



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

EMPOWERNOTES

A Publication of Empower Ministries and BSI
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AUBURN ACADEMY

A WONDERFUL WEEK OF PRAYER

When Chaplain Mark Weir invited Dr. G to lead a Week of prayer at Auburn Academy, he was ecstatic. Dr. G had been trying for years to speak at the Academy, without success; but when students from Upper Columbia Academy talked up their Week of Prayer in October with friends at AA, Mark couldn't resist the hype, and he quickly booked an April 14th date for Dr. G with his students.

The Gugliotto's arrived on campus the day before, with their trailer, pet dog and two cats. Pastor Mark scheduled two daily meetings for them, one at 12:30, the other at 7:30 PM; Bible classes filled out the rest of Dr. G's itinerary, as many as six times per day.

Though Dr. G has always enjoyed working with youth, the week was especially taxing on him: a rare bout with vertigo confined Jolynn

to bed for the entire week. Unable to support Dr. G physically, she called on God's Spirit to keep her ministry partner going. The Lord truly answered her prayers, because students responded in a big way to Dr. G's message-filled stories from his childhood and life experiences.

Dr. G repeatedly challenged students to connect with Christ through an act of personal trust and build their faith in Him by means of a daily, moment-by-moment relationship with Him. Classes helped to reinforce his point: when he asked students whether or not they had a personal relationship with Christ, few of them raised their hands. Many of them expressed a need for assurance to feel secure in Christ. This month's *A Lesson from the Context* captures the essence of his attempts to lay a biblical foundation for them.

On Sabbath, Pastor Mark gave Dr. G a copy of Ben Carson's latest book, *Take the Risk*, filled with *Thank You Notes* from students, faculty, and pastoral staff. Here are some of them:

- *Thank you for making our Week of Prayer fun and telling interesting stories. We really appreciate you and all you have done. Thank you for making Week of Prayer worthwhile. May God bless you for all you have done. —Erica*
- *Thank you so much for taking time out of your life to come talk to us teens and thank you for the way you talked to us. You're funny, nice, and get the point across. I hope you've enjoyed our campus and I'm sure we would all love to have you back in the near future, Sincerely —Kayla*

A Week to Remember

When Dr. G read the handwritten notes that students wrote to him in Ben Carson's book, two things amazed him: (1) the depth of feeling expressed, and (2) that God enabled him to reach foreign students. Here are some more of their notes:

- *You are a very good public speaker. I loved the "Speedy-Gonzales" version of the story you gave your mother. I didn't think you were telling a real story until I listened closely. It really surprised me. Good job.—Morgan*
- *Hey man, I like your stories. I also liked talkin' with ya; you're an awesome dude. Come back some day. —Nick*
- *Thank you so much for coming to our school and teaching us more about God and this crazy world. Loved your stories! God Bless—Shelby*
- *Thanks for coming and speaking. You're very captivating and entertaining. You are indeed God's messenger. God has certainly laid His hands on you. God Bless—Andrea*
- *Thank you for opening up your heart and being vulnerable so that we could benefit from your experiences. And thank you for your heart for relationships with Christ—Shelley*
- *Thanks for the words of wisdom and the great stories. God Bless—Melrosa*
- *Thank you so much for speaking for Week of Prayer! Your words were very touching and much appreciated! I loved hearing all your stories! Come back! —Paige*
- *Thank you for coming and speaking to us. I enjoyed your stories a lot, and how you are so open and honest. I really learned a lot—Rachael*
- *Thank you for coming to speak for Week of Prayer. I have learned so much and my faith has been affirmed even more, God Bless you—Kendra*
- *Thank you so much. You answered quite a few of my questions. May God bless you. —Karalee*
- *Thank you for your powerful stories and for Week of Prayer. —Erikka*
- *Thank you for sharing with us this week about God and life. —Evan*
- *Thank you for coming here. It's been a blessing listening to you. —Arthur*
- *Thanks for coming to speak to us this week; really well done on your part. —Maurice*
- *Thank you for being an awesome guy and doing your thing for God! I enjoyed your stories and enthusiasm! —Bailey*
- *Thank you very much. God is good! —Steven*
- *You have had a greater influence on this campus than you will ever know. I thank you so much. I love New York! Alex*
- *Thank you for coming to speak for us. —Bin*
- *Everything was good. I am liking your answers and stories. —Yo*
- *Thank you so much. I'm actually learning something. —Lizzy*
- *Thanks for coming to our school. I really enjoyed all your funny stories. I had a lot of siblings just like that. You are a very interesting speaker.—Veronica*
- *Thanks for coming to our Spring Week of Prayer. You are officially my favorite Week of Prayer speaker, ever, and I hope you come see us again. —Your friend, Jordan*
- *I love your stories of your brother. Thank you for making worship fun and enjoyable. —Anna*
- *Thanks for speaking at our school. I liked your stories and relate to them. —Andrew*
- *I'll see what happens to me. —Nelson*

Pastor Mark Weir

Auburn Academy Chaplain,
and Bible teacher:

Dear Dr. Lee,

Thanks for challenging us to focus on Jesus, who has our best wishes and interest at heart.

