



TFC Global AUGUST 2021



### A Word from Our President

According the standards of this world you may think you have "everything." However, know this: if you are not living the way GOD wants you to live, your "everything" is a bunch of "nothing"!

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 14:12 that "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Point being that if you have gone in the way that "seemed right to you," the end of it is destruction!

However, all is not lost. The Bible also says that if you return to GOD today He will refresh you and you'll find "everything" you really need

in Him! In Isaiah 44:22 we are told, "I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

So here is a warning for us all. Don't play hide-and-go-seek with Him any longer. Return to the LORD! He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. He forgives all our sins and remembers them no more. He wants you to return to Him so that He can bless you!

Psalm 34:4 tells us, "I sought the LORD, and HE heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

A friend of mine recently stated, speaking of this world today, "In the last few months I feel as if we are all on a ship of fools and no one is at the helm."

There's a lot of truth in that. The reality of life today is that we need GOD now more than ever! If you don't know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, then call on Him today. Know this, no matter how many steps you've taken away from Him, it only takes one step to get back in a right relationship with Him! The Bible tells us that everyone is born into a sin nature. As a result, the Bible tells us, we are sinners—"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). In Isaiah 64:6 it says, "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags." Jesus was the only one born without sin. He came to earth as fully God and fully man to sacrifice Himself in order to bring atonement for our sins and redeem us! In this we know, that our sins are forgiven and we have salvation in Jesus Christ.

Let me be clear about this. Salvation is found in no other name. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:8-11 says: "He (Jesus) humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

If you do know Jesus Christ as your Savior but you have not been walking in a close relationship to Him, then today is the day when you need to come back to Him and let your life, and all you do, allow others the opportunity to hear, see and feel the love of GOD through you.



## **HIGHWAY NEWS**

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#### On the Cover:

This Kenworth won trophies for People's Choice and Tractor Division/Best Interior at the recent Victory Weekend show held at the Lebanon Fairgrounds in Lebanon, PA. Shown with TFC Global President Ron Fraser are trucker Larry Martin and his wife. See pages 14-15 for the story.





#### Going Upstream to Solve a Downstream Problem

#### By Derek Thompson

One thing that drives me crazy, that maybe you can relate to, is talking about a problem, ad nauseam, without ever talking about the solution. If you've ever been on a team that just loves to analyze the problem without a workable solution, I

feel your pain. Nothing can be more discouraging especially when it comes to a d d r e s s i n g major societal problems in the world like sex trafficking.

When I first started to learn about the issue of sex trafficking I discovered that it was much easier

for people to talk about the problem than it was to give concrete solutions. I would hear heartbreaking stories of how children were being victimized all over the world and then become disappointed when I didn't hear any real solutions to end it.

That is not to say that I haven't been inspired by so many people who are doing amazing work rescuing victims and providing restorative care and services. In fact, many of the people and organizations providing victim care and services are some of my per-

sonal heroes in life.

However, the reason why I got involved in anti-sex trafficking work in the first place was not to keep the revolving door of victim services spinning. I got

involved to stop the revolving door. What I was looking for were upstream solutions to solve the downstream problem of sex trafficking.

That is the reason why I joined TFC Global to lead the Gateway to Freedom Foundation (GTFF). Through

GTFF I have the opportunity to stop focusing on the problem, and instead, roll up my sleeves and get busy solving it.

The reason GTFF exists is to put sex trafficking out of business, and therefore protect generations of children from ever being trafficked in the first place. If that is something that resonates with you then please join me upstream by inviting GTFF to come speak to your business, community group or local church.



#### Learn more about the Gateway to Freedom Foundation!

Check <u>www.gatewayff.org</u> ◆ Call 717-426-9977 (ask for the Gateway to Freedom Foundation)

Acess the LiveFree App ◆ Consider attending a GTF Workshop (call the number above for information)



TFC Global has several positions to fill and needs to share. How can you help? Share this information with someone you know, or meet the need yourself!

#### **OPEN POSITIONS**

- District Managers: provide leadership and oversight for a group of staff chaplains and chaplain associates located in an assigned area of the United States.
- Staff Chaplains: provide leadership over a team of associates who minister to the trucking industry in as assigned region.

