



From our Heart to Yours

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Mission

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

My Lower Story in God’s Upper Story

“The Story” is a popular Bible study giving a compressed overview of the Bible. This Sunday’s message related that there are two levels in life, the upper and lower story. Jeremiah 29:11 says that God is actively involved in guiding and directing our lives, but sometimes don’t you want to ask, “God, my life doesn’t seem to be going all that well right now. Is this what you have planned for me?”

Everyday life often doesn’t make sense. I don’t understand why things happen, why people act the way they do, or why something doesn’t work out when I did my very best. I don’t know why some days are so difficult. But here’s the thing...my life isn’t the complete story. It’s only a piece of God’s story.

Author and pastor Randy Frazee says to understand the Bible, we need to view it with a dual lens, one that allows us to see the Upper Story and the Lower Story. The Upper Story is God’s grand story of something larger—His eternal plans.



The Lower Story is our individual stories of everyday life—the struggles, the joys, the getting through the day-to-day. God’s Upper Story encompasses our Lower Stories.

Most of us, if we’re honest, came from difficult childhood experiences of one degree or another. We build walls to protect ourselves, then bring these walls into each new relationship, leading to more pain and frustration.

You may have been emotionally drained by a needy mother, causing you to step up to the plate and become the parent at age six. Or, you were broken hearted as a child when your loving father died, leaving you

alone with no strong man to protect and guide you. Feeling helpless, you get into one bad relationship after another; broken marriages, disappointment, betrayal, lack of affirmation, etc.

Thankfully, all of these things are designed to draw us to a more intimate relationship with the living God who created us for His grand story and divine purpose. God knows what we really need. We tend to see life horizontally, a very limited viewpoint that results in fear and hopelessness. We are so wrapped up in

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our struggles that we focus on God fixing them rather than leaving them behind and joining with God in His Upper Story. God wants us to look up to Him, having an Upper Story perspective! Let's trust Him to be our 'Safe Place' as we live in our Lower Story. We can be a part of a Grand Story that is more fulfilling than anything we could dream of.

(excerpt from gloriadeionline)

CFJH Annual Conference

"Understanding & Caring for the Heart"

October 20—24, 2013
Griner Mennonite Church
Middlebury, Indiana

Evening sessions are free and open to the public.

Afternoon workshops for teaching and training will require registration and fee.

Register on line at:
www.caringfortheheart.com

Praise and Prayer

Praise

- ◆ For the FMQC Board who supports and encourages us when we need it
- ◆ For the great turn out for the Trivia Night in September and the finances raised.

Prayer

- ◆ For the enemy to be bound in clients lives so they can hear and understand God's truth.
- ◆ For God's strength and encouragement for us as we deal with many relationship problems.
- ◆ For God's provision financially.

Electronic Donations

Freedom Ministries, a 'by faith' ministry, has relied on the generous financial support of those who stand with us as we help hurting people discover and experience true freedom in Christ. We do not charge for our services. God has never failed to "supply all our needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus," yet, there are months, especially the summer ones, when we fall far short of our budget. Often, we wait until the end of the year to see our support pick up again. We would like to encourage you, our regular supporters, and those considering giving to our ministry, to use a more consistent method of helping us meet our budget.

- ◆ **"EFT" (Electronic Funds Transfer)** allows our bank, to take your donation from your bank, a specific amount on a specific date, monthly, quarterly or semi-annual.
- ◆ **"Bill Pay"** allows you to set up with your bank to send a specific amount on a specific date directly to Freedom Ministries.
- ◆ **"Pay Pal"** allows you to donate on our WEB site, but they charge 2.2% of the donation.

These are ways to make consistent contributions to our ministry. This will help FMQC to meet its needs and it will help you make regular donations automatically. Personally, we have found "Bill Pay" to be the easiest and a "fee free" way to contribute to the Lords work. Please prayerfully consider supporting Freedom Ministries regularly in this way. Call (309-764-6881) or email (freedomministries@att.net) if you have questions.

Update on Lauren

Our granddaughter, Lauren will have scans again on November 6. Please continue to pray for no cancer growth and peace for the family.

If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please contact us. Our email address is: **freedomministries@att.net** or write to: Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 953, Moline, IL 61266-0953