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SECOND CORINTHIANS

*Inside Terry's Office:
The Book of II Corinthians*

Just this week, I was counseling with a man who had lost his job and was anxious about how he was going to provide for his family. This is a complicated matter that needs to be addressed from a relational perspective, emotional perspective, and a spiritual perspective. When my friend said that he was constantly praying that God would open the door to another job before his severance from his former job ran out, I asked him if he had accepted God as his provider and if he trusted God as his provider. He said that he did accept and trust God as his provider, but then immediately began discussing his responsibilities for the financial needs of his family. In short, he gave no room for the possibilities that it may be God's will that he fail to meet and maintain the income level he and his family had been accustomed to. The more I challenged his notion that his previous income (and expenses) level must be maintained, the more insistent he became that if he didn't maintain his income level it could only mean that God was disciplining him or God was failing to keep His promises.

I directed him to II Corinthians 1: 20, where Paul states, *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."*

"For no matter how many promises God has made" – and He has made a lot; you may have seen the little books containing "all the promises of God" which still don't include them all (they usually leave out the negative sounding ones).

"they are 'Yes' in Christ" – meaning, God determines which promises work together for the common good to accomplish Jesus' purposes in us and through us (No, we do not get to pick and choose which individual promise we want to take effect at what time).

"And so, through Him the 'Amen' ('so be it') is spoken by us to the glory of God" – meaning, because we trust Jesus we can agree that His plan is loving and wise. When we trust that God is loving and wise, even when we don't understand why His plans are so different from what we would choose, we are bringing glory to God.

Our discussion of this verse helped my friend face the fear-messages his self-talk was yelling:

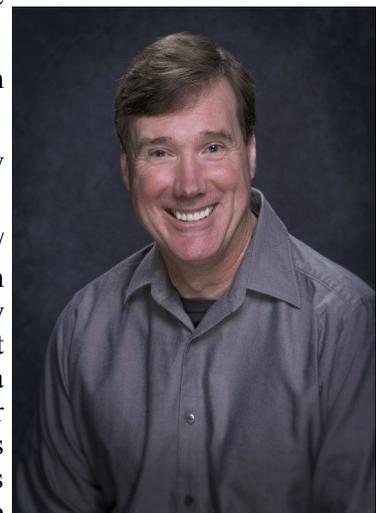
"If you can't make enough \$ your wife will not respect you, nor should she."

"If you can't keep your children in private schools they will be traumatized for life."

"Being unable to pay your bills is clear evidence that you are an unrepentant sinner."

"If you can't keep your professional status the whole world will see how worthless you are."

His self-talk was brutal! It became clear that he desperately wants/needs to accept and trust God as his provider. He is still struggling with believing that God's promises can be fulfilled in ways so contradictory to what he would expect. He is still struggling with the accusations that a failure to 'fulfill his financial obligations' could only mean that he is a bad Christian (if a Christian at all) and could never be God's will for him (his family, church, friends, ect.) Please pray for him! And,... let's pray for ourselves that we can join in bringing glory to God in our lives by saying "Amen" to His promises being fulfilled in Christ, whether we understand the common good being accomplished or not.



In His Grip.....TWE

Cracked Pots!

This month I am pondering this quote from Larry Crabb's 66 Love Letters on the forty-seventh Love Letter, **2 Corinthians**:

Understand this: no one who fails to see their selfishness as their absolutely worst problem, no one who continues to believe that their feelings of emptiness and pain and loneliness deserve priority attention from a grandfather-like God who simply wants all His little ones to feel good, will ever know the kind of hope that energized and sustained Paul through all his disappointments and discouragement.

"Paul wrote the letter we now call 2 Corinthians to congratulate the majority (who remained with Paul) and to confront the minority of believers and influential leaders who were still unconvinced."

"In response to their negative appraisals of Paul's ministry, he challenges them to recognize that faithful ministry **entails suffering for others as an embodiment of Jesus' death.** (The Voice Commentary on 2 Corinthians)

As I review 2 Corinthians I see themes of personal ownership and responsibility, godly sorrow, repentance, and embracing our weaknesses all of which can be seen as answers to a current epidemic of *entitlement*. John Townsend in his book *The Entitlement Cure* defines entitlement as "the belief that *I am exempt from responsibility and I am owed special treatment.*" Townsend says that there are many facets of entitlement but that they will always include some aspect of these

characteristics: "1) an attitude of being special; 2) An attitude of being owed, of deserving something; 3) a refusal to accept responsibility; 4) a denial of one's impact on others."

In counseling I can always tell when I am bumping up against this issue of entitlement when I meet resistance in their seeing anything from another perspective other than their own. I will also see a resistance to bad---acknowledging their part in a negative situation. The attitude is, "this is being done to me." There are feelings of victimization and of being blamed. "You're saying it is all my fault." One client complained of not receiving empathy from me but rather saw me as trying to fix her. Empathy is not experienced as empathy unless you are able to see a thing as terrible and awful as they do.

