





Welcome To The Barn  
The Legacy of the Brave Men  
In The 20th Year of Our Fellowship

## The Legacy of the Brave Men . . . A Brief History by Dick Johnson

Bruce Bickel and I became close friends when we both served on the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation's Board of Directors in the late 80's. In 1995, I approached Bruce to inquire if he would "mentor" me on my spiritual journey. He agreed and we began that journey. As I came to realize the unique opportunity that I was privileged to engage with this spiritual resource, God pricked my conscience and directed me to ask Bruce another request: *"There are many men who could benefit from your mentoring beside myself. Would you be willing to teach a small group of men about the depth and details of our rich faith?"* Bruce and I prayed about this ministry opportunity and God was pleased to have us begin the *"Sewickley Men's Fellowship -Becoming Men of God"* on Friday mornings at 6:30 a.m. Our first gathering was on September 22, 1995. We began with about five men meeting in the conference room at World Vision's International Distribution Center in Sewickley. We were compelled to invite all men desiring to *"Become Men of God"* and the group grew.



Christ Church at Grove Farm had recently completed their new worship center and invited us to move our Fellowship to The Farmhouse on their campus. We then became known as *"The Men's Bible Study"* and enjoyed cold winter mornings at The Farmhouse around a blazing fire studying the Word of God. It wasn't long before we outgrew this cozy space and moved to our present home, The Barn, just a short distance away. We are now starting to outgrow The Barn where we are blessed each week with 75 to 95 men experiencing some of the best Bible teaching in the Pittsburgh area.

In recent years we have become known as ***"The Brave Men of Friday Mornings."*** Since we started keeping records in 2008, there have been close to 700 men from countless denominations and various churches that have crossed the threshold of Christ's Embassy of Grace. The following pages will give you a glimpse of our story in which Bruce Bickel, our primary teacher, has inspired us to become ***"Mission Minded Members of a Movement Motivated by Mercy for Ministry in the Marketplace."*** Otherwise known as the ***"M8's."***

Bruce has inspired us about our mission as Christ's followers with his insight and summaries of ***"What God has ordained, the Son accomplished and the Holy Spirit applies"*** we call these ***"Bickelisms."*** You'll have to join us at The Barn to really grasp the wonder of worshiping God and enjoying Him forever.

Our Bible study is for men of all ages. But anyone can enjoy our Bible studies through our web site, [www.bravemen.org](http://www.bravemen.org). All of the lesson plans, audio of Friday's teachings, and even transcripts of the audio, and more Bible Study resources, are available on our site.

***"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen"*** Hebrews 13:20-21



## 1995 - From World Vision to Christ Church @ Grove Farm - 2015



### SEWICKLEY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Becoming Men of God

#### KICK-OFF

FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 22, 1995 6:30 a.m. at WORLD VISION

**Purpose:** Study and Understand the Word of God

**Place:** World Vision-International Distribution Center (Conference Room)

**Time:** Fridays, 6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. (Coffee will be served at 6:15 a.m.)

**Teacher:** Dr. R. Bruce Bickel

**Subject:** I John - "Seven Truths"

**Invitees:** All Men Desiring to Grow in Their Faith

**Questions:** Contact Dick Johnson (business 749-1800, home 741-7037)

**Who Is Bruce Bickel?** A dynamic teacher, pastor and fellow believer surrendered to Jesus Christ.

#### Experience

Vice President and Manager, Charitable and Endowment Management Dept., PNC Bank

Senior Pastor, Churches in Kansas and Illinois

Vice President, Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Naval Aviator - Two tours in VietNam, U.S. Navy

#### Education

1991 Waynesburg College, Doctor of Divinity (Honorary)

1986 Luther Rice Seminary, Doctor of Ministry (Theology)

1984 Luther Rice Seminary, Master of Divinity

1967 M.I.T., M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering

1966 U.S. Naval Academy, B. S. in Electrical Engineering

Directions to World Vision IDC on back (5 MINUTES FROM SEWICKLEY)



## Prayers of Dedication

We come to the Barn and cross its threshold as we enter the Embassy of Grace. Here we receive the Word of God in all its richness and depth. Here we are reminded of who we are as sinners before a Holy God. If we are dead in our trespasses how can we possibly be brought to life? How are we to be reconciled with God without someone to revive us? All we offer Him is our sin and our resistance. And in our fallen state we can't even raise our hand let alone cry out for help. But God ordained an Eternal Covenant, before He created the world, with His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. That Covenant has been fulfilled. God sent His Son to live among us, being fully human yet also fully Divine, to be our mediator to God and to pay the ransom to free us from death. What the Son accomplished the Holy Spirit applies as He reflects Christ and reveals all truth for our understanding and salvation.



In the unfolding drama of God's reconciliation for us He has provided teachers to show us the way out of our fallen condition. These teachers, led by Dr. Bickel, have accepted the call to walk us through the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation. They open our minds and give us a taste of the *"goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the coming age."* They too reflect Christ to us. Our teachers are not telling their story but the story of Christ. What He has done for us that we couldn't do is far more fascinating than our own stories. Some say we teach Reformed Theology. That is partially true. We teach the theology of the Apostles which is the theology of Christ, which the Reformers brought back in the 16th Century.



From this on going teaching we are being prepared to take God's message to others. We too, as Ambassadors of Christ, reflect His message. We don't alter it, nor do we soften it to fit the whims of our culture. We point to Christ. Our prayer is not to ask God to bless the work we do but that God would allow us to get involved where He is working. We don't give God instructions, we just report for duty! We have come to know that the task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.

Much of Bruce's teaching is wonderfully summarized in what we call *"Bickelisms."* These are simple phrases or alliterations that remind us of what Christ has done for us. One example is Bruce's challenge for us to become, as he puts it, *"M8's."* That is *"Mission Minded Members of a Movement, Motivated by Mercy for Ministry in the Marketplace."* Bruce is leading us to be *"who we are where we are."* We come from various churches, different denominations and with unique experiences. Somehow, some way, we got to the Barn. Here we realize we are a mess and our churches are a mess. But this is the mess for which Christ died. So God is sending us back to our churches to clarify His story of reconciliation to all that *"He brings across our path."*



We also pray to dedicate our lives to *"Glorify God and enjoy Him forever."* For since He has opened our eyes, and our ears, we realize this is the chief end of man. Out of gratitude we aim to serve others for God doesn't need our good works, our neighbors do. Therefore through weekly biblical education we dedicate our lives and our mission . . .

***"To Him, who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."*** Jude 1:24-25

## Welcome To The Embassy of Grace



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Clockwise: Sig wakes up the men in preparation for Bruce's teaching as a new man is welcomed into the Embassy of Grace.

## To Our Beloved Teachers

*May God the Spirit continue to use you to teach us through your faithfulness.*



Bruce Bickel



Bishop Rodgers



Don Maurer



Ted Wood



Carl Jones



Tom Hansz

### THE SPIRIT AS TEACHER

O GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
That which I know not, teach thou me,  
Keep me a humble disciple in the school of Christ,  
Learning daily there what I am in myself, a fallen sinful creature, justly deserving everlasting destruction;

O let me never lose sight of my need of a saviour,  
Or forget that apart from Him I am nothing, and can do nothing.

Open my understanding to know the Holy Scriptures;  
Reveal to my soul the counsels and works of the blessed Trinity; Instill into my dark mind the saving knowledge of Jesus;  
Make me acquainted with His covenant undertakings and His perfect fulfillment of them, that by resting on His finished work I may find the Father's love in the Son, His Father, my Father, and may be brought through Thy influence to have fellowship with the Three in One.

O lead me into all truth, thou Spirit of wisdom and revelation, that I may know the things that belong unto my peace, and through Thee be made anew.

Make practical upon my heart the Father's love as Thou hast revealed it in the Scriptures;

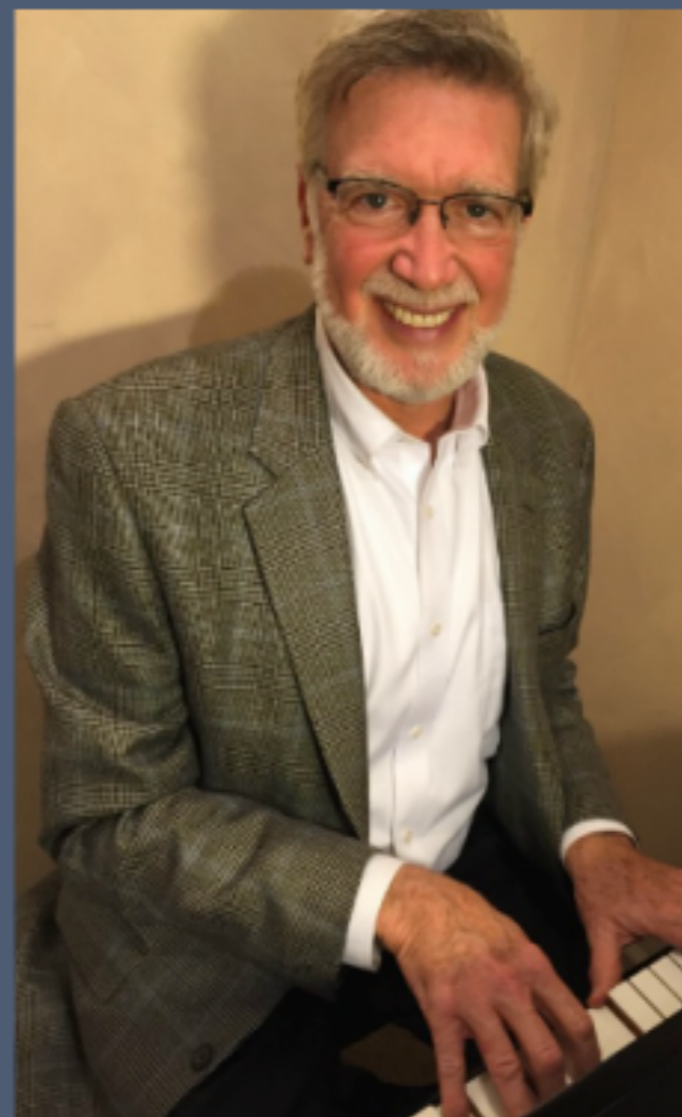
Apply to my soul the blood of Christ, effectually, continually, and help me to believe, with conscience comforted, that it cleanseth me from all sin;

Lead me from faith to faith, that I may at all times have freedom to come as a reconciled Son, and may be able to maintain peace with Him against doubts, fears, corruptions, temptations.