To apply for these positions, visit our website at www.TFCGlobal.org/employment

#### MINISTRY NEEDS

- Gateway to Freedom Foundation: request our director to speak at your church, company or community group about human trafficking and how we are part of the solution.
- Midwest Food Bank partnership: drive their rigs loaded with supplies for disaster relief locations
- Celebrate Recovery: request our chaptains to hold step group meetings at your location
- General Ministry: donate toward or provide a van to use in the towing of our show trailer to
  events, bringing awareness to our organization at locations around the country.
- Drivers: pick up trailers from various locations to bring them back to our office for an updated interior and exterior.

TFC Global stands for more than just a ministry to truck drivers; our chaplains have had opportunities to help the men and women of the trucking community with struggles such as addictions, family and coworker relationships, self care and more.

Our faith partners support us financially because they support our vision — support it because they know a driver, are a driver themselves or own a trucking company — support it because God has called them to give.

What about you?





We exist to evangelize, educate and equip members of the trucking community and their families to help them grow in their faith. Building a legacy is critical to the ongoing ministry of TFC Global. We can all make a difference in seeing the ministry be financially secure to continue meeting needs and expanding to reach more of the trucking world with the message and hope of Jesus.

TFC Global has years of learning, good friends, and ministry opportunities that have continued to touch many people. Gifts such as the following are a few examples of ways to bless drivers beyond a cash donation.

- \* Stocks and bonds
- \* Real estate
- \* Retirement Assets
- \* Insurance benefits

For more information email info@tfcglobal.org or call our office at 717-426-9977.

# TFC GLOBAL AT WORK IN THE LIVES OF THE TRUCKING COMMUNITY

#### By Ron Fraser

Your free time as a professional driver is absolutely precious. But as many of you know, it's not always convenient to do certain activities during your downtime. This statement should definitely ring true for drivers of faith. As a driver, you aren't always able to make it home for Sunday service with your family. You also have to consider that searching for a church, parking your rig and carving out time in your day makes it hard to connect with other worshippers. So, what are your options as a Christian driver? You should look for a TFC Global FaithLife Center for professional drivers in your area!

TFC Global is currently pursuing ministry in several new international ministry locations. You can stay up-to-date on our progress by visiting our website.

TFC Global's main mission was to help truck drivers strengthen their relationship with God and provide a space for them to congregate on the road. Its first mobile chapel was commissioned in 1968, and the organization has been expanding ever since.

The chapels are now called Professional Driver FaithLife Centers; they are more than just places to grow a driver's faith. They also serve as a safe and comfortable place for drivers from all walks of life. Each location offers biblical

counseling services and resources as well as an opportunity to connect with other drivers who are struggling with loneliness and the other hardships of the road. No matter what you're dealing with, the chaplains of TFC Global are always ready to listen and offer advice to weary travelers. There are also Bible studies, Celebrate Recovery classes, and even an opportunity to watch a football game.

You can find a TFC Global FaithLife Center near you by checking the TFC Global website. Most of these FLC's are located in parking lots of truck stops and trucking events. Each location is a converted trailer that was donated and renovated into a fully functional space equipped with a meeting room and chaplain's office.

The renovation process costs approximately \$50,000. But donations help to considerably cut these expenses. Volunteers almost single-handedly convert the trailers into FaithLife Center units, which also lowers the cost. These individuals assist with everything from painting to carpentry to electrical work. All told, the renovation process takes about three months to complete. If you would like to donate to the needed refurbishment or the construction of one of these units, you can do so by contacting TFC Global at 717-426-9977.



Do you want to help TFC Global spread its message to more professional drivers, their families and the trucking community? We are always seeking individuals or couples who feel a calling to be part of our Corporate Chaplains Network serving as chaplains at the truck stops and in trucking companies around the country. Full time positions are available. TFC Global is also always in need of volunteers to help at our ministry centers and at the International Headquarters. We could use volunteer

- Continued on page 7



#### TFC GLOBAL: UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20-22: Gateway To Freedom Foundation Intensive Seminar

September 16-19: Hope Festival in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

October 1: Ohio Truck Show & Parade, Kidron, Ohio

October 9: Bucks-Montgomery County Chapter Banquet, Harleysville, Pennsylvania

for more information on any of these events, email info@tfcglobal.org or call 717-426-9977.

