



# Courageous Hearts Ministries

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## CH Ministries Update

By Steve and Sherilyn Cook

Last fall, we recorded the Courageous Hearts Sunday school class at Timberline Church and, starting in January, used the DVDs to teach the class for 10 weeks. We were very happy to see the class emotionally connect and not be distracted while watching the DVDs. Next time, we'll even make tissues available for the first class! This connection was quite gratifying, as this gives us confidence that these principles can be effectively taught using DVDs so we don't always have to be there in person.

Several people in the class followed up with counseling this spring and summer and many plan to return again for our class in September and for counseling. It seems a few people desire to receive additional counseling after each class. What is exciting is that we are now getting referrals from word of mouth. Several couples outside of our church have been given class materials and they can come to counseling after reading the book or watching the DVDs.

We were given notice by the IRS that, as of Feb 10, that CH Ministries had been approved as a 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry. All donations are to the ministry are tax-deductible. We have also applied for trademark registration of our logo of a cross with two connected hearts. We are learning what it means to run an effective non-profit.

We have made copies of and distributed over 70 books in the last six months. Several were sent to various churches for review. The DVDs will be great teaching material for home fellowship groups, bi-

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ble studies and Sunday school classes as well as for personal growth for individuals and couples. As soon as we have available money we will get the DVDs massed-produced. All the copies now are being produced using Steve's laptop! Already we have contacts in Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Alaska and Nebraska!

We are amazed how God is meeting all of our needs financially. I guess we shouldn't be amazed, but we are truly blessed. Several people who are partnering with us, by giving a small nominal donation per month, are either out of work or have limited finances. These sacrificial donations are such a blessing and an encouragement to us! All of your donations go 100% toward the ministry, not even toward salaries or rent. We are trying to be diligent with God's money.

Two and one-half weeks after knee surgery, Agilent asked Steve to come back to work as a contract software engineer for five months. It's helped our finances, but certainly delayed progress on our web page. He's been able to help me keep up with the demands from the company publishing our book.

We are so thankful that the ministry is moving forward at a steady pace and we're not feeling overloaded.

So much has also been happening in our personal lives! Steve had a knee replacement on January 11.

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He was still able to help run the spring Sunday-school class while on crutches as the doctor didn't want him putting any weight on it for 30 days. It was slow going at first, but he's walking normally now, even playing some golf in a men's league.

On June 24th, Steve is leaving for 6 weeks on a motorcycle, traveling from coast to coast. I will join him in Chicago and together we'll wind our way to North Carolina to see son Dan. He now has a 3 year old son and a new baby girl as of March 15 and we haven't even seen her yet!

## What's Next

We have been reviewing our publisher's galley proofs of Sherilyn's book, "With All My Heart, I Will Love You." We hope to have published copies actually in our hands by September! Our costs per book will drop significantly.

## Ministry Musings

By Sherilyn Cook

This year, I've learned some amazing things that I feel will change my life forever. In December, I was counseling a young woman and out of the blue we discovered that both of our father's loved us! We were talking about some mean things they did to us that actually damaged us tremendously. All of a sudden we realized that they were really caring so passionately about us that they cared by "reacting off the chart" (ROCKing).

This is what happened. When I was in 3rd grade, my dad spanked me over and over for not knowing how to tell time and it was not a punishment done in love. It was overboard and I would even call it abusive. However... My dad quit school when he was ten. He never had a chance to return to school in his youth. He was in his early 30's when he earned his GED. He so wanted me to be educated that all he could do was beat it into me. His love was twisted, but he cared and took the time and effort to help me

This next winter, we will be working on a seminar series of 3-4 lecture sessions. The seminar material will be an appropriate subset of the more comprehensive material covered in the book. Once the basic seminar material is developed, we will alter it as necessary to teach different groups like high-schoolers, married couples, or engaged couples.

Steve has been accepted in a program to go back to college for two years to seek an Associate of Science degree in accounting. What an amazing opportunity for him to learn some of the skills he needs to help run the ministry at no cost to the ministry.

We plan on continuing on teaching the Sunday school class using the DVDs this next fall and spring at Timberline Church. The response there has been wonderful and we continue to see God open doors there as we seek His will and direction in this exciting ministry.

the only way he knew how. He did this because he loved me.

The bible says all of our righteousness is as filthy rags. For the past ten years I have bravely looked at my shortcomings as a parent and a Christian. Almost focusing too much on my failures. I realized that I was passionate about my sons. I wanted them to have music lessons, sports, Boy Scouts - things I never had. I wanted to be a part of their lives. I ROCKed in all of these areas and drove them crazy for years. This January, I realized how very much I

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loved them even though all my best efforts, like my dad's, were as filthy rags. For the first time, I was really able to forgive myself.

This is a journey we are all on. It is so exciting to watch God speaking and helping people and blessing us along the way. We are so glad you are a part of this ministry to help people find freedom in Christ. If you would like to have a set of DVDs to use in your church or for small groups, please contact us and let us know what you need.

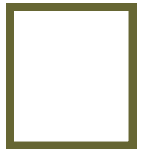
God bless you and thank you so much for all of your encouragement. I have begun calling each of you "Partners in Glory." Then I laughed when I realized that makes us all PIG's!

## Prayer requests:

- ▶ A job for R. W. who has been out of work for two years. Pray they can sell their house.
- ▶ Pray God will continue to talk to us, lead and direct and teach us. We would love to have prayer for safe road travels this summer as we take a break from the book and ministry.
- ▶ Please pray that pastors and church leaders will take the time to look at this material and they will see value in using it to teach in their churches.



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