

## FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

The spiritual immune system.



You also helping together...  
2 Corinthians 1:11





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### The spiritual immune system.

It has come to my attention, especially over the past months, that hardcopy publications will, in the long run, have a greater impact through our ministry than what we are currently providing. We want SRN to continue on and we are currently making major changes in order to make it happen.

#### A SPIRITUAL IMMUNE SYSTEM

Like other Christian discernment ministries, our own ministry serves the body of Christ as a small fragment of the much larger spiritual immune system. The basic definition of “immune system” is, “the organs and processes of the body that provide resistance to infection and toxins. Organs include the thymus, bone marrow, and lymph nodes.” Through the centuries, and similarly today, Christian apologists and polemicists have been used by God as a sort of spiritual immune system to safeguard the body of Christ. The ultimate goal of Christian *apologetics* and *polemics* (and pastor-teachers) is to glorify God through the clear proclamation of the *biblical* gospel. Together, these ministries help *equip* believers and *defend* the Christian faith from hostile attacks, both outside and inside the church. Proclaiming the biblical gospel to a hostile world and exposing dangerous teachings within the church have never been popular. Neither has the un-politically correct task of exposing false teachers. However, these things must be done if the church is to be effective and advance the work of God.

#### GIFTED FOR SUCH A CALLING

It is the Holy Spirit Himself who gives personal discernment to individual believers in Christ. At the same time, occupational ministries such as ours serve the body of Christ by *researching*, *informing* and *warning* of various

deceptions in the church, and providing the biblical alternative. Seeking to educate the body of Christ on numerous important topics, we are simply doing our part in allowing the Lord’s gifting’s to us, to be used effectively. Our goal in doing so is *for the benefit of all*. The Apostle Paul wrote: “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which

“Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”  
- 2 Corinthians 1:11

worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Considering these things, I want to share with you what I personally do on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. In doing so, I hope to make you aware of what our ministry is accomplishing at present. I tell our kids from time to time, “We will accomplish our goals as the Lord provides.” Regarding ministry work, it is only through the loving and gracious support of like-minded donors that we can accomplish our goal of providing the body of Christ with needed discernment resources.

#### POURING OUT FOR OTHERS

As many of you know, the work I have been engaged in requires many hours of administrative and computer work. My wife and I have spent many years in ministry, offering hospitality, hosting Bible

studies, church planting, serving as missionaries, and helping many people however we can. I have personally had to slow down quite a bit the last three years as far as public ministry, simply because of the effects of my back injury. We also have growing teenagers and we invest much time with them in their activities, their sports, and as a family. Aside from family time, there is always ministry work to be done, and we are constantly pouring our lives out for others.

As I had mentioned in a previous newsletter, I would like to primarily focus on publishing written material and creating audio and video messages. The following is an overview of my current work related activities: Research/writing; creating and updating web pages on two websites; website search engine optimization (manual and laborious - almost 200 pages. We do not yet have a CSS website.); writing newsletters/updates and editing our Constant Contact e-update; photography, graphics and layout design; Facebook, e-mail and telephone correspondence; periodic consulting; paying bills (when SRN funds allow, out-of-pocket when they do not), purchasing office supplies; donation processing for SRN aside from missions organization donations; shipping, mailings, inventory, post office runs, data entry for mailings; filming/lighting, video editing, podcast/audio recording and editing; SRN library organization of original source documents; uploading material to the Internet, and more.

Along with all of the above, I teach periodic local Bible studies, have a family, am very involved in our kids’ lives, and am doing what I can to either workout or surf a couple times a week to alleviate tension in my back from sitting in a chair. I am finally slowly getting over

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WORLD IN NEED  
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**Your financial support** allows my family and I to continue our missions work and our apologetics outreach. As a missionary with World In Need International I am required to raise my financial support. My support is dependent on monthly recurring and one-time gifts from churches, family and friends. We are thankful that God is increasing our support for personal living expenses and we thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

six months of foot problems associated with plantar fasciitis and bone spurs.

There is more of course, but this list should suffice to help you understand where my time is spent week-to-week. In it all there are no "paid" vacations, no insurance benefits, no holiday pay, no 401K and no furlough. Although our financial support is very limited, we will continue addressing some of the most spiritually devastating issues in the church today, including but by no means limited to, spiritual abuse issues, contemplative spirituality, yoga, ecumenism, and numerous mystical and occult New Age practices *and movements* being embraced within Western Christianity.

### GODLY MOTIVATION

The purpose in all of our activities is to help *people*, and to serve as a resource for other researchers, pastors, authors, fellow ministries, and anyone else who takes an interest in our work. Although I have never been through the severe physical persecution extremes of Paul the Apostle, I can and do identify *daily* with his burning concern for the body of Christ. Every day, in my own waking moments and throughout the day, I feel a deep concern and care for the body of Christ - for its health, its purity, and for the gospel of Jesus Christ to be faithfully proclaimed from one generation to the next. You see, it is not ecumenists, liberals, progressives, emerging church compromisers and contemplative spirituality gurus that are faithfully carrying the gospel to the next generation, but biblical preachers and teachers and faithful discernment ministries that are willing to tell the truth like it is, regardless of the suffering that comes with it. This inner compelling concern for the strong defense and proclamation of the gospel is constant, it never goes away (Philippians 1:8-11; 2 Timothy 4:1-5).

I believe with all my heart that these yearnings are from the Lord, and not my own contriving. I base this on the biblical *standard* of what Paul himself, *and Jesus*, experienced. Jesus suffered and died and rose from the dead *for us*, and Paul's *daily* concern for the people of God and his suffering for others is obvious (see my emphasis in boldface type in the following

Scripture). "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. **Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.**" (2 Corinthians 11:24-28)

### REQUEST FOR HELP

Often times there is far too much work to do. We do not have the local help that we need and my wife is now going back to work in a new occupation in order to assist with our personal and ministry support needs. She is my greatest help and encourager, and she knows the value and importance of the work before us. Although this will be adding more to my own schedule in our home environment, it is our only option at this point.

Donations have been very low the past few months. Now, after twenty years of ministry together (and marriage), we are unfortunately having to critically reassess our financial situation and work options. Our SRN board members also are involved day-to-day with their own full-time work and family obligations, and my wife and I are maxed out yet running on the bare minimum financially. We are currently praying and hoping for more sponsors.

### HOW TO HELP & WHO BENEFITS

Increased prayer, and financial support, *will* help us to be more *productive* day-to-day so that we can be more *effective* in 'Proclaiming the Gospel and Encouraging Biblical Discernment!' The body of Christ will benefit, as will non-believers who use our resources and are touched by our lives and Christ's gospel message.

Thank you for your kind support and prayers, they are sincerely appreciated!

- Chris Lawson

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