

Inside Terry's Office	1
Camz Counsel	2
Announcement	3
Testimonies	4
Book Sales	5

REVELATIONS

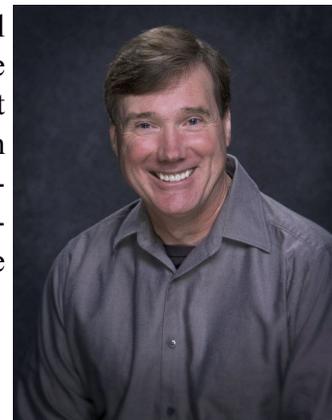
Inside Terry's Office:

The Book of Revelations—The Greatest Adventure!

You may know that Revelations is my favorite book. Maybe one reason I like it best is that I feel like I understand it least! I'm drawn into the scenes even when I don't know what all the scenes MEAN. I see us all together as the "church in Tulsa" being told, "I love this and this and this about you, and yet I hold this against you"; and I can only imagine what all the "this's are. I see us all gathering during a most-important moment in our history and Jesus arriving to a musical fanfare and a voice booming out his resume': "The creator of ALL creation", "The bright and shining morning STAR", "The LION of Judah", "The VICTOR over death", And ... out walks a lamb (hmmm). I see us caught up in one historic battle after another with Demons, and Monsters, and Governments, and We are suffering in a thousand ways ... Yet, we know that we are winning. I see us standing before the Throne of Judgement. There are seven seals on the Book of Life in which the true nature of our souls are revealed.

Who can possibly understand all the variables that have impacted our bodies, our hearts, our minds, our souls, our cultures, our tribulations, our complexity? No One! NO ONE! No one can possibly; except Jesus! He is worthy! He can open every seal! I see a new Heaven and a new Earth! The city of God descending from the spiritual realm to be joined with this old, worn-out physical realm; and BOTH are more complete within the union. There is a huge city in which EVERYTHING is PERFECT! The presence of God is light, and food, and peace, and love filling the city. And we worship The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit ... and we are healed and filled ... And we are sent out ... in our glorified forms... through any of the twelve gates ... with the River of Life carrying leaves from the Tree of Life out into the renewed earth for ... (wait for it) "the healing of the nations!" The what? ... I don't know what.

Again, I can only imagine what that is all about, but it sounds like the greatest of adventures to me! Although everything is perfect within the city, and even within my glorified form, I am still a growing, relating, achieving person. We will be working together and relating as individuals. We will have a perfect place to return to if we need to or just because we want to. Those are just a few of the mysteries and visions that were revealed to the Apostle John as he endured his exile on Patmos. Even though I can't claim to understand all the significance of what is being revealed in this book, I can picture myself within the scenes and agree with John that "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy!"



Camz Counsel

May 2019

The Book of Revelation

God's Way of Doing Things!

“And the One who sat on the throne announced to His creation, See, **I am making all things new**. Write *what you hear* and *see*, for these words are faithful and true. It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will see to it that the thirsty drink freely from the fountain of the water of life.**”

Revelation 21:5-6, The Voice Translation

What a journey it has been to walk through these *66 Love Letters with you* since September of 2013, nearly 6 years! Here's what I wrote in that inaugural article:

As we begin this new venture to incorporate the 66 books of the Bible into the theme of our articles, I will reference Crabb's book, **66 Love Letters, "A Conversation with God that Invites You Into His Story."** I would like to use it as a base to reflect my own thoughts and personal application within my internal world as well as my external world with counselees, friends and family.

I feel like these past five and half years have been transformational for me in that with Larry's help I have entered into God's story more personally. Larry has modeled for me what communion with God looks like--the exchange of soul searching conversation with God about His word. Every time I would prepare an article for you I was inspired and couldn't wait to incorporate what I had learned in counseling sessions. I have had a resurgence of passion for spiritual directing in which I recognize the power and effectiveness of God's word.

“For we have the living Word of God, which is full of energy, and it pierces more sharply than a two-edged sword. It will even **penetrate to the very core of our being** where soul and spirit, bone and marrow meet. It interprets and reveals the true thoughts and secret motives of our hearts.” (Hebrews 4:12, The Passion Translation)

Now, regarding Revelation, here's some thoughts from Larry Crabb's *66 Love Letters*:

“God's story goes something like this: *connection, wickedness, estrangement, judgment, reconciliation.*”

“Reconciliation without purifying judgment, without pride-shattering brokenness and mind-altering repentance never results in secure intimacy.”

