

## ***Six Graduate from ACT***

The Eighteenth Annual Graduation Ceremony was held on May 30th at Immanuel Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. Six people, who had successfully completed the *Advanced Counselor Training Program* (ACT), were recognized, as well as fifteen people who have completed the *Biblical Training Program*. The six individuals are: Deborah Baughan who attends The Celebration Center, Douglas B. Ingram a member at Woolridge Baptist Church, Antoinette C. Oree a part of the congregation of 21<sup>st</sup> Street Church of God, Sylvia Robinson from First African Baptist Church, Paula Strickland who attends St. Peter Baptist Church, and Susan Weeks of Emmaus Community Church.

Ms Sheryl Johnson provided a musical prelude on the harp prior to the service, as well as playing *Great Day* during the ceremony. Sheryl performed beautifully and set the tone for the entire ceremony.

The President of the Board of Directors, Andy Redford, welcomed those attending and led the Board in presenting these Biblical counselors their certificates. These graduates have completed a three-year extensive hands-on learning experience after completing the *Discipleship Training and Counselor Training Courses* at CCTC. In ACT the trainee moves along a supervised training path with the purpose of applying the principles learned in the previous two levels.

We want to thank the families and churches, and even employers who gave these folks to us over the last few years. We know that this is essential for a successful time of study and training.

And on behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers, who help teach and train, we congratulate these six and look forward to seeing the creative ways that God will use them for His glory now and in the future.



### ***Deborah Baughan~ The Celebration Center***

As I started attending classes God showed me my hard, cold, selfish heart. After four sessions in tears, I talked to my teacher. I told her I was going to have to quit the class because I couldn't stand it any more. The Lord had been showing me that I had not truly been loving my husband. The teacher was merciful enough to tell me I had no choice but to repent, and love him or stay miserable. I had to make a decision about that relationship and allow the Lord to have His way.

I have found that I continually make that same decision. Am I going to do it my way or God's way? As time goes on, I see that God has worked out situations and changed hearts I thought were beyond hope. "His goodness endures forever." After I started training to be a counselor I saw the truth in the statement, "We are like the blind leading the blind to the banquet table".



### ***Douglas B. Ingram ~ Woolridge Baptist***

I had my own agenda, but God had His. No one is joyful about seeing their own sin against a Holy God, but God showed me an indescribable joy in the height and span of the cross that Jesus took for me. God revealed His word to me in very real and applicable ways. Now it is impossible for me to approach a problem in my life without first looking at my own heart and reevaluating my thinking. God showed me love and closeness. No matter what trial I am going through, I can go to a compassionate Father who understands me and the trial far better than anyone else. He is with me wherever I go. He never lets me down and He wants me to trust Him with all my fears. He also gives me strength to forgive others when I, in my own strength cannot. I have been blessed with a great guidance counselor and teacher in the Holy Spirit. He convicts me when I am not following the pursuit of holiness for which I was created.

I want to encourage all my fellow ACT graduates, counselors, teachers and anyone involved with CCTC. This ministry is so vital and desperately needed in the Richmond and surrounding communities. The word about CCTC does not stop here in the classroom, but must truly start in the personal ministry for which God chose us.

*Christian Counseling & Training Center  
3602 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221  
804/358-1343 <[www.cctcinc.org](http://www.cctcinc.org)>*



***Antionette C. Oree ~ 21<sup>st</sup> Street Church of God***

I constantly struggled with not being a “perfect” Christian. My life was based on my ability to perform. I found it difficult to live a sin-free life. I struggled with sin and condemnation. Over and over again I moved from being sure, to not sure about my salvation. Always looking for a way to please God, and constantly failing. Failure to be victorious over my struggles increased my frustration. I was miserable and frustrated for more years than I want to remember. I was looking to be worshipped and served. I did not understand that this performance-based lifestyle was not glorifying to God.

When I came to CCTC I was really at the end of my rope. Through the teaching and training ministry of CCTC, God allowed me to see His Great Love for me in a way that helped me live free from the bondage of sin. God is holy, pure, flawless, magnificent, awesome, wonderful and deserving of praise and worship. I am not. When I saw a vision of God’s holiness, I saw a big view of my sin. God is also a God of grace. I rest in the assurance of God’s ability to love and care for me. This freed me from the bondage of sin. It is God’s work in me, not my ability to perform that is pleasing to God. He is in control. When I surrender the control of my life to God, God is glorified; and I can live to glorify God.



