



# Biblical Foundations For Freedom

Releasing God's Life-changing Truth To A New Generation

## BFF 2010 MINISTRY & FINANCIAL REPORT

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Dear BFF Supporters,

The year 2010 has not only been the closing of another year but the closing of a wonderful decade of BFF ministry. *Biblical Foundations for Freedom* began from a desperate cry to God for direction and provision. The Lord was waiting for my cry before He would reveal where He was taking me.

The apostle wrote, “For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me” (Romans 15:18). God has faithfully been pouring out ideas, resources and provisions to carry out the growing BFF ministry. Only the living Christ could do so much through so little.

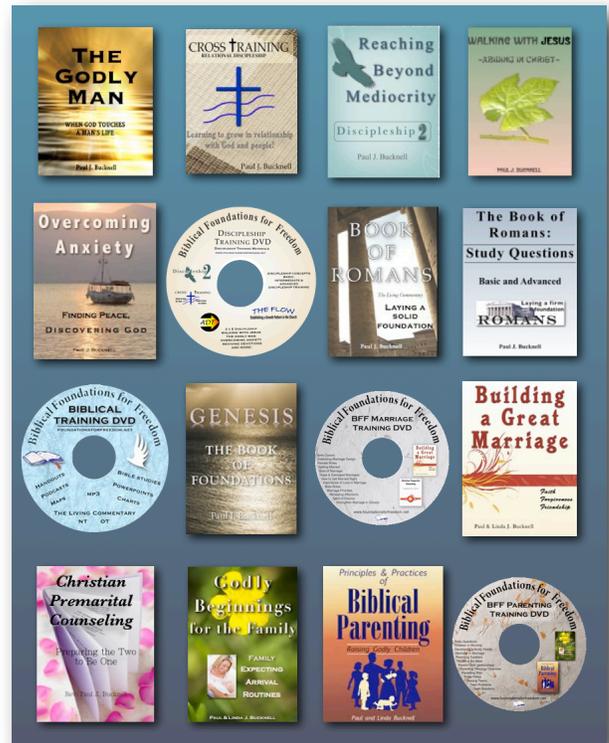
I recently spoke to an old high school friend (hadn't talked to him for thirty years!) He runs a mid-sized business. After hearing about the ministry, he asked how we were supported. I told him by prayer and faith. Although he was quite skeptical at first, he had to admit the Lord had been caring for this ministry and our large family for ten years. Time proves God's faithfulness.

Survival, however, is not our goal. More important is the way the Lord has developed a great number of quality training materials and provided for many international training seminars.

### *Ten years ago*

Ten years ago, we started with no materials. I had never written a web page, let alone a book. Now it is hard to keep track of the multiple training materials being distributed to many nations through the web.

At the very beginning, the Lord prompted me to use my free time to write on the important topic of overcoming sexual lust. Since then God has continued to pour out ideas, concepts, and practical ways to develop media-rich materials for God's people. Who would have thought that I hated English and public speaking in high school?



## ***God's Transforming Work***

From BFF's inception God has deeply moved my heart not only to write about God's Word but to write and speak so that people could be changed. This is the reason behind our name, *Biblical Foundations for Freedom*. We seek God's liberating transformation in the lives of our readers and viewers. Jesus captures this thought in the word 'life' such as in eternal life.

All our training materials are built on faith in God's awesome Word. He changes lives. We are humbled to hear testimony after testimony of how the Lord has used these training materials to bring change.

One pastor's wife struggled greatly during the recent Myanmar seminar. Someone told me that she wanted to speak with me but never found the chance.



She did not have to. At the end of the seminar she bravely stood up among the 150 pastors and shared how God had worked through the seminar messages to deliver her from the deep personal struggles in her marriage and life. Here are a few other reports.

### **❖ From a minister in Malawi,**

"Thank you so much for the Dvd which you sent. It really helped me so much and my life has changed."

### **❖ From a pastor in Bolivia**

"I live with my wife and three children in Bolivia. I am the pastor of the Evangelical Church. Several times I wanted to write to you and make you know that God was working in my life through your studies.

