

New Resource for Leaders Assists Smooth Launch

Announcing a brand new resource for leaders:

The Grace Group Start Up Kit CD (\$35) will save you a ton of work and answer a lot of questions. Every step and every form is outlined to ensure a smooth launch for your group. Over 55 pages of material are provided that will help you design brochures and inserts, forms and handouts, special reminders for leaders, ending group well, what to do when group is over, and addressing special care needs.

Order online: <http://openhearts.gospelcom.net/bookstore/purchase.php>
or contact the OHM office: 269-383-3597.

SALTS Europe...Coming Right Up

Planning on being in Europe January 19-24? Or do you know someone who lives in Europe, the Middle East or Africa? We will be offering SALTS to missionaries, church leaders, and nationals who speak English in Vajta, Hungary and we need your help to get the word out.

Imagine yourself helping to launch Grace Group ministry in a new country, or helping a leader be more effective in addressing soul wounds in their ministry. All it takes for you to be an agent of healing is your personal testimony and passing along this means for them to connect with us. For more



information check online at: <http://openhearts.gospelcom.net/leadershiptraining/salts/2005registration/>, or talk to us at 269-383-3597, or email us at office@ohmin.org.

We have people who are eager to come to both the October SALTS and SALTS Europe, but who cannot come without scholarship help. If you are able to assist, please designate on the memo line of your check one of the following: "Healing the Nations" (toward non-U.S. participants) or "The Scholarship Fund" to help participants

within the U.S. get personal help and leadership training.

Confessions of a SALTS Avoidant (An interview with Jim Visser after April '08 SALTS)

What should we know about Jim Visser?



Jim Visser

I'm 61, a college professor at WMU, married (to Karen) with one adult daughter. I have a Christian Reformed and a Reformed Church background. For the past 12 years I've been a member of a nondenominational Bible Church.

I have always functioned as a quiet but fiercely independent, take-charge, do-it-myself-to-get-it-right guy. I don't wait for others to get it done, and I don't need anybody else's help.

My wife became involved in Open Hearts Ministry some time ago. I saw OHM as a nice program for people who had suffered severe abuse. It wasn't for me; I was never abused. Karen pointed out that OHM was for wounded people, not just those who had suffered "abuse". "Wounded?" I said. "Naw, that's not me." "Oh yes it is", she said. "All the stories you told me about growing up — you were definitely wounded."

Although I was suspicious of "touchy-feely" counselor stuff, I agreed to go to SALTS in the spring of 2008 to fulfill a promise to my wife.

What were some of your hopes and fears as you came to SALTS?

I was not sure what wounds I would uncover in myself. And, I was certainly

not sure I wanted to reveal the wounds I knew about to other people, and then have them recoil from me because of them. Nor did I want to waste a week of my time or a thousand bucks on some dry academic "counseling training"

that I didn't really embrace as useful. Most importantly, I didn't want to do something that would be a threat to my sense of being a man—rising above my shortcomings and taking charge of my life.

I was curious, however, if SALTS would uncover some wounds I had overlooked or didn't know were there, while helping me develop a more personal relationship with God. Maybe this was a chance to engage with other people I could respect who would help me get beyond my wounds. I might just learn something that would be helpful to my wife and daughter. But, I doubted I would be truly transformed by the experience.

What changed for you? How were your expectations met?

Well, surprise of surprises—I found my experience at SALTS to be truly transforming, not in miraculously turning me into Mr. Have-it-altogether-in-six-days-or-less, but in changing my mindset and starting me on a journey toward spiritual and emotional health. I found SALTS to be no threat to my masculinity — quite

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