Thy office is to teach me to draw near to Christ with a pure heart, steadfastly persuaded of His love, in the full assurance of faith.  
Let me never falter in this way.

### The Valley of Vision

Our Musicians "Set The Tone for Us As We Go Quietly Before The Lord"



Clockwise: Don Maurer as Bruce looks on, Justin Brown our first pianist, and Lou Schreiber, who together with Don are known as "Blind Faith."



Bruce,

Your teaching and mentorship has made a great impact in my faith journey. I find myself wanting to get deeper into the truth of the Bible, and wanting to pass your teachings on to the men that I know. I am inviting them to share in the teaching and hearing the Word on Friday mornings.

When I first met you we talked about Vietnam and how you had flown the F4 Phantom Jet. As a Marine Infantry man I witnessed first-hand what the Phantom Jet had done for air strikes for the platoon I was in while in Vietnam. I salute your service then and your continued dedication to teach God's Word today.

God Bless,

Jim Cislou



I'm grateful for the in-depth knowledge of Scripture that Bruce has worked so hard over long years to attain—to guide his own Christian life and to share with others.

His example of this is second to none and he has influenced a great number of men and their families for the Gospel of Christ and God's glory. In addition, Bruce has been committed to sharing this gift freely with men at real personal cost for two decades. What a witness his commitment and availability has been!

Lastly, his teaching of true biblical doctrine has required so much courage. The Protestant Church has drifted far from its Reformation roots. Yet, Bruce has had the courage in the face of rejection to be faithful to teach it. And he always does it in a way that is humble and gracious.

Thank you, Bruce! And thank you Lord for giving us this privilege!

Jim Fitzgerald



Bruce,

I'm the guy whose work is seasonal. I have only been able to attend in the dead of winter. But I count every minute I hear you teach as a blessing.

I was able to attend your teaching on Romans at Mt. Lebanon Presbyterian Church. It was all in God's perfect timing when I needed that teaching the most.

I am so blessed to have been a part of that study.

Steve Hickey



Dear Bruce,

Your teaching has had a deep and lasting impression on me and has been a joy to sit and learn rather than be the one teaching. God's blessing on you and your ministry.

The Rev. Bill Eaton



Bruce,

You have brought me closer, with a greater love, and understanding of The FATHER, The SON, and The HOLY SPIRIT.

Thank you, and GOD bless,

Stanley Foss



Bruce Bickel,

To express my appreciation for all the years of the spiritual blessing of your Bible teaching.

Paul Gaertner



I love your message.

Bill Betts



Thank you for your time and knowledge!!!

Chris DeLuca



Look forward to seeing you again, as I remember your inspiring messages 20 years ago at PNC Bank.

Wayne Kurtz



The Rev. Dr. Bruce Bickel,

You have taught me (and reminded me) that "Joy" is "Jesus, Others, Yourself." Put yourself last and it spells JOY!!!

Doug Lauffer



Bruce,

"Do all things through Christ."

Thank you,

Mark Levitsky



Bruce,

You have been a great inspiration to me over the years.

Lloyd Wilson



Bruce,

Thank you so much for teaching the Bible to the Brave Men. I have learned more in this last year than I had previously in my life.

John Galando  
World Vision



Bruce,

I remember years ago when my friend asked me if I would like to attend a Bible study with him. My first thought was that he was crazy because I would have to get up at 5am to even make it there on time. After he told me that it has made the "biggest impact on his Christian walk" I knew I had to check it out. It truly has changed how I interpret the word of God and I thank you for that. Thank you for helping me grow as a Christian and a man. Sincerely,

Tom Anzelone  
"Resolve to Honor God!"



Bruce,

I have been attending Brave Men for the past few years and simply want to say "thank you" for your willingness to serve your fellow brothers, especially those like me who desire to mature in the knowledge of Christ and God's Word. The Friday morning Holy Spirit wake up "nudge" at 5am is one I look forward to each week! God's blessings to you Bruce!

Tod Arbutina  
"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12

Dr. Bickel,

I have attended the Friday morning Brave Men's Bible study for two years and come away from each session with a new insight as to what my actions should be in my life as I live it. The Lord has surrounded me with good people and you are one of them. Thank you for your influence on my life.

Terry R. Boylan



Bruce,

I have only been coming to the Bravemen Bible study for a little more than a year. I was immediately hooked and now block Friday mornings to attend. God has used your teaching to reveal more of Himself to me. Thank you for being such a dedicated servant. God bless,

Joe Diggins





Bruce,

I'm not a frequent attendee because of distance and circumstance.

First it's profitable to have a study, and with men. I find your discreet articulation of biblical concepts interesting. Your teaching is consistent in the direct, articulate style, as opposed to general terms.

I've received a clear definition of salvation, redemption, mercy, sanctification, faith, belief, and righteousness, by your rightly dividing the Scriptures.

This has resulted in a confident, peaceful, rooted and grounded identity as a Christian.

Glad to be here,

Vance Battista



Bruce,

It was Sunday, October 9, 2011 at my Church when Rick Hangliter, a member of the Brave Men, and several others spent 30 minutes coaxing me to meet them at the Barn that following Friday. That morning you were in the middle of a series on the "Formation and Function of the Church."

When I read your outline I had a hard time deciphering how my "friends" had convinced me to listen to this type of message at 6:30 AM.

What I heard from you and the unique band of characters that comprise our Brave Men wasn't earth shattering. But it was clear, Christ-centered, and even interesting. Very Bickel.

Now we're three years further down that road. Thank you for the time and energy you invest into each lesson and for helping me discern the narrow path that the Lord offers in Scripture. By the way, my first Friday was my 16th wedding anniversary. I came to see you instead of staying in bed with my wife. As one friend said, "Attending this study will win you lots of points." It certainly has.

Bob Baierl

## Background of our Leader . . . A Brief Resume of Dr. Bruce Bickel

Dr. R. Bruce Bickel is a Pastor and Businessman, Leader of Bible Studies and Speaker at Churches, Conferences and Retreats. He is the founder and president of the Transformational Leadership Group, whose purpose is to motivate audiences in character-based leadership. As a dynamic, motivational speaker, Bruce is committed to transforming the way leaders of industry and ministry can achieve both individual and organizational excellence.

Drawing from nearly 40 years of combined experience in the military, the marketplace and the ministry, Bruce is a highly sought motivational speaker and consultant in the area of character based leadership. He is a contributing author of the *"The Power of Motivation"* and the recently published *"Blueprints for Success."*

In addition to his public speaking, Bruce has served as senior vice president and managing director of PNC's Private Foundation Management Services (PFMS) a service he envisioned and created. This specialized service helps clients professionalize the delivery of their charitable intentions. In addition to his leadership of PFMS Bruce also devoted 16 years to developing PNC's Charitable and Endowment Services. Bruce and his team recently joined Hawthorn Institute, part of PNC Family Wealth, to provide a greater depth of service to Hawthorn clients.

At the United States Naval Academy Bruce received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering. In his senior year he received the Midshipman of the Year Award given by the Annapolis Chamber of Commerce, and the Thompson Trophy given to the graduate who has done the most to promote intercollegiate athletics at the Naval Academy.

After the completion of his tours of service as a Naval Aviator in Southeast Asia, Bruce served as Vice President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He holds a Doctorate of Ministry from Luther Rice Seminary and a Doctorate of Divinity from Waynesburg University. Dr. Bickel has served as senior pastor of churches in Kansas and Illinois.



Bruce is active in his local church and in the reformation of Christians' lives all around the Greater Pittsburgh area through his biblical teaching. You can find Bruce teaching reformational theology on most Thursdays at the 1st Presbyterian Church at noon in downtown Pittsburgh and on Fridays at our Brave Men's Bible Study on the campus of Christ Church at Grove Farm at 6:30 AM in the Barn.

Bruce's passion is to teach followers of Christ to wait in expectant awe for God's grace; then to respond aggressively in obedience to what God is doing around us as He pursues and redeems the lost.





Bruce has been my Bible teacher at Christ Church at Grove Farm (CCGF) for over fifteen years. What an exceptional teacher, it is certainly one of his gifts!

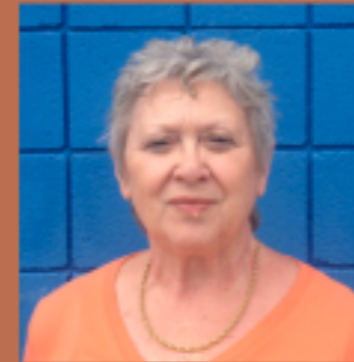
If I am in Pittsburgh I never miss the Friday morning experience. Bruce has changed my life and has done more to positively influence my spiritual journey than anyone I have encountered in my 75 years.

He has made the Word truly come alive. I marvel at his knowledge of the Scriptures, his dedication, the depth and clarity of his message, the personal stories, the supporting references, the hermeneutics, and yes, my handwritten "Bickelisms" that fill my Bible.

Bruce has taught us on many topics. My favorite is the Attributes of God.

I love him.

Bob Busteed



Dear Bruce,

Although I have never met you or attended in person any of your teachings, I thank God and count it a blessing to be able to help transcribe these teachings for the Brave Men and be on the receiving end of your obedience to God's Word and His direction for your life.

You demonstrate in your life character and teachings what Scripture declares: God's love, grace, mercy, compassion and truth for His children.

Thank you for the many hours of study and preparation that you so faithfully put forth each week to bring God's truth to each of us in such a unique and personal manner.