I love the book of 2 Corinthians! It is probably one of my most often quoted books of the bible. One particular passage that I believe to be an effective response to the issue of entitlement is 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (The Voice):

7But this beautiful treasure is contained in us---*cracked* pots made of earth and clay--- **so that the transcendent character of this power will be clearly seen as coming from God and not from us.** 8We are cracked and chipped from our afflictions on all sides, but we are not crushed by them. We are bewildered at times, but we do not give in to despair. 9We are persecuted, but we have not been abandoned. We have been knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10We always carry around in our bodies the reality of the brutal death *and suffering* of Jesus. As a result, **His resurrection life rises and reveals its wondrous power in our bodies as well.** 11For

while we live, we are constantly handed over to death on account of Jesus so that His life may be revealed even in our mortal bodies of flesh, 12So death is constantly at work in us, but life is working in you.

Paul gives testimony to this "cracked pot" analogy in chapter 12 verse 10, "I am at peace and *even take pleasure* in any weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and afflictions for the sake of the Anointed because when I am at my weakest, He makes me strong." (The Voice)

The entitlement mentality precludes the promotion of the ministry that was described earlier as **entailing suffering for others as an embodiment of Jesus' death.** Terry Ewing defines ministry as "Intentionally entering into difficult situations with difficult people for the purpose of facilitating mutual growth." Embracing our weaknesses, however, allows us to engage boldly in ministry to welcome the experience of His power perfected!!

Carol Anne



David Willets, Welcome to Plumblin!

David Willets is a long-time friend of Plumblin. We are very excited to have him on our staff!

David represents some new and exciting FIRSTS for us:

- *He will be the first counselor who gained most of his training outside the training program we provide.
- *He will be the first counselor with a Doctorate (in pastoral counseling).
- *He will be our first staff person to specialize (in grief counseling).

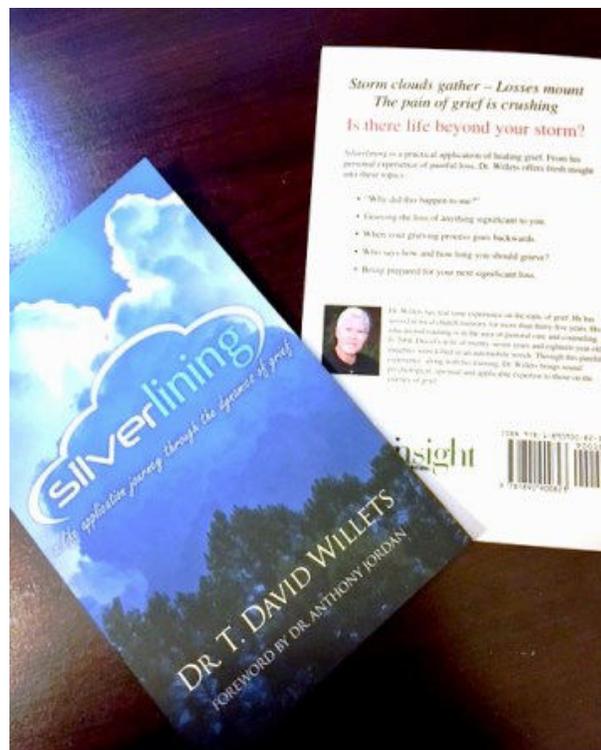
We look forward to partnering in ministry, learning from, and sharing life with David.

As C.E.O. and founder of Plumblin, I am encouraged for all our staff has to gain from partnering with David and am so grateful that we can offer specialized counseling for those in grief. I anticipated that our sponsoring churches would soon begin filling up David's schedule with referrals, but someone has heard before this official announcement and already made a referral. As you can imagine, the need is heartbreaking!

Please join me in lifting David, and those he will be counseling, in prayer. Our staff all recognize that God is the healer and redeemer, and that we are privileged to be one avenue of His grace. Also, please consider sponsoring David on a monthly basis. Since our sponsoring churches cover our overhead, we can raise our salary support and offer counseling for free to those referred by our sponsoring churches. We are blessed to be trusted as an extension of the pastoral ministry of these local churches.

So, let me be the first to say, "Welcome to Plumblin, David! We are blessed to have you!"

In His Grip.....TWE





FUNdraiser

WHEN: Tues, October 24, 2017

4pm – 9:30pm

WHERE: Hideaway Pizza - South Memorial



15% of Proceeds will be donated to Plumblin

*****Dine In or Carry Out*****

***Remember to say you are participating in the Fundraiser
when you're ordering!***



FUNdraiser

WHEN: Tues, Nov 7, 2017
5pm to 9pm

WHERE: Red Robin – Kenosha & Garnett
4801 W. Kenosha St. Broken Arrow, OK



20% of Proceeds will be donated to Plumblin

Dine In

Bring this page to the Fundraiser and present with your order!

