

Waiting for the new French office

France is a popular holiday destination for Brits – chances are you know it well. Did you know, however, that 10 million French people pay for occult consultations, spending three times what they pay for their family doctors? On the other hand, evangelical churches are very thinly spread and usually quite small, averaging around 50 people.

Against this background, the Lord has clearly called Tim and Monique Baynes Clarke to open a Freedom In Christ office in France. Monique is originally from the South of France. Her father was a pastor in the French Free Evangelical Churches, where her family remains involved.

Tim first taught FIC principles when they were missionaries in Pakistan. Then, as minister of Shirehampton Baptist Church, Bristol, he saw the church come into a period of freedom from former strongholds through applying FIC principles. As part of FIC's teaching team, he has helped many leaders get started.

Tim says, "We are absolutely convinced of the effectiveness of



this approach. We are also very concerned for the church in France. We already have a good number of contacts among French ministers who have voiced their enthusiasm that we come soon and get started!"

Much time has been spent praying to discern the Lord's strategy for establishing the office. We sense that the key element in this is a property which will be run as a B&B business during the peak tourist season to provide income. It will also serve as a retreat/seminar centre to offer FIC teaching to church leaders and other groups. This model provides a sound basis for income and the means to train leaders from all over the country.

A suitable property such as the one pictured costs around £750,000. However, we sense that FIC will not own it. The story of Jesus sending the disciples to get a donkey is what the Lord has put on our minds. When asked by the owner why they were untying it, they were simply to say, "The Master needs it".



We suspect that someone with a suitable property or with the wherewithal to buy one will make it available to us for a period at a nominal rent because the Master needs it (if you want to know more, e-mail france@ficm.org.uk).

Tim has now resigned his ministry position and he and Monique are waiting for the Lord to open the door. It's an exciting time. Please stand with us as we pray and wait.

What's new at Freedom In Christ...

New Events Programme

Details of our new events are available on-line. We are running significantly more "Helping Others Find Freedom" days around the country – the logical training to get once your church has done the basic Discipleship Course teaching.

FIC Books In Braille

You can now obtain Braille copies of the Discipleship Course Workbooks and the Steps to Freedom in Christ books from Torch Trust For the Blind at £3.00 each. Call them on 01858 438260 or see www.torchtrust.org.

UK Hosts International Team

Directors of FIC from around the world meet in the UK shortly to discuss international strategy. Four continents will be represented with the fifth joining via weblink.

N. Ireland Team Formed

Pictured below are those who came to the inaugural meeting of our new N. Ireland team. There will be a Living Free event at Ballynahinch on March 1 – 3. Details on our website.



Neil Anderson In Eastbourne

Neil Anderson will be running a Living Free In Christ conference at the Kings Centre, Eastbourne on the evenings of 22 – 24 March 2007. Details are at www.kingschurch.eu (note: cannot be booked via FIC).

Using FIC After Alpha



So many churches are using the FIC Discipleship Course as a follow-on to Alpha that publishers Monarch and FIC took a page to talk about it in the current issue of Alpha News. The page features testimonies from a number of leaders. These are also available on our website and make interesting reading for any church that runs Alpha or similar courses.

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We ain't seen nothing yet!



Are you ready for the next level? I imagine that most people reading this have experienced something of Freedom In Christ's discipleship teaching, probably through our Discipleship Course. If so, you'll know how just getting hold of some simple truths has the power to revolutionise an individual's life. When someone discovers – really discovers – what they **already** have in Christ and acts on it, they can live at a completely different level of effectiveness and fruitfulness.

What if that same turnaround could be mirrored at the corporate level of your church fellowship so that it could decisively move on from the same old things that seem to hold it back?

What if you could see the spiritual climate in your town or city change completely so that people's spiritual blindness was removed?

It seems that the Lord is taking Freedom In Christ to "the next level". In the coming years we expect to see church fellowships demolishing corporate strongholds and being able to be fruitful like never before. I dare also hope to see whole towns and cities where the spiritual climate completely changes so that people suddenly see their need for Christ. When they turn to Him they will find churches who know how to help them dump their baggage and become fruitful disciples.

I have, therefore, with some trepidation, used the centre pages of this newsletter to lay out the direction the Lord seems to be taking us. An important one-day event in March with Neil Anderson will expand on this (see below). I recommend you come to it if you possibly can.

