

May, 2012

N E W S L E T T E R

DALE EBEL MINISTRIES



Some of the Tuesday Night Men



A DISCIPLE GROUP IN ACTION!

I recently completed two training sessions with a group of guys in the skill of Krav Maga, which is the official fighting technique of the Israeli Defense Force. Just a “typical” men’s disciple group. ☺

IN THE CORNER AND IN THE RINK

The Christian life is one of endurance. It’s not surprising then, that the Apostle Paul describes our journey of faith using various athletic analogies. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 6:12ff) As followers of Christ we are often called to regroup in the corner, to rest in His presence for instruction, encouragement, and comfort. Then it’s back into rink where we engage ourselves in the strenuous but rewarding fight for our faith.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith.” (1 Timothy 4:7 NKJV) *“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this [referring to Asa]. Indeed, from now on you will surely have war.”* (2 Chronicles 16:9 NASV)

There is a consumer mindset, which can become narcissistic, that characterizes so many Christians today. It focuses on what God can do for them, and seeks the Lord with the primary purpose of what benefit He may provide. It’s often subtle, and if we’re honest, can easily be found in our own hearts! God’s word makes it clear, however, that this kind of attitude will never amount to the fullness of life He desires for us to live.

Read the passage from 2 Chronicles one more time. In the context, Asa is being rebuked for trusting in the King of Aram instead of in Yahweh, the

Lord God. In the first part of the verse we see God is seeking people who have pure motives and whose core intention is to obey God.

Doctor Luke reiterates these heart attitudes and actions when he quotes John the Baptist, “. . . *Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*” (Luke 3:8) In other words, real and lasting spiritual fruit will always exist alongside a repentant heart; with a heart of humility that recognizes that apart from Christ, we can do nothing of eternal value (John 15:5). The result of any ministry is the fruit that is being produced. Even Jesus did not rest on His privileged role as the Son of God. Notice what He says about the proof of His ministry.

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.” (Matthew 11:19 NKJV) In other words, “Measure me by the fruit that is born in people because of my teaching, then really take a look at me.”

Linda and I have been encouraged by God’s grace in allowing us to see some of the fruit from our labors. Please thank the Lord with us for these recent comments:

- I feel like my marriage has been saved since I started engaging with you in personal and biblical accountability.

(continued on the back)

DISCIPLE GROUPS CONTINUE REGULARLY

Calendar

Spring & Summer

Ministry in San Clemente

I joined Seth in teaching leaders of small groups from *The Shoreline Church of San Clemente*. In August I will teach Sunday services there and help strategize for discipleship involving the whole church.

Disciple Groups



Rick and Debby Hennessy, pictured above, are in Dale’s and Linda’s groups. Rick is one of several who is discipling other men.

Krav Maga Training Sessions



“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer.” (2 Timothy 2:3,4)

Paul is exhorting Timothy as a pastor to act like a warrior! When was the last time you heard a teaching on God as a Warrior? The average pastor does not see himself as a soldier but mainly as a tender caregiver and teacher. This paradigm must shift! *“The LORD is a warrior [‘man of war’ ESV, KJV, NKJV]; the LORD is His name.”* (Exodus 15:3 (NIV)

When I teach about being a strong Godly man, the intrigue and enthusiasm heightens! Men long to express Godly masculinity.

Teaching

In May I am teaching six more sessions of the men’s ministry, *High Ground*, at *Good Shepherd Community Church*, and will incorporate an experiential model of learning. I will also teach Sunday services June 17 in Cornelius, Oregon.

Disciple Groups Continue Year Around

The temptation of us as Christians is to outsource to the institutional church our

responsibility as Jesus' followers to lead our families spiritually. Perhaps this is part of the reason that two thirds of kids who grow up in the church don't return after leaving home.

Consider these practical steps to own your faith in your own home!

- Take time as a couple and family to have communion together. Let each express what the Messiah's death and resurrection means to them.
- Try leading your sons, daughters or grandkids in a regular, personal Bible study. The profound impact you will experience is incalculable.
- Do a church service with just your family once a month. In the photo below, our family had just finished home church where Jeff was leading praise. At another home church time, Dale led through 2 Samuel 23:20-23, the story of Benaiah. Everyone drew pictures of the scene, read the text, and discussed becoming a "Lion Chaser." No one will ever forget that story nor feel more courageous, like a lion, in their faith!



Photos above: Linda's groups meet in our home. Pictured at top, are, L.to R: Kristin DaHarb, Linda, Charlotte Lazzeroni, Marie LaMunyan, Joy Hunt, Patti O'Mara and middle right, Beth Clark. At middle left is one of my groups including, L to R after me, Scott Bruun, Jim Robinson, John Burleigh, Scott Newrones, Richard Shebitz, Steve Matthias, and Tony Kollias. Bottom left: L to R: Rick Hennessy, DEM Board Member Mike Clark, Tom Fowler and I at the Oregon Coast. Bottom right is a photo of some of the women in Linda's evening group: L to R: Carolyn Terry, Carleen Walsh, Mishelle Larson and Tammy Terry.

DEM
DALE EBEL MINISTRIES

"Reclaiming Organic Discipleship"

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Visit our ministry online at the website above as teaching articles are being posted often for you and your family. Also my recent article is a continuation of ideas on how to have conversations about Christ with people we encounter.

If you would consider investing financially in our ministry we would greatly appreciate your generosity. We offer online giving or your gifts can be sent to the address above.

Immense thanks to those of you who have been supporting us for these last three years since we began our ministry!

Living in the Corner and in the Rink with Christ! **Dale**

"IN THE CORNER AND IN THE RINK" *(continued from front page)*

- It feels so good to be part of a disciple group where I can actually feel like and can act like a man!
- I have never had my questions answered in the ways they are now. As a result I find myself talking to others about my faith in Jesus Christ.
- I think it is time for me to disciple others.
- I am a new follower of Christ but I am stepping out and speaking to people who are not Christians about my faith!
- For the first time in my Christian walk I am discipling my teenage son. Where have I been all these years?
- Thank you for the time and preparation that goes into teaching us. We are learning more about Biblical history and are seeing Jesus all throughout Hebrew Scripture!
- I'm receiving answers to tough questions that students are asking me. *(Statement of a Young Life leader in one of my groups.)*

Reproduction can be rare, but after three years of mentoring men, I am beginning to see more and more of them start the process of discipling others. What's encouraging is that they are choosing guys who are either brand new believers or on the margins of their faith. Regardless of where you've been on your own journey of intentionally discipling others, I want to encourage you to pick it up a notch!

Recommended Books

Dale:

Indivisible by James Robison and Jay Richards; The Shaping of Things to Come by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch; Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller, Scientific Facts of the Bible by Ray Comfort.

Linda:

How Do We Know the Bible is True? by Ken Ham & Bodie Hodge; The Footsteps of the Messiah by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum; Mark of the Lion Trilogy, fiction by Francine Rivers.