

Inside Terry's Office	1
Camz Counsel	2
Michelle's Musings	3
What's New	4
Ministry Updates	5-7

August 2016

Nahum

Inside Terry's Office:

The Book of Nahum: Nineveh's Destruction

Remember when Jonah was hoping for Nineveh's destruction and ran away from his call to prophecy to them in case they might repent. Then the storm / tossed in the sea / swallowed by a fish / vomited up on the shore of Nineveh / half-hearted preaching / AND THE NINEVITES REPENTED, and Jonah complained about it – Remember? Well, now in the book of Nahum we learn that Nineveh's repentance didn't last for long. Soon they returned to their evil, and God destroyed them.

Soooooo, why didn't God destroy them before Jonah had to go through his ordeals? Why didn't God destroy them before they could return to doing evil things?

The reasons seem clear to me; 1) God loved the Ninevites too much to withhold any chance that they might repent and be saved, and 2) God loved the Hebrew nation too much to destroy an enemy they hated without calling them to repentance for hating the evil doers.

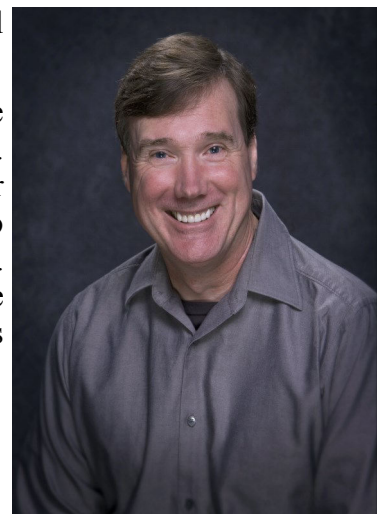
TODAY, in my office, I heard a man say, "I can't forgive her anymore. She will never change." Even after we discussed the idea that forgiveness is willingness to reconcile IF the other person can/will change, he insisted, "I just feel like she is my enemy." When I pushed into the idea that we must forgive our enemies he insisted, "I tried that and it hasn't worked; she is still my enemy".

Then, I understood. He thought that if we forgive our enemies that they cease to be our enemies. He didn't understand that he could seek a writ of divorce from his enemy, not trust his enemy, not want to suffer any more attacks from his enemy AND STILL LOVE AND FORGIVE HIS ENEMY.

Forgiving our enemies does not mean that they stop being our enemy, but that we still hope for their highest and best. Therefore, sometimes, God allows enemies in our life to remain in our life because He wants us to love them like He loves them. There are only two responses to an enemy; 1) become like your enemy in their evil, or 2) offer your enemy love and forgiveness. There is no third option. Therefore, God loves us so much that, for the sake of our healing and growth, He will offer us enemies to forgive and love!

Who among us can do that? Not me. I have enough trouble forgiving and loving the people who are forgiving and loving me. But we NEED this standard. To set the standard of loving our enemies keeps my spirit and soul pointed in the right direction so I can have some success in loving well those who wish me well. Then, when an occasional enemy does actually come along, maybe I will be healed enough to offer them forgiveness and love even if they remain my enemy.

In His Grip, TWE



ESTABLISHING A PLUMBLINE IN THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Plumbline

Nahum The Buffer Zone

~

In response to Him, mountains quake and mudslides flow down melting hillsides. The planet and all who live on it are overwhelmed in His presence. (Nahum 1:5 The Voice)

What I love most about Larry Crabb's writing in *66 Love Letters* is his honest approach to relating with God--trusting God with all his emotions. He comes to God in this 34th love letter and expresses his confusion that God didn't like it when Jonah wanted to see Nineveh destroyed and yet now God is announcing through Nahum his plan to destroy Nineveh!

I love this question to ponder that the Spirit of God speaks to Larry, **"What has been happening in your life and in your soul as you've been reading My thirty-fourth letter?"** What a great question! **Larry's authentic response is "I'm hassled and weary."** In further contemplation of God's message through Nahum he sees the relationship between Nineveh and the hassles of life--those things that get in the way of the Good that God intends. "Only when you see the source of your hassles as a greater insult to Me [God] than to you will you rest in My [God's] plan to deal with it." (66 Love Letters, p. 167)

Most of you who read this newsletter are familiar with Terry's emotional processing tool, Mad, Bad, Sad, Glad and Numb, Identifying Your Feelings! We say through the use of this tool that healthy emotional responses recognize our feelings as a blend of a basic set of emotions (Stickman Theology, p. 143). We then

define a state of calm as a place not absent of feelings but a comfortableness with the emotions we have. (ST, p. 145). This space of "comfortableness" is what we refer to as a "buffer zone." I have been contemplating the meaning of the buffer zone and I would like to share with you some of my discovery.

