

Counsel the Word

The Institute of Soteric Counseling

Greetings From the Entire Staff of ISC!

This is the seventh year since the formation of the Institute of Soteric Counseling. If seven is the spiritual number it is heralded to be, perhaps many good things are on God's agenda for this ministry during 2007. In fact, they have already begun to take place. We just completed the arrangements for the next ISC Training Conference to be held in Indianapolis, IN. We expect a sizeable increase in attendance since quite a few of those involved in the *Christian Counseling From Scripture* course are from the Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio area. It will be a great time for those in the Midwest to complete that leg of the certification process.

The conference will be held on Nov. 1-2, 2007 at the Clarion Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center, 2930 Waterfront Pkwy. W. Dr. in Indianapolis, IN 46214. You may make your reservations by calling 317-299-8400 and request ISC rates.

I would recommend that you plan to attend the conference even if you are not on the certification track. There will be a number of new topics that will be on the schedule this year. Each of them will be relevant to your work as a counselor. Don't miss this important meeting. We need training now more than ever. There are new challenges and new opportunities for Apostolic counseling to come to the forefront. We are on the cutting edge. Let's be sharp!

I join with our Secretary, Sister Lynda Doty, Board Member Nathaniel Wilson, Advisory Committee members

Shelia Jones, Darrell Hudson, and Patrick J. Hancock, and webmaster Brenda Story to say: *See you in Indianapolis!*

J. R. Ensey, President
Institute of Soteric Counseling

False Memory Syndrome

One of the topics that will be discussed in the ISC Training Conference is the False Memory Syndrome. We will have a visual presentation featuring a family who was virtually destroyed because of church officials who were not informed about this popular psychological diagnosis that just keeps hanging around.

Soteric Counseling Gains in Popularity

One of the reasons for the rise in the popularity of soteric counseling has been the failure of the psychological approach to make a substantial difference in the lives of believers, who are our primary focus. We understand that those in the world will likely seek the world's way, but it is disheartening when we see so many of our own Apostolic brothers and sisters headed for the psychiatrist's couch. Virtually all of them will come away with a prescription for drugs. Our children in public schools are now in grave danger of being "screened" for psychological "disorders," which is like a dragnet for potential drug users. Evidently thousands of our own Apostolic youth are on some kind of psych meds. Please show us the children that are benefiting from such meds.

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"We are drugging entirely normal children. ADHD is 100% fraud."
- Fred Baughman, Jr., M. D.

Most of the cases we've seen have been situations where moms and dads opted for medication rather than providing biblical, common sense parenting.

Why are our children in need of such medication? They are not. Almost invariably, it is the stressful home life that is not ordered by Apostolic principles that brings frustration and anxiety into the lives of children. Parental neglect, absentee dads, separation and divorce, and abuse of one kind or another cause children to manifest unseemly behavior. It is not "chemical imbalance." It is not some manufactured "disease." These diagnoses come from school counselors who are motivated by teacher complaints and psychiatrists who are motivated by favors and kick-backs from the drug companies. This is why it is so important that we continue to develop soteric counselors who focus on solutions from the Word of God rather than the pill bottle. We must not be intimidated by those who have sat in college classrooms and learned how to think from a psychological mindset that, more often than not, is in opposition to the spiritual way we emphasize. I am still waiting on one pastor who sent someone to a psychiatrist who will testify that they came back whole...or even better. I have seen the biblical way of counseling from the Word work many times and am convinced that it is what is needed today.

Legally Abused Drugs

A February 29, 2007 Associated Press report is headlined: "Most Abused Drugs Now Of Legal Variety." Why are we not surprised at this? Because we see the results of such abuse virtually every day. AP writer William J. Kole cites the Narcotics Control Board's president claims that the "growing trade in fake prescription medications poses a deadly threat. Instead of healing, they can take lives."

The article cites statistics that indicate that up to 50% of all drugs taken in so-called developing countries are thought to be counterfeit. The number of Americans abusing prescription drugs nearly doubled from 7.8 million in 1992 to 15.1 million in 2003. By prescription drugs we are referring not only to psych meds but painkillers, such as Oxycontin and Vicodin. The article states that these painkillers were used and abused by 7.4% of college students in 2005.