#### - Continued from page 6

drivers to transport our trailers to new locations or pick up a trailer and return it to be refurbished. We could also use volunteer carpenters, electricians and work teams to help us update our current FaithLife Center units. For questions about becoming a chaplain or getting involved as a volunteer, visit our website, call (717) 426-9977, or email info@TFCGlobal.org.

Drivers who are seeking guidance but are unable to make it to a FaithLife Center location can check out our Highway News Magazine at a local truck stop for the number of a chaplain near your location. You can also call our International Office at 717-426-7799.

Are you a driver of faith? What are some other ways that you worship while you're on the road? How do you balance your faith-based activities with your driving schedule? Consider joining the ICTA (International Christian Trucking Association); you will be joining a community of

drivers and owners who meet together regionally to eat, pray and spend time in fellowship together in God's Word at one of our ICTA monthly breakfast meetings around the country. For more information on the ICTA please check out our website at TFCGlobal.org.

Maybe you would like one of our staff to come speak at your church or event so that you can learn more about our ministry or our human trafficking program called the Gateway To Freedom Foundation. To do that, simply go on our website and fill out the speaker request form you will find there, and we would be happy to schedule a speaker for your event.

Wherever there are professional drivers, TFC Global is there to share the gospel, educate and equip members of the trucking community and their families to help them grow in their faith and deal with the struggles they face in their walk with God. **COME JOIN US!** 



## Trucking with Women in Mind

By Ellen Voie, President & CEO, Women in Trucking

**Eleven years on Facebook** 

Eleven years ago, Facebook was emerging as one of the top social media websites, and Women In Trucking member Sandy Long recognized its potential. She reached out and asked if she could start a WIT group on the site. She wanted a place for female drivers to be able to ask questions, network and find new friends. She saw the value in connecting drivers with technology.

Although Sandy passed away a few years ago, her legacy remains in the WIT Facebook group, which now includes nearly 11,000 individuals in the trucking industry. Both men and women visit the group to talk about things that affect their roles as professional drivers. While the majority are truck drivers, there are others who are on the site to learn or to network.

You may be surprised to learn that the page is moderated by professional drivers. They take turns watching the site for compliance. In fact, while WIT staff check in on the site, the admins are vigilant in ensuring the posters follow the rules, which they must agree to before approval is granted into the closed group.

Members are muted or removed from the site for violating the profanity rules, posting accident photos, asking for money, trying to recruit drivers or sell products. The rules ensure that the group is a welcoming, helpful and an educational site. Swearing and name calling is not tolerated, which makes this group family friendly.

These WIT members work hard to ensure the group remains supportive and helpful. They also post scenarios and ask for feedback on the situation. They query members on safety rules and often provide resources when someone has a question about regulations that affect the industry.

These women and men are a great resource when we want to get feedback about numerous topics. Some of our corporate members have used the information to make changes in their policies, equipment or merchandise. We met with one truck manufacturer's engineers

and marketing team to talk about what changes drivers would like to see in their cab. A truck stop chain asked for feedback on paid parking and how they could improve the shower experience. We're thrilled to have such a wonderful resource.

In eleven years, the group has grown to include members in 55 countries! There are nearly 100 different cities shown as members' locations. There are more Facebook members who call Atlanta home while New York City and Chicago come in second and third.

They range in age from thirteen to "over 65." The largest group is aged 45-54, which reflects the driver population as a whole. Also, as expected, 76 percent of the members in the WIT Facebook group are women.

A comment can result in over a thousand reactions (i.e.: thumbs up!), thousands of views (exposures) and hundreds of comments. While posts, comments and reactions are mostly created throughout the week, the most common day for entries is Saturday.

While the admins try very hard to monitor posts as they are entered, that can be difficult, as there are numerous night owls (or those in other countries) who are on the site throughout the night. However, the posts peak in the early evening with the most posts being made between four and eight o'clock p.m.

WIT Board member and owner operator Deb LaBree leads the moderators, who include Lori Blackburn, Cindy Kaps, Kim McGinnis, Tracy Gaudette, Margaret Levesque, April Hackett Crysel, and Marie Stoneberg.