Linda Calabro  
Transcriptionist



Dear Bruce,

Thank you for being a faithful servant and teacher of the Word.

I am always amazed at your knowledge of Scripture as you move about the Word covering so many questions. Most important is your obvious love of the "Brave Men" and your relentless desire to help us grow in the Lord and effect those in the workplace and in our homes and communities.

God bless you for using the gifts God has given you to honor Him!

Bob Smouse



Bruce,

Even though I moved to Virginia I still listen to your teachings via the web.

When I lead devotions here at Liberty University I often use what I have learned from you. You have opened the Scriptures in a way that has given me a whole new perspective on my faith.

I am so thankful that Tom Hay invited me to come to your studies. Please know that even though I'm not with you in person, I'm with you in spirit.

Thank you for all your hard work and being such a Godly man and an inspiration to us all.

Sincerely,

Ron Steele



Bruce,

I've been coming to Friday mornings for over a year. I want to thank you for your mentorship, dedication and sharing of your understanding of the meaning of the Word of God.

Your teachings and guidance have truly impacted my life in many ways; trying to be a better Christian and knowing that with God anything is possible. My family and I continue to grow in faith, and thanks to you, knowing that God is always at our side we can never fail.

Bruce, a heartfelt thank you. My life has truly taken on a new meaning since attending the Friday mornings with you and the Brave Men.

Thank you my Brother and God bless you and your family.

Yours in Christ,

Joseph Sweeney

## Frank's Cafe



Frank Melnyk opens up the Cafe early and brews fresh coffee to accompany the hot jabs and lasting fellowship at the Barn.





Dr. Bruce Bickel,

Words cannot express how much of a blessing your teaching has been to me.

When I was caring for my wife, I could only attend intermittently but now I make the effort to attend every Friday. The depth of your teaching on each subject opens the Word in a way that causes me to pause each week in awe of the God we serve. Your grasp of the Scriptures and the Reformed faith has been an invaluable asset in my growth and sanctification as a believer.

I appreciate your candor on critical issues we face in the church today. You are not timid to teach what the scripture plainly teaches on any subject. God has certainly blessed you with the gift of preaching and teaching and I pray that He will continue to fill you with His Holy Spirit and to give you the health to carry on in His ministry.

In Christ,

Don Bishop



In October 1997 following a Christian men's march on Washington, DC calling men to get involved in the church and in small men's groups I came upon Bruce's Bible study.

One of the guys I hung out with on the march knew about this men's group that was meeting at a church in the North Hills, so a few of us checked it out.

Bruce, it's been about seventeen fantastic years of priceless biblical study. I can't tell you how much you have helped to form my Christian life and walk! At fifty-five years old my faith continues to grow as I spend time daily in God's word, understanding it so much more as a result of the truths that you have brought to light for us over the years.

I am eternally grateful for your diligent work with us over the years, Bruce. I can't thank you enough, even as I look forward to the years ahead.

Rich Clark



Dear Bruce,

I have been attending the Bible study for about 10 years. Words can not express how the Word of God has transformed me by your teaching on Friday mornings.

Eight years ago the Lord was closing a door in my life and one Friday morning you said, "God is a God of Biblical revelation not human imagination." I needed to hear that truth at that time to let that door close and I went away with tears of joy.

When we look back He is always faithful. Thank you for your faithfulness in Him by your obedience in teaching and preaching His Holy Word.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Your brother in Christ,

Jay Batch



Since I have come to the Friday morning Bible study I have noticed God's work and I thank you for your teachings.

You are a great example of what I want to be when I am your age.

Jay Batch, Jr.



Jesus Christ called me to himself over thirty years ago at a time when everything was "filled" in my life but the God shaped vacuum in my soul. He brought meaning and purpose to my life. I moved here in December of 2008 and began attending Brave Men on April 3, 2009. The men I met that morning remain good brothers-in-Christ to this day. It was the first time I heard Bruce's exhortation "to be aggressive responders" to the nudging of the Holy Spirit, and the pursuit of "excellence" rather than success. Since then, the teaching, the fellowship, and the very presence of God in this ministry have inspired me to step out and live the crucified life in Christ. Dr. Bickel is a humble man of God, evidenced by his devout faith in Christ and unwavering dependence on the Scriptures. His teaching ministry is divinely inspired and radiates the love, grace and truth of our Heavenly Father!

Dave Drab



Bruce,

Thank you for sacrificially and fully engaging your calling in Christ such that many others (including me) might be led by the Holy Spirit to engage who Christ has made us to be where He has placed us.

I am forever changed to choose to serve as Christ did, to let Him be my defender, fortress and shield, and to release that which cannot be retained on earth so as to securely possess that which can never be stripped away.

When I look back over the entirety of my life, I will surely not find another man so faithfully committed to giving away all that God has graciously given him to a band of brothers hungry to know the way.

Craig Waller



Bruce Bickel has meant a great deal to me over these many years.

I was brought up in a Christian family, however I certainly was not reborn until I was 50. My parents planted the seed, but Bruce did a lot of watering.

I began with this Bible study in the early days at World Vision. At that time I was chasing a pretty blond whose mother required me to be a Christian. There is no question that the Holy Spirit revealed the Truth to me.

Yes, Bruce, you are a good speaker, but the change in me, and the desires I now have, could only come from our Holy God.

I truly thank you and the Holy Spirit for giving me maturity....and I look forward to more to come.

Dave Wessel



Bruce,

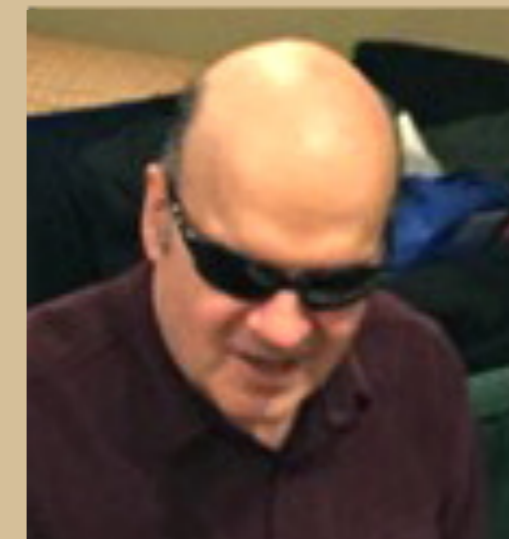
I cannot thank you enough for the contribution you have made to my life. Words alone cannot adequately express my gratitude. Your teaching has been both very educational and inspirational. It has brought me into the Bible more (in which I need to spend more time). It has given me more support during both good and difficult times. It has taught me that God loves me and HE wants me to love HIM.

I believe we are to be modern day disciples for Christ as HIS disciples were for HIM before HE ascended to sit at the right hand of GOD the Father. You have said, "It is not what comes out of our mouth, but it is what comes out of our heart that counts."

Your teaching is irreplaceable.

Bob Scheidemantel

## Meet The Farm Hands: It Takes Dedicated Hands To Put Together Our Weekly Study



Left Column: Sig Tragard, Host & Communicator; Mike Kulmoski provides copies of Lesson Plans and produces our Wrist Bands; Center Column: Bill McCoy records our teachers, Linda Calabro, Darlene Turner, Transcriptionists; Right Column: Ian Davis, Web Master, Don Maurer, Musician & Transcriptionist.



Dear Brother Bruce,

It is amazing to have 85 to a 100 men at the Barn at 6:30 AM, where there is no breakfast, no donuts, and the coffee is a little rough!

What brings us together is the desire to hear the truth concerning our Lord Jesus Christ. Every Friday morning I consider us the most fortunate men on earth! I began attending the Brave Men in March 2010 when I was introduced to you by Mark Malick and you invited me to attend. Thanks be to God!

If asked prior to that I would have said I was a Christian and a believer in God, but quite honestly Jesus and the Holy Spirit were only names that I did not understand. It is through you that I have become "in Christ."

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Dick Clouser



Bruce Bickel,

I have been attending Brave Men since 2010 soon after the Holy Spirit came to me over a pizza with my fellow Brave Man Dick Clouser.

Bruce's teaching and leadership in my journey to everlasting life in God's presence gives me the plain truth of God's Word in the living Bible and not the message often watered down by the world. He has taught me to accept the principal of election which I had never heard before coming to Brave Men. Often on Friday mornings some of the worldly events during the past week try my belief and weigh heavy on my heart as I come into the Barn.

But somehow Bruce's teaching comes right to the point of my weakness and challenges me to accept His Word, as I go through my worldly activities at work and home. At these times it appears that Bruce is talking only to me and I understand that Bruce has become the Holy Spirit's personal living messenger to me.

Terry Gaab





Bruce,

Thank you for your commitment to the teaching and expositing of God's Word. My wife and I first heard you teach on "Clay Pots" at South Hills Bible Chapel back in the '90s.

For many months, my wife could quote your points on that message. We were also blessed by your teaching last fall at CCGF on God's will from the book of Daniel. We listened to the whole series from Daniel this summer while on vacation. We long to be fed on the meat of God's Word.

Your insights have caused us to consider things we've never thought about and drawn us closer to God. Thank you. What we all really need to hear is God's Word proclaimed, not fanciful stories or other gimmicks.

You are a tremendous example and my prayer is that there would be many who would pattern themselves after you as Bible teachers for Pittsburgh and beyond.

In Christ's love,

Kirk Ellerbusch



When I think of Bruce Bickel, Proverbs 27:17 immediately comes to mind:

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Bruce has sharpened thousands of men over his many years of sharing, mentoring, and preaching God's Word through real Christian fellowship.

Thank you Bruce for sharpening me with the Word of God.

Jim Monteverde

## The Brave Men Support Bruce Bickel To Aid His Friend Kieu Cong Tin & His Church in Vietnam

In 2007 the Brave Men wanted to join Bruce in helping his friend Kieu Cong Tin of Vietnam. Tin needed a new prosthetic leg along with the related surgical, medical care. Bruce met Tin during a reunion tour in Vietnam in 2007 with other Naval Academy

veterans who had served in Vietnam. Bruce went back to Hue, Vietnam to discover what had happened to an orphanage he had help to build in 1968. It was then that Bruce met Tin and realized he was the son of the woman with whom he had built the orphanage. It took 39 years for the two men to meet and heal the effects of the war.

