

The Life Bridge Ministries

Doug Tawlks, MA Counseling is the founder and director of Life Bridge Ministries, a ministry that focuses on prayer, counseling, and training. He is the author of a Christian novel about spiritual warfare, *Defenders of the Breach*. He and his friend, Dave Miller, began studying prayer and practicing on each other. They chose the Co-active model because it empowers people to break free from destructive thought patterns and negative emotions. Tawlks started incorporating prayer into his counseling practice and witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit healing his clients. Within a short time, people were referred to him for healing by former clients and churches. He began speaking, teaching, and talking about the healing prayer that he used in counseling. Together Tawlks, Miller and Life Bridge facilitators have prayed for thousands of hours to meet the needs of hundreds of people.

Miller spoke about Tawlks' passion for hurting people. "Doug was a counselor who was always searching for more effective ways to help people connect with God and find healing from the emotional wounds that kept them from reaching their potential in Christ. We had lots of broken people in our church community and something deep within me wanted to see them healed and restored. Doug and I became fast friends and began a long journey of ministry that continues today."

Because of their interest in prayer, Tawlks and Miller began the team training workshops in 2007. Miller trains and supervises new facilitators in Life Bridge Ministries. According to Tawlks, "We want to reproduce what we do to others. We don't want people to depend upon us. We teach the principles of Co-active Prayer and pass knowledge on to the team members. The trainees come to the sessions and observe. When they ready, they become facilitators. They are gifted, passionate, love prayer, and are energized in the process." All prayer sessions are lead by two trained volunteers. Today there are 10 facilitators who pray for an average of six people per month. This year he hopes the number people who use this method will increase.

A recipient and volunteer, Tiffany Vernier, said that, "Life Bridge Ministry is a life saver. I felt skeptical about the idea that altering a memory through prayer could cause my life to change. I felt that my mind was going on one direction and the Holy Spirit in a different direction. I learned the truth and walked out of the session different than when I came in." She appreciates the individual attention that she receives and that people from all churches are encouraged to participate. She says that volunteers are being trained to teach this prayer method globally. When she returns to the Washington D.C. area, she will teach others there.

Kathy Bergin, a client, spoke about how Life Bridge Ministry literally helped her to stop smoking. "I haven't smoked since March 17 2008. After almost 30 years, countless attempts, hypnosis, patches etc.... it was over and I have no need to smoke again. Oh the enemy has come for me, in many different shapes and sizes. But a battle was won and a stranglehold lost. When God's children know the truth, God's truth will set them free. Life Bridge changed my life...their service to glorify the Lord gave me my life back and extended it as well... Doug was also one of the friends and supporters who encouraged me to publish my book, *Macaroni Miracles*. I launched the book in October 2009. Sales and reviews have been good. I never would have had the courage to publish my work if I had still been smoking. I know people who have embraced a personal relationship with Christ because of my writing. Without the

friendship of Doug and the powerful work that takes place through Life Bridge, the book would still be a word file on my PC and I think I would have been celebrating my last Christmas on earth with an oxygen tank by my side."

Sheryl Sturis met Tawlks when she was a student at William Jessup University. Her issue was a lifetime of anxiety. She said, "Truth cannot transform a person who doesn't get that truth at the heart level; only when we receive God's truth as heart knowledge are we able to walk it out in our own lives. This is what Life Bridge Ministries has, and continues to do for me -- to reveal God's truth in such a way that it becomes part of who I am for the sake of giving it to others. Doug has a strong belief and personal practice of covenant and relationship. Whether learning underneath him as a student or mentee; benefitting from his counseling and prayer; or working with him at the Life Bridge, it becomes clear that he is evident that his encounters with people are just that -- relational encounters that God allows and not just interactions. I am truly thankful that God has allowed me to have such a dedicated and passionate mentor.

In addition the Co-active prayer ministry, Tawlks conducts workshops on How to Pray for a Child, How to Bring Prayer into Your Family, and Defiant Prayer – How to Be More Assertive in Prayer. He does Prayer Intensive Retreats that include three prayer sessions where people receive healing. Another workshop is Unleash Your Core where the goal is to bring clarity in the individual's call and purpose and to use coaching to move people forward. Restoring Hearts and Releasing Destiny empowers people, freeing them from negative thoughts, fears, abuses, and victimization. Prayer is healing.

A parent, Ruth Parker, said that she "felt stuck and couldn't find a way out." She wanted to change her behavior but did not know how." When she "reached the end of her rope," she decided to face her pain. "The lie was that I would fall down and not be able to get up. It was less painful than I thought." She said that by discovering the root of the problem, she could break the cycle of frustration, anxiety, and exhaustion. "I moved from behavior management to root removal – transformation." She says that, "Life Bridge Ministry fills a missing gap in the church." She has exposed her children to this prayer ministry and seen them transformed. She is a "cheerleader" for this ministry.

Tawlks said, "The goal is to get whole. They (his clients) need healing and restoration. They move from wholeness to destiny. Destiny is the path we live out." He asks the questions, "What is the call in your life, and have you given up on your dreams? Is there something that God called you to do? People need to use the gifts God has given them." The prayer retreat includes three prayer sessions and one coaching session on the topics of calling, purpose, and destiny. Life Bridge Organization provides coaching around the topics of calling and destiny. Tawlks coaches others on a variety of topics.

Miller stated, "Being a part of this ministry is such an essential part of my life now that I cannot imagine not being involved. As a facilitator of ministry sessions, I am humbled and privileged to see God literally change people's lives nearly every week. Every week I see people who were in deep bondage to guilt and shame, anxious and often feeling at the end of hope, receive peace and healing and freedom. Their very countenance is frequently dramatically different when they leave the session versus when they arrived. I have learned that there is no emotional wound too traumatic for God to heal. I have seen countless seemingly impossibly troubled people find peace and emotional stability as they face the lies that they have believed for years and allow Jesus to demolish them with truth. That desire God stirred up in me so long ago to see people truly healed

and set free is granted by him every time I'm involved in a ministry session. And, we see God constantly rising up new warriors with this same passion; people that we have the privilege to help train and release into this ministry. Our prayer is that God will rise up a vast army of people that are armed and equipped and willing to let God use them as vessels through which He will heal His broken and hurting children. “

For more information about The Life Bridge Ministries, go to thelifebridge.org. If you want prayer, go to info@thelifebridge.org and click “I want prayer.” The intake coordinator will schedule an appointment. There are two prayer facilitators for each person and clients are encouraged to schedule three or more sessions for best results. There is no fee for the sessions. However, because of the expenses of the organization, donations are accepted. According to Tawls, “Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.”

Author- Darlene Boyd