This article honors the legacy of Sandy Long, who had the vision to create a group to bring drivers together in a positive environment. A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to the admins who keep everyone in line and to the nearly 11,000 members who are part of this amazing group.

## You Are Not Alone in the Fight for Stable Mental Health

#### By Clifford Petersen - Condensed from Overdrive Website

More than one in five people in the United States struggles with a mental health problem. So with more than 7 million workers in trucking, you've got a potential 1.4 million of our peers dealing with the stress and uncertainties of living with a mental illness. You can be certain, too, that every day each of us encounters countless vehicles piloted by someone battling a mental illness. While a mental health stigma persists in our society, we are getting better about understanding the issue. As I've written about time and time again, our mental health has a direct impact upon our physical health. Conditions can increase our chances of developing metabol-

ic syndrome, heart disease, diabetes, migraine headaches, allergies, fatigue and muscle and joint pain.

There are things you can do to help you get through the day and establish some good mental health PM routines:

**Get active.** Physical activity not only helps keep the weight in check, but it boosts your immune system and improves

your mental health; it burns stress hormones and helps us feel energized, focused, calm. Break up your day by cleaning the truck or walking around the truck and trailer. Run in place. Do some squats, pushups or jumping jacks. Go for a run or carry a bicycle with you and take a ride.

Immerse yourself in nature. Do you know about grounding, sometimes called earthing? It's contact with the earth's surface as therapy. Merely walking barefoot in the grass for a bit will boost your mood and give you a greater appreciation for simple things. Park where you can enjoy nature, or build a little herb box you can sit in the window.

Focus on the present. We cannot change the past and have no control over the future. All we can do is learn from the past and make our best effort for the future. Be present in the here and now to avoid negativity taking hold. Consider keeping a journal. Sometimes writing down what is going on in our mind, body, external environment, can help us understand the emotions that may cause depression and anxiety.

Laugh a little. Or a lot! It's one of the greatest gifts God has given us. Laughter boosts your immune system, feels good and helps us gain new perspectives. When you are laughing with others, it strengthens relationships and, like smiles, it's certainly contagious.

**Practice kindness.** Often the path to healing is gaining a new perspective. There is no better way of doing that than getting out of your head and problems by helping someone else. During one of the darkest times in my life I found my way by serving others at the local food kitchen

and food bank. Nothing brings people together more than food -- and serving those who do not have enough to eat will definitely give you a new perspective on your own problems.

Stay curious. Nourishing your curiosity can improve your immunity, boost your brain health and offer new approaches to the same old problems. The mind needs to

be stimulated to stay healthy. There is a saying in psychology that many educational providers have adopted: Use it or lose it. If you do not challenge your mind and memory, it will wither up and die like a houseplant left unattended.

Read a book instead of letting them pile up on your Kindle or in a cubby hole. Listen to audio books as you drive. Take an online course. There are free and inexpensive courses on everything from hobbies to vocations taught on youtube and on educational sites such as coursera.org and edx.org.

**Practice gratitude.** Write down three good things going on in your life, no matter how small, daily. Just being thankful for having good health can improve your health. Gratitude practices help you keep things in perspective when the day goes awry.

- Continued on page 13



## TFC GLOBAL: FIG PROFESSIONAL

Why is the development of a chaplaince professional drivers and their families in high risk for poor health. Due to their wrisk may take the form of chronic stressic schedules and excessive time away many companies have prioritized the hers, the workload demands of trucking ment of marital issues, addictions, anx

TFC Global has long recognized the nead drivers to deliver a ministry of presmost chaplaincy programs provide. In this community, we are able to offer ad

Centers located at truck stops or in the companies throughout the region of these centers. The recipients point-of-contact resources, local referral capabilities and a trained professional characteristics.



- ◆ Celebrate Recovery Step meetings led by
- Human Trafficking Awareness training thr
- Pornography addiction assistance through year that will utilize a professional coul
- **♦** Crisis Care from a trained chaplain.
- International Christian Trucking Association leaders and company employees in the surrounding area.
- Talk & Prayer (TAP) meetings for women per trucking community to support families
- DivorceCare and GriefShare programs will as well.