***Sylvia Robinson~ First African Baptist Church***

I heard on the radio, “Would you like to learn to solve problems biblically?” At the time I didn’t even realize I was signing up for counseling courses, only an eight week course that would help me give more biblical advice to the friends to whom I was already giving advice. I arrived thinking that all I would do was tweak the knowledge and expertise that God had given me and I would be able to help other people solve their problems more effectively. After all I had been working with people all of my life, what a helper I would be.

I have learned it is God who does the work. I can only be His servant, in His way, in His time, under His conditions. The teachers, staff, students, counselees and my colleagues have shown kindness, love, grace, forgiveness, and mercy to me over the period I have been here.

My problems? I was here to learn how to help others solve theirs. What a gracious and loving God we serve who gently and lovingly helped me to see my own heart, the beam in my own eye, the lack of humility I had. Wow, it’s not all about me; to God be the glory!



***Paula Strickland~ St. Peter Baptist Church***

My time here at CCTC has truly been a blessing. I have grown in my relationship with the Lord. God has blessed me in ways that I would never have guessed. I know that God has anointed me to serve His people by counseling. God has placed me here to become equipped to do His work. Not long ago I was a performer. I was working my way into heaven and didn’t even know I was doing it. I was busy with good works. Because of my classes at CCTC I learned to look into my heart. What I saw wasn’t pretty. I was self-serving and I wanted to be worshiped and served. I have learned that it isn’t all about me, my needs, my wants and desires. It’s all about glorifying God. Now I ask myself what is my motive? Is God going to get the glory?

Often He uses a counseling situation to minister to my heart. I am amazed at how similar I am to the counselees that are assigned to me. I feel I’m looking into a mirror. I thought I was going to be a counselor so that I could better answer people’s questions. I can no better answer them today than 5 years ago, but I can give you a road map in the Word, I can pray that God will reveal Himself to you, I can love you with the love of Christ. God has called me to this ministry to serve and He is not finished with me yet. He has told me in Jeremiah 29:11 that He has plans for my life, and I am holding Him to his Word



***Susan Weeks~ Emmaus Community Church***

I came to CCTC over 5 years ago. I came because I was “right” and my family was wrong and they were driving me crazy. I came so I could fix them. Once I got them fixed, I could live happily ever after getting on with my plans and dreams and they would no longer cramp my perfect life.

The first lesson was an eye opener. I began to see where problems came from. Could the problem be within me? I have learned that my heart is exceedingly wicked, so wicked only God knows and He loves me with a love I cannot even imagine. I have learned that I do not even know how to love and without seeing His love for me it is impossible for me to love others. I have learned that I am indeed, out of control and it’s ok. I don’t have to scream and yell and cause hurt to my family because He is in control. While the Lord is working in that for me I can rest in His peace that passes all understanding and thank Him for what a difference He is making in my life and that He is teaching me daily how to love. That’s my job, to love. Not to fix things or to have all the answers or to be “right” in my performance, but to love unconditionally and continually.

I have caught a glimpse of God’s holiness and realized that my sin is great against a holy God that has such love for me I cannot comprehend it. I have repented. I have experienced His unmerited grace and forgiveness and I have begun to understand the joy in serving others. I have begun to learn how to love.

## ***Original* is Added to CCTC Staff**

Yes, our new Executive Director, Andy Redford, is an *original*. One of our *original* Board Members, Andy helped organize and teach the *original* courses offered by the Center. He has come full circle.

As we have prayed the prayer of Jabez — “*Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil.*” (1 Chronicles 4:10), we are grateful that God is answering our prayers in bringing Andy to lead CCTC.

Andy was born in Richmond and attended the University of Richmond, graduating with a BA in Psychology. He continued on to VCU where he earned two masters degrees; an MS in Counseling/Psychology, and an M.ED. in School Administration. He has been married for 32 years to Lynn; they have 3 children.

Having retired after 30 years as Assistant Director of Admissions and Records with J.Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Andy has good plans for CCTC.

Listen to what is on Andy’s heart...”I would like to see the ministry expanded across the US and over seas. We can do this by developing training programs that teach para-church staff and church laymen the basics of Biblical counseling. In addition we can offer our classes and training on the Internet and begin by offering classes with the existing videos. We can do workshops in Anger Management, Marriage, Addiction, Anxiety and more!

God has been growing this ministry in so many ways over the last years and He has been doing so to ready us for what is to come!! I think it is awesome and exciting. I can’t wait to get started!!!”

