

# THE FELLOWSHIP

## Your World Recovered

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*The Fellowship is a newsletter published by the Chemical Recovery Fellowship. The Fellowship is making recovery far more exciting, provocative, and high-spirited than our addiction ever was. The news of this world is dominated by an earthly perspective. The Fellowship is a refreshing view of "everything under the sun" from the perspective of those formerly deeply entrenched in its vices and now free and grateful to share a unique perspective on life.*

## Chemical Recovery Workshop 2010 Willingness To Change

Announcement



On March 27, 2010 the New York City Church of Christ, hosted Willingness To Change - The Chemical Recovery Workshop 2010. Disciples from all over the

US, descended on a beautifully ornate, small church in Mt. Vernon, NY, to inquire, examine and be enlightened by the changes God has made in the Chemical Recovery Fellowship and the profound effects rippling through other ministries as a direct result.

The classes taught at the workshop including the handouts have all been uploaded to the ChemicalRecovery.Org website and are available from the download area. There are also lots of photos from the event in the gallery. Please take some time to check it all out.

## A Cure for Addiction - A Bridge For Sale

Article



It is difficult to switch on the TV or radio today without someone try to sell you a fix for some ailment you may have. If someone tells you that there is a cure for addiction and you believe them, then there is a bridge in

Brooklyn I would love to sell you. Look up the definition for addiction in any dictionary and you will find words like craving, dependance, obsession and compulsion. Words this strong are indicative of something you cannot easily walk away from. (continued over...)

## CR Graduations - Finish Line or Milestone?

Article



Recently, on Easter Sunday, I heard a minister preach that, for the Christian, death is a beginning, not an end. As a happy consequence of the victory Jesus won over death, we who are in him will also partake in everlasting life. This message of hope, and the viewing of what

seems like an end for the beginning that it really is, is one those of us in recovery will do well to embrace as it pertains to our sobriety. (continued over...)

## Me - A Slave?

Tradition



What greater love is there than to offer a slave their freedom? Only the truth from Jesus can set men free. In John 8 we learn that freedom is wholly available to anyone who is willing to trust in and listen to Jesus. In this account, the Jews who had historically been enslaved by many nations, spoke defiantly to Jesus claiming they had never been slaves to anyone.

(continued over...)

## Avoiding the Bait Car - Biblical Authority

There's a show on TV called Bait Car.

It's a reality police show. The police place an expensive car or truck, the bait car, at a location known for car theft. They make it appear as if the person owning the car left it there in a rush and forgot to lock the doors and remove the keys. The car is left sitting at the curb like a worm on a hook waiting for the fish to strike. Surveillance is done by police in undercover vehicles with kill switches and squad cars ready to move in. (continued over...)

## What's Going On?

Do you have any recovery questions you would like answered? Encouraging recovery news you want to share? Any comments or feedback on the site or the newsletter. Drop us a line. We're all ears.

[faq@chemicalrecovery.org](mailto:faq@chemicalrecovery.org)



## Links

from ChemicalRecovery.Org

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*(...from A Cure for Addiction) In Romans 7:14 - 25, Paul emphasizes that there is no escape from the addiction of sin except through the power of Jesus Christ. Even then it is not as if Jesus lifts us from our sin and then walks away, because we are then no longer sinners. On no account! Who of us can claim "I was a sinner and am no more"? It would be great to be able to say "I was an addict" instead of "I am an addict" but the truth is that there is no cure and once an addict always an addict.*

*This fact, however, does not stop folks from wanting to believe the contrary. This belief leads to unhealthy behavior. Instead of continuing to work on their recovery, they feel that they have arrived. Having some time under their belt is a guarantee that they will not pick up again. They have long since lost touch with their need for continued recovery. Many do not associate the trials they are now undergoing as having anything to do with their addictive nature. Many of the things that were integral in their recovery is now a bore, a burden or something no longer needed.*

*Someone with this way of thinking does not understand the Chemical Recovery program. Why would I not want to embrace something that is going to help me? A healthy chemical recovery group is, put simply, a discipling group for addicts. It is a place and time where I can come and meet with my peers, I can learn that there are rules I need to abide by. I can go through the Traditions and reflect how I am working these in my life.*

*Am I seeking Truth in Love? Who is holding me Accountable? Why would I not want discipling by my peers? Sure I can and do get help outside of group but lets face it - I can run rings around someone who is not familiar with addiction, whereas in a CR group, this would not be possible.*