Would you consider hosting an ICTA or TAP event at your church or company? Would you also think trafficking expert to speak at your church, school, company orientation, young men/women's groups contact us at info@tfcglobal.org or call our office at 717-426-9977.

## HTING FOR THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF OUR DRIVERS AND THE TRUCKING COMMUNITY

y program that includes caring for the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of our so important? Because truck driving is characterized as a profession that puts drivers at a

vork environments, this health s, disrupted sleep patterns, errat-from support systems. Although ealth of their employees and drivweigh heavily on the developiety and also poor eating habits.

sed to come alongside companies sence that goes beyond what addition to the spiritual care for ditional services at our FaithLife lese services include giving aplain.



our staff and held at the FaithLife Centers across the country.

ough our Youth in Crisis presentations under the Gateway to Freedom Foundation's direction.

n a three-day retreat held twice each nselor network.

on (ICTA) meetings for corporate trucking community and

passionate about and part of the

I soon be offered at our locations

k about inviting our human s? For more information,





#### David Found Strength, Moses Found Purpose, Jeremiah Found Hope - Part 1

I look on the horizon and see ominous clouds that concern me. I am burdened with the suffering of others and troubled by the strident protests and attacks against the foundations of our society. Some days I awake encouraged and within a few hours am tempted to be discouraged. But I am learning, like David, to strengthen myself in the Lord. With God's help I am seeking to maintain my purpose, like Moses, and all the while hold on to hope,

like Jeremiah. Please join me in considering these three saints and how they have been a source of comfort and inspiration to me. For this edition, let's consider David.

David Found Strength in the Lord—For those of you who text, you will recognize the initials TMI, which represent Too Much Information. If you are also on some form of social media, you are being bom-

barded with information, much of which is disconcerting. I have friends and family members who think very differently than I do and I find myself struggling. Sometimes I feel alone and am distressed. During times like these, I am encouraged by David.

Consider the account found in 1 Samuel. David and his men had just returned to their hometown hoping to embrace their loved ones. Instead they discovered that all their families and possessions were gone. They were overcome with grief and then turned on their leader. David was alone. His own family had been captured. In his anguish, he turned to God. "Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives

and sons and daughters taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened

himself in the LORD his God" (1 Samuel 30:1-6).

When I feel distressed and overwhelmed with the ascent of evil, the erosion of the very foundations of our once godly nation, and the prospects for our future as a republic under God, I am learning to strengthen myself in the Lord. I often think of the hymn "Solid Rock," which has this verse: "His oath, His

covenant, His blood, support me in the 'whelming flood, when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." I am encouraged to know that God is my source of hope, not the condition of my country or God's people. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Sometimes I simply ask God to give me fresh courage and renew my hope. David prayed in Psalms 61 and 62:"Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for You have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy" (Psalm 61:1-3).

"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken" (Psalm 62:1-2).

Thank God for the work of God in David.





#### 1 John 3:11 - Love one another.

#### **Pictures and Prayers**

For him love is really simple. It means you care for people. You share time with them. You talk with them, listening to the stories of their lives and sharing the stories of yours. You're with them in good times, and you're with them in the not-so-good times. You're comfortable going to them when you need help, and you welcome them to come to you when they need help. And most importantly, you pray for them. When he says, "You're in my thoughts and prayers," he means it.

Photography is among his many interests. He isn't particularly good or bad at it, but he's committed to it. He is clearly the family photographer, and he has at times dabbled in some photo ventures of a more professional nature. After more than fifty years of taking pictures, he claims he can look at a picture and tell if he took it or not. Most times he's correct.

As the number of people whom he loves has expanded over the years, he often prayed for them in groups with prayers such as, "God, please bless my family and friends." Although well-intended, as he aged he wanted to step up his game and personalize his prayers. His computer gave him a new perspective on his daily prayers.

His screen saver is a scrolling display of pictures, most of which are of family and friends. Some of them are of people who he has recently spent time with or just met. Even though he likes being behind the camera, he also likes having his picture taken with family and friends and new acquaintances. Those pictures become visual reminders of good times for him. They are images of people he cares about. As he watches the pictures scroll by, he thinks about the folks pictured and times they've shared.

