

Blessings from Summer...beginning of Fall's plans...



WORD OF GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE

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DO I NEED TO TRANSFORM MY CHARACTER?



As much as we like to keep our summer weekends open for families to take vacations and for ministry divisions to use weekends for their meetings out on the sun (while it lasts), on **June 22, 2008** WGBI had one last session of Bible school at Word of Grace Bible Church in Vancouver, Washington. Pastor Alexey Kolomiytsev presented a vitally important topic - an importance of transforming a Christian's character and how it can be accomplished practically and daily. As usual, we expected approximately 100-150 students; however, 300 students showed up.

The session focused on the Biblical explanation of the way our character is being formed. People are used to think that our character is something that is set and we cannot do much about it. This class helped students to understand that our character is always being influenced by something. First of all, by lies of our proud heart within us, then by lies of the world, and, finally, the devil around us. These lies are forming our way of thinking, our actions, our habits, our desires and feelings, and ultimately - our character. One of the main goals of every child of God is to grow into Christ-likeness. This session helped many of us to see the real connection between God's truth and our real life. It demonstrated that authoritative Word of God always requires submission and this may happen only when we are earnestly studying it. This should inevitably lead us to forming Bibli-

cal convictions on every particular issue, which, in return, will produce Bible-based actions and help us train new habits, godly desires and more Christ-like character. These truths challenged students to re-evaluate their character, to ask themselves practical questions such as: What is shaping up your way of thinking? What is behind your habits and desires? This was one of the most effective seminars ever taught at WGBI.

In light of Scripture, pastor Alexey focused on the following five main topics:

- The necessity of transforming our character
- Conditions for transforming our character
- The essence of transforming our character
- How we can help others transform their character
- The main aim of transforming our character

At the end of each subtopic, students were divided into a small groups of 3-4 people to work on practical assignments such as: based on Scripture, finding sinful factors that formed Jacob's character, outlining ultimate reason for disciples' sorrow when heading to Emmaus (Luke 24:17-27), citing examples of how wrong understanding of God or believing different lies blocks the process of transformation into a Christ-like character in lives of believers.

Here are some of the comments that were made after a 7-hour-session:

"The biggest blessing that I got out of this is that I have to listen to the Word, apply it and obey it. And this part involves dying to self and living for Christ and others." – Serge, 19

"My view of my own character was challenged and tested by God's Word. I was able to see

Special points of interest:

- ◆ CHARACTER IS ACHIEVED ONLY BY A STEP BY STEP PROCESS
- ◆ THE LACK OF PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF GOD'S TRUTH IS ONE OF THE GREATEST PROBLEMS OF ALL CHRISTIANS OF ALL TIMES.
- ◆ FOR MANY PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, OUR BROADCASTS HAVE BECOME THE SOURCE OF THE REAL SPIRITUAL FOOD.

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Pastor Alexey challenges students

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glimpse of where I was more ruled by my feelings and desires in decision making, rather than by God through His Word. Being repeatedly reminded that my dependence should only be upon God, and His wisdom rather than my own blinded understanding. Character is achieved only by a step by step process and I pray that I would base every step on Christ as my only foundation.” – Yana, 18

“First, it is important to understand that no change can happen apart from God. He is the source of all life and authority. In Him is where all understanding comes and in Him the standard of life is determined. By His grace, He not only forgives but teaches those who seek to be transformed. There is no other way to be transformed but to live in obedience to the Word of God. This means to change my mildly desires to eternal desires of God, to stop reacting on what I’m feeling and start acting and filling myself with the truth of God. This means to bring every thought under the examination of the Word and agree with the perfect will of God. The more I fill my mind with His truth the less a lie will go unnoticed. Sin should not be left to be resolved on its own — it needs to be replaced with obedience. This is not the kind of obedience that just simply puts off — it’s a submission in the mind to a Holy God that puts on fear and acts in worship!” – Angela, 20

“...in order for me to love others I first need to look at God, see how He loves people and imitate Him, otherwise I will never truly love people.” – Alex, 21

“Transforming the character starts from first of all being a child of God. Through Christ we can renew our mind and focus our feelings and desires on God. The process of the transformation takes time, patience and consistency, but with obedience to Jesus Christ and saying “NO” to our fleshly desires, we can be on our way to a transforming character.” – Liza, 19

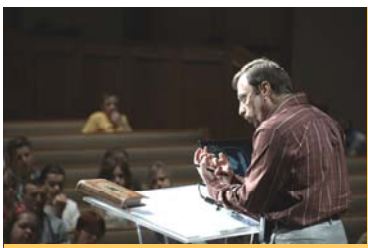
The challenge was not finished at the end of the Bible session. Thanks for pastor Alexey’s persistence, each student was challenged to diligently analyze his/her character during the week and to note non-biblical factors that had influenced the formation of their character in areas such as family, school, friends, church, etc.

God created man in a way that his mind is formed by standards of values on which he base his decisions to live in a certain way. As for Christians, the only standard and source of value – God and His truth! Only by God’s grace and by His precise and active work of Holy Spirit we are able to transform our characters to truly become like Christ – it’s a blessing, **it’s our ultimate JOY!**



Approximately 300 attended the seminar

**“THE MORE I FILL
MY MIND WITH
HIS TRUTH THE
LESS A LIE WILL
GO UNNOTICED”**



Conveying.... Convicting.....

SUMMER CAMPS...laboratory of leadership training



Youth camp "Known by Love"

One of WGBI's and WGPC's (Word of Grace Bible Church) goal is not only to supply pastors, leaders and counselors with effective biblical ways to disciple and lead, but to practically implement the knowledge they receive from Bible Institute classes, seminars, retreats, home groups and Sunday sermons. Summer children camps and youth camps are always a wonderful opportunity for church leaders of different caliber to gain much needed experience in practical shepherding. This year, WGBI conducted 4 different camps, which served as a laboratory for that, helping dozens of spiritual leaders to live out what they have learned, refining their skills in servant-leadership.