Through your web site, I have been able to know what God is doing in different countries and I have prayed many times in my heart so that through your ministry, God continues working with power and changing the lives of people, like He is changing my life.

God is using your web teachings for mentoring my life and to help me make the kind of man and pastor that I should be. Only in the heaven you will be able to understand the influence of the ministry of Biblical Foundations for Freedom."

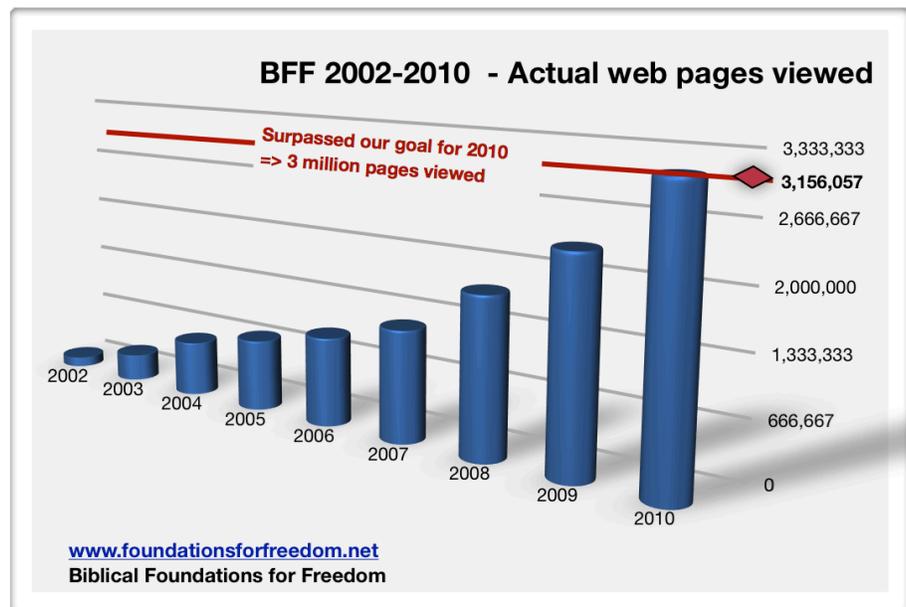
*Biblical Foundations for Freedom* is founded on the belief that God wants to change people through His Spirit working through His Word, at a seminar, through written materials or by a video message. From those first few, simple pages about lust, BFF has expanded to more than four DVD's worth of training materials. The Biblical Training DVD alone would require **almost ten reams of paper** to print out.

### *God saw into the future*

Back in 2000, when this ministry began, many people had hopes for the newly popular web, but the development of the web has gone far beyond what we could ever have dreamed. I started with what is now an archaic AOL modem connection. What a contrast to the present innovations like streaming and wireless.

Like a surfer riding along the crest of a long rolling wave, God has used the increasing popularity and technological advances of the web to increase our ministry and quality of materials every year.

We had enormous growth last year and surpassed our goal of 3 million web pages viewed. Notice the growth over the last ten years on the chart to the right. This does not include the impact of printed books, DVDs and seminars. These are also increasing.



BFF is not like other websites that only organize content. By God's grace, BFF generates quality Christian content with the hope of imparting God's grace into people's lives. The use of the web will continue to increase as markets for smart phones, iPads and the like increase.

## God's gift to us has been our gift to the world!

God has been graciously enabling us to offer these libraries of training material to people all around the world. Pastors in impoverished regions of the world that have received our free DVD have shown great appreciation.

### ❖ From a Bible teacher in South Africa:

"I must say that I am extremely delighted and commit to put to good use the material you have sent. It is our prayer that God would enlarge your ministry."

The double-sided DVD is loaded (over 8 gb) with quality training material so that we cannot add any more to it. What a difference this library of training material makes in the lives of these pastors and teachers throughout the world.

With technological innovations and discoveries, God is guiding our hands.

### *Defining Our Ministries*

I have felt increasingly constrained in ministry over the last few years but didn't quite know what was holding me back. I finally had one breakthrough.

Ministry trips overseas are expensive and very limited. Starting with my first trips overseas I tried to record the bilingual training sessions.

