

Words from the Woodwards

June, 2023

"For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:5,6).

Dear friend,

Thank you for your participation in this Christ centered counseling and training ministry.

T. Austin-Sparks observed, "The Lord deals with us in order that we might be able to minister in an apt way. His stewards are to be men of understanding, who can touch the various needs, who can reach the heart, so that the Lord's children are saying: That just fits me! That touches my case! That person must know! That one must have been through it! Yes, the Lord knows, and He would take you and me through experiences such as will make us sharers in a living way—and that is what He is doing." This reminds me of my counseling mentor, Charles Solomon. His teaching about rejection and deliverance from debilitating psychological problems had a powerful, experiential witness.

As a pastor and counselor, I "amen" the following insight: "It is a new day to your soul when you realize that Christ is the Source of everything, and that it is from Himself you must draw, and not from ministry about Him." What a privilege, calling, and responsibility...

On May 14th I had the opportunity to give two teaching sessions to our sister ministry in **India**. They have been learning how to do training online, which will help them reach out to the vast population of India.

I recently revised our **Christ centered children's counseling course**. It is now online at GraceStudyHall.org. I hope this will increase the visibility and usefulness of this important course.

We appreciate prayer for our local **Seminar** on July 28 and Exchange Life Counseling **Workshop** July 31 – August 3. We pray that God will draw a good attendance and use Mark and I in the teaching and training.

We have had telephone planning meetings for a mission trip scheduled for August. Mark and I plan travel to **South Africa** and team up with our sister Ministries there, Curare (curarecc.org). We have been asked to present the Finding Freedom Seminar on Saturday, August 12. The following week we are to be in **Cameroon** to minister at a pastors conference August 16–18. About 1000 pastors and chaplains are expected to attend this annual event. Mark and I will preach as keynote speakers and present workshops. We ask for prayer for God's guidance in our preparation, for safety in travel, and for anointing on these strategic ministry events.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we herald the good news of the Exchanged Life in discipleship, counseling, education, and equipping. God bless and encourage you daily with His grace.

Yours in Christ,

John



I helped with an activity for International Students—
a hike in the Smoky Mountain National Park.

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