Come Join Us!

New Fall Classes

Plumblineline will be offering the following classes beginning in September:

Co-Dependency: *Were you raised to be nurturing, caring, loving and responsible? That's a good thing....right? So I'm doing these "good things" and yet I'm called a "control freak", bossy, selfish, and obsessed? Can someone tell me please...when did nurturing, caring, loving and being responsible become such bad things? If you are struggling with these issues, then this class will be of tremendous support and encouragement to you. Taught by Marion Fuller. Class Begins Sunday September 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.*

Boundaries: *What are boundaries and why are they important? Boundaries are unseen structures that protect us from harm and support healthy, productive lives. Boundaries are personal property lines that define who you are and who you are not, and influence all areas of your life. They give you the freedom to walk as the loving, giving, fulfilled individual God created you to be. Taught by Michelle Carpenter. Class begins Tuesday September 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.*

Safe People: *Want to discern safe from unsafe people? Do you need practical steps for leading you to individuals who truly make you a better person by their presence in your life? Do you want to take ownership of your own unsafe tendencies and become a safe person for others? Countless individuals have invested themselves in others only to be used, abused, or abandoned. They have lost their sense of security and personal value in the process. Would you like to avoid repeating your own mistakes? If you are ready to look inside your self for blind spots or vulnerabilities and outside to evaluate the nature of others, both good and bad, then please join us as we learn to identify the nurturing people we all need and want in our lives. Taught by Margo Hanne. Class begins Wednesday September 13, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.*

Each class is \$70.00 and runs for 10 weeks. Please visit our website, www.plumblinelineonline.com, or enroll at the office.

Stickman's Prayers

Plumblin's newest book, *Stickman's Prayers* has been published and is now available at Plumblin!

stickman's prayers

the everyday practice of
"loosing prayers"
and the ministry of
"exploratory prayers"



Michelle Carpenter
Terry Ewing
Erin Garcia
Margo Hanne
Carolyn Knippers
Carol McNamarra
Sue Merrill

Would you be surprised to know that the "Prayer of Jabez" was a joke?

Would you be happy to know what kind of prayers are appropriate for you to pray for yourself and what kinds are meant for you to pray for others and others for you?

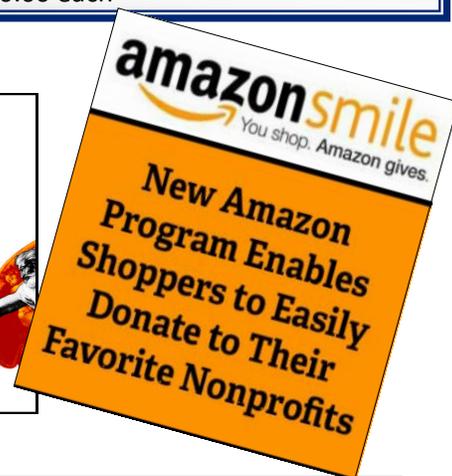
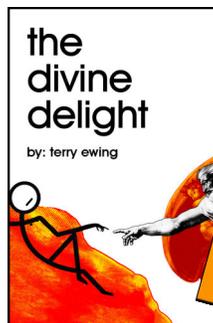
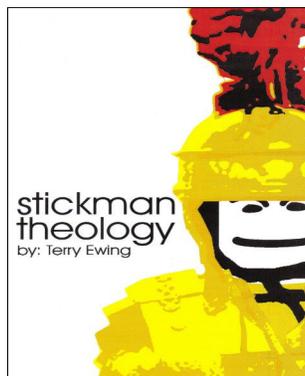
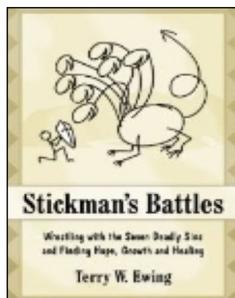
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

Praying is the most natural thing in the world for Christians; an on going conversation with our best friend, counselor, and confidant; gratitude to our Savior and provider; intercession on behalf of our friends; requests to our Creator. In this regard, a book on prayer may seem presumptuous. When you write a book on Prayer aren't you suggesting that some are praying wrongly, or, at least could be praying better?

That really is not the kind of message we look to promote. So...why the book?

The *Stickman's Prayers* serves two purposes. First, to challenge some ideas that other teaching and preaching concerning prayer has promoted. And, to offer simple encouragements to personal prayer and prayer ministries.

Available at Plumblin for a suggested donation of \$10.00 each



Did you know you can download

Stickman Theology

On your KINDLE?

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, you could be helping to financially support Plumblin? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumblin.** All you need to do is go to smiles.amazon.com, designate Plumblin Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumblin. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

PLUMBLINE

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