

# Set Free Update

A Monthly  
Publication of  
**Set Free  
Ministries**



APRIL 2007

## WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME ABOUT THIS YEARS AGO?



These are the words we hear again and again from people who have found their freedom in Christ. Struggling with alcohol and drug addiction, 42 year old John gravitated into being a robber in order to sustain his habit. He occasionally attended the church he attended as a youth with his parents. Most of his life was lived from crack house to jail, to crack house, rescue missions, etc. His marriage ended in divorce and his three children did not want to talk with him. He lost his home and business.

He continued to seek release from the terrible burden of hurt, anger, guilt and shame by talking with counselors who could not supply the freedom he was seeking.

One day, at the end of his endurance, he tried to commit suicide. As he stood at the side of the river, cold, hungry and lonely, ready to jump in, a little eight year old boy came up to him and said: "Mister, it is pretty cold in the water, I have a blanket at home you can have, it will keep you warm." John hesitated, looked at the boy and said, "Boy, why would you do that for me?" The boy didn't answer John, just took him by the hand and led him the two blocks it took to his house. He asked John to sit down in the kitchen, made a peanut butter/jelly sandwich for him and told him that he would be right back. After a short while the boy was back with the blanket, gave it to John, and told him that his mom always made him a peanut butter/jelly sandwich when he was feeling bad. They talked for a while till the boy's mom came home and heard the story. That night, after a warm shower, John slept in a clean bed for the first time in years. She made an appointment for John at Set Free and drove John to the appointment the following day.

As he talked with us it became apparent how hurt and angry John was and the terrible abuse he suffered as a teen. He was never shown any love, and never was told that he was important. How his own sin tormented him, how he thought there was no forgiveness for him. When he learned how loving and caring God is by sending His Son Jesus to this world for his (John's) sin, and that he was not responsible for the abuse that he suffered by other people, and that by forgiving other people for the sin that they committed against him through their abuse, he just wept. He kept saying, "Wow, wow" when he realized that there was forgiveness for him. He kept saying that he felt 100 pounds lighter.

That day John received his freedom from torment by giving his heart and all his hurt and hatred to Jesus. We celebrated with a high five many times over as he said: "Thank you, Jesus". I could almost hear the angels in heaven rejoicing. It was absolutely marvelous to see the change in John, from a broken man to a healed, joyous person.

Today, John has been reconciled with most of the people who hurt him the most. He has a responsible job, and enjoys life. He knows now how to fight the temptations that come his way with the Word of God. He is hard at work telling others how Jesus changed his life and how Jesus can change anyone. We give thanks, and praise our mighty God for the marvelous work He does through the Holy Spirit in people's lives.

by Paul Taming



## ENCOURAGER'S REPORT

As I look back on the last year and review in my mind the freedom appointments I have been involved in, a couple of things stand out to me. First and foremost is the fact that the truth of God's Word is effective to help resolve personal bondage issues in people regardless of their age and circumstances. Truth is truth and it sets us free regardless of who we are or where we have been before coming to the Lord for freedom. I have been blessed this year to have had the opportunity to help men from the age of 21 to 68. Their spiritual problems are different yet each has a common element. They all want to be free from something that interferes with their life. It may be depression, anxiety, fear, occult activities, or generational sins passed down to them. They all have at least one thing in common. They all know that "something" is not right and they want help. Typically, most people in bondage do not realize or understand that they need to take an active role in their spiritual lives. This means submitting themselves to God, resisting the enemy, putting on the whole armor and standing firm in the truth. When they begin to understand this process it is as if a whole new world opens up to them. It is truly revelatory in some cases. Thank God for the work of His Spirit in us. The seven steps that we use during the freedom process are comprehensive enough to meet everyone's need at some level. The steps introduce them to the process of getting free and the steps contain the prayers, declarations and statements of faith that will help them continue on the path of freedom after the freedom appointment is over. It is truly a blessing to be part of this ministry.

by Bill Vogelzang