It's exciting and somewhat daunting! If you identify with this and are heading the same way. I would love to hear from you so that we can keep in touch. Do drop me an e-mail (exec@ficm.org.uk). Blessings!

Steve Goss, Executive Director

Freedom: The Bigger Picture—with Neil Anderson

**Setting individuals free...
Setting your church free...
Setting your city/area free!**

Neil Anderson is visiting us in March 2007 to help take us into "the next level". He and Steve Goss are leading a day event to outline how to take the Biblical principles of freedom further. They will be in Birmingham on 20 March and in Reading on 21 March.

The day will explain how the same Biblical principles behind the FIC Discipleship Course can be applied at different levels from helping addicts and those with sexual issues

to setting your church free and even setting your area free.

According to Steve Goss, "This is an important event that will give leaders a roadmap to take the FIC approach much further."



The Next Level – Freedom For Churches And Cities

Many churches have completed the FIC Discipleship Course and are asking “what next?” So far, the FIC approach has operated largely at the level of individual Christians. However, the stage is set for the same basic principles to operate at the level of whole church fellowships and, eventually, seeing whole cities and areas being led into freedom.

Paul makes it clear that the main reason people do not respond to Christ is because their minds have been blinded by the enemy (2 Cor. 4:4). Yet Jesus said that He would build His church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). Just imagine what your town or city would look like if the church removed the enemy’s ability to blind unbelievers and then helped them dump their spiritual baggage so that they could quickly become fruitful disciples.

We have set out below a roadmap to get to that point. We do this tentatively, however, because we know that: we do not have all the answers; this approach is not the only way; and we have much to learn from others.

The basic FIC principles could be summarised as:

1. Realising the amazing implications of our new identity in Christ
2. Knowing that in Christ we already have everything we need to fulfil what He has called us to do
3. Understanding the spiritual battle we operate in and how to win it

What might it look like when they are put into practice?

Level 1: individual freedom

BEFORE Christians who seem stuck. Perhaps caught in sin; maybe unable to shake off the negative consequences of past experiences; possibly waiting for a “key” – some experience of God or the “right” person to pray for them – to enable them to move on.

AFTER We suddenly realise that Jesus has already given us everything we need (2 Peter 1:3) when He made us a new person in Christ. As we actively close doors open to the enemy’s influence and keep renewing our minds, we become fruitful.

HOW Simply through repentance and faith (ie believing what is true). The FIC Discipleship Course and Steps To Freedom In Christ are the tools that FIC provides.

Level 2: corporate freedom

Once the leaders of a church fellowship have themselves been through the first level, they can apply the same principles to corporate issues that dog a fellowship: repeated patterns of sin, division etc.

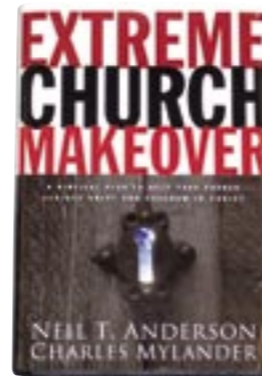
In one church, there were two controlling families each of which had a member on the leadership team. Many

times people had prayed that the Lord would take this unhealthy control issue away – but it remained for years. When the leaders themselves dealt with it through the FIC process, these two people, of their own volition and perfectly happily, decided the very next week to step down from leadership and became effective church members, a reminder that we are not up against flesh and blood people but spiritual forces. At another church, several years previously the wife of a man who had killed himself had threatened legal action against the church. The leadership team discerned that suicide was a scheme the enemy was using against them and renounced it. Over lunch one of the team went for a walk and “happened” to meet the lady in question for the first time in years. She was very pleasant and sent her regards to the rest of the team. The issue had been dealt with! Many times leaders who have been on the point of resigning have reported a complete change in the spiritual atmosphere and have gone on to lead their church into fruitfulness.

BEFORE Individual church fellowships know that God wants them to impact their community but they cannot seem to get beyond patterns of division, apathy, prayerlessness, inward-focus or criticism.

AFTER Just as we have seen individuals suddenly grasp what they already have in Christ, we have seen church fellowships suddenly able to understand just what it means to have “Christ in you [plural]” (Colossians 1:27) and break free from the things that held them back. There is a tangible change in the spiritual atmosphere.