God's story is all about reconciliation! I am in an environment where scheduling appointments is common practice but every once in a while God interrupts my schedule with a divine appointment. One such appointment started with a quick reversal from “I'll be there” to “I won't be there” and an exploration of what happened to bring about the abrupt change. “I'm not a good person” she said. “The devil is winning.” She said there were things she thought were too good to be true and sure enough they were. There had been an enthusiastic recommitment between husband and wife to give their all to the work of Christ and then nothing was working like it should. Wife became angry, her conditioned response to feeling out of control, and words were exchanged that were hurtful and all of the sudden the only recourse was to call it quits on the marriage. I have no doubt in my mind that God orchestrated our connection that day and opened up the time in my schedule to give to her and later her husband. Because their foundation was already there, it just took a trusted third party to bring them back to foundational truth. There was reconciliation not just between a husband and wife but reconciliation between better and worse co-existing within the realm of God's story for them. When worse happened for this young woman it could only mean that she wasn't a good enough Christian, she let “the devil win”, and she wasn't worth her husband's love. I loved getting to lead her back into the presence of God where He WINS. Crabb writes, “Only when you are gripped by what is happening in the invisible world will you live well in the visible world.” This letter of Revelation was written to sustain us through the hard times with a vision of what Jesus Christ is doing right now and what he is yet to do. (p. 374)

I know there are lots of people drawn to studying the book of Revelation. I personally have never had much of a desire to study Revelation. As I reflect on that today, I wonder if the same reason others are drawn to Revelation is the same reason I retreat from Revelation? Control? Some want to learn about the “end times” so they will be prepared and not caught off guard. I also want to be in control but by remaining in the dark. BUT GOD's WAY has never been about us being in control or having it our way. Consider one last time these words from *66 Love Letters*, Love Letter Sixty-Six:





*After almost 25 years Plumblineline is growing!
We have now opened our midtown satellite location at:
3904 East 31st Street South
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135-1509*

How Can You Help?

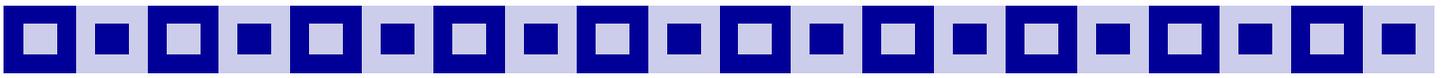
*We have established a Gift Registry to request your help with furnishing our new facility and filling in a couple of gaps in our current facility. Please take a look at our Gift Registry at the following link if you would like to help.
<https://myregistry.com/>*

Add Plumblineline Ministries in the “find a Registry” option and follow the prompts.

Contact Liz Merrill at Plumblineline if you have any questions.

Cell: 918-853-4653.

We are so blessed by you!



CLIENT TESTIMONIES

The following are personal testimonies submitted by a few of our counselees, sharing how Plumblin has helped them.

It helped me to see my tendencies in how I process my thoughts and feelings. I learned I don't have to be in control. It opened me up to consider others opinions and perspective. I think the awareness wheel helped me to remove the judgement of myself and allowed me to be okay to have my own way of doing and thinking about things without agreeing with others. My daughter has said I'm too *happy* ever since I've gone to counseling.

Submitted by Ericka

Since I've started my counseling, my child tells me all the time "I'm a good mom."

I have learned to "think through my perceived interpretations and look at my feelings, and to express my thoughts and feelings to my husband." I've also learned to "talk to God about everything instead of asking just for a to do list from him."

This same client moved away, that's why she had to stop counseling. Since then she sent me this recent report:

"The most important thing you taught me is that it's ok to grieve. At the time I didn't understand. Why would anyone want to feel grief, sadness, pain, etc.? I get it now more than ever! It's the healthiest way to get through life's hardships. If we bottle it all up (which I did for years, leading to anxiety) we become numb and life becomes dull. There is a feeling of suffocation. Like there is no way out! Working through the pain causes great suffering. But if we can continue through the storm, it eventually becomes a lighter rain. And one day we will see a beautiful rainbow! I feel you are seeing your rainbow these days. I know one day, I will too!

I found it hard to express myself with you at first because I felt the suffocation. But these days I'm full of expression! And I thank God for that! Do I like what is happening? Nope! But, I truly believe God is with me. And he knows what is best! I trust him and know he is my guide. I know I am not alone in this! You also taught me it's ok to be alone! That also is very healthy. We have to love and be comfortable with ourselves first, if we don't we have a tendency to become co-dependent. I am tired of living that way! For now, I'll dance in the rain and look forward to my rainbow.'

Submitted by Alicia

"I've learned to trust others instead of thinking they're always out to hurt me."

"I recognize the difference of having one emotion and having mixed emotions."

Submitted by B.B.



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?

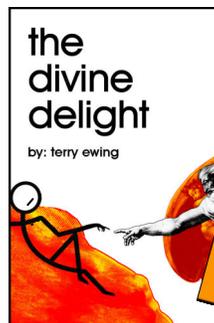
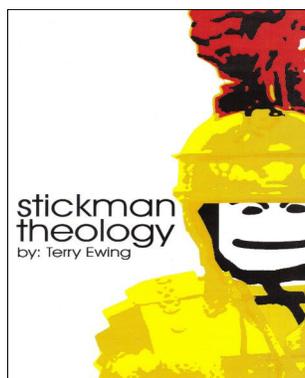
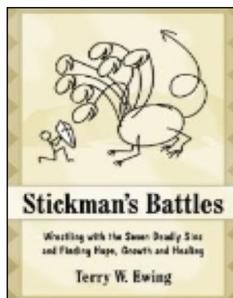
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

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!

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