts are having.

“So what would you like people to do?”

If people have found FIC helpful in their own lives and share our vision for preparing the Church for revival, I'd ask them to consider whether they can offer us regular financial support. They will be playing a vital part. Individuals can give by standing order and, if they are tax payers, we can reclaim income tax and inflate the value of their gift by a quarter. But we'd also like churches to consider making us part of their regular outward giving - we can provide a Powerpoint or hard copy presentation that they can use to explain the work of FIC to wider meetings. I'd simply urge everyone to ask the Lord whether He is leading them to become part of our wider team by giving regularly. They can do it in the knowledge that they will be helping the Church make a real impact on this nation.

See online for further information (Click “Become A Partner”).

Doing The Business - Birmingham Christian Centre



Birmingham Christian Centre is a large Pentecostal church situated right in the centre of the UK's second city. Sheila Hendley, one of the ministers at the church, attended a Freedom In

Christ training course specifically looking for a 'tool' to set people free.

Within a year the church was running regular three day courses, was offering individual freedom appointments as part of its discipleship programme, and was actively involved in helping other local churches adopt the Freedom In Christ approach.

“It's been amazing to see how people who had gone round in circles for ages have suddenly been able to go on maturity...”

According to Sheila, “It's been amazing to see how people who had gone round in circles for ages have suddenly been able to go on maturity. And it's lovely to see new Christians becoming real disciples.” The church has been delighted to discover that, not only have individuals had the tools to find their own freedom in Christ but they have then gone on to help others.

Eight people who had completed the basic course came forward to go on the first leaders training workshop and took part subsequently in leading freedom appointments. One of this new team said, “It was incredibly exciting to be present and see God's liberating power work for others in the same great way I had experienced it some months previously. It has increased my desire to be a part of the team of Freedom in Christ facilitators supporting people as God sets them free.”

“People now apply the sermons instead of just listening to them.”

Another reported: “This is such a simple tool. We have seen Jesus work in an amazing way as we allowed Him to do the work through us. Whenever we got stuck we just prayed and He showed us the way through.”

A final comment from Sheila which will be music to the ears of any preacher: “People now apply the sermons instead of just listening to them.”



Pastor Sheila Hendley and Carol Sterry

Become A Partner Church

Freedom In Christ Ministries is looking for a small number of churches around the country who share its vision to prepare God's people for revival. They will be centres of excellence who will help equip other churches in their region.



priority when it comes to new events and resources.

If your leaders are enthusiastic about the FIC approach and have a burning desire to help other churches get started too, we'd like to have the opportunity to explain more.

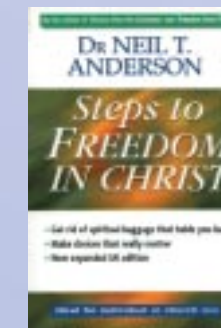
In the first instance please see the “Become A Partner” section of our website or call the office.



Is your church a suitable candidate? We are looking for churches who have embraced the FIC approach and are able to share it with others. You don't have to be a large church - you just have to have a heart to see this nation impacted by the Gospel.

FIC will regard Partner Churches as key players in its task of equipping the UK Church. We will support them in their efforts and give them

Steps To Freedom Copyright



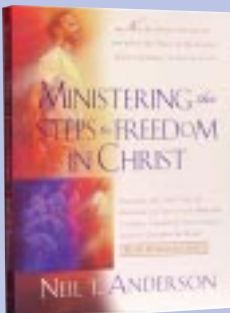
We are sometimes asked to explain the copyright on The Steps To Freedom In Christ. It would be ironic if churches unwittingly gave the enemy a foothold by breaking the law when using a tool to get rid of footholds!

Copyright is held by American publishers, Gospel Light. If your church is using Steps To Freedom In Christ, there are two options available to you. You can either use a standalone published version, such as the recently released UK version published by

Monarch (£2.99 each or £12.95 for five), or you can buy Ministering The Steps To Freedom (£14.99) which contains photocopiable versions of several American versions (but note that the adult version is now quite old). Under no circumstances should you create your own version in any shape or form or photocopy any version where right to photocopy has not been specifically granted.

FIC has no right to grant permission for you to use anything other than the published materials. Our strong recommendation is that you use the new UK version. £2.99 seems a very small price for anyone to pay for something so life-changing!

Note that members of our Freedom Fellowship receive additional material that some people going through the Steps will find useful and members are authorised to photocopy that material as necessary.



Forthcoming Event Dates

Church Leaders Briefing

S. EAST Newbury 23 Oct 03 7.30 - 10pm
N. IRELAND Belfast 15 Nov 03 10am - 12.30pm
S. EAST Barnet 14 Jan 04 10am - 12.30pm
NORTH Sheffield 21 Jan 04 10am - 12.30pm
SOUTH Winchester 27 Jan 04 10am - 12.30pm
N. EAST Richmond 11 Feb 04 10am - 12.30pm
E. ANGLIA Ipswich 10 Mar 04 1pm - 3pm

Living Free In Christ & Helping Others Find Freedom In Christ

EAST MIDLANDS Northampton 25 - 27 Sep 03
WEST YORKSHIRE Wakefield 9 - 11 Oct 03
WEST MIDLANDS Birmingham 16 - 18 Oct 03
NORTH WEST Stockport 23 - 25 Oct 03
SOUTH EAST Orpington 6 - 8 Nov 03
SOUTH EAST Newbury 12 - 14 Feb 04
N. IRELAND Belfast 12 - 14 Feb 04
SOUTH EAST Barnet 26 - 28 Feb 04
NORTH Sheffield 4 - 6 Mar 04

SOUTH Winchester 18 - 20 Mar 04
NORTH EAST Richmond 1 - 3 Apr 04
EAST ANGLIA Ipswich 22 - 24 Apr 04

Setting Your Marriage Free (residential)

MIDLANDS Swanwick 21 - 23 Nov 03