One day I came across this excerpt from Sarah Young in Jesus Calling, "When you approach me in stillness and in trust, you are strengthened. **You need a buffer zone of silence** around you in order to focus on things that are unseen. Since I am invisible, you must not let your senses dominate your thinking." (See 2 Corinthians 4:18) What is this buffer zone?

The buffer zone is NOT numb—it is not temporary storage. The buffer zone is aware of feelings.

The buffer zone is a judgment free zone. You can allow others to be a "jerk" without attaching blame and you can allow yourself to be a "jerk" without attaching shame.

The buffer zone is safe to feel a negative feeling in response to an unmet expectation of someone, myself or a situation without the need for an external manifestation.

The buffer zone is where grace and mercy reside—We can give grace to others or ourselves without the acknowledgement of wrongdoing. The buffer zone gives the space needed to discern if action needs to be taken.

The buffer zone is focused--the buffer zone is able to measure everything up against the truth.

The buffer zone is a grounding place.

The buffer zone is where the Holy Spirit is the interpreter.

The buffer zone is the

internal locus of control.

Today a counselee shared with me her experience of enjoying the palpableness of the presence of God. As I understood it, she was saying that in the midst of situations where she would typically be overwhelmed with the external stimuli—the senses as Sarah described---she was able to rest and lean in to Jesus.

This is what I believe is being expressed in Nahum 1:5 to "Celebrate My [God's] plan now by relating in the middle of your hassles in a manner that reflects Me [God] and shows your confidence in My plan."

Operating in your buffer zone!

~



Nahum-God's Comfort

“The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust Him.” Nahum 1:7 NLT

I did some research on the book of Nahum to gain deeper understanding. The Blue Letter Bible online is one of my favorite resources. Here's what I found there:

“The name **Nahum** is an abbreviated form of the name *Nehemiah*, which means ‘Comfort of Yahweh.’ **He knows those who trust in Him**: Not only does He know them in the sense of identification, but also in the sense of *relationship*. **Trust** implies relationship, and God **knows those who trust in Him**. "Once more, dear friends, this word 'know' here means *loving communion* ... God knows us; he knows our prayers and tears, he knows our wishes, he knows that we are not what we want to be, but he knows what we do desire to be. He knows our aspirations, our sighs, our groans, our secret longings, our own chastenings of spirit when we fail; he has entered into it all. He says, 'Yes, dear child, I know all about you; I have been with you when you thought you were alone. I have read what you could not read, the secrets of your own heart that you could not decipher I have known them all, and I still know them.'" (Spurgeon)”

I am almost speechless, like they way you feel when something takes your breath away and all you can do is stand there trying to hold on to the moment. I could stop right here and not write another word but I want to see if we, together, can internalize what we've just read somehow.

We have, innate within us, a longing to be known, to be fully ourselves, to be accepted, and to be loved as we are. Along life's journey we take some hits in this area. People fail us and we fail others, because we live in a broken world. We don't meet others' expectations. Others don't meet our expectations. We don't even meet our own expectations. It can leave us feeling oh so broken, bitter, and jaded. It can be hard to believe God really wants to know us or that He cares because we put human characteristics on Him and we view Him through a cloudy lens. We limit Him to our own understanding. I've been there myself. But guess what? God put that desire in us. We didn't come up with it by ourselves. So what do we do with this?

The journey I'm on, and have been for a “fat minute” (as my daughter says ☺), is to know the heart of the Father. I want to know Him as He is, not as I have perceived Him to be through my broken filter. I want to know how He sees me and to experience His longing for me. I want to know what that looks like, to believe His truth, and to believe He is with me always even when my eyes don't see and my senses don't perceive. I want to be one who trusts Him!

We are faced with the onslaught of the enemy's lies constantly and sometimes we give in and believe the lies. My journey has been to ask God for truth in those moments, wait for Him to speak, then ask Him to help me believe what He says. It looks super spiritual (sarcasm haha) and goes like this: “God, I feel unimportant, unloved, and invisible. How do you see me? Will you show me? Will You give me eyes to see You?”

Anybody traveling on this path also? He sees you and me. He feels what we feel. He wants us more than we can understand and He wants to show us. I picture Him with a huge smile on His face, overjoyed, anticipating the gift He wants to give us. He can't wait for us to open it.

