

# Christian Counseling Ministries of WNY, Inc.

910 Union Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

NEWSLETTER

674-6747

SPRING 2000

Dr. Timothy P. Chambers, Executive Director

## FROM VICTIM TO VICTOR

In chapters 33 and 34 of II Chronicles we are given a historical account of good King Josiah and his family. The Bible tells us that King Josiah's grandfather and father were bad kings and did evil in the sight of the Lord. King Josiah, however, refused to be a victim of his past, and at an early age, chose to take his life down a different road. II Chronicles records that "he did what was right in the sight of the Lord...and did not turn to the right hand, nor to the left."

It is sometimes hard to do the right things in life. It would have been easy for King Josiah to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and father. It would have been natural for him to assimilate their behavior and their lack of godly values into his own daily walk. Josiah could have been just one more in a line of kings who "did evil in the sight of the Lord." Instead, he took a different road. He chose to be a victor rather than a victim. As a result, his life and the lives of those around him, greatly benefited from this powerful decision to do the right thing and not to be victimized by his circumstances.

Does this story speak to your heart? Perhaps you feel victimized by something in your life. Whether perceived or real, adopting a "victim" mentality does not lend itself to victorious living. It is often a road that leads us to hopelessness and despair.

We live in a culture that seems to reward the "victim" mind set. A woman sues McDonalds after she spills scalding coffee on her lap at the drive-through window, and she wins. A man successfully sues Sears after he cuts off his hand while using his lawn mower to trim hedges, because Sears never properly warned him that a lawn mower should stay on the ground and not be used to trim hedges. Another man sues a company that fired him because they claimed his 400-pound frame affected his job performance. A jury decided that his weight is a disability and awarded him one million dollars. He now works at another job, and his "disability" has grown to 500 pounds. Have we helped or enabled him?

Are these people, and countless others, really better off for having their own irresponsibility so handsomely rewarded? The "victim" mindset, taken to its logical conclusion, leads ultimately to a society where no one is ever responsible for his actions because there is someone, or something, to blame. In a society described above, we would have no Abraham Lincoln, no Thomas Edison, no Helen Keller, no Theodore Roosevelt, no Joni

Erikson Tada – all people who faced tremendous deficits or handicaps in their lives.

What made Josiah different from his predecessors? The Biblical story of Josiah tells us that "in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek after God..." This action in itself is one of the surest ways to start down the road from victim to victor. God, in His Word, promises that His children can be "new creatures in Christ," (II Corinthians 5:17); that "he will never leave us nor forsake us," (Hebrews 13:5); and that He is "the author and finisher of our faith", (Hebrews 12:2). God can give us hope and confidence that our past, present and future are in His hands. We do not have to be victims of our circumstances through the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot undo our pasts and we may not be able to change our circumstances, but we can make the choice to respond to those things in a Biblical, God-honoring way.

Josiah also had good people around him. The Bible refers to them as "people of the land." These people saved and protected him from the men who killed his father. They made him king and set him on the throne of Judah. From the events surrounding Josiah's life, some of these "people of the land" must have been good counselors who encouraged him and pointed him toward a personal relationship with God.

Perhaps you feel you are a victim of life's circumstances. You know what God's Word says, but you are finding it difficult to apply these words to your life's situation. If this is the case, you may be in need of some outside support. King Josiah had "the people of the land" reach out and help him take the first step to victory. For you to start the journey from victim to victor you may need to look to a pastor, a counselor or a trusted friend for help and direction. The right person can help you sort out your feelings and make sense of what is going on. This person can help you identify what you feel victimized by and discern if it is real or perceived. Once identified, together you can establish goals and design strategies to free yourself from the victim role.

The journey from victim to victor may not be an easy road, but if like good King Josiah, we seek God and the support of godly people, we can break out of our victim mentality. The Lord Jesus Christ has given us victory at the cross. It is our calling and responsibility to appropriate His victory in our lives and to live as victors, not victims. (*Norm Kahler has been a counselor with CCM since 1999 and works out of our Lockport office.*)

You have our permission to reprint this newsletter as needed.

CCM IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION  
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

**WE WELCOME MS. LISA MONTAGNA**

*We are excited about the addition of Ms. Lisa Montagna to our CCM staff. Lisa is a recent graduate of the University of Buffalo where she received her Master's degree in counseling. She is also a Houghton College graduate and has valuable experience working with children and families.*

**UNITED WAY**

**PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR VALUES ARE!!!** We encourage you to consider CCM when you give to the United Way. Take advantage of the United Way Donor Option program to have your gifts designated to the agency of your choice. Simply write: "Christian Counseling Ministries" on the special donor option form available through your employer. **At any time you can call or visit your personnel office and request a form to make CCM the recipient of your choice. You do not have to wait until their annual drive to have your gift count toward our valuable ministry. Make your choice count. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 674-6747.**

**SPRING CLEANING?**

*If you come across any books or videos related to self-help and/or counseling issues, please consider donating them to our lending library.*

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**SEMINARS THIS SPRING**

We conducted a survey of 62 pastors in the Western New York area and found that marital and parenting struggles continue to be among the leading reasons Christians seek help. As a result, CCM will continue to make available to churches the following seminars to help address struggles before they become problems. Minimum group size of 25. Free-will offering. Unless otherwise noted, all seminars are presented by Dr. and Mrs. Tim Chambers.

**"Is Anybody Listening?" – On Communication**  
**"The Parent Trap/Love & Limits – On Parenting**  
**"Melding Hearts" – On Marriage**

Mark your calendars for the following seminars:

**Friday, March 3, 2000, 7-10 PM**

**Amherst Alliance Church**

**"Is Anybody Listening?" - Communication**

Saturday, March 18, 2000, 9-12:30 PM

Nash Road Free Methodist Church

"Is Anybody Listening?" - Communication

**Saturday, March 25, 2000, 7-9 PM**

**Grand Island United Methodist Church**

**"Communicating with your Teen", presented  
by Lisa Montagna and Jan Chmielewski.**

May 2000 – date and time to be announced

Kenmore Baptist Church

"The Parent Trap/Love & Limits" – on Parenting

**Contact us at 674-6747 to schedule a  
seminar at your church or organization**