Tin, who was hit with shrapnel during the Tet Offensive in 1968, had his left leg amputated. Now in 2007 the ill fitting prosthetic limb had become so decrepit that he had to wrap it in duct tape. The lights lit up and Bruce knew why he had come back to Vietnam, "It was about Tin. Not about me." Back in Pittsburgh Bruce met with one of our Brave Men, Doug Mitchell, then of CURE International, a Christian medical charity. CURE's orthopedic hospital in Kenya would be best suited for Tin's surgery.



Tin & Huong at Tin Lanh Church



Bruce at Barn Reception for Tin & Huong

Bruce marvels at how a group of Christian friends and fellow servicemen helped him raise more than \$30,000 to bring wholeness and peace to Tin and to himself. These funds paid for the medical care and eventually bring Tin and his wife Huong to Pittsburgh, and the Barn, in June of 2008, for a thank you visit. Bruce said, "I view this as something the Lord had me start in 1968, but He just didn't have me finish it until 2007."



Tin & Huong at The Barn Reception

The Brave Men under Bruce's guidance still support Tin and the Tin Lanh Church in Hue. Ten months after Tin and Huong visited the Barn the men arranged for hundreds of Bibles and Hymnals to be printed in Vietnam and sent to Tin's church. Recently the men raised money to provide Tin with a new prothesis. We consider Tin one of our beloved Brave Men that God has brought into His Embassy of Grace.

More of this amazing story can be found on our web site, [www.bravemen.org](http://www.bravemen.org). Once in the site, click on "Prayer Requests" and scroll down to "Support Provided for the Tin Lanh Church." Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow. *Amen.*



Huong, Pastor Tanh and Tin with new Bibles & Hymnals



I remember when I first heard about the Brave Men's Bible study, a place where God's word is revealed in depth and truth.

I couldn't wait for that first Friday morning at the Barn. Since that time, about 3 years ago, the teachings of Bruce has helped me to understand who Christ is and what He has done. I often think of the acronyms Bruce taught, and just by repeating those in my head, I felt a renewing of my mind.

I especially enjoyed personal stories from Bruce's life as he would describe how God worked through him in various situations.

I thank Bruce and all of the Brave Men, who serve the one true God.

Your brother In Christ,

James Franc



Being educated in a liberal seminary by professors in which the Reformed faith was anathema, I had the opportunity to encounter strong men of faith: Dr. John Gerstner, Dr. Robert Sproul, reformed students – and now you, Bruce.

What a refreshing opportunity to sharpen my understanding of God's Word among men who are eager to learn.

My spirit is refreshed and renewed each Friday as I listen to you teach. Your lessons challenge me to implement what I have learned on a daily basis. I continue to pray for reformation in the church, and with teachers like you, I believe it will happen.

I will pray for your health that we will have many more years of your teaching.

Thank you so much.

Harry George



Amazing that a group of men meet at 6:30 AM on Friday mornings in a barn for an hour of fellowship with Bruce Bickel.

The personalities are also amazing including men from many faiths (Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Reformed, Non-denominational), various levels of Biblical understanding (a Bishop, pastors and all levels of laymen), a wide spectrum of economic success and educational backgrounds, representing strong and often-competing beliefs.

The fact that this diverse group gets along for so long is a tribute to Bruce's leadership (even on issues where we disagree) and the welcome influence of the work of the Holy Spirit. The group is well organized and focused, touching the lives of the men and all they encounter.

Thanks Bruce.

Jim Hamilton



Bruce,

I am so grateful for the depth of your Bible teaching at Brave Men. Your commitment to lead this group of men is inspiring.

I began attending during the study of Colossians, and found your lessons to be rich with doctrinal instruction. You have helped me mature as a believer, and have served as a role model for me as a teacher to the youth in my church.

I often share your lessons with my wife and three teenage sons. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to preparation, prayer, and teaching.

God bless your continued service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rick Hangliter

## The Brave Men Support Bruce To Aid His Friend Tin & His Church in Vietnam, part 2

# A 'miracle' decades in the making

By Mark Roth  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**I**n 1968, college student Kieu Cong Tin was visiting his family in the Vietnamese city of Hue when he was hit by shrapnel during the Tet Offensive and had his leg amputated by a U.S. Army surgeon.

Bruce Bickel was also in Hue that year. As a U.S. Navy gunfire officer, he directed air strikes against Communist forces ringing the city, then helped build an orphanage because, he says, "I really wanted to do something con-

structive in a destructive environment."

Though Mr. Tin's mother became the director of the orphanage, the naval officer and the young amputee didn't know one another. In fact, it would take 39 years for the two men to meet and begin to heal each other from the effects of the war.

Today, Kieu Cong Tin is recuperating in a hospital in Kenya run by a Pennsylvania-based charity called CURE International, where a surgeon repaired his badly damaged leg and will fit him with a new prosthetic limb.

And Bruce Bickel, who manages private foundations for PNC, is back in Pittsburgh, marveling at how a group of Christian friends and fellow servicemen helped him raise more than \$30,000 to bring wholeness and peace to Mr. Tin — and to himself.

### A sudden explosion

In January 1968, Communist forces swept into Hue at the start of the Tet Offensive, named after the Vietnamese New Year.

Mr. Tin was a political science major at Da Lat University, but he had come home to be



Bruce Bickel in 1968, when he was a young Navy airman in Hue in Vietnam, with the Rev. Duong Dinh Nguyen. Together they built an orphanage for children who lost parents in the Tet Offensive.

with his family for the holiday celebrations.

When the fighting began, the family tried to flee to a refugee camp in the section of the city controlled by American and South Vietnamese forces.

Suddenly, Mr. Tin recalled in a telephone conversation from Kenya, "I was hurt by piece of bomb, a rocket. I didn't know where it came from."

His father carried him to the central hospital in Hue, but when they arrived, they found that all the doctors had fled because it was under attack.

They stayed there through

SEE BICKEL, PAGE B-3





Bruce,

This is my first day at the Friday morning Bible study.

I do want to say "Thank you" for your time and dedication to this study over the years.

Blessings,

Roger Myers



Bruce,

Your steadfast obedience to God's word and your unfailing love not only to God's word but to me; and to all the Brave Men each week throughout the years is heart warming and truly encouraging. Thank you. If you will permit me to say I would not have grown in God's word as much as I have by your teaching every week. I firmly believe I'm in God's hands and I will always be glad for your teaching.

Don Peters



Bruce,

Your teachings in a matter of four months have greatly impacted my faith and ultimately my life. I feel closer to God than I ever have before and for the first time in my life have a desire to learn more about God through the Word. Your insight and genuine love and understanding of the Word is an inspiration to me.

Thank you for everything,

Adam Portik



Bruce,

Thank you for all that you have contributed to my faith journey.

Your tireless work, leading, teaching, mentoring and wisdom has made me a better person and many times enables me to have biblical influence on many of my loved ones, family, friends, and acquaintances. Once again,

Thank you.  
God be with you always!

George Rodgers



Bruce,

As my kids get older and my family grows, I have felt the need to solidify my understanding of Scripture and get better at sharing my faith.

In my short time at your study I have grown immeasurably. I thank you for your dedication to sharing, your humbleness, your authenticity and mentorship. If I can become half the teacher you are I would count myself a successful man.

God Bless,

Ed Sciulli



Thank you Bruce Bickel,

Dale Thurston



Bruce:

Having recently joined Christ Church at Grove Farm I was prompted to attend the Men's Bible Study on Friday mornings. It was attractive to me because many of the men went golfing afterwards. Scriptures and golf - does it get any better than this? That was April 12, 2006.

Not knowing before hand what lay in store for me, I have been privileged to be a regular student of yours on Friday mornings. (That was the last Friday that I played golf.) Bruce, you have been used by the Lord to take me further into the meaning and truth of the Scriptures and to deepen my understanding of who our God is.

The study of the 28 Attributes of God had a major impact on me. The more I learn about God and my life in Christ, the more I see how much there is to learn and to grow. I am greatly indebted to the hours of preparation you spend each week for each study and to your commitment to the Brothers. It has been my privilege to have filled in for you on occasion. But more especially it has been a blessing to know you as a friend in Christ.

With many thanks and the deepest regards,

Tom Hansz



Bruce,

When my friend Dick Johnson invited me to be a part of a new Bible study led by you, I was uncertain. BUT, thanks be to God I attended. I have been hooked ever since.

Your love for the Gospel and Scripture was the encouragement I needed to begin my journey through the Scriptures with an in-depth study to educate me on the true message, outlined so well in all your instructions and encouragements. Your outlines and many other notes are written in my Bible, and I enjoy the comments and insights as I continue my study of Scripture and my feeble attempt to apply it to my life and conduct.

Thank you Bruce for making Fridays a day of enjoyment and encouragement in my walk through this life for the last 20 plus years.

God Bless you and your family.

Tom Hay



Bruce,

When it comes to men who study, teach and live God's word, you are the first person I think of.

My son Josh and I can not thank you enough for guiding us each week into a deeper knowledge of the Bible. There is nothing more important to me than knowing that my son is being shaped by all the men that share in years of growth through your dedicated teaching.

It was such a blessing when my father, Rich, was still alive, to have all three generations learning and sharing the Word of God together. I credit your teaching with bringing my father to a true saving faith before his death.

By the grace of God we will be reunited in Heaven. Words cannot express my gratitude to you, but I praise the Lord for your tireless commitment to us.

May God Bless You!

Mark and Joshua Helgerman



Bruce,

Not sure where to begin, but needless to say, your teaching and mentorship has made the greatest impact in my faith journey.

The combination of our friendship, your wisdom and dependence on scripture has matured me into the man of God that I am today. Your dedication to study the Word, teach and demonstrate it to me and the Brave Men is having eternal consequences in not only our lives, but those of our spouses, children, grandchildren and all those that come into contact with Christ-centered men.