The lack of practical application of God's truth is one of the greatest problems of all Christians of all times. People get used to even the most challenging preaching. They may agree with the truth, but do not see how it connects with their everyday life. This can be overcome only by personal shepherding or discipleship. Camps provide great setting for such a task. Pastors Alexey Kolomytsev, Vitali Rozhko, Eugene

Shkarovskiy and others spent a lot of time, prior to camps, instructing all leaders to do that specific work. The goal of every counselor and every leader was to help every camper to learn how God's truth has to change him or her personally, what patterns of thoughts should be changed, what desires should be transformed, what habits should be retrained and how it can be practically done.

The sound expository sermons twice a day by Alexey Kolomytsev, Vitaliy Rozhko and Sean Higgins provided a great foundation for discussions and personal work during the whole time.

The need for evangelizing and shepherding younger generation – very demanding! This year about 400 children and youth participated in camps, with about 100 volunteers serving them. As a result of this ministry, about 20 campers accepted Christ, hundreds of those who already know the Lord had grown in their knowledge of Him, carrying the light of the Biblical truth into the world of their lives. We pray that the Truths learned will dwell in their hearts as they face numerous temptations and fleshly desires the world offers and that the Truth will be the only "weapon" to help them overcome these barriers. Also, we pray that the sanctification process will never stop in lives of counselors and leaders, as they learn how to strengthen their shepherding skills and that they continue to imitate on Truth and live by it.



Teem camp "The Fear of God"

"PEOPLE GET USED TO EVEN THE MOST CHALLENGING PREACHING. THEY MAY AGREE WITH THE TRUTH, BUT DO NOT SEE HOW IT CONNECTS WITH THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE."

Please pray for WGBI

◆ *The Heart Devoted to God'* conference - Germany

On **September 25-27**, Pastor Alexey Kolomytsev will speak at the conference "The Heart Devoted to God" in Dortmund, Germany. He will focus on important topics such as amazing work of the Holy Spirit, striking efficiency of the Holy Word, inconsumable motivation of ministry, practical steps of transforming a character and other important aspects of a Christian life. Besides Alexey's visit to Dortmund, he will have various speaking engagements with pastors and ministry leaders of the Russian-speaking churches in Berlin, Germany, Vienna and Linz, Austria. Please pray for:

1. Travel safety, health and spiritual strength of pastor Alexey as he faces a very tight schedule during this trip; and
2. The Truth to dwell in hearts of people who will attend this conference and for the Holy Spirit to change each one of them within so that they faithfully and fully devote their lives to God.

We are very excited about this upcoming event and for Alexey's ministry opportunities in Germany. They are a direct result of our internet ministry. Hundreds of people in Europe are watching pastor Alexey's preaching live every Sunday over the Internet. It is great opportunity to visit and encourage them face to face.



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Please pray for WGBI (continues)

◆ Live stream services from WGBI

In the last couple of years, we have experienced tremendous blessings through the opportunity to broadcast our Sunday and Wednesday services and some of the WGBI classes live. It is great a way to penetrate the Russian-speaking world with sound Biblical teaching. For thousands of people in different parts of the world, our broadcasts have become the only source of the real spiritual food. To be able to continue this ministry and make it more effective, it is necessary for us to buy a new video controller. The one that we use now is outdated and can fail any time; in which case, broadcasting our services will become impossible. The cost of a new video controller is around \$27,000, without any additional minor expenditures in connection with this new controller. The new controller will not only raise the quality of our broadcast, but it will allow quality display of charts and graphs, which we use extensively during our classes and sermons. We would like to share a few testimonies of our live stream listeners with you:



WGBI's live broadcast services

"Thank you very much for your support! I have a very difficult situation right now and your ministry is very dear to me. I watch your services and read your articles all the time. It has been 3 years since I found your website, and, if it would not be your support, I don't know if I would survive everything that I'm challenged with. Praise Lord for everything! He does not forsake!" - Sacramento, California

"We watch you all the time, our hearts are constantly with you, we pray for growth of your ministry, your church and its every servant. May Lord bless you!" - Moscow, Russia

"We praise Lord for answering our prayers. We were able to install the cable internet at home so we can watch your services together with our family, worship Lord together and listen to Alexey Kolomiytsev's sermons! We praise God! This is a tremendous blessing for us!" - Kiev, Ukraine

We would really appreciate your prayers and financial support of our need as we believe that this piece of video equipment will become very important and influential instrument in spreading God's Word for many people around the world.

◆ A New Theology Course at WGBI

We praise Lord for The Master's Seminary's offer to purchase their 4 Theology DVD courses for theological training for our Bible Institute. Thirty (30) students that possess good English have started first semester of Theology I, which began on September 6. This will be a 2-year program, total of 4 semesters, which will enrich each student to understand fundamentals of Systematic Theology, helping them to grow in the knowledge of God. This course is a very important step in training of a new generation of Russian-Americans church leaders.



30 students are on the way to first semester of Theology 1

For a successful training, each student is committed to 8 hours a week of individual study, which will involve watching lessons on DVD, reading books, completing homework and taking exams. Each semester will have 2 follow-up sessions for students to consult WGBI's instructors about their understanding of a subject, discuss difficult issues and go over their exams. Successfully finished course will result in a certificate of completion. WGBI's instructors for this course are pastor Alexey Kolomiytsev, pastor Vitali Rozhko and intern instructor Ivan Kolomiytsev.

Please pray for the students' faithfulness and persistence in studying this course, so that it will help them grow in their knowledge of God and His truth, becoming more effective leaders in their areas of ministry.