

May 2004,

Prayer, like spring rains, bears fruit

March 7 was the deadline. So Connie prayed for 45 confirmed participants to guarantee covering expenses from the recovery ministry training later that month. Her prayers were answered and 52 adults confirmed their presence by the cut off date.

The news got better. The final tally at the first day of training nearly passed 90. Not only were the numbers encouraging, but more importantly, the training went very well. Interestingly, the 1st year students, showed remarkable maturity and a teachable spirit too.

Hurting men and women with adult-size problems were helped. The Spirit's tool bag was varied. He used two-hour long intercessory prayer sessions, life-changing biblical teaching and training and people sensitive counseling helping attendees deal with emotional and spiritual issues. Brokenness, loss, vulnerability, past abuse, establishing limits, rejection, marital infidelity, and hidden negative emotions, are just some of the baggage that was left behind.

April 3-5 hosted the 2nd Discipleship seminar. There were 42 lay leaders and pastors who attended. This training differed from past ones, in that it was a team effort. Three pastors took part in the teaching. What a change from the first time this course was offered with only one instructor and no help.

During the course we added an accountability model based on 10 questions related to life—issues. Having experienced firsthand its value, the group became eager to take this idea home to their churches.

Then we shared a three-man mentoring model designed to help believers continue to move forward in their life and ministry issues. The model stems from the acronym, **GROW** – **G**oal, **R**eality, **O**ptions and **W**orking plan. For about an hour a single adult courageously tested this mentoring tool, guided by a trained pastor, in search of a workable plan to lighten his struggle with a real life issue. The 40 plus listeners watched and later commented on this observably valuable tool for mentoring one another.

The Passion of the Christ.

Irregardless of how people view this movie, the biblical facts portrayed in it leave their mark on its viewers.

Just prior to Easter our church rented one movie theater room and brought over 400 friends and unbelievers to see for themselves how Christ suffered and died. After the brief but clear resurrection scene our pastor invited people to consider the Christ of the cross. They did! As a result 20 young adults stood at his invitation to declare that they had just prayed to accept Christ as Savior.

Your prayers and financial support are like the spring rains – assurance of coming fruit.