

Preparing for the Future

Building on established relationships and Launching new plans for the future

Randy and Mary Ann Gallaway

January 13 – 20, 2008

Five PIDW team members arrived in California January 13, 2008 for a week of networking and attending a Storying training conference.

At the conference, we discovered more and more about the process of “Storying” – telling chronological Bible stories in order to evangelize, teach and build a Christian worldview.

Dorothy Miller is a master of storytelling and using interactive questions. After three days of her training, we are better equipped with Bible Storying techniques. This is an open, interactive, easily transferable technique to present the whole word of God. Storying enables illiterate pastors to minister to their people.

For more information on Bible Storying, contact us! We have much more to share.

At California Baptist University, I spoke to 60 engineering students and challenged them to invent devices/things to meet the needs in the third world, such as helping people with artificial limbs.

Saddleback Church (Rick Warren’s church) welcomed us Friday afternoon. We met with Mark Carver (international missions for Saddleback) for about an hour. Miller and I both noticed Saddleback’s wonderful system for lay counseling (including pre-marital counseling).

Even though Saddleback is a large church with substantial staff, there was no way they could meet all the needs of the people coming for counseling help.

Saddleback has put into place training for lay people to become counselors for the church. In 30 weeks, people can learn the counseling techniques the professionals use so that they can, in turn, counsel others. Now, it is important to note that people with true mental illnesses are referred to doctors and professionals. This lay counseling ministry is to help those struggling with family, life, and moral problems. Last year, this counseling center of 363 counselors gave 19,000 hours of counseling.

Miller and I were interested because we want to start a similar program in China. China has a similar problem; pastors cannot handle the volume of people coming for counseling.

Mark Carver introduced us to the director of counseling, Dr. Bob Baker. It turns out we knew the director from when we lived in California. He welcomed us warmly and introduced us to his training staff, one who actually happens to speak Mandarin! She asked Miller if she could help and be a part of training lay counselors in China. That was

miraculous!

We dashed across LA and met with the Joni & Friends foundation. Chip Kingery, a friend from Dallas, directs Joni & Friends' international projects. One of his associates is a talented young woman from China who also wants to help us.

From there we had dinner with Dr. Clyde and Ruth Narramore, who wrote some of the original books on Christian counseling. He founded Rosemead School of Psychology. He was on syndicated nationwide radio for 45 years and was one of Dr. James Dobson's early mentors.

We discussed the possibility of translating some of his writings into Chinese and publishing the translations. He offered use of any of his 245 booklets for the project. His nephew, Dr. Bruce Narramore, has become head of the foundation that Dr. Clyde Narramore started. Dr. Bruce Narramore is working with a leading university in Beijing to start a Masters Degree program in Counseling.

Miller and I flew to San Jose and met with Kevin Fischer. The three of us went to meet with the international director of Young Life, who wants to start a ministry in Asia. We really connected as we talked and shared our testimonies. He is going to meet with us in China on his next trip. God gave us a miraculous time together.

God did exceedingly and abundantly more than we asked or hoped. He is preparing the way for future ministry.

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen,”

(Ephesians 3:20-21 NASB).