*In the past, once you graduated from a Chemical Recovery group, you were no longer expected to attend. The relationships you had in the Church proper would be enough to keep you in recovery. For countless graduates, this simply was not the case. Many returned to their prior ways while others switched addictions to work, anger or pornography.*

*The Chemical Recovery Fellowship is suited not only to the person looking to get clean and sober now, but offers a necessary lifeline to the one with time under their belt and who want to obtain what God has promised to them. They can get the support they need to continue in recovery and reclaiming the life they threw away.*

*(...from Me - A Slave?) Their inaccuracy was not the result of misinformation but rather a willful decision to ignore the obvious. Infact so great was their desire to not admit to this truth that they ended up accusing Jesus Himself of being possessed by a demon. The enormity of this error cannot be overstated. When men are determined to reject truth, they are darkened (in some cases irreparably) in their thinking to a point where they even confuse God with Satan.*

*Many of us know a lot about darkened thinking, since in the course of our own addictions we became insulated from the reality of our enslavement, something that was entirely obvious to everyone else around us. It wasn't until the overwhelming weight of negative consequences crushed even the very appetite to get high that we were willing to admit to the truth about our own enslavement.*

*Needless to say then, it's sad indeed when we who have been rescued from addictions to drugs and alcohol and moreover an enslavement to sin, forget ourselves, by no longer being willing to recognize our present afflictions. The Jews in this passage failed to recognize their enslavement, and in so doing missed the very One who would have rescued them. Let us then not miss our rescuer even now, though once we saw the grim truth about our need and were saved, we cannot now afford to lose sight of our fallen nature. Hopefully we'll have no problem remembering the time when we ourselves were enslaved.*

*(...from CR Graduations - Finish Line or Milestone?) The Chemical Recovery ministry had for many years celebrated the end of ones participation in the CR groups through graduation ceremonies. The ceremonies marked a completion of the recovery program for the addict.*

*With so many graduates relapsing into drug use and/or regressing in other areas in their lives, I believe that God is showing us how much the aforementioned Easter message translates into a healthy understanding of sobriety.*

*The tradition of an Eternal Fellowship sprung from this experience and our conception of graduations, as recognizing ones maturity in recovery, has grown, so that our message now to the addict is that graduating in CR marks the beginning of a new journey.*

*This new journey is one where the addict now plays a dual role of growing further in his recovery while looking to play a greater role in the lives of the newcomer in recovery. Seeing graduations as a milestone, marking this new journey increases the likelihood that another Easter message will be realized in more people: the resurrection of dead lives, souls, spirits, churches, CR ministries and communities alike!*

*(...from Avoiding the Bait Car) Who will take the bait? Eventually some person comes by and notices the keys. They decide to take the car. The car itself inside is rigged with cameras and microphones so that we can see and hear what goes on with the car thief. An unbelievable aspect to this is that by now many people have seen the show and will comment that it could be the bait car from the show. Even with these warnings, they still take off. They can't believe that they are so lucky to have found this Escalade just lying around - waiting to be taken.*

*The surveillance team watches for a block or two and then moves in while throwing the kill switch disabling the stolen car. Immediately you can see the faces of the thieves register that they are in serious trouble. Their minds are frantically thinking of a way to explain how they happen to be driving this stolen car. When the police finally pull them from the car they pour forth a litany of reasons why they took the car. Once the police inform them that their whole escapade is on video, they usually say no more.*

*In our lives Satan lays out plenty of bait to set before us. Unless we are adhering to Scripture and relying on the authority of the Bible we will end up taking some of this bait. The bait looks good, pleasing to the eye and desirable to have but in the end, the kill switch will get thrown and we will find ourselves seperated from God for eternity. Proverbs 1:22 says - How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? When we fail to have the Bible as the authority in our lives then we become the simple, the mockers and the fools.*

*In our addiction we despised authority. It got between us and the ones we loved - our drugs. The only good cop was the one that was somewhere else. To recover we must submit to Gods Authority. We must understand that we cannot help ourselves. Even when we get time under our belts we cannot afford to think that we are cured. In Psalm 51:3 David said - For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. This was what kept him a humble man. As soon as he forgot this he strayed from Gods word into immorality and murder. If we fail to keep our recovery before us we will find ourselves ensnared in a bait car built just for us.*

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