One morning while praying, he decided to do so while mentally scrolling through picture of the individuals for whom he was praying. That really personalized his prayer for each of them. In the midst of his prayers, he often smiles and is thankful as he remembers good times. Other times, he prays for specific needs and shares his concerns for those in his prayers.

His pictures have helped him individualize his prayers. As a result, he feels he is better able to fulfill the command to "Love one another."

When you pray, personalize the love that causes you to lift others up in prayer.

Walk the Walk: A Daily Guide to a More Christlike Life is the daily devotional guide from which the New Testament passage that inspired this article is drawn. Copies of that devotional are available at Leadershipmrm.com under the Books/Publications tab.

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Connect with others. For professional drivers, isolation is an occupational hazard. Yet studies have shown that those who have rich social lives are happiest. I'm not just talking about social media, which can help you keep up in some ways. But if you only sit on the sidelines and watch, you fail to participate in your own wellbeing. Make the most of cell phone technology, such as Zoom or Skype. Can't be at your son's game? No problem—just Facetime

your cohort and watch it via remote. Making such efforts will show your loved ones how much you care.

No matter how bad things appear, nothing lasts forever. We often experience growth through hardship and flourish in adversity. So be grateful for what you have and know that the simplest way to change your circumstance is to change direction. When a roadblock appears, take a new route. You may be isolated and feel very alone at times, but you are not alone in the fight.

## VICTORY WEEKEND





#### **AWARD WINNERS**

(Left)

Best of Show-Antique: Glenn Ober, Manheim PA



(Left)

Tractor Division-Best
Interior & People's
Choice Award:
Larry Martin, Reinholds PA



**BEST OF SHOW:** 

Marlin Smoker, Coatesville PA

A special thanks to our event sponsors. Kneckel Demolition & Excavating and Sam Rittenhouse.

## TRUCK SHOW





You don't have to struggle with addiction, broken relationships or loss alone.

Join the TFC Global-hosted Celebrate Recovery
Step Groups for a safe place to have victory over your hurts, habits and hang-ups.

### Gateway to Freedom Foundation

An initiative of TFC Clobal committed to freeing every person from consumer sexual beliefs and behaviors so they can thrive in their life, family and community

#### **OUR APPROACH**

#### **AWARENESS**



BREAK THE SILENCE OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF COMMERCIAL SEX IN SOCIETY

CONNECT ACTIVE BUYERS & ADDICTS TO PROVEN PATHS THAT LEAD TO HOPE AND FREEDOM

#### INTERVENTION



#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**



RAISE HIGH THE STANDARD FOR REDUCING THE DEMAND IN ORDER TO PROTECT CHILDREN

WORK WITH TFCG
CHAPLAINS AND
COMMUNITIES TO
PROMOTE RELATIONAL
HEALTH & FREEDOM

## CULTURAL



TOGETHER WE CAN DRIVE DOWN DEMAND & PROTECT CHILDREN

Join us! Contact Derek Thompson at derekt@tfcglobal.org

## CHAPLAINCY TRAINING INSTITUTE JUNE. 2021









## Marietta. PA



From left to right, President Ron Fraser, David Abbott, Patty and Ken Eakins, Stan Wertz, Clifford Davis, Joanna Maart, and Chad Roedema

The June CTI was held at our International Office in Marietta, Pennsylvania. We welcomed Ken and Patty Eakins from Indiana (top right), Stan Wertz from Ohio (top middle), David Abbott from Connecticut (left) and Clifford Davis from Massachusetts, Our attendees were trained on TFC Global and some basic chaplaincy principles. We are excited to see what God will do with the ministry of these people. From forms to community, our staff gave out information and led practice activities. On the left, our Director of US Operations, Chad Roedema, led us in a challenge for chaplains. It was a packed two days, but the time together did much to develop a unified team of support for these ministry locations. Each of these attendees will be raising funds toward their assigned budget with the goal of being funded as soon as possible. Please be praying for their transition time to be smooth.