- The first step came when I recorded the audio training.
- Then I learned how to tape my seminars along with my slides (podcasts).
- Lastly, I learned how to record slides, speaker in video along with audio in high definition.

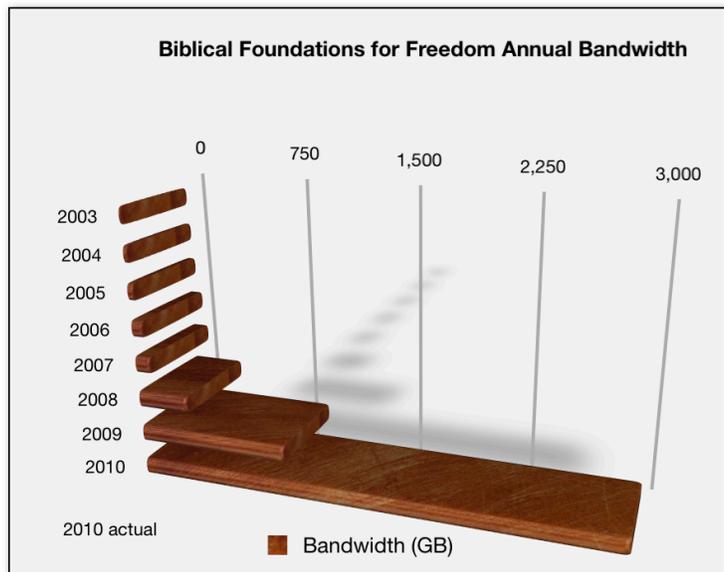
That started an onslaught of bilingual training videos. The number of videos, however, quickly became a sore point.

First, I had no time to process them. Secondly, I had no room on my computer or space on the website to store them all. Over the last year, the higher quality increased my problems.

Although editing videos was becoming easier due to better applications, I was getting further burdened down by the many different formats being required by smart phones, iPads, different kinds of computers, web streaming, etc. I simply could not keep up.

From the bandwidth usage chart on the right, you can see just how fast our website bandwidth has been growing, even when I was trying for it not to. I have had to repeatedly talk to the web host about space and bandwidth, increasing the costs each time. Video takes up room and money!

Just a few weeks ago, however, I discovered a service that posts my videos for a small fee.<sup>1</sup> I toyed with using Youtube, but their time limit to ten or fifteen minutes was impossible. My messages were often over an hour. In the past few weeks, I have transferred over 100 videos from my



<sup>1</sup> <http://vimeo.com/bucknell/videos>

website to this video host. I feel recharged because I now have a place for all the videos without worrying about formats, speed, size or number.

This breakthrough has opened the door for me to expand the ministry in this area.

### ➔Video libraries of training material for various languages.

BFF's priority is to supply materials for Christians in countries who desperately lack them but want them. I wanted to offer bilingual videos and now I can. I have already posted many videos. We have also created two 'channels' where one can 'tune in to' view bilingual training in Swahili, Chinese or Burmese. With a little more time, I can upload many other videos.

With smart phones/iPads quickly outnumbering laptops, Christian leaders around the world will increasingly be able to freely view these bilingual seminars.

Do you see how God seems to be leading? As I go to different countries, I can capture different

languages on video and have them posted for viewers from their language group. Wherever they live across the world they can access them. My heart goes out to pastors/evangelists that work very hard but are often ineffective because of so little Bible training.

What an exciting venture to follow where the Lord leads me next, not because I like to travel (I'd rather be home), but because we have an extended and growing ministry through these videos.

I will soon be going to Uganda for the second time. I hope to record both the Discipleship 2 seminar, Reaching Beyond Mediocrity, as well as the Marriage Seminar. Now I can record in confidence knowing that I have a place to

upload them. Praise God!

### ➔Training courses through email correspondence

We are about to set up training courses for those seeking either recognition for their study or a way to have a more disciplined and systematic course of study. Christian leaders around the world have been asking for this for quite a while.

Lord willing, we will set up three to four courses to start with. There will be a minimal charge for those in developed countries, but we will offer the courses without any financial expectation in more distressed regions of the world. Instead, we will request that they train others and submit reports.