HOW Going through the first level is a prerequisite for the leadership team. Then they can go through the “Setting Your Church Free” process outlined in Neil Anderson’s book, **Extreme Church Makeover**.



£17.99 from FIC

Level 3: community freedom

The reason the “Setting Your Church Free” process works is because those with the power and authority to deal with spiritual issues in a fellowship (its leaders) stand up and do just that. Who are the people who have that ability in a town, city or region? Surely it is the leaders of the one church in that area.

BEFORE Statistics plotting the seemingly inexorable rise of drug and alcohol abuse, violence and crime are depressing, especially for churches. Yet we sense that it does not have to be like this, that we should be able to make more of a difference.

AFTER As a case study of a city being set free, there is no better example than that of 16th century Geneva, Switzerland (pictured above right are Steve & Zoë Goss at the Reformation Wall in Geneva recently). Geneva had the reputation of being the “stinkiest city in

Europe”. It was reckoned to have more bars per head than any other city, and one of its main pastimes was nude dancing in the streets. Yet within a generation John Knox described it as “the most perfect school of Christ that was ever on earth since the days of the apostles”. Although it subsequently turned its back on God, this city of under half a million people still has a prominence on the world stage out of all proportion to its size. Even today it is home to the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, the World Council of Churches, and the Red Cross. It was in Geneva that the Conventions that define the terms of international conflict, and to which nations continue to hold each other accountable, were outworked.

Whilst some would question the stringency of Calvin’s methods, what cannot be questioned is the consequence for Geneva as it found its freedom in Christ. Its story may be simply considered as past history and, although we note that confessing sin and church unity were significant factors, we certainly do not claim it as a “FIC story”. However, it can be a great stimulus to think of future possibility – because if something has happened once, it can happen again.

HOW Although the people who have the spiritual authority in your area are the church leaders, one church fellowship acting alone isn’t enough. The one thing Jesus prayed for us, as those who would come after His disciples, is that we would be one (John 17:21). A prerequisite for this kind of process is genuine unity. Ed Silviso and others have written extensively about this and it’s exciting to see many area-wide leaders’ prayer initiatives across the UK where that genuine unity increasingly exists. What if the leaders in a particular area, acting in genuine

unity, wielded the weapons God has given them to take away the footholds of the enemy in their locality by going through a “Setting Your Community Free” process? This process would not be about repenting on behalf of others, but simply using the power and authority we have as the Church of Jesus Christ to remove any footholds the enemy may have been given. As they dealt with sin by confessing and renouncing it, they would pull the rug from under his feet, significantly reducing spiritual blindness so that many would come to know the One who is the Truth.

This is just a flavour of where the Lord seems to be leading. More will be shared at the events in March (see front cover). This “bigger picture” is indeed big – but we have a big God too. If you are as excited about this as we are, do let us know (see below).

(Our grateful thanks go to Derek Frank, Pastor of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Geneva, for providing the summary of events in Geneva at the time of the Reformation)



Are We Going The Same Way?

Revelation 19:7 says “The wedding of the lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready”. This wedding – the most exciting event that will happen anywhere ever – is unstoppable. It is definitely going to happen. It is the bride (ie us the Church), who is responsible for making herself ready. This is not something we can expect God to do for us – it’s down to us.

Freedom In Christ Ministries is all about helping the bride prepare herself. Our role is to support and encourage church leaders. As they help individuals understand who they are in Christ and commit themselves to truth... as whole churches realise that they already have everything they need to storm the gates of Hell and see their communities turned upside down... the bride is preparing herself.

One of the passions we have is to point out gently that we do not need to keep asking God for “more” – for more of His Spirit, more power or more authority. God is already pouring His Spirit out (in fact streams of living water are flowing from within). We already have working within us the power that raised Christ from the dead. The One who has “all authority” has already delegated it to us to make disciples.

We do, however, need to learn to use what He has already given us: the ability to walk together in genuine unity and love so that the world will know that we are His disciples; taking back ground that has been surrendered to the enemy in our individual lives, churches and communities; wielding the weapons of righteousness; interceding. Then the gates of Hell will simply not be able to hold out against us.

Steve Goss says, “If this excites you, please let me know by e-mailing me on exec@fcm.org.uk. We will want to keep in touch as we work together towards seeing communities turned upside down for Christ.”