

Emra Expressions

Touching Lives - Changing Hearts



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While in London I participated in three seminars with John Childress.

Our goal was to help people understand their addictions, where they came from and how to defeat the power those addictions had on their lives.

After the seminar that focused on Circumstances, Choices and Consequences I talked to three people.

One man from a large inner city ministry expressed his pleasure at having some new tools to use while helping people deal with their addictions. The second was a woman, recently divorced who was watching her life disintegrate around her. She talked at length about the poor choices she was making to enter into bad relationships with men in order to build up her self esteem only to be inundated with self loathing the morning after. She was crying out for help and I pointed her to some women who could walk beside her and help her realize how God was at work in her life.

The third was Dani (not her real name). A fairly new christian.

Dani was not able to attend the seminar the week before because of an attempted suicide.

I talked about how suicide was a permanent solution to a temporary problem and she came back by telling me, "I know suicide is wrong, but because of my mental health issues there are times I just get so overwhelmed that I can't see a way out."

We went back over the Four Core Needs. Dani said she had about a third grade reading level and the fact that the venn Diagram was visual helped her better understand her circumstances. (Click on this link to see the Venn Diagram on our web site: http://www.lifeisfullofchoices.org/?page_id=549)

Then we talked about the Three Cornerstones and Dani eventually said "I hear you saying that it is not what I am feeling but how I react to my feeling that makes all the difference. Because feelings come and go, the real choice I have to control my life is how I choose to respond toward those feelings."

As I watched the light of understanding go on in her eyes I prayed that she would follow up with one of the ladies who could walk with her through life and share some of her burdens and delight in her joys.

Our job is to share ideas that may some day grow into reality in a persons life. Your financial support got us to London, and your prayers made it possible for me to touch the life of Dani in a way that some day may grow into a changed heart!

Thank you.

John

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Answered Prayer

We are back from England. We had a great trip and enjoyed the safety your prayers provided.

Sally is recovering nicely. the cast has been removed and she is now in a walking cast.

Prayer Request

Pray for John and Sally now that John will be taking on the responsibility of the household chores.

Pray for Sally's patience as she goes through months of rehab.

Sheryl and I have been asked to lead a parenting seminar that will run for at least seven weeks at a local Church.

Pray that we can find the right dates to make that happen.

The Rest Of The Story

In the letter we sent out through the mail I shared about Dani (still not her real name) and the progress we made as we were talking. There was not space to share this tidbit of encouragement she gave me as she was leaving.

Much earlier in the month John had talked about someone who just started coming to their classes who was deathly afraid of men. She would barely talk to a man let alone be in a room alone with one.

When he shared that with me I thought it was interesting but not very important since in England I am almost never on my own with anyone let alone ladies.

Well, little did I know.

After the seminar, Dani came to talk with me about what I had written on the board. After talking for a few minutes I tried to go by her and I reached out to touch her arm to let her know I was passing behind her and she physically reacted like I had burnt her.

I put two and two together and came to the conclusion that this is the lady John had been talking about.

Later, after our extended conversation, and after making some real progress I thanked her for being in the class and taking the time to talk with me and asked if I could give her a hug or shake her hand or something...

Dani responded that she would be comfortable shaking my hand.

As I reached out my hand I observed that she was struggling with herself and reluctantly extending her hand to meet mine.

We shook hands and then went to another room to get some papers she had asked for. While there, we talked some more and I repeated what I hoped she would follow though on.

As we were getting ready to go, this time, Dani put out her hand to shake mine.

I have seldom felt more connected to another person or been so flattered by a hand shake in my life. That was a huge step for her.

I hope she stays connected to John and Sally and continues to work on the issues she faces in her daily life.

As I said in the final section of the letter, thank you for making it possible for me be there for Dani. Your financial support got us to London, and your prayers made it possible for me to touch the life of Dani in a way that some day, with Jesus, may grow into a changed heart!

In order for us to continue touching lives and changing hearts we need your help.

Your prayer support is by far the most important way you can help us. It really doesn't matter if you pray for us daily, weekly or once a month. The only thing that matters is that you are remembering us in your prayers!

Financial support is also important.



We cannot go to the places we go or talk to the people we talk to without the financial support that makes the travel possible. We need your help! Click on the DONATE button to be taken to our web page. There you will find instructions how you can donate by check, directly from your bank to ours or through PayPal.

However you donate, it is most appreciated and we will send you a receipt at the beginning of the next month.

Thank you again for all you are doing to change your family, community and country - one person at a time!