



Courageous Hearts Ministries

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CH Ministries Update

By Steve and Sherilyn Cook

It's been an exciting and busy beginning for Courageous Hearts Ministries (CH Ministries)!

➤ We've formed our non-profit corporation, Courageous Hearts Ministries, Inc., and put together a really great board of directors. We've finished filing for 501(c)(3) non-profit status and should get a final ruling from the IRS early in 2010. (You should check with your tax-advisor about claiming donations made to the ministry prior to our receiving approval for nonprofit status - the IRS may allow these deductions as these donations were made in "good faith"). Several people have donated generously to the ministry and we have been able to put these funds to good use.

➤ We have finished two series of Sunday school classes at Timberline Church in Fort Collins. What is taught in the 10 classes parallels (but is a subset of) the material covered in Sherilyn's book, "With All My Heart, I Will Love You. A Journey to Become All God Created You to Be." Each participant also had a copy of the book to study between classes. Feedback from the first series was used to improve the class and material taught. Subsequently, the second series was recorded this fall and we have produced a 10-DVD set of this material. This set, in conjunction with the book, form a set of training materials suitable for Sunday school classes at churches or for home fellowship groups and other small groups.

It is exciting seeing people being set free to "Love God with All Their Heart."

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➤ CH Ministries is providing counseling for singles or couples. The 30 hours of counseling is completed in one week and is free. It is offered to anyone who has either read the book or gone through the DVD series. Counselees are only responsible for travel, room and meals. After finishing the first Sunday school series, Sherilyn counseled four separate singles and couples that went through the class. Because people coming for counseling have a firm grounding in what is taught in the book and classroom, they come ready for counseling and are much more quickly able to identify their issues and get them resolved. It is exciting seeing people being set free to "Love God with All Their Heart."

➤ The infrastructure for our website is in place and a brief description of the ministry is now displayed there (CourageousHeartsMinistries.org). Steve is working on the full-blown website and will try to have it ready for publication in the next couple of months.

➤ The manuscript for Sherilyn's book has been sent to our publisher, Xlibris. They are currently copyediting and will have the edited version ready for our review in early January. Artwork for the book is done and is included with the manuscript. By March, we should have books ready for order.

As you can tell, the ministry is off to a wonderful and promising start. God has been so good helping us so much with finances, time, strength, direction and encouragement - from Him and many of you.

What's Next

After the holidays, we'll be starting the 3rd class at Timberline Church. This time, instead of live, the new set of DVDs will be used for teaching the class, along with the book. In this way, we'll be testing out these materials and this method of presenting the concepts. Sherilyn and I will also be present to answer questions and lead any discussion.

A pastor in Nebraska is very interested in using the materials we have developed in his church. He is familiar with our counseling philosophy and methods and wants to work with us to introduce the material into his church. In late January, Sherilyn and I will travel to Nebraska to introduce the ministry to a few members in his church. Over the next few months, classes and counseling will follow, culminating in a seminar series in the fall for everyone in the church. The seminar material will need to be developed before then and will be an appropriate subset of the more comprehensive material covered in the book.

A few months later, Sherilyn and I will return to the church to begin special training for those who want to learn how to counsel others. Materials for this counseling training also need to be developed.

Farther into the future, we want to develop materials for young engaged and married couples and even high school age groups. We believe that, if young people could be exposed to the principles taught by Courageous Hearts Ministries – be a part of what we call “preventative” counseling – they stand a much better chance of avoiding problems in their lives, living more abundantly, and being much more effective in ministry.

With God's help and blessing, we will continue to develop strategies to successfully introduce the biblical concepts taught by Courageous Hearts Ministries into churches and other groups throughout the US and even beyond.

Ministry Musings

By Steve Cook

Our ministry's goal is to enable people to become all that God created them to be. One of our ministry's foundational beliefs is the idea that every person is born with the innate ability to love and be loved – it is part of being created in the image of God as taught in Genesis 1:26–27. When people are *unable* to love others or receive love, there is something wrong – something happened to them somewhere along the way that changed this ability. It could be things done to them or perhaps choices they made themselves. The enemy's goal for us is isolation, but God's intent for his people is to have loving relationships with each other and with him.

Our ministry seeks to help people discover what went wrong and, with God's direction and power, resolve those very issues and set people free to

finally be able to love and be loved. When they can do this, they become “the light that shines before men” (Matt 5:15–16) and are then fully able to love God with all their heart as God commands us in the first and foremost commandment (Mark 12:29–30).

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