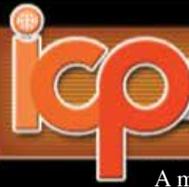




Bill and Rita Johnson



international christian publishers

A ministry sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church, Hamburg, AR



John and Sharon Sanders

ICP Newsletter

HOME

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May, 2022

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Devotional Thought
by Bill Johnson

WONDERFUL COUNSLEOR

"Pastor, I just don't think you could help much." The deacon's wife had already decided she would not change. But there is one who could bring about the change needed for the marriage to glorify God.

Jesus was a "Wonderful Counselor," according to Isaiah. He commissioned His church to help people find Him as Savior, and then help new-born children of God to experience Him through spiritual formation. As the great comforter, God the Holy Spirit was given to the church and its members as a live-in counselor.

The apostle Paul seemed to believe that Jesus' churches could also become a cradle of comfort for those suffering and distressed by the daily conflict between spiritual and carnal thoughts and practices.



Churches should involve members in helping each other grow in grace and love, as well as knowledge of the Word. In Galatians 6:1 we find Paul admonishing spiritually mature, non-carnal members to coax any weaker members to turn away from sinful or moral failures. In a spirit of meekness and empathy, mature Christians should guide weaker ones to entertain only pure thoughts and embrace a lifestyle based upon godly values. We should continually evaluate our own actions and motives to assure that we "fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). We bear our own burdens and we empathize with or help others bear theirs.

Our Wonderful Counselor called us to "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We must show compassion and empathy with those who are caught up in a fault.

The deacon's marriage failed, but the young pastor learned to be more perceptive of those who needed counsel and, as he was used by our Wonderful Counselor, to bring change in many lives.

Are you helping people find the Wonderful Counselor and cast their burdens upon Him?

PHILIPPINES PROPERTY EXCHANGE

ICP/His Offspring Ministry has purchased a new site for a future home. Just a few miles from the current

rented office of His Offspring Ministry, away from the crowded, noisy city streets, Jeremiah has found a 1.1 acre plot that seems well suited for a new home for the ministry. Two of the three lots we purchased a few years ago were sold for almost enough to buy more than four times the original property size.



As soon as Jeremiah's wife, Eleine, who is a registered architect, draws plans for first phase of the new home for the ministry, construction will begin. Crews are already clearing the property of grass and debris to make ready for building.

As God provides building funds, we hope to be able to relocate the ministry from the current rented home by the end of October 2022.



Above, gate, before and after painting. Left, worker cuts grass to make ready for site preparation.



CHARACTER CLUB
First Baptist Church
 Ron Canard, Pastor
 Cave City, Arkansas

Character Club students of First Baptist Church, Cave City, Arkansas, recently shared memory verses, Bible stories and songs learned the past two semesters. An average of fifty-five children (2 years old through sixth grade) and fifteen teachers/helpers attended the past year. This August, First Baptist will begin her fifth year of Character Code for Life Character Club. Many young people have been saved during these past four years, and we look forward to many more salvations in the coming year.

During the height of the covid pandemic, First Baptist mailed lessons weekly to the children, along with messages to the parents. Every week, eighty-five children received their lessons. Parents, as well as the Character Club teachers, were so glad that we were able

to continue the Biblical values training during such a difficult time for families and for our country.

If your church is not yet using Character Code for Life curriculum, I encourage you to check it out at www.icplit.org. It is, without question, a life-changing, doctrinally sound children's program.

John Sanders, Character Club Director



Preschool 2 and 3 Bible Club
 Kristen Smart, Alysha Bradley, Leaders



Primary (grades 1, 2 and 3) Character Club
 Sharon Reid, Cathy Saffel and Jill Carr, Leaders



Intermediate (grades 4, 5, and 6) Bible Club
 Leaders: Tina Tuggle and Sandra Battles



Preschool 4 and 5, Character Club
 Jennifer Walling, Kim Hunter and Vickie Canard, Leaders