Thank you for investing endless hours of study, prayer and teaching; allowing God to use you mightily as a reflection of His glory to me and all the Brave Men. I am sure of your reward from Jesus when he declares:

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."  
(Proverbs 18:24)

Your brother in Christ,

Dick Johnson



Bruce,

It has been a true pleasure learning and growing in faith every Friday and other days throughout the year.

Your incredible passion and faithfulness has brightened the lives of many people way beyond Brave Men.

We have all been so very blessed by your experiences and wisdom. The light of God shines around you and you truly are a servant of the Lord Christ.

May God bless you forever and ever!!

Matt Guyaux



Bruce is a tremendous man of God who continues to exemplify our Lord through his sacrificial teaching and mentoring of men through the preaching of God's word.

He has been a blessing and mentor to our brother Dick Johnson who has gone on to be God's hands and feet to the orphan, the vulnerable and the widow.

Truly the body of Christ in action!

Grateful for his love and many blessings he has bestowed upon World Vision, our people and our work!

Blessings,

Chris Glynn  
World Vision



Years ago while looking for a Bible study, I heard about one in the Barn at CCGF every Friday.

I walked in one Friday morning and haven't missed since (when I'm in town). I have learned more about the Word than I ever thought possible.

Thank you, Bruce, for your loyalty to the LORD and to the Men's Friday Morning Bible Study.

Jim Harjer

## Clouser's Corner



Dick Clouser set anchor in the far left corner of the Barn. That's where his guests know to find him.



Clouser provides many behind the scenes services, like chauffeuring Lou Schreiber to the Barn.



Terry Gaab met Clouser through Terry's Father-in-law and if he's within 30 miles of the Barn he shows up.



Earl Taylor is an "Original" at the "Corner." After many, many years at the Barn Earl has retired to Pawley's Island SC.



When travel kept Jim Monteverde away from the Barn, Clouser reminded him of the transcripts posted to our website.



Linda Calabro has never stepped into the Barn, yet we all benefit from her transcripts. Clouser brought her to us.



Clouser invited Chris DeLuca to the Barn knowing the "Corner" would be inconspicuous. Now Chris can't wait for Friday's.



Joe Wagner attends CCGF and was invited by Dick to the Barn. Joe fit right in and invited his friend Leroy Smith.



Leroy Smith easily found the "Corner." What if all of Clouser's connections showed up on the same Friday?



Clouser works the room before and after our study, recruiting men for breakfast or pointing them to our website.



How many of you recognize that God's Love will never take you where His grace won't keep you?

Many times the struggles, obstacles and circumstances that God allows us to experience are not in our lives to make us bitter but to make us better.

For too often it's only after someone has died, a loved one, a friend, a teacher that we want to give them flowers.

With this tribute I want to change that trend to say I thank God for Dr. Bruce Bickel. I thank him for his many years of teaching the untaught and ministering to the early morning madness called the Brave Men.

Because of the spirit of God in Bruce Bickel I'm BETTER.

THANK YOU!!!

Carl Jones



Dear Bruce,

Thank you so much! In my profession, I do not have the luxury of frequenting the doors of a church as much as I would like. So if ministry is defined only by what takes place within the walls of the church, I am a ministry "flunky." 9/10th of my life is lived outside the church walls.

Then I came to the Friday morning Bible study. Bruce, you lit me up when you taught that "ministry is... who I am, where I am, giving away what God has given to me."

Through your teaching and your illustrations I have been inspired and challenged to live my life with an MB purpose, in my 9/10th world. Ministry flows out of who I am, and it must be lived out in my family relationships, in my work place relationships and in the church and community.

As a sinner, saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, I can aggressively respond to what God is doing around me, ministering all day long, wherever I am, inside or outside the church.

Gratefully,

Kirk E. Kubias



Dear Mr. Bickel,

Thanks so much for being a such a great influence in my life and my dad's life.

In the past 6 years my dad has been going to Friday mornings. It's changed his whole life and perspective on life. He has become a better husband and father.

I have met a bunch of great guys at Brave Men and I am really glad I am able to go!

Thanks,

Jake M. Kyriazis



Bruce,

You have been such an influential godly man in my life over the last six years.

From the moment we met at an event where you were a keynote speaker and gave me 30 minutes of your time to give me the advice that God does not need me to start anything, but to look to where he is already moving and go there.

You have been a spiritual example of how to be a strong man of God, spiritual leader in my family and to be who I am where I am. I am a leader in business, but with the teachings on Friday morning I have been able to make a true difference in the lives of those I am in contact with. People have been drawn to me for advice and wisdom and I pray that through your teaching and the power of the Holy Spirit I would continue to reflect the glory of God to them.

Thank you for your dedication to this group of men. You will never know how much you have impacted our lives, our spouse's lives and generations upon generations.

May God Richly bless you with treasure in Heaven!

John Kyriazis





Dear Bruce,

Please know that I have thoroughly enjoyed our Friday mornings in the Barn with the Brave Men.

It has been an amazing and meaningful "4 years" of listening and learning from your straight-forward teaching of the Word. I first became aware of the group when introduced to Dick Johnson at CCGF. He inquired about my family and I indicated that I had 3 children and we just moved to Sewickley from Michigan with one of my sons just entering the Naval Academy.

He suggested immediately that I meet you and attend the Brave Men's Bible study. So glad I followed his advice.

You are a true inspiration and I feel blessed to know you. Stay well and stay strong in Christ. Go Navy!

Jim Mills



Dear Bruce,

I have been attending the Bible study over the last 2 years and I really enjoyed the experience and benefited from your teaching.

The atmosphere is wonderful but I must say I appreciate your command of the Word of God. I view it as an inspiration to me as a father of five that if you can have such a command over the Word then I should be able to at least come close. And I can see how knowing the Word so well can guide all of your thinking and actions throughout each day.

The other thing I appreciate is you. I hear your stories and I can just sense that you're a man of extraordinary honor which I find inspiring. Being around men that have such a high level of integrity makes me want to be more like them, more like you.

God bless you and your ministry. I hope to hear and learn from you for years to come!

John Mougani





Dear Dr. Bickel,

It has been a privilege to take part in your Bible study over the years.

I grew up as a church-goer, but your Spirit-led Bible study has been a pivotal way God has transformed me into a Christ-follower. Your gift of teaching and your faithfulness to the Brave Men have been used by God to show men what it looks like to be a "man after God's own heart."

I now bring my sons with me, and I am amazed at how God has used your love for teaching His Word to change our family for generations to come.

May God continue to bless you as He has blessed so many through you.

In Christ,

Doug Manges



Dear Dr. Bickel,

I have been attending the Bible study for 6 years. Week by week I have learned new truths about the Bible and have grown in my relationship with God.

I especially enjoy the dialogue that occurs toward the end of each teaching, when the men begin to ask questions. It is a great time to learn clear and concise responses to questions I will be facing from fellow believers as well as nonbelievers.

On a lighter note, I always enjoy your dry, sarcastic responses to Mr. Sig prior to the start of each lesson. Watching the difference in your personalities reminds me of my younger brother Gideon and me (Gideon is more of the "Sig type"). Thank you for pouring your wisdom into everyone.

Your Fellow Brother and Servant of Christ,

Gabe Manges



Dear Dr. Bickel,

One of the greatest life lessons I have ever learned is that every man looks better in a blue suit.

I have been attending the Bible study for almost a year, and every morning you have taught me many more life lessons while expounding upon the meaning of the Bible. To begin, one of the most important lessons is that man is a natural enemy of God and until, by the grace of God, He reveals the mystery of the gospel we remain his enemies.

Secondly, you showed me that suffering is a gift of God and an opportunity to put His life and character on display. Suffering is one way we can lean on God for support and at the same time demonstrate to the world a Christ-like character.

Lastly, I learned to always keep my closet full of blue suits.

Your Fellow Brother and Servant of Christ,

Gideon Manges



Dear Bruce,

I started coming to Friday mornings because I was curious and wanted to know more about God.

Your Friday mornings are intense and they reach a part of my soul that gets me worked up and feeds my desire to know more. Your voice and the body language tell me you are passionate and a true believer.

I look at you like I would my father, never questioning his words, strong like an oak tree. I thank you not only for your service to our country but for helping to bring the Lord to the empty spot inside me.

I come from the panhandle of West Virginia, a town called Moundsville and we haven't heard anyone that speaks with such devotion.

Thank you for everything. God bless.

James M. Marling



In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul says,

"Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ."

Bruce, you are a brother in Christ whose qualities I would very much like to emulate. These seven years with the Brave Men have been and continue to be a blessing. You are an inspiration to me, brother, as you "preach the Word, in season and out of season," with grace, gentleness and thoroughness, even in pain.

I pray that you will continue to be used of the Lord for many years to come.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you, brother, now and forever. Amen.

Don Maurer



Dear Bruce,

Sometime ago Dick Johnson approached me to see if it would be possible to have you lead a men's Bible Study for the men of Christ Church. The only time I heard you speak was at a men's breakfast at St. Stephen's. It was your teaching on Psalms 103:11-13.

Your teaching has impacted my life in many ways. Although you are very humble, your credentials speak for themselves. You are a man's man with a strong belief in Christ as Lord and Savior. When you complied to Dick's request we began meeting at World Vision's conference room with about 6 to 8 men in September, 1995. Today we are meeting in the Barn at Christ Church at Grove Farm.

Over the years men from other churches have attended and Sig Tragard has logged over 600 men that have passed through these doors, going on 20 years!

What have I learned? "In the beginning, God", "Our ministry is who we are where we are", "The Holiness of God, the Sinfulness of Man, the Person and Work of Christ, Repentance and Faith", "Think Right, Act Right and Feel Right." These and many more.

Thank you Bruce for your knowledge and commitment to us, the Brave Men. May the Lord bless you and those whom you love,

Frank Melnyk



Bruce,

Your insight, knowledge, and acumen of the Word of God has challenged me spiritually this past year in ways that I have never been challenged before, and that is a gift beyond compare.

