



Norm and Helen's Newsletter Fall 2007

Dear Ministry Partners and Friends,

The Men in Green: No, I am not referring to aliens from other planets, but to Christian men who have given much of their time and energy to reaching and discipling boys for Christ through Christian Service Brigade. The title comes from the dark green color of the leader shirt that is usually worn by these men during Brigade meetings and events. A sign of these men is the long "trail" of men and boys that have been won and discipled for Christ over many years of ministry.

One such Brigade leader that typifies this kind of man is Jerry Spicer. I recently had the privilege of attending a reception honoring Jerry's 40 years of service with CSB at his church in Woodland Hills. Men came from across the country to give appreciation to Jerry. There were men that shared moving and tear filled testimonies to Jerry's ministry to them across all of his 40 years of ministries. One man brought and shared his decision card when he received Christ many decades ago. What I believe this reception clearly drove home was the powerful and lasting impact of even one man who is committed to reach the souls of boys. I am sure Jerry will continue to minister to boys as long as he is able.

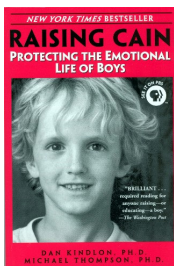


In a time when the church is losing its impact on the world and losing its men, O how we desperately need more godly men like Jerry that are willing to invest themselves with boys.

I firmly believe that if Christian men were truly aware of their importance and their potential impact on boys, there would be far more boys and men serving Christ today and tomorrow.

This is why CSB Ministries invests a significant amount of their resources encouraging, training and helping men and fathers become effective disciplers and mentors of boys (Phil 4:9).

I have had the privilege of knowing many "men in green" in my years with CSB and I am very thankful for every one of them. **Please pray for God to raise up godly men in our churches to invest their time to reach boys for Christ.**



Raising Cain: Boys today are struggling emotionally, socially and academically in today's culture. More and more society is realizing this. "Raising Cain", a New York Times Bestseller, stated that boys hunger for men to show them how to be masculine. Right off the bat, the book stressed the importance the male roles in the lives of boys. Yet, fewer than 1 in 9 teachers are male and many boys do not have fathers. With the absence of good men in boys' lives, a ministry such as CSB plays a vital role to many boys.

Summer and Fall Activities: Summer camp was great. Each year, God changes the hearts of kids with many decisions and commitments to Christ. It is always a privilege to be a part of the process. God changes us as well. Thank you for your prayers. Check out some pictures on our web site, www.socalcsb.org.

I spend much of my time in the fall helping new Brigade units start and provide training to men of existing Brigade units as they restart their ministry each year. I enjoy these times as I get to renew friendships and provide insights and support. I always enjoyed and grew from training as a Brigade leader. We all need to evaluate and get encouragement in our ministries.

We moved the Junior Leadership Conference to last October for our Battalion (teen) boys. The theme of the conference was the booklet "Thoughts for Young Men", which addresses the spiritual challenges facing young men today. Boys were trained to become leaders, which included how to get into the Word themselves and how to lead a small group Bible study. It was a very good time. Battalion is helping young men get "hands on" leadership training and integrate Christ into their lives.

2008 Regional Events: Please mark your calendar **now** for two Brigade sponsored events coming up in early next year.

L A Clippers vs. Utah Jazz Professional Basketball game Friday, February 22. Details and flyers are available on the local CSB web site. Tickets are discounted and a post-game program makes this a fun night.

Father/Son Team Day at Big Rock Creek Camp, Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26. A great time for men and boys to build relationships and have a great time doing it.

Personal: Helen and I just returned from Idaho. Our daughter Carolyn just gave birth to a daughter November 29, Natalie Sophia Tizekker. She is our ninth grandchild. It was great fun to help out with the other grandchildren.

Helen: We have implemented the GEMS program for girls at our church this fall. We have jr. high, 4-6th and K-3rd groups. I am working with the 4-6th grade girls. I would heartily recommend the curriculum to any church that is looking for very meaningful and heart challenging Bible lessons. The theme this year is "Abba, I belong to You." The curriculum is fresh and relevant, helping girls see how important they are to Him as individuals. How much He seeks a personal relationship with Him and what a help He desires to be to them. There are lots of ideas for great games and oodles of great badges to work on. It's lots of fun and the girls love it.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season,

Norm and Helen

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"I love all children, except for boys." Lewis Carroll

"Boys, of all wild beasts, the most difficult to manage" Plato

Philippians 4:9 *Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (NIV)*