Pastor Bill Roberts

Auburn Academy Church
Senior Pastor:

Dear Dr. Lee,

Thank you for coming here, lifting up Jesus, and caring about our students.

Katelynn Campbell

Auburn Academy Junior,
and Special Assistant to
Chaplain, Mark Weir

Dear Pastor Gugliotto,

Thank you so much for coming to our campus. It's been great hearing your words from God and I've enjoyed working with you.

Bob Williston

Auburn Academy Bible
Teacher (students with English
as a second language):

Dear Dr. Lee,

Thank you for sharing fascinating stories that help us to focus on and understand better, God's amazing love for us. Also, thanks for visiting my ESL class.

Helping people to fall in love with Jesus—all over again

Scoring Points for Jesus

The Second-Team

People view a Head Elder and his wife as a church's second-team, but couples like Frank and Wendy Liebscher aren't second-string:

Just a note of thanks and blessing for the exciting presentations April 4-6th at the Reno Church. We have had many affirmative responses and comments about the 'Living Word' series you did that weekend.

I personally enjoyed your book, 'How to Lead a Home Bible Fellowship with Christ in Charge.' Overall great material and presentations.

—Frank Liebscher

I would just like to let you know how much I enjoyed your "QUICK STUDY WORKSHOP". The course was very informative and gave me a lot to consider on how I study the Bible. Using your methods to learn the whole picture of what the Bible is trying to tell us, really makes sense. When we learn who, when, why and where a passage takes place, it definitely pieces the puzzle together and paints a beautiful picture that I am able to see more clearly.

—Wendy Liebscher

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO YOUR ONGOING,
TIMELY SUPPORT
ON MAY 1st**

God blessed workshops at both the Reno and Auburn Academy Churches enough to add an 8PM PT, Monday plus a 7PM PT, Thursday online Bible study groups to the one at 6 PM PT, Tuesday. To join any of these *live* chat rooms, click on, [Download QuikStudy Materials](#) at our new, *improved* BSI website!

The following letter expresses the heartfelt sentiments of many church members who have tearfully shared with the Gugliotto's, their deep longing for a closer connection with Christ, but lacked the Christian life-skills of *in-depth, inductive Bible study* and *Christ-centered prayer*:

Dear Pastor Lee,

I just wanted to tell you how excited I am to join the Tuesday, online, Bible study group. I have wanted to do something like this for a long time. Several years ago, I asked the pastor of my local church to help me to start a neighborhood Bible study class, without religious preferences, just get into the enjoyment and rich fulfillment of studying the Bible together.

When he offered to supply me with the standard Bible study course of our 27 fundamental beliefs, I told him that I was well acquainted with our beliefs, but it was not my goal to prove that our church was right; I just wanted to study all of the treasures in the Bible. Instead of expressing a "know it all" attitude, I wanted to grow—side by side with my neighbors. In spite of what I said, he still pointed me back to the core 27 beliefs of our church.

Pastor Lee, I believe there is a time and place for doctrinal study—especially for witnessing to Christ, to point others to Him; but as a faithful lifetime member, I already knew what my church believes and did not want to study the same things again; that was not the goal of my proposed study group. That conversation with my pastor shut me down, the study group never got off the ground, and I lost a great opportunity to reach my neighbors for Jesus.

Thanks to your workshop, I am now standing at that door again! Only this time, as a joint student of Christ with my neighbors, the Lord will open doors closed to me for a long time—not only with them, but for my own personal growth.

Thank you again for giving me that opportunity.

—Debbie Myers, Auburn, WA

Prayer Emergency: 3ABN will interview Dr. G on April 30 and air the program during May. Pray that the Lord blesses Empower Ministries/BSI to broaden its' base of support and expand its' opportunities, especially in Africa where **over 1,500 evangelical pastors** in Kenya and Sierra Leone await Shane and Dr. G.!