Above all else, I appreciate your steadfastness and complete commitment to the truth of our Lord's Gospel and desire to impart this love upon your brothers in Christ.

May God richly bless and sustain you as you walk so faithfully in His light. To God alone be all the glory,

Michael Nan



Bruce's words,

"What you think is what you are" sticks in my mind constantly.

That humbles me with my sinful nature and alerts me to change the channel of my mind to focusing on Jesus.

"What Has Jesus Done?"

Bruce is my teacher and the Brave Men hold me accountable for my actions and deeds.

Jack Faulkner



Bruce,

It's amazing how much I cling to your advice and wisdom, practically every day.

I'm a financial planner by trade, and I came to you with a question regarding my leaving the work-force and transitioning into full-time ministry. Your response was, "When you walk down the street you are in ministry. When you serve your clients you are in ministry. Even as you talk to your boss you are in ministry."

Your thoughtful council caused a complete paradigm shift that influences every aspect of my spiritual and professional life. I site your advice every time I can.

Thank you for shaping my approach to ministry and equipping me to provide others with the advice that "Whatever we do, and wherever we are, we are always in full-time ministry."

Armando A. Ocando



Dear Bruce,

Thank you for your dedication and diligence in teaching the Word of God!

I enjoy the way you take your time with the subject matter, as to expose and illuminate the Scriptures. You've been a great example to me about the importance of expository study, teaching, and preaching.

The terms you've used, such as "The Sufficiency of Christ", and "Detectable Disciple", have become a part of my vocabulary.

I thank God for you, my brother-in-Christ. I will pray for your continued strength and steadfastness in the battle, for, as you know, the opposition towards the work of our Lord is always at hand!

Grace and Peace to you in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

C. Michael Rush



All Glory to God.

Thank you Bruce for the years of dedication, devotion and the example of a man after God's own heart. I have sat in your teachings Friday after Friday for over 10 years. You and your teachings continue to be a blessing to my family and myself.

Your teaching has illuminated the Bible to the point of understanding the Word of God, and you never stopped there, you've always taught that my response and application is the goal.

Thank you Bruce. I'm grateful for the person and work of Bruce Bickel.

God bless you and your family.

Your brother in Christ,

Dean M. Panizzi



Dear Brother Bruce,

You have blessed me with your caring manner of imparting God's Word in a winsome and understandable way.

Retirement has permitted me to attend regularly during these last four years. The blessing of your presentations is evident among those I dialogue with after the morning time as we gather for breakfast.

This is not only evident on Fridays, but continues through the course of our week's activities. Brave Men are taking the message into their lives as you encourage the theme,

**"MINISTRY IS WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU ARE".**

It is inspiring to hear the stories of others sharing the gospel in their lives as well as my own interactions with them. Thank you for your passion for loving people and serving God in your life. You have given new meaning to "The rhythm of grace carries endings into beginnings, into newness, into freshness, and blesses life with the birth of new energy." (Anon.) I got your back! El Shaddai.

Bob Parker



I like the Bravemen's Bible study because of the clarity of Dr. Bickel's teaching.

I also appreciate his Puritan style of preaching from the scriptures. I have not been coming long, but look forward to learning much more.

I like the feature of the online archives of the past teachings.

Gary Craig



Bruce,

Thank you for your long term commitment to serving men here at the Barn and in many other venues.

You are a shining example to me and the others as to what commitment is and what a man of God looks like.

Thank you for pouring into my life,

Mike Davis



Bruce,

Thanks so much for your faithful witness of God's Holy Word.

You have challenged me to read God's Word with delight and respect.

I thank God for your willingness to teach us Friday mornings.

God Bless you and your family,

Allyn Easter





Bruce,

I started coming to Friday mornings over a year ago after hearing such great things from other men.

I was looking for other ways to grow in my spiritual walk. Boy, did I find a home with the Brave Men!

Your teachings and leadership has made the greatest impact in my faith journey. The combination of your wisdom, life story, and delivery is maturing me into a new man of God.

The time you take to prepare each week is greatly appreciated. I feel so energized each Friday wanting to apply everything I just heard.

I pray you will continue to feed us every Friday. Thank you for your commitment to us. You are a great example of what it is to be a man of Faith.

Greg Plizga



Dear Bruce,

I had been praying consistently for help in maturing in my faith.

In November, 2007 that prayer was answered. Praise God. That is when I discovered the Brave Men of Friday Mornings. Through your teaching which emphasizes and reinforces the fundamental building blocks of the faith and then takes us to a deeper understanding of God's Word, I am maturing in my faith. You have many ways to ensure that we get and retain the basic truths of God's Word – I will always remember that true saving faith means "Depending upon, Abiding in, Relying upon and Trusting Jesus Christ." (DART)

Also the simple but profound elements of the gospel message: the sinfulness of man, the Holiness of God, the person and work of Christ, repentance and faith. Another key learning is that we cannot discern everything about God – and that we need to be at peace and unashamed about that.

Thank you so much for your dedication to the Word and the personal sacrifice that you make to invest in the lives of the Brave Men. Your teaching has had a major impact in helping me grow in my walk with Christ. Please accept my sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Frank Remcheck



It is a privilege to have an opportunity to say thank you to you, Bruce, for your spiritually invigorating and biblically faithful teaching every Friday morning for almost twenty years.

As a relatively late-comer I want to express my deep appreciation for you and for your teaching. As a fellow "reformed theologian" I am, first of all, thankful for the straight-forward manner in which you allow the clear teaching of the Scripture to come to expression. Where some might avoid or tone-down the lines of grace, you let them shine in all their offense to human, fallen pride, but at the same time lift them up in all their saving power, delighting all those who know their need as sinners.

We bow our heads in confession and lift up our faces in joy at God's gracious election from before the foundations of the earth, as we hear you expounding God's Word. Secondly, I want to thank you for your constant reminder that what we are learning from God's Word is to lead us to godly worship and to holy living; that we "learn to live and live to love." Particularly theologians need to hear that regularly. Lastly, thank you for teaching us with aphorisms that will long stick in our memories. Who could forget that the Gospel is about "the Holiness of God, the sinfulness of man, the person and work of Christ and repentance and faith"; or that we do not have to find a ministry for "we are ministers by who we are where we are" to mention two of many.

May our time together with the Lord, with you, and the Brave Men continue for years to come. Warmly in Christ,

Bishop John H. Rodgers Jr.



Bruce ,

Each Friday morning of the last 10+ years I have been blessed with 4F (not to be confused with 8M) – Feeding (on God's word), Friendship, Fellowship, Faith.

Over these years a couple things stand out in my mind:

- (1) Ministry is who you are where you are – such simple words, yet so profound, each day I find myself thinking of whether I am being the proper ambassador of the kingdom through my behavior;
- (2) What am I going to do with what I just learned – again, simple words but profound – putting into practice what we learn is key – faith without works is dead;
- (3) WHJD – so key to understand when thinking about a God that has thoughts way above ours – we don't know what He would think and do, we do however know what He did!! I have learned so much and your passion for Jesus Christ remains an inspiration to me.

Thank you

Michael J. Kulmoski Jr.



Frank Melnyk and Ron Fontanesi invited me to the men's Bible study knowing I needed to reform my theology. I trusted their perception and was curious to see what Bruce Bickel, this corporate titan, could teach me about Christ.

Bruce opened the door to show me the way through the whole Bible as God revealed His plan of salvation pointing to Christ. Bruce has taught me so much especially, "To worship God and enjoy him forever."

When I took a job outside of Philadelphia I asked Bruce if he would recommend a church. He introduced me to the 10th Presbyterian Church, with Dr. James Boice. This lead me to the White Horse Inn lead by Dr. Horton which kept pace with Bruce's teaching. Upon moving home Frank reminded me of the Bible Study.

I still remember Dick Johnson's warm welcome "home" when I walked into the Barn. The fellowship and Bruce's teaching have opened the whole counsel of God. What can I say to this man that has taught me so much?

To God alone be the glory.

Sig Tragard



Bruce,

About a year ago I was first introduced to your class by Mike Kulmoski.

He expressed to me the teaching was probably nothing I've experienced and all the men in the group were very dedicated Christians. He was absolutely right. I needed to get to the next level of my Christian faith and I believe God sent me to your class. I put you in the category of John MacArthur and RC Sproul.

The depth in which you take a verse is so much appreciated. Being in business myself and dealing with the daily tasks that seem never to end, I am totally impressed on how you manage to put the preparation time into your teachings every week.

I can go on and on. I am grateful for your time and efforts to help me grow in my faith and that I may help others from your teachings.

God Bless You,  
Robert Viviano



Bruce,

You are a transparent teacher. I see Christ through you when you teach me.

Over the years your teaching has made an impact in my life and my faith. You have shown me so much more about Christ. I'm forever grateful.

Keep teaching us. Help us to explore the depths and riches of our faith.

Kerry Haffly



Bruce,

Your teaching is invaluable to me. I've learned more about Christ and what He did for me than I ever have before my days with the "Brave Men."

Thank you for your teaching, your dedication and your service.

May God richly bless you.

Chuck Mathe



Bruce,

My brother-in-law told me about your study when I was going through a difficult time with our church in Grove City. I started coming when you were teaching "The Function and Formation of the Church."

With God there are no coincidences. You have helped me understand my purpose and relationship with God and I am grateful for your mentorship to men of God.

Thank You. May God lead your every word and thought.

Mike Turton





Bruce,

A couple of years ago, I showed up at the Barn one Friday morning. I thought at that point in my life I was in a relatively good place spiritually, walking in faith and leading a life of dedication to the Lord.

That said, I am eternally grateful that God led me to the Barn to meet you and the men you have been leading in prayerful study for the past 20 years. I have grown more spiritually in the past two years than I thought possible. Your instructions are clear, your message is pure, and I am honored and blessed to be in your company each Friday.

