

Cleveland Christian Fellowship

“Where the Word and the Spirit Prevail”

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PASTOR MARK STRICKLAND

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Recommendation Letter

Rev. Derek Wilson conducted a *Divinely Designed by God* seminar at our church. The course is designed to help each person understand their personality type and temperament. Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of our temperaments helps us to better understand ourselves and effectively work with others. I personally find it extremely helpful to understand what makes me “tick” —why I have certain drives; why certain things are important to me; why I respond the way I do to certain people and situations. Understanding these things helps me recognize weaknesses in myself so that I can, by the power of the Spirit, change. It also helps me find my correct place in the body of Christ, get along with others and, most importantly, be more fruitful and productive working in and promoting God’s church.

We found that this particular approach resonated with our members in a fresh way. I highly recommend Rev. Derek Wilson and his ministry which is all designed to cause the church to experience renewal and growth as well as develop leadership skills.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Strickland".

Pastor Mark Strickland
Cleveland Christian Fellowship

Linda King, Principle, Cleveland Christian School

I recently had the pleasure of attending a seminar taught by Pastor Derek Wilson. The Word of God teaches us that we are created equal but with different gifts and talents. I quickly realized that two people could hear the same teaching and walk away with two completely different views on what was said. I went into this seminar with the understanding that we collectively are the body of Christ but with different functions in that body. The teachings Pastor Wilson shared with us took those truths to a new and deeper level. While I understood those truths, I did not know how to make those differences work for me as a team leader.

I quickly recognized negative areas in my personality that I have overcome and that encouraged me to confront other areas that need attention. It released me from guilt that I do not react the same as someone else when particular situations arise and that it is "ok".

Because I am a person in authority, I have learned to respect others for their strengths and I am more patient with their weaknesses. It has helped me to place them where they can be more efficient and taught me who to place with them in order to meet the demand of the job.

I have learned to avoid certain conflicts while adapting my own temperament to be more effective when dealing with those around me and meeting their needs. We are not competing with each other but we are there to support and complement each other.

After completing the workshop, I have learned to quickly identify a person's personality traits, which enables me to place them in an area where they can be more effective, confident and therefore happier.

Derek:

The church growth seminar has set into motion an excitement in our church. Many of our department leaders are considering all of the information received and how to apply it to their departments. As Pastor, I have put into motion a direction for our church that I believe is going to bring growth. We are excited here at Eternal Light and I would recommend the church growth seminar to all Pastors that have a desire to increase their attendance.

Thanks for the e-mail. We are putting in place several ideas that were birthed out of the growth seminar. We are ministering to a grade school in our community area. I went to the principal to see what we could do for them this fall and he told me that out of 420 kids, 300 are on poverty level. He said they need socks, underclothes, backpacks and some jogging pants. We will begin the campaign for these items on June 29th thru August 10th and we are already receiving gifts from the community and within our church and we are not even advertising it yet. God is doing a work in our midst. We are preparing to hand out handbills to the community about having community clean-up day. The county officials have told us they will set dumpsters on our property for us to use that weekend and a owner of a construction company has volunteered a dump truck and back hoe for that day. We are looking at possibly doing a community picnic. The enemy continues to fight but I realized many years ago, he only fights when he sees a threat. We are a threat to Satan's camp. I haven't decided about the fund raising campaign yet. Still in the talk form. I am really waiting on the Lord's direction. I hope you have an excellent Father's Day. By the way our theme for Father's day is "Great Outdoors". We are encouraging the men to dress in their hunting and fishing clothes. One of the guys will demonstrate casting with a fishing rod. Then I am going to speak on being fishers of men. We will give a gift to the dads at the end of the service.

Derek:

We had a great time. Several made decisions for the Lord. Many of the guys came in fishing or hunting clothes. One fellow gave a demonstration on casting a rod and reel toward a tire in the sanctuary. Then he had two fellows come up and do the same. One fellow was dressed in clothes to hunt turkey and did turkey calls. Another guy was dressed in hunting clothes and did sounds like doe and buck make. Another guy dressed in hunting clothes did turkey calls and talked about safety. Everyone enjoyed the demonstrations, then we had a video on fishing which was very funny. About 3 minutes long. Then I spoke on launching out into the deep and fishing for men. We gave away gifts to the men and all had a great time.

I am doing a series on baggage right now with videos that we are making here and I am speaking on many types of baggage. First sunday was general type of baggage, last sunday was addiction baggage, this sunday is emotional baggage and the last sunday of the series is depression baggage. Many have stepped forward for prayer.

We started last sunday a six week campaign for a local school that needs socks, underclothes, back packs and jogging pants for elementary students. This school serves our area, there are 420 students with 300 of them in poverty. We have business people giving us money for it, other needy out reaches giving to us, two churches that have heard about it and are giving. We interviewed the principal and we have him on video telling us the need. We believe it is going to be big.

We also handed out handbills last Saturday for our community inviting them to a community meeting to discuss cleaning up our area. The county will set dumpsters on our property and we have a construction company that will donate a backhoe and dump truck for that day.

Bob Smith, St. Albans

Derek

"For years our church had been experiencing numerical growth, which necessitated new leaders had to be developed. Brother Wilson blessed us with his ministry both in leadership development and speaking, and the results have been showing up in new ministries being birthed, old leaders obtaining new visions, and the leadership team as a whole grasping a new appreciation and thirst for lay ministry. We have him return every few months to share with us his years of experience, his creative insights, and unique anointing in this area of ministry. He will be a blessing to any pastor and church struggling to unite and train leadership for an end-time harvest."

Bishop Albert Mitchem
Church of God Worship and Ministry Center, Follansbee



9/5/2008

Dear Brother Derek:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; I pray that you are enjoying the blessings of His abundant Grace.

I wanted to let you know it was truly a blessing to have you come and minister to our church in our recent church growth conference. The various information and teaching that you shared has ignited a passion among our congregation to break out of the status quo of doing church and to pursue being the church to our community.

Many of our leaders especially enjoyed the personality profile session. For many it was the first time that they came to understand how each person is uniquely created by God to be a part of the body of Christ, and how that their personality make up directly affects their gifting and how they relate to others; as a matter of fact they are still talking about it!

In recent weeks since the conference we have seen more individuals stepping out to begin new ministries which have resulted in an overall excitement among the body. We have also seen an increase in our weekly attendance as well as new souls being saved; to God be the glory!

This was the first time that our church had ever held a conference like this and to be honest I wasn't sure what the response would be; but I am happy to tell you it was a great success and I would encourage any pastor who is interested in leading his church to the next level would be benefited greatly by your ministry.

Thank you once again for your ministry and may God continue to bless you for your faithfulness in serving Him.

Sincerely

Joey A Sheppard, Pastor
New Beginnings Worship Center
Summersville, West Virginia

At your suggestion last year, I came back to the church and looked at our parking lots. I had known for a long time, we needed to do something to make our church more appealing. The recession was the answer. We were able to refinance the building, lower the interest rate, no closing costs, increase the existent payment by eighteen dollars and pave and landscape both parking areas. It really looks great. We can park enough people to accommodate 225 people in the building. Now our job is to bring them in. We are seeing new people all the time.