



# FREEDOM MINISTRIES

of the Quad Cities

PO Box 953  
Moline, IL 61266-0953

309.764.6881

freedomministries@att.net  
www.freedomministriesofqc.org

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## The Beginning of Knowledge

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7*

The other day, when my back was turned, our 15 year old grandson and cousin saw some old couches across the street from our house on the boulevard that had been set out for pickup.

"Wow," they said! "We could use those!!!" So, they impulsively picked them up, **(without asking anyone's permission, without thinking how they were going to get them to their house, without asking if mom would allow them in her house, without asking his brother if he would haul them in his truck)** and dragged them over into our driveway. Now, there they sit, in front of grandpa's garage, instead of on the neighbor's boulevard or at my grandson's house! You can probably understand my frustration. How should I respond to my grandson? My dear wife reminds me I made the same kind of impulsive decisions when I was his age! My elderly next-door neighbor saw the whole escapade and asked me, "Why is it we have to get old before we get wisdom?" Is that true? Do we have to get 'old' before we get wisdom?



Jeanine and I have been studying Proverbs for our morning devotions and I'm hoping to read a chapter in Proverbs daily over the next year. The Book of Proverbs contains more statements of true wisdom and practical knowledge than all the philosophy books ever written. There are two ways a man can follow in his life; the way of wisdom or the way of foolishness. That means a man may either be wise or be a fool. We want to think there is

some middle ground, but there is not. To be wise is to seek after wisdom, to desire it, to follow it, and to choose it over every way of foolishness. Solomon clearly states the vanity of foolishness: "...but fools despise wisdom and instruction." A fool, not only doesn't seek after wisdom, he actually despises it. A fool does not want to be instructed in a better way; he is perfectly satisfied to remain in his foolishness.

A man who desires wisdom may not have a great deal of knowledge, but he wants to be instructed. Do you ask God to reveal His will to you? Do you pray that He will lead you in His word to a greater understanding of it, so that you may live a life more pleasing to Him? Do you understand that Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God? Do you praise the Lord for revealing His Wisdom

### 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.

### Thank You

Thanks to all who supported this ministry in 2014. We are so encouraged to come so close to reaching our budget for the year. (The budget was \$80,340 and the Lord brought in \$77,253). God is faithful as we trust Him to provide. We want each of you to know how grateful we are for your faithful support both in prayer and finances. We could not do this ministry without your and God's help.

*In your heart? If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."*

*James 1:5* Now, Lord, what am I going to do with my grandson and those old couches in front of my garage???

Today is a good day to seek after the Wisdom of God.

## *Testimonies*

"Thank you for your love, kindness and time. We have a lot to work on but you gave us a good start and for that we will always be grateful. May the Lord bless you this year in a extra special way as you continue to work in His vineyard."

"Thank you so much for what you did for us! We will be forever grateful! We still encounter "bumps" but now we know what to do & where to go!"

"Thanks so much for taking the time to do a session with us! Keep doing what you do! We'll be keeping you in our prayers and hope to see you again sometime!"

"Thank you so much for your gift of meeting with me, for making time to be '*Jesus with skin on*' for me. Your loving, kind and gentle demeanor makes it easy to receive from you."

## *Praise and Prayer*

### **Praise**

- ◆ For God's provision of end of year large financial gifts that gave us full paychecks for 2014
- ◆ For the testimony of many changed lives

### **Prayer**

- ◆ For God's strength and encouragement as we seek to restore damaged relationships
- ◆ An additional Board member in 2015
- ◆ Courage for hurting couples to seek help for their marriage

## *Annual Report*

Praise God for His provision for FMQC. We are so grateful to those who help with our prayer letter, administration, to the many churches and individuals who support us prayerfully and financially, and to the host of prayer warriors who make this ministry possible. We are so thankful for our secretary, Kim Roach, who has served Freedom Ministries over nine years.

We have been blessed with a Board of Directors who serve sacrificially. Carole Gardner, our chairman, Kevin Hamilton, our vice chairman, Carol Jacks, our secretary, and Dave Hays, our treasurer. Dave Brummitt will come on board in January 2015. Carole Gardner and Dave Hays have completed their term in December. We are grateful for their commitment to this ministry.

The donations came very close to meeting our budget in 2014 and we praise God that all the bills are paid.

We continue to use Augustana Web Guild to design and manage the web site and Blog for Freedom Ministries. This blog receives many hits and responses from people who are searching for answers.

### **Speaking/Ministry Opportunities in 2014:**

- Spoke at the Caring for the Heart Retreat Feb. 23-28
- Preached at Faith Free, Moline May 4
- Led Peru mission team through Steps to Freedom July
- Taught at CFTH In-Depth Training, Co. Springs Aug 11-15
- Retreat speaker for Grace Baptist Family Camp Aug.29-31
- Taught/ MC'd CFTH Annual Conference, Sugar Creek, OH Oct. 26-30
- Presented the ministry to Karla Sandry's Bible study Oct.3
- Presented the ministry to CCF Sunday school class Oct.5
- Presented the ministry via Moody Radio interview Oct.16
- Taught/Counseled CFTH Canada In-Depth Training Nov. 17-21

We offered marriage counseling to 34 couples for four day extended sessions and had 180 1½ hour sessions with individuals plus phone counseling .

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