"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go: guard it well, for it is your life."  
Proverbs 4:13

Dave Whitmore



Bruce,

I cannot thank you enough for changing my life. You allow the Bible to come alive, you've shown me how to make application of what the Scripture teaches, and have, literally, saved my marriage.

Words cannot express my debt of gratitude for your time investment in our lives, how you've taken a personal interest in mentoring me, and for your example that you've shown us by the way that you live out your life. You've shown me how to lovingly confront the tough issues and live out a Christ-like life. We are all better for how the Lord has used you mightily in our lives.

Continued Excellence,

Bryan Whittington



I am thankful for Bruce and his service and devotion to teaching and shepherding the Brave Men.

Only the Lord knows of all the people's lives who have been touched and blessed because of his service to our Lord and Savior.

Blessings,

Darlene Turner  
Transcriptionist



Bruce,

You have left an indelible mark on the community.

You will certainly join the likes of those such as Sam Shoemaker whose influence continues to this day.

Thanks for the joy brought to us and to everyone who is blessed to know you.

Thomas Smith



For more than four years, Dr. Bickel, you have been my Bible teacher. I am grateful for your grace-filled, Christ exalting insights.

I appreciate your direct, clear articulation. Your alliteration of concepts and outline points make them memorable and useful. Often, I find myself quoting you when explaining biblical ideas to others.

As a pastor-teacher, I need to be fed the Word of God along with the rest of God's flock.

Thank you for feeding me well.

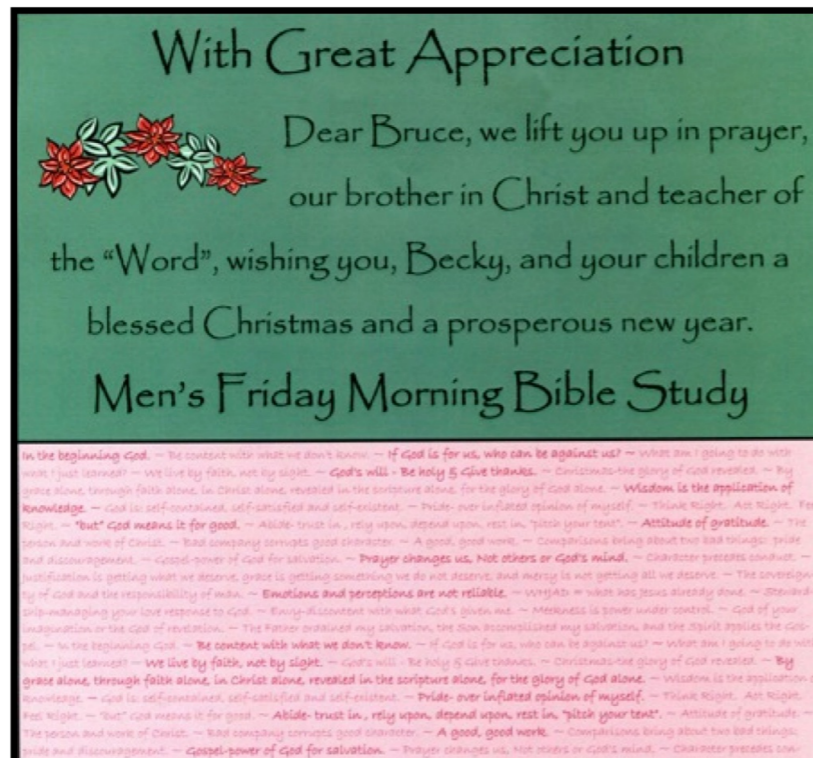
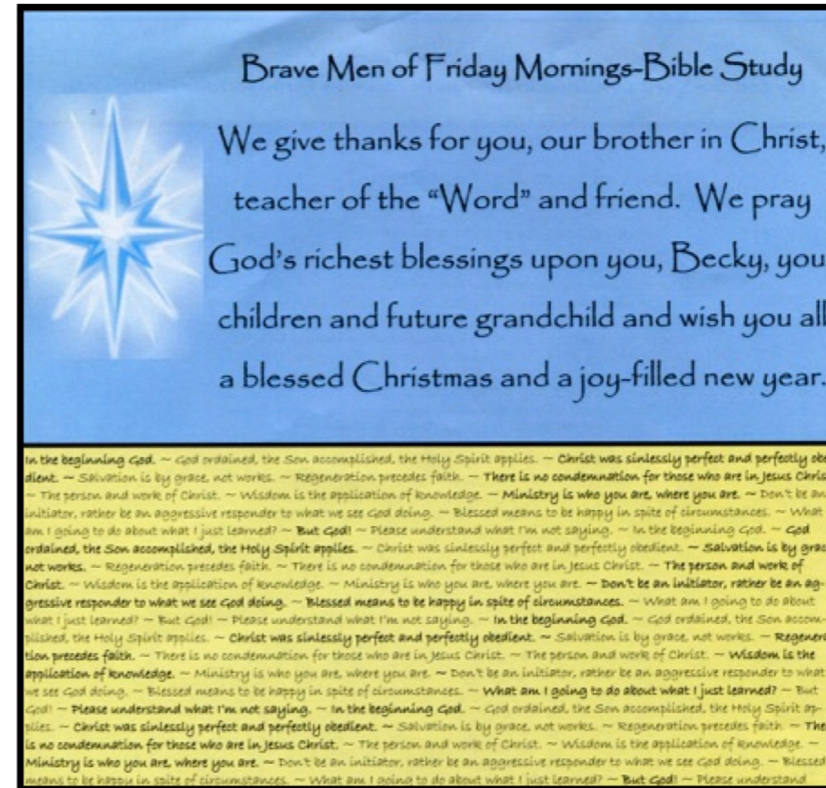
Tom Smith

## Our Annual Christmas Gift to Dr. Bickel

Each year as we approached the Advent Season Dick Johnson would create a large card with a Christmas Prayer on the front and as many “Bickelisms” that would fit.

On the back all the men would sign the card with a brief note of gratitude for Bruce’s year long teaching. It was our challenge to pass it around the Barn without Bruce knowing what was being put together for his Christmas present from us.

What you see here are two samples of these annual cards to honor our beloved teacher.



Along with these cards Dick would gather donations so that Bruce and his wife Becky could enjoy a night on the town compliments of the Brave Men.

This has been our tradition for many years. Now this Tribute Book will serve as a Christmas Card to thank Bruce as well as remind all of us of the great work God has done over these past 20 years. As we share this book it will tell of the Advent of Christ as He changes the lives of all the new men God will call to the Barn for years to come.



Dear Bruce,

God has used you in wonderful ways for our Friday morning Bible studies.

Your uncompromising focus on biblical truth and your demonstration of its practical implementation in your life has set an example that helps to inspire me each week. "Brave Men Fridays" always seems to remind me of God's attributes and the priority of Him in my life, no matter how challenging the week has been up to that day!

The knowledge and comfort in remembering God's omniscience and omnipresence (and the other 26 attributes!) gives me strength and a hunger for deepening my relationship with Him. Your focus on discerning truth directly from the Bible, and avoidance of being sidetracked in personal debates and emotional interpretations, continues to motivate me and bring sense to the meaning of a "Christ follower."

Thank you for being such an excellent vessel of God, and letting His light show through you in our studies!

Steve Wilde



By Grace, the great Creator gave Bruce a disciplined, humble, curious and intelligent spirit.

By Grace, the Lord God raised Bruce in a family that was self-disciplined and humble.

By Grace, the Lord caused Bruce to grow up to be a man of character exhibited by discipline, quiet suffering, conviction and clarity.

By Grace all those who've sat under Bruce have been the beneficiaries and partakers of Christ's amazing Grace through this one man.

It is very rare for any one of us to ever have the privilege of being encouraged and provoked, built-up and stretched by such a Grace-filled bond-servant of the Most High God.

"My Grace is sufficient for you ..."

Ted Wood



Bruce,

The community of Brave Men, along with your teaching and leadership, inspires me each week to become a better leader.

The Godly wisdom I glean from you and this group sinks in to every part of my life!

Thank you!

Mike McGreevy



Dear Bruce,

It's been such an honor to have you as our teacher all of these years.

I think back to the time we started our meetings at World Vision. How would one ever think that this small group would ever grow to our present size. This only proves that I and all of these other men were seeking more than being surface Christians.

You taught us how a true Christian should act and live. We all appreciate that you are in our lives.

Thanks again,

Emie Pinyot



Dear Bruce,

Thank you for the many faithful years of Godly teaching and giving to us men what God has given to you.

Your sound biblical and spirit led instruction has strengthened my walk with Christ and given me a deeper love of our great God, His attributes and character helping me through deep waters.

But thanks be to God, who always (always, always, always) leads us in triumphal procession in Christ, and spreads the sweet aroma of Him in the knowledge of God.

Eternally Grateful,

Bob Smith



Bruce Bickel has been an inspiration for me since he encouraged my poetry experiences. He has continuously spoken the truth and lately supported John 16:15 -

"I have chosen you, you did not choose me."

He has raised the level of my understanding of the true character of Christ, by his behavior: his self control, his caring attitude, his patience, his faithfulness to Jesus and the Brave Men these past 20 years. His obvious love for the scriptures, his courage for the truth, his gentleness.

But most of all his devotion to God, that comes from his awe, his love and the desire to serve and obey God as he emphasizes God's grace and mercy.

In Christ,

Bill Wyland



My Christian walk began over a year ago. The Lord has blessed my life with the words of some truly amazing Christian men. I've read sermons written by preachers from George Whitfield to Charles Spurgeon, and I've listened to mind renewing sermons by some of modern times best reformed Christian teachers.

I consider Dr. Bickel to be one of those teachers. I find myself reading the archived transcripts, and I listen to the recorded meetings on a daily basis.

I've even found YouTube videos of Bruce speaking to Christian businessmen. Bruce speaks nothing but straight biblical truth, and he does it out of love. I intend on working my way through the archives from our website.

Bruce, you are a blessing. Thank you.