### ➔Expansion into ePub downloads

E-Readers have been another fast-growing innovation. In one quarter, the formerly ridiculed iPad sold over 7 million units. Kindle has also been doing very well. With each new technological innovation, we are challenged with more opportunity and work.

## Looking for Help!

*Do you have extra time or know of a person seeking a training internship?*

*We offer free training for those desiring to do volunteer text editing, formatting, web page updating or video editing!*

I finally figured out how to transform many of our materials into a more mobile format, known as ePub. We ‘published’ our first two mini books for the Chinese Mission Conference.

This definitely is something that is easy to do. The market is absolutely hungry for these materials. They want to feed their Kindles and iPads! We have many training materials but need to transform them into the fast developing networks of E-readers.

### ➡ **Further development of training materials**

I didn’t reach the goals I had last year for writing. On the other hand, we were able to write things we had not planned to. Hopefully this year, we will finish the basic discipleship book and a commentary on Ephesians. We also hope to bring a few other books to 6 x 9 bound format as well as e-Pub.

### ➡ **Training through BFF Partners**

Over this last year God has opened our eyes to see how those that we train can and will also use these materials to train others.

Let me give you an example. The denominational head of Disciples of Christ in Uganda used our materials to train 150 pastors in smaller groups in different places who did not make it to our training sessions last year. You can see the formal graduation they held for these pastors in the picture to the right.



Graduation of Ugandan Pastors

In a testimonial time after the Myanmar (Burma) meetings, not a few pastors and Christian leaders determined to train others. They used the same translated handouts, audios and video recordings of the seminar to supplement themselves as they went out training. One pastor went to the

border between Myanmar and India to train. Others implemented the training near the border of China. We are encouraged that a number of Bible schools are using our discipleship, parenting and marriage materials including at least one in the USA.

These pastors are extremely poor. A fund to provide for the basic costs of these pastors to train others would greatly facilitate this developing ministry. Thanks for your financial contributions!

The term ‘faith mission’ well describes BFF. Most of our support comes from individuals like you who give to BFF. Although we have two churches which provide some steady mission support, the sum still is quite minimal.

This year’s income and expenses were quite similar to last year’s (around \$73,000).

This year the Love fund dropped way down to \$504. Without specific donations, we are unable to give. This does not affect BFF as a whole as it is not the main focus of this ministry, but it is a struggle to see the many needs of pastors that I visit and minister to. The severe cold affected those in India while higher wheat prices has affected God’s people everywhere.

We have again seen how God provided many thousands of dollars (\$19,659) to help extend our training to pastors and teachers in countries around the world. How amazing it is to see how what is given for these short term training seminars matches up with what is actually spent.

In 2010 we visited Kenya, Uganda and Myanmar. We held six three-day seminars. Our next trip in March 2011 will take us to Uganda and Ethiopia with an expected budget of about \$10,000. Expenses increase as food prices in some places have doubled and the US dollar is weakening.

With four teenagers, one in college, we have appreciated a sizable increase in salary this past year, although still only 85% of our modest target.

We thank you for your participation in this ministry. Your financial support over these last years has contributed to the development of quality materials used around the world.

God has specially equipped us not only to provide training but ongoing development tools that can easily be found, used and passed on.

### *Keeping focused*

Someone at a recent mission conference came up to me and said, "Jesus is coming soon." I asked what she meant. She told me to note all the frequent and increasingly volatile crises occurring around the world.

We need to make the most of the time and resources that God has given to us. We believe your contributions have been very efficiently used to propagate God's teachings. As His precious Word goes out in power to change, His Name is being praised and honored.

Thank you for standing behind the vision of this ministry!

God is increasingly using these BFF materials to bring genuine and helpful change to God's people, providing special tools Christian leaders need around the world to equip their people.

Thank you so much for taking a financial and prayer part in this ministry as we serve together for the glory of God!

In Christ's Majestic Service,



Paul

## **BFF MISSION**

- ◆ To enable people everywhere to encounter the power and relevance of God's Word in their lives through challenging BFF articles,
- ◆ To equip the church with media-rich Christian training materials and programs for each level of maturity, and
- ◆ To provide instruction through advanced training material and programs for the development of strong and godly Christian leaders.

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Thanks for your support!