“Now I will break the yoke of bondage from your neck and tear off the chains of Assyrian oppression,” Nahum 1:13. Do it Lord. Give us eyes to see You and senses to perceive You!

Struggling, striving, growing,

Michelle Elliott



What's New?



come to The Plumline Office
For the latest in
Stick Apparel



See below
Suggested Donation

Welcome to
amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

"Stick Apparel" T-shirt special:
Suggested donation \$15 each or 2 for \$20.
We have small, medium, large, XL, and
2XL sizes.
Don't miss out! Come to the Plumline
office to get yours soon!

Establishing a Plumblineline in the Heart of God's People

Plumblineline Ministries

Plumblineline is a nonprofit Pastoral Counseling and Teaching Center.

Our Mission is to partner with churches in order to offer Pastoral Counseling, to provide services to the community at large, and to establish a nation-wide teaching ministry promoting the principle that God delights in the struggling, striving, growing believer.

We accept clients through our sponsoring churches at no charge to the client, and from the public for a service fee. (\$65.00/hour)

Our sponsoring churches are:

Asbury United Methodist Church

Believers Church

Liberty Church

Northside Christian Church

Parkview Baptist, River Oaks Presbyterian

Riveroaks Presbyterian Church

Members of any of the sponsoring churches, please bring a signed intake form from your pastor to be put on the waiting list. Clients from the public, download an intake form from our website and bring it to our office or come by the office for a copy.

Visit us on our website www.plumblinelineonline.com

Stickman's Prayers

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

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 Prayer's* 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.

FOUNDATIONS

Soul Care Training VI Unit 1

September 1, 2016 – November 17, 2016 (Cancel week of Fall Break)

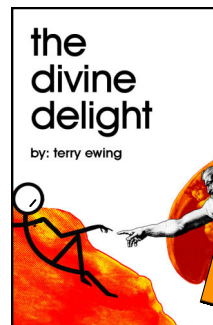
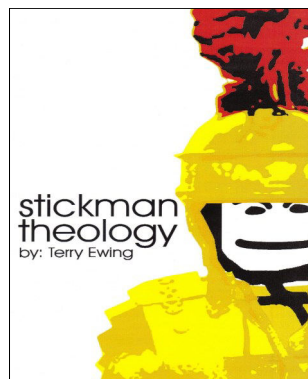
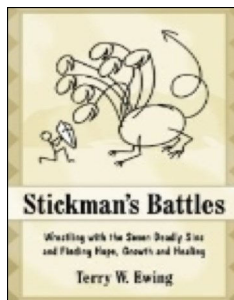
It will be back to the basics in Soul Care Training VI Unit 1. In this course students will learn about the foundational principles of counseling on which Plumblineline is based. Students will be introduced to our most often used tools of discovery and emotional processing. The course will end with the sharing of "personal narratives" developed during the three months of the course. The required reading for this course includes Terry Ewing's [Stickman Theology](#) and [How to Stop the Pain](#) by Dr. James Richards. These books will be read in that order and will be reviewed during dedicated class discussion sessions.

Our goal in Soul Care Training is to equip individuals in the community of faith to embrace others as well as themselves in the midst of challenging life circumstances and to build confidence to engage in meaningful and soul shaping conversations. Our sixth two-year cycle of on-site classes begins [Thursday, September 1](#). The cost for our on-site classes is \$250 per unit. [Registration and a \\$50 deposit](#) is strongly suggested by [August 10, 2016](#). The remaining balance of \$200 is due by the first class session. You may register online at www.plumblinelineonline.com or at the Plumblineline office, 8222 E. 103rd St., Suite 127, Tulsa, OK 74133. Call our office at 918-477-9068 for any further information or email Carol McNamara at carol@plumblinelineonline.com or Michelle Carpenter at michelle@plumblinelineonline.com.

For more information on Soul Care Video on Demand pricing and scheduling contact Anthony Elliott at Anthony@plumblinelineonline.com. For more information on satellite Soul Care class availability and pricing, contact, Traci Rostamo at tjrostando@gmail.com.

Financial Snapshot	June 2016	Year-to-Date 2016
Number of Client Hours	315	1,836
Contribution Income	\$12,595	\$63,015
Operations Expenditures	\$11,836	\$65,772
Shortfall	\$759.00	(\$2,757)

Available at Plumline 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 Plumline? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumline.** All you need to do is go to smiles.amazon.com, designate Plumline Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumline. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

PLUMBLINE

MINISTRIES

8222 E. 103rd St

Suite 127

Tulsa, OK 74133