## #exvangelical

#### By Brad Huddleston

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

(1 Timothy 4:1 NIV)

The shocking headline from *The Christian Post* reads, "DC Talk's Kevin Max says he's an 'exvangelical': 'Deconstructing' and 'progressing'." Max tweeted, "Hello, my name is Kevin Max & I'm an #exvangelical." Max is not alone. Joshua Harris, author of the best-selling book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, announced that he is no longer a Christian. Marty Sampson, former Hillsong Worship Leader and songwriter, said he's struggling with his faith. The frontman for the Christian rock band Hawk Nelson, Jonathan Steingard, has announced that he no longer believes in God.4

If you think your screen-glued child or grandchild is immune to this type of influence, think again. Abraham Piper, son of well-known theologian and pastor John Piper, has over a million followers on TikTok and has released video after video attacking Christianity.<sup>5</sup> His foul language and sarcastic tone clearly show that his inner rebellion runs deep.

And this is just the tip of an enormous iceberg. Of course, there have always been "backsliders," but I submit to you that the internet has made the process easier, and more accepted, than ever in the history of the Church.

There are numerous podcasts dedicated to deconstructing faith.<sup>6</sup> Abraham Piper certainly isn't alone on TikTok. There are numerous internet influencers on all the popular social media platforms making their case about why they've left Christianity. And people the world over are paying close attention. It's no wonder that only four percent of Gen Z and 6 percent of Millennials have a Biblical Worldview.<sup>7</sup> Social media is impacting these two generations more than the Bible.

To be fair, the term "deconstructing" is also used on the internet to describe sincere Christians wrestling with doubt, certain teachings, etc. They seek to "reconstruct" their faith to be more aligned with the correct interpretation of Scripture. In this context, deconstructing for clarification and correction is healthy. Leaving the faith is not.

Young people have always been prone to fads. Some innocuous (e.g., pet rocks) and some not so harmless. The Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria (ROGD) fad is extremely dangerous and leaves many with deep regret after irreversible surgeries. Even more dangerous than ROGD is wrecking one's spiritual well-being.

Is allowing your children and grandchildren to have their own cell phone and tablet with unfettered use worth the risk of falling into these modern fads? Every time I hear of a grandparent who has purchased a tablet for their grandchild for Christmas, I cringe. I know they're well-meaning, but we must educate them on what's actually coming in via those tablets, even in Christian homes.

The deconstructing movement is in part the result of a lack of thorough Bible teaching within the home. Notice I didn't blame this on the Church. God clearly puts the onus of Bible teaching squarely on parents. The Church's job is to assist in this parental mandate.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

(Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NIV)

For most homes, including ones that wear the label "Christian," the thing that is talked about when sitting at home and walking along the road, when lying down and getting up, is not the Scriptures. For many, I surmise that would be viewed as "unbalanced." For some reason, ingesting social media night and day is viewed as normal. Not to God.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Max, K. (2021, May 15). Hello, my name is Kevin Max & I'm an #exvangelical. Twitter. https://twitter.com/kevinmax/status
<sup>2</sup> Aaron, C. (2019, August 28). 'Losing My Religion:' What We Can Learn From Celebrity Christians Who Walk Away from the Faith. CBN News. <sup>3</sup> Ibid <sup>4</sup> Rico, K. (2020, May 27). Christian Singer Jonathan Steingard Says He No Longer Believes in God. https://variety.com/
<sup>5</sup> TikTok. (n.d.). https://www.tiktok.com/@abrahampiper?lang=en.
<sup>6</sup> FM, P. (n.d.). Faith Deconstruction Podcasts. Best Faith Deconstruction Podcasts (2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Jonathan Morrow Director of Cultural Engagement and Student Discipleship. (2020, May 26). Only 4 Percent of Gen Z Have a Biblical Worldview. Impact 360 Institute.



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If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity? You can know for sure.

- A. Admit you are a sinner. "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
- B. Believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and for eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
- C. Confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord, and turn from your sins. "...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

To give your life to Christ, pray the prayer below. "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross and shed Your blood to pay the penalty for my sins. Please forgive me and come into my life. You are my Savior and Lord."

We would love to hear about your decision. Email TFC Global at info@tfcglobal.org or call 717-426-9977. Resources will be sent to you to help you grow in your faith.