Another AP article is headlined: "ADHD drugs to carry new warnings." The sub-head reads: "Users will be alerted to risks of mental and heart troubles—and of sudden death." Weren't Ritalin and Adderall and Strattera supposed to be wonder drugs for kids? Instead, they are ruining the minds of our children and making drug addicts out of them, at least those who don't commit suicide. All the drug companies need is

one or two positive testimonies to justify their continued use. Bear in mind that you can get such testimonies from people who take placebos and drink snake oil. We are not going to cease informing the Apostolic movement about the dangers of such drugs, nor curb our continued insistence that God's way is still the best way. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).

Kudos to Soteric Counseling!

We received the following from a victorious person: "Since I last wrote to you, God has changed my life so much. I can't believe how real He is to me now. Your words over and over again about loving God and getting away from self helped so much. Thank you!

I never want to go back and I won't. I am talking about in my relationship with God. I don't even feel that I have expressed what God has truly done for me, how He has changed my thoughts, how I can't seem to have enough of Him, how I pray, how I can trust Him now. These are just a few of the blessings He has bestowed on me. You can't be in the presence of God without it transforming you.

My eyes are opened, my heart full of joy, and a deep desire to please the One True God, My Lord and Savior. I am not talking about merely making me feel better. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for giving your life to God so that He can use you in a mighty way. Thank you taking the time to email me. Thank you for being a role model. And especially, thank you for having a prayer life for that is where the spiritual battles are fought. I know that I wrote to you about when I felt God lifted me up when I had every intention of shutting down, giving up completely. I have no doubt that someone was praying for me. That experience has continued to impact my life because it showed me beyond doubt what prayer can do and what God can do. As you once said, my life was bought at a very precious price. It is no longer mine, but His."

God Bless,
Sister Cyndi

Homework Assignment

We at ISC believe in doling out homework—which usually involves getting into the Word of God. I recently had a student who was greatly troubled with fear. She said she just could not get victory over it. Here is a homework assignment that I gave her. The Word of God works when all else fails!

Here, my friend, is some homework from me to you: go
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illusion of uniqueness and occurs at least for positive traits.

Besides the Barnum Effect there are other reasons why people believe in personality tests and types. When influential Christians and institutions promote these tests and when enthusiasm has been engendered, people tend to trust them. There is also a tendency to support a system in which one has invested time and money, even if the money is only the cost of a book. Unfortunately, the test user who becomes committed is the main source of others being enticed. The enthusiastic user becomes the enthusiastic promoter, often merely parroting the enthusiasm of the original promoter. It may be that the real Barnum Effect is Barnum's comment, "There's a sucker born every minute."

[For more information, see Chapter 11 of Missions & PsychoHeresy.]

(PAL V8N4 * July-August)

7-Year-Old Boy Becomes a Girl—*No Choice?*

By Steve Hinnefeld
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February 19, 2007

Ashley transitioned from boy to girl over Christmas break. She took a girl's name, moved to a new school and started wearing girl clothes.

She is 7 years old.

And for the first time, she is happy and confident, said her mother, Shannon. After struggling through half a year of first grade as a boy — bullied, depressed, even suicidal — she has come into her own.

"My husband and I realized that we had a shell of our child prior to transition," Shannon said. "A little boy who never wanted people to draw attention to him, who was shy, quiet and introverted.

"Now we have a little girl who loves for people to pay attention to her and talks nonstop. Her self-esteem is 100 percent better."

"I did not sign up for this," she said. "It was not part of the parenting plan I envisioned for myself."

While Ashley is happy now, Shannon knows her life will include challenges, with puberty a major issue. "Puberty's tough for any kid," she said. "For a trans kid, entering puberty is absolute betrayal in their eyes."

She expects to consult with a pediatric endocrinologist in Boston, who will administer drugs to block male puberty and, later, cause female puberty.