Connecting people with the God of the Bible—to stay connected, since 2000

On Fire for the Lord

A Lesson from Context

While visiting Bible classes during the recent Auburn Academy Week of Prayer, many students surprised Dr. G when he questioned them about their personal relationship with Christ. Though many professed to *know* Jesus, they could not explain, *how they knew—they knew Him*. They needed assurance of salvation! So, Dr. G. asked them to open their Bibles to John 15 and proceeded to draw a parallel between verses 1-8 and 2 Peter 1:2-11, because both passages refer to a direct relationship with Jesus and its results. John, he explained, calls believers “branches” who draw on Jesus, the “Vine” to produce fruit. By producing plenty of this fruit from the Vine, disciples not only “glorify the Father,” they also prove they truly follow Christ (15:8). Fruit from the **Vine** proves they belong to **Him**. Peter, on the other hand, describes the same relationship as a matter of knowing—interacting with—the Father and Christ. Connected to Christ, followers have switched from the world to Him, share His roots in God’s promises, and plug into His divine nature. Then, drawing on Christ’s divine nature like a branch drawing sap from a vine, believers produce fruit (they keep from being **unproductive**, verse 8)—gradually acquiring characteristics from Christ’s own nature until they display love—ultimate proof they are disciples (John 13:35). Large quantities of fruit (cp. *abound* in verse 8 with *plenty* in John 15:8) supply a clear, lasting memory of what Christ did on the cross—that certifies our calling and election, and guarantees us a rich welcome into our Lord and Savior’s eternal kingdom (verses 9, 10).

Last, But Not Least

Dear Pastor Lee,
I'm retired and still feel that after all these years I don't really know how to get the most out of my Bible, but I want to know Jesus in a much more personal way. I know Christ is with me and has been all along; but I've always suspected there's a deeper way to study. So, I've been searching for a better way to study God's Word. I prayed for God's leading and I believe He led me to you. Now I am very excited about where God is going to lead me with the skills you shared! Thanks again.

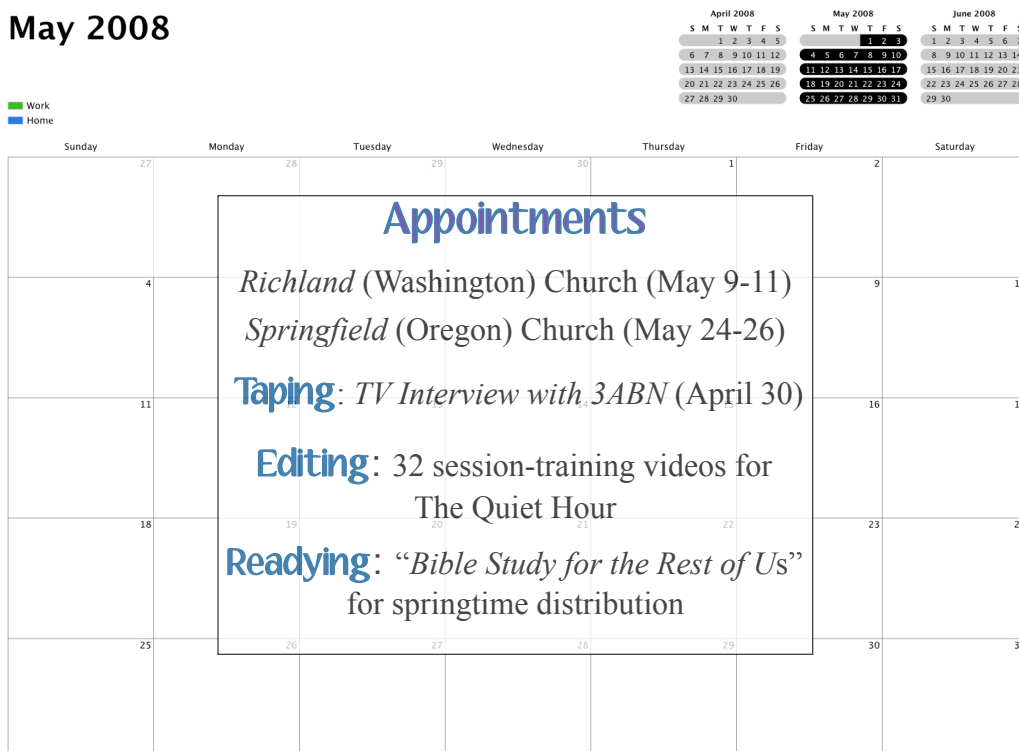
—Loni Fischer Mooers,
Auburn, WA

Thank you for 3 action-packed days at Reno church. Based on a challenge to restore Jesus to the center of our lives and church—you used each session to intensify the joy of study: first, of personally interacting with it, then, of learning to understand it, and finally, of applying it. You made it very clear: to know the **Written** Word is to know the **Living** Word.

I firmly believe this approach has the potential to unite any church, to strengthen all our relationships, and to allow Christ to heal our brokenness.

—Steve McCandless
Senior Pastor, Reno Church

May 2008



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