## **Deb Garber Joins CCTC Staff**

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member, Mrs. Debbi Garber. Debbi says “all my life I have had the desire to be in a position to help families. At Tech, I majored in the family and child services department of what was then the college of Home Economics. I had several unfulfilling jobs after graduation. Then shortly after my marriage, our pastor asked me to work in the church office. It was there that I began to discover my administrative gifts. A few year later, I worked in the office of a Christian school, where my gifts were further strengthened, as I assumed roles of office manager, treasurer, and guidance counselor.”

Debbi goes on to say, “I see the ministry of CCTC as being on the verge of ‘busting loose’ with many opportunities to expand its ministry, and am very excited to be part of what God has in store for the Center. I am privileged to be given the opportunity to use my gifts of administration and service in the work of CCTC, and at the same time continue in the program to become a Biblical counselor. In many ways, I believe I have finally found the job I’ve been looking for since my graduation from college!

Debbi has been married for 21 years to Russ; they have 2 sons.

## **First Group Completes Biblical Training Program**

Fifteen people received certificates from the *Biblical Training Program* during a ceremony on May 30. This is the first group to complete the Program. God has called CCTC to train people to bridge the gap between faith and life, applying truth to real life. We want to live our faith practically. This is the nature of the work of CCTC.

Those who received certificates completed a vigorous course load, representing the first two levels of our training. This program which takes 3 years to complete includes our Biblical Problem Solving series, Framework, and Methodology courses. Congratulations to these fine students!

**Barbara Abrams** – Mt. Zion Baptist Church

**Judy August** – West End Assembly of God

**Nancy Bebbler** – Berea Baptist Church

**Susan Chesson** – Hope Church

**Debbi Garber** – West End Presbyterian

**Pamela Gould** – Washington Seventh Day Baptist

**Paul Holley** – Western Heights Baptist Church

**Betty Olson** – Grace Community Church

**George Peterson** – Redeemer Assembly

**Teresa Snow** – Saint Michael’s Catholic Church

**Yvette Sohi** – New Life Outreach International

**Drucilla Wells** – Ferry Farm Baptist Church

**Earl Wilkins** – West End Assembly of God

**Theresa Wilkins** – West End Assembly of God

**Evie White** – Richmond Vineyard

## **Crisis Team Meeting Planned...**

*Andy Redford*

Some time ago, the LORD laid on my heart the need for a Crisis Counseling Team that could go to the scenes of local, state and/or national disasters to assist as well as share GOD’s LOVE and HIS HOPE.

As I started networking in the Richmond community for CCTC, I found two groups asking if CCTC would be interested in joining them in disaster relief opportunities. I am now convinced this is something the LORD wants us to do. Therefore, I would like to hold a meeting to “brainstorm” with folks who are interested in working on such a project at 9:00am on August 2 at Immanuel Baptist Church. I know that there will be some who are interested yet unable to attend for one reason or another; however, this meeting will get us started. As we are a ministry that believes in bearing one another’s burdens, I think we need to be where the really hurting people are. In times of loss, people need to be loved, given hope and encouragement. That’s what CCTC is all about! We will spend the morning discussing how we want these Crisis Teams to look, what we may need in additional training and how to prepare for such a trip. I will be sending out additional information as the time gets closer. If interested, mark the date on your calendar and let’s be in prayer about widening our horizons as a counseling center.

# CCTC Prayer Ministry

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 3:21*

## Never underestimate the Power of Prayer!

As He is our shepherd and we are His sheep, let us become prayer partners as we "Pray continually, giving thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you, in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes. 5:17-18). Below are some of our most pressing needs. We will cover your prayer needs as you inform us accordingly.

- Our Summer Semester
- Our Teachers and Counselors
- Open hearts/minds of our students and counselors
- Increased class registrations
- Underwriters and donors to cover our expenses
- Support from more churches
- Blessings for our supporting churches
- Our volunteers and the families of all involved

**All requests for counseling and changes in counseling sessions are now handled at this number: 804/357-9968.**

Our Staff and Board for unity and discernment  
Our newly graduated class of 2003

Finally: Ephesians 6:18

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests, with this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

It is a privilege to serve Monday nights in the CCTC Prayer Room and see as well as hear all that God is doing in the lives of our students, counselors, counselees and teachers.

If you desire this same prayer support, or have a specific prayer need, please feel free to contact me via email ([gmbowers423@juno.com](mailto:gmbowers423@juno.com)).

*Blessings Upon All,  
Gloria M. Bowers/CCTC*

## Where do you go?

**WHERE DO YOU GO TO SCHOOL TO BECOME A GODLY PARENT?**

CCTC will present Dr. **Tedd Tripp**, author of *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, teaching on godly parenting on **November 12-13, 2004** -

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

*... More Information To Follow...*

Address Service Requested

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