

**Southwest College of Biblical Studies  
P.O. Box 911  
Pine Valley, CA 91962**

Bruce Leary, Director

May 28, 2002

Dear Brother,

I remember when I was 15 years old and growing up in the church. My pastor had an amazing wisdom about things. One day he told me to read the Scriptures in the worship service; I did it with my knees shaking. Another time he let me help serve communion; that was an honor I thought. Once he even asked me to lead the singing in the evening service; that was scary but fun. Sometime during all this he suggested I attend the weekly Bible study; I agreed. If you can imagine – I even attended adult prayer meeting on Wednesday nights.

As time went by (ages 15-18), I did the things mentioned above more & more often; I enjoyed it more each time. I continued going to Bible studies (really deep ones) through those years.

I did not realize what my pastor was doing at the time; I do now. He was exposing me to opportunities for Christian service – training me the right way to do things – teaching me how to accurately handle the Word of Truth so that my service would honor God & bring forth fruit.

Being raised in my home church changed the course of my life and provided the direction I needed long before I had the skills required for my future ministry. I am deeply grateful to my pastor for having the love for me and the confidence in me, and the willingness to spend the time on me required to train me properly. God used that pastor & that church to guide me into a ministry I was not seeking. I cannot imagine my life without the teaching of God's Word, without watching the lives of individuals (inmate brothers) change & grow, and without knowing that God can use me to do great things if I let Him & if I prepare myself for the tasks ahead.

Now, here I am – directing a Bible college with course offerings to include Bible Study Methods, attitudes, healthy relationships, leadership skills, and equipping the saints.

Am I smarter than those I teach? Nope! However, I have been taught right, and I have been enabled by the Lord to develop & assemble courses & curricula that build Bible study skills & character.

***Teaching How to Study the Bible  
and How to be a Leader***

As you know, I count it a blessing from the Lord to present this core of leadership courses to you; I also am grateful that men like yourselves have taken the time out of your lives to take these courses & to work very hard in the process. I am honored to watch you grow in your faith and to edify me in the process.

There are six (6) of you who have taken enough courses to qualify for the final leadership courses, and who have demonstrated consistency in course completion and attendance. If you are still motivated to participate in this leadership program, then – three courses remain:

PS 109     The Laws of Leadership  
PS 107     Equipping  
PS 130     Facilitator Skills

These three courses will be offered simultaneously on Thursday nights starting June 6, 2002. The course cost will be \$35 for all three courses. As usual, the Lord will provide for your finances. The Laws of Leadership and Equipping are new courses which will both begin on June 6. The third course, Facilitator Skills, has been issued to most of you already (please bring your materials to class) - so that you could get started on some of the tasks. We will discuss the tasks again & a calendar of class sessions & due dates will be provided. Based on the fact that these three courses DO NOT meet every week, you will be quite able to get the work done.

You will be ducated as usual for this Thursday course. I hope all this fits into your schedule. If you also receive a ducat for the Wednesday course, that course will be BSM in 1 Thessalonians.

May God encourage you and give you wisdom for the days ahead.

Cordially,

Bruce Leary

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