There are worries about social acceptance, relationships and "nights I cry myself to sleep," Shannon said. But she doesn't doubt the family is doing the right thing.

"No one, child or adult, would put themselves through the scrutiny and antagonism they receive by being trans," she said. "It's not a choice."

Mental Health Expert Highlights Abortion's Impact On Men

Jim Brown and Jody Brown OneNewsNow.com
February 19, 2007

A campus psychiatrist at UCLA is drawing attention to the only study she has found on young men's responses to abortion. Those men, she asserts, are part of a group of abortion victims who have been essentially "invisible" to those in her profession. Mental health professionals, she says, need to stop ignoring the reality that abortion leaves emotional scars.

The study on men's responses to abortion was not conducted by a mental health professional, but rather a sociologist and academic by the name of Dr. Arthur Shostak. Shostak surveyed 1,000 men sitting in the waiting rooms of abortion facilities across the U.S. and found that 80 percent of those men indicated that that had been the longest and darkest day of their life.

Dr. Miriam Grossman, a psychiatrist at UCLA's student health service, says Shostak then followed those men for months, and even some for years.

"The numbers went up [over that time]," she observes. "The number of men who reported that day feeling some guilt and some ambivalence about what they were doing; the number of men who were asked 'Do you think that in the future you might have some troubling thoughts about this?' -- the percentages went up." Adds Grossman: "So a few years afterwards, they were re-

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porting that it was worse than they had anticipated.”

Grossman says men's reactions to abortion have been ignored by her colleagues in the mental health field. “There is a significant number of people who do have those scars and that painfulness,” she says, “and if we are going to be open to victims of every sort, then we in mental health need to be acknowledging them even if they don't advance a particular ideology.”

In fact, commenting on his research, Dr. Shostak has suggested the professional counseling community adopt what he calls a “pro-couple approach to the abortion challenge” that can help those who have abortions recover from “an experience from which they are never quite the same.” According to Grossman, Shostak conducted the research because he went through an abortion as a grad student and has wondered ever since what would have happened had he and his partner decided differently.

Depression

by Al Friend

Friend Family Ministries

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It will stymie Revival. It will blunt a Ministry.

It is a debilitating condition, and it needs to be addressed.

I am talking about depression.

Depression. What is it? Ever had it? Who hasn't. Depression hides until it makes mental inroads to the point of damaging the life and potential of a perfectly good person. It is in the church and not many know how to take hold of it.

You need to learn how to deal with depression. First you must recognize it and want help. Then, after you identify it, take hold of yourself and look into the scriptures. The answer to depression is in the Bible. Take the time to investigate this. You will help yourself and learn how to help others.

Psalms 43:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? **hope in God:** for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. **God is the health of my countenance.**

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you that believe not.

I have learned to say the same words Jesus said. When I repeat His words the same spirit and life are in them. I believe His Word in season when I am happy - and - out of season when I am depressed. The power is in the Words Jesus spoke. Repeat them and depression will be replaced with inspiration.

Depression keeps you immobile. It makes you want to stay in bed. It slows the mind. It is the thief in John 10:10 that comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. Satan wants you depressed spiritually. Jesus answer to that sad situation is: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. Get up and get out.

The Holy Ghost will inspire depression out of you. To sit through a church service worrying about your problems is pure unbelief. Unbelief does not get more pure than that.

- Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing (do not worry about anything); but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep (guard the gate to) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The peace of God is stronger than your biggest problem. It is a spirit that comes on you letting you know everything is going to be all right. The verse, casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you, is a powerful invitation given by God in 1 Peter 5:7.

The formula is: Pray until you pray through. Study until the inspiration comes, as it surely will.

I just received this from a lady I counseled online:

I also made a visit to my counselor's office, the first since we terminated a few months ago. Know what she said? "This is a spiritual problem and therefore needs to be handled by your spiritual leaders." I love it!!

The Institute of Soteric
Counseling

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The 6th Annual ISC Training Conference will be held

November 1 -2 , 2007

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