

# Bold Christian Living

...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6

P. O. BOX 820  
SPRINGVILLE, CA 93265

(559) 539-0500  
JONATHAN LINDVALL

E-Mail: [Lindvall@BoldChristianLiving.com](mailto:Lindvall@BoldChristianLiving.com)  
Web: <http://www.BoldChristianLiving.com>

Dear Friends,

Would you be interested in helping me write the book God has put on my heart (actually several books, eventually)? The Lord has rather clearly directed me to once again focus my time and energies more fully on the various ministry opportunities He has laid before me, and particularly on writing. While this is exciting for me and my family, it is also a bit scary for us. I am writing to invite your financial support in this new direction.

For years I have sensed the Lord's direction to put the Bold Parenting Seminar material into book form. A few years ago I had made significant progress on the project when, while ministering in India, I had a computer crash and lost all my work. (I had not backed up my hard drive.) I was so disheartened by all the work that was lost that I had difficulty facing starting over. And when I did, I felt I wasn't expressing the message as well as I had the first time, and found that extremely discouraging.

Then, three years ago it became apparent that contributions to Bold Christian Living were dwindling, and I was not comfortable trying to overtly raise support. So Connie and I felt I needed to return to the teaching profession in public schools. It turned out that the door opened to teach in Special Education, serving students with learning disabilities. So for the last three school years I have been serving as a Special Education Teacher.

This last spring a brother in another state whom I highly respect sent me a disturbing note. He wrote, "I don't think I need to pray for you to have more strength and I believe you have motivation to ministry. What I should have been praying and will begin to pray is that the Lord meet your needs without secular employment so that you have time to do what is in your heart." This was not a suggestion I wanted to hear, as I had invested much time and money in acquiring additional credentials, had become comfortable in my teaching job, and was well-liked by my supervisors, co-workers, and students. Yet the thought gnawed at me that the Lord might be leading this brother in his prayer, and preparing me for a change.

Then in late June I was stunned to be informed that I would not be rehired for this coming school year at the district I was working for. Though I asked, no reason was given, leading to various speculations. The way this came about was so unusual and unexpected that I couldn't help but wonder if the Lord's hand was in it. Still, though I suspected the Lord might be answering my friend's prayer, as I prayed about it I felt I should faithfully seek another teaching job, while asking God to close doors that contradict His plan. Nearly 200 applications later, despite interest shown, and good, but fruitless, interviews with various local

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education agencies, I am now persuaded the Lord is redirecting my path (I'm afraid I'm a stubborn, slow learner).

One of the things I have strongly resisted in my years of full-time ministry has been raising support. I imagine we have all found ourselves offended by high-pressure pitches to give financial contributions to various ministries. I love and embrace George Mueller's and Hudson Taylor's example and motto, "Where God guides He provides." I have often secretly (and sometimes more openly) criticized others who were involved in fund-raising for their ministries.

During one night in mid-August I couldn't sleep as I sensed the Lord speaking to me through the account of David's challenge to his son, Solomon, and to the leaders of Israel. In 1 Chronicles 28:1 we're told how, toward the end of his life, "David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel." He went on to review with them his unfulfilled vision for building the house of God. He described how God didn't allow him to carry out the vision, but gave him the plans and allowed him to make the preparations so his son could build it. Then, after explaining the vision, at the beginning of the next chapter, David actually asked for the leaders' financial support. He challenged (1 Chron. 29:5), "Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?" The people had caught the vision with David and in the next verse we're told, "the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly." I sensed the Lord applying this example as an encouragement to openly invite support of God's people to share the burden He's put on my heart of putting my messages in book form.

As I've discussed this with my family and several close friends, there has been strong encouragement, but almost universal questioning about which book I'm to pursue first. Although the messages of the Bold Parenting Seminar (and the Bold Christian Youth Seminar) are still strong in my heart, that's not where the Lord seems to be giving me the deepest passion at the moment. The Scriptural Romance messages are certainly one of my life messages, too, and I believe the Lord would have me eventually put those in book form. The messages of the "New Testament Church Seminar" are definitely more fresh than these others, yet neither are they the strongest burden of my heart currently. And I would love to eventually write a biography of my father's life and his testimony of intercessory prayer.

But as I've talked with others about this, I've been overwhelmed by how often people have noted that they can clearly see in me a strong current emphasis on the messages surrounding the theme "Instructed by Scripture, Led by the Spirit" (the motto of my e-mail newsletter for several years). Over and over different ones have, often independently and without any apparent prompting, suggested that I should start with a book on that topic. I have begun to conclude that these comments actually ARE being prompted, but by the Holy Spirit rather than by me or any other human source.

Unquestionably, most of my deepest conversations these days seem to eventually turn to this balance between saturating our minds in God's written word, while welcoming the Holy Spirit's leading in the living out of God's ways. Most of my messages recently seem to revolve around this theme. So I am aiming myself toward focusing the initial book-writing project on this topic.

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Many who are reading this are aware that some time back the Lord directed me to stop charging folks for attending my seminars, and then even for recordings of my messages. Some of you have faithfully contributed to our expenses, making it possible to provide tapes to all who request them. (We have not been able to keep CDs in stock, however, and hope to return to that soon, as well.) I want to thank our contributors from the bottom of my heart.

Now I believe the Lord has directed me to lay out the vision and invite the financial support of friends who share my burden for seeing all of these messages (eventually including the Bold Parenting, Romance, and New Testament Church messages) spread in book form.

As I consider the direction of writing and publishing books, it is immediately foreseeable that a decision will have to be made regarding either self-publishing or having the books published and marketed by an existing publisher. In the latter case, providing books for free would be much more complicated.

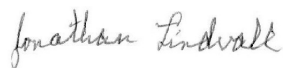
That night in August when I sensed the Lord speaking so strongly to my heart about this, an idea kept recurring that I think is of the Lord. It would be a good accountability measure for me to commit to sending updates of my writing to any book-project supporters. If a book were published by another company, they would undoubtedly frown on me sending folks free electronic copies. But for those who were helping me write the books prior to publication, receiving manuscripts of chapters for review as they are being completed, would be completely appropriate.

With all this in mind, I am soliciting friends who would sense the Lord's leading to help me write these books by contributing to our family's support while I devote myself to this task. And for supporters who are interested, I commit to sending regular update drafts of my progress electronically. Eventually you would have all the chapters in the books before they are published. I am setting a goal of having the first book completed by the end of this year (2011).

Do you sense the Lord in this? Would you stand with me in this pursuit? If so, please let me know what the Lord is speaking to your heart.

If you are moved by the Lord you can commit any regular amount toward our monthly support, or simply contribute as the Lord leads you. Eventually I intend to provide a method for folks be able to send support through our website. For now (and even then), contributions can be sent directly to: Bold Christian Living, PO Box 820, Springville, CA 93265.

For Jesus' pleasure,



Jonathan Lindvall

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