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THE BETHEL BUZZ "MINI"

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A word of explanation... You may or may not notice that the BB looks a little different this month. ☺ We are taking a mini-break and giving you a mini-newsletter. But never fear! Next month your BB will be packed with info and newsy notes for your reading pleasure. Please take the time to read about our very important *Hearts Alive!* Family Seminar coming up. These are not the "typical" renewal meetings, but sessions to help you be a better spouse, a better friend, a better sibling, and a better parent. Don and Marilyn Showalter will be spending 5 sessions with us, starting Sun. morning, January 17th, and concluding Wed. evening, Jan. 20th. He and Marilyn will both be speaking, and will be available for counseling and discussion each morning, Mon thru Wed from 9-12. These meetings are for everyone -- those with troubled marriages or with great ones, those who are struggling with family issues and those of us who have no issues (ya, right!). Clear your calendar now and plan to attend! You will be blessed.

A Word from Don... Founder and Speaker... *Hearts Alive!*

There's a day coming
when the mountain of God's House
Will be The Mountain—
solid, towering over all mountains.
All nations will river toward it,
people from all over set out for it.
They'll say, "Come,
let's climb God's Mountain,
go to the House of the God of Jacob.
He'll show us the way he works
so we can live the way we're made." ~ the Message

I am grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to spend the time with you as a fellowship at Bethel in January, 2010. Let's trust Him together for the unhindered work of His Spirit in each one of us. I will be praying with you to that end!

In my own journey of faith, I thought I was reasonably sharp and able to connect with the truths and insights of Scripture. But over time, I began to conclude that there were many things that I was slow catching on to--which in turn, made for painful challenges in relationships and all of life. The prophet Isaiah, speaking about how the nations will come to the House of the God of Jacob for a specific purpose, said that it would be so that God could "show us the way he works."

But then he goes on to say that there is a secondary focus. We need to under-

A Word from Don... Founder and Speaker... *Hearts Alive!* cont'd

stand how God works so that we can live the way He created us to live, the way He planned for us to live, "the way we're made." By implication, he is saying that if we do NOT understand the ways that He works, we will NOT be able to live out the design He planned. Make sense?

One of the most exciting aspects of my journey is working hard at learning to understand the ways He works, so that I can live the way He made me to live. During our time together in January, we will be exploring the ways God works in relationships, the ways He shapes and defines us from conception onward, and the ways that definition of who we become affects every relationship we have. Sometimes in the busy-ness of life we never stop to ask ourselves why we do the things we do!?! This is an important question for each of us to ask, from early teens to seniors, male or female, single or married or single again. As people, we face the same kinds of issues and challenges, so I would encourage the whole church family to begin reflecting on some of the reasons why we do what we do when it comes to relationships.

For example, *do I get defensive, do I retreat, do I withdraw, or do I go silent? Do I get angry, fearful, anxious, determined, or lonely? Do I feel rejected, abandoned, discouraged, left out, put down, excited, encouraged, or on top of the world?* Let's anticipate exploring together "how He works."

We will look at three planes of relationship--with the Father, with those around us, and with ourselves. We will also explore the many ways the enemy comes "to steal, to kill, and to destroy." If we are to live the way the Father planned, we must understand how He intends for us to stand against the lies and the wiles of the enemy.

Jesus said He came to give life, and life abundant. The real keys to living full and free are in our coming to Jesus and allowing Him to do what He said He came to do! Let's anticipate finding a fresh awareness of His power and presence in our lives during our time together in January.

God's best to each of you,
Don Showalter

Session Topics Will Include:

- ~God's Design for Relationships
- ~Identifying and Resolving Barriers to Emotional Intimacy
- ~The Poison of Bitterness
- ~ The Power of Joy



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