Ryan Zawodniak

(l to r) Bruce Bickel, Frank Melnyk, and Dick Johnson laugh when so many men show up each Friday at the Bam. Frank says, "It's not the coffee." Dick says, "We don't serve donuts." Bruce says, "And the water's warm."





Bruce,

It is difficult to measure how your teachings on Friday mornings have changed me and helped me grow. From the first time I heard about the Brave Men to the first morning I entered the "Embassy of Grace" I knew that I was in and amongst God's chosen.

Coming to an understanding of God's love for me came just a few years before joining the group. Your teachings and ministry have allowed me to mature and become a better disciple for Jesus as well as a better father, husband and coworker.

I thank God every day that "Christ is a better savior than we are sinners."

Your brother In Christ,

Dan Zenger



Since coming to the Brave Men's Bible Study I have been absolutely blessed. Your love of the Lord, His son Jesus, the Holy Spirit and His Word is so evident. Your obedience to do God's will and the dedication that you exhibit to prepare and serve His Word is so gratifying to me.

When I sit under your Holy Spirit driven teaching, I feel surrounded by the Healing Waters of Bethesda. I have been taught, enlightened and encouraged by your obedience to do God's work and His will.

A most encouraging word you gave for my ministry was "plagiarize what I say, it is God's Word."

God's richest Blessing to you and your family.  
Prayerfully yours in Christ Jesus!

Don Nemit



Hey Bruce,

Clint Eastwood of preachers...

Thanks for the example and the challenges that you lay down for us.

As a level gives me a plum line to measure to, you my friend are a plumb line in the Word of God.

Thanks,

Ed Young



Bruce,

Thank you for living life as a Christ centered example of a servant leader.

Your teaching and influence have inspired me and many others over the years and for this I am deeply grateful.

I pray the Lord continues to bless you and strengthen you in the days ahead as we all continue on our "Journey to Excellence."

Sincerely,

David Derr  
World Vision



Dear Brother Bruce,

God has blessed me in many ways. One of the most important blessings is that He used you to teach and instruct me in the sacred Scriptures and to change my ways of living to glorifying Him in this life.

Again, thank you for your faithfulness and compassion in helping me to grow in the knowledge and TRUTH of GOD.

Your brother in CHRIST,

David Presutti



Bruce,

Your gifts of leadership and the ability to make the Bible so real and understandable have been a huge factor in my personal growth.

These Friday mornings that I spend with you and the men, learning and studying and generally sharing life, have meant so much to me. For that, I'm truly grateful and I consider you one of the blessings in my life.

Rob Knittel



I began attending Bruce's Friday morning Bible study at CCGF last year and it has quickly become a special place of learning and growth for me.

More than any other setting, his class has made lofty biblical teachings accessible and applicable to me. I am so grateful for the learning and transformation that has taken place in my life through his efforts.

Sincerely,

Brad E. Holewinski  
Broken Hope



I thank the Lord for men like Bruce who are committed to teaching God's Word and encourage men to live obediently and biblically.

I go to this study because as a ministry leader it has fed me, inspired, challenged and clarified the truth of living and serving our Lord.

I believe I am better equipped to fulfill my calling because of this study.

Matthew Reichart

## "Ministry is Who You Are Where You Are." A Bickelism.



Tom Anzelone rests during mission work to rehab houses.



Rich Clark had dinner with Jesus as Thaddeus during the "Last Supper."



Even the strong men have to rest. Jay Batch takes a break as he helps others rebuild what they lost.



Mike Davis shows off his big mouth as he eats a tree to clear a path for camp site at a Men's Retreat.



Paul Gaertner adds his melodious voice to the Choir at Christ Church.



Bill Obaker Jr didn't need make up for he is a natural and belongs at the table with Jesus.



Jay Batch Jr works hard and plays hard as he helps others on a mission trip.



Rob Knittel calls ahead to reserve a table for the Last Supper.



Always willing to help, Gary Craig takes part in the work crew at his church.



Bob Vivano shows off his big catch. Jesus said he would make him a fisher of men. Now he's at the Barn learning how.



Bruce,

It is impossible to express just how much your ministry has meant to me over the years. Suffice to say two things:

I can hear the Lord speak to me through your presentation of His Word and I pray regularly that my son, who lives north of Chicago, will be led to a group like the Brave Men with a teacher as faithful as you are to the Word.

Gary Dunbar



Bruce,

I first heard you speak on "Ethical Leadership" in 2008 and still have my notes. I was not aware of the men's group at the Barn until early 2014 when one of your regulars (Dr. Dave) invited me. It was a time when I needed "regeneration" and "radical change" which was your topic on my first visit.

Friday mornings have become a significant component of my growth in Christ and I thank you.

Mark Madia



I want to express my gratitude for the Brave Men's Bible Study. God has truly blessed me with access to the weekly audio teaching of Dr. Bickel, guest teachers, and timely transcripts as well as the archived teachings.

My work schedule no longer permits me to attend Friday mornings but with great anticipation and hunger I look forward each weekend to studying along with my brothers. As a footnote I'm personally aware of a dozen or so men who crave the Word of God, and rely upon the website for teaching. God is indeed at work outside the Barn. Praise God and Thank You and all the Brave Men! Grace, Truth, and Peace to all of you!

I'm the one with no hair and glasses. The other is a future Brave Man, God willing, my grandson Liam.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rick Lundell



Bruce,

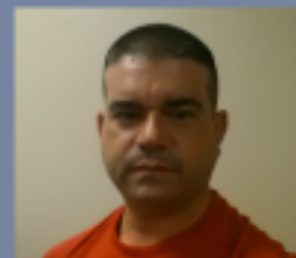
Thank you for teaching the gospel every week. You encourage us and challenge us to be active and loving members of the Christian faith.

This group is a great example of living out "The One Another Commands."

Thanks again for your leadership.

In His service,

Ron Fontanesi



Bruce,

I have been attending the Brave Men's Bible study for 2 years and it has been a tremendous blessing in my life. I have learned more about my Christian walk in this short time than I have in my entire life.

Bruce you have been a great teacher of the Word and through you I have been able to grow closer to God and my understanding of His Word. I pray with thanksgiving and give all the glory to God for giving you the ability to teach and for opening up my schedule so that I can grow closer to Him.

To be in the company of men who are eager to learn has also been a blessing. Through the Brave Men I have been able to build relationships with other Christian men who have greatly enriched my life as well.

Thank you Bruce for your continued dedication and teaching.

Mike Bosco

## Ambassadors from the Embassy of Grace

The impact of the good news of Christ effects us all differently. But we all are engaged in ministry, being "who we are where we are." This "gospel" of Christ transforms us and draws us to where God is working. These three men have come through the Barn and gone out into the world to tell others about Christ.



Samuel Mariel

While many of us do so in our local community these men have gone beyond that. **Samuel Mariel**, a "Lost Boy of the Sudan", graduated from Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA and went back to the South Sudan where he serves as a Professor at Bishop Gwynne College.

**Tom Smith** has answered the call to serve in Zagreb, Croatia, planting churches, helping pastors, teaching and preaching. He comes back to the Barn every year to be refreshed.



Tom Smith

into the ministry. He relied on our website to listen to the weekly studies and read along with them as well. This set off a year long study which led to a speaking engagement at a local Baptist Church. They were in the midst of a search for a new pastor.

It has now been two years since Dan preached his first message. He was ordained and installed as pastor of Westville Baptist Church in February, 2014. What an amazing path for these three men from our Men's Bible study that directly impacts the lives of people in Africa, Croatia, and a small town in Virginia. But isn't that how the Kingdom of God works? It all started with the faithful, extraordinary teachings of Bruce Bickel. Glory to God in the highest.



Dan Wood



Dr. Bruce Bickel,

I met Bruce in the 80's when I was fortunate to be in his Bible study. The experience of sitting at his feet and combing through Scriptures will remain as the high-ground of my spiritual education.

Bruce has a unique gift of distilling the abstract into military-style language; brief and concise. Bruce loads his shells and fires off round after round of bulleted wisdom.

In one week Bruce can prepare a sermon, teach two Bible studies, mentor 3-4 individuals, ride his bike, attend a blue-grass concert (and sit in on hammer dulcimer), serve in Church leadership, be a guest speaker, marry a friend and still excel as a bank vice president. There is only one Bruce Bickel. I have been blessed to be a part of his life and ministry.

I LOVE YOU BRUCE!

Justin Brown



Bruce,

In March 2009, my mentor Mr. Richard Johnson introduced me to you at a meeting at PNC. Since our initial meeting you have not forgotten me.

A few weeks later I attended the Friday Men's Bible study with Mr. Johnson and learned God's scripture in a way that could be applied in my day- to-day life.

A few years later I joined PNC to work for the same company as you, the man who helped me shape my spiritual path by guiding me through God's Word.

Bruce, I can't thank you enough for all you have done for me and I look forward for years to come and the wisdom you can provide.

Raj Jasper



Bruce,

Since 1996 I have been greatly impacted by you; but not only myself, but also my sons, my wife and my friends as well. We have been fortunate to have you as our brother in Christ, our friend, our teacher, our counselor and our pastor.

I believe that not only has it been your dedication to study and dependence on the Word, but in combination with your training as an engineer and a military officer that you are uniquely equipped to present the scriptures in a most meaningful and practical manner. Your illumination of the Word and your distinctive way of enfolding pneumatic aids and alliterations into your teaching has helped us personally grasp and crystallize a reformed understanding of the nature, attributes and concepts of God.

We have collectively matured and moved from prideful children, erroneously believing our superior intellectual ability permitted us to choose God, to humble individuals, knowing that we are beggarly bankrupt and without ability or hope, yet rejoicing in what we now clearly understand - that we are chosen, having received unwarranted mercy and grace through the finished work of Jesus.

Thank you my dear brother for the enormous blessing you have been in our lives over these many years. Your endless hours of study and preparation have had eternal consequences in our lives.

Bill Obaker



It would be too long to list all of the ways I admire and respect the leader of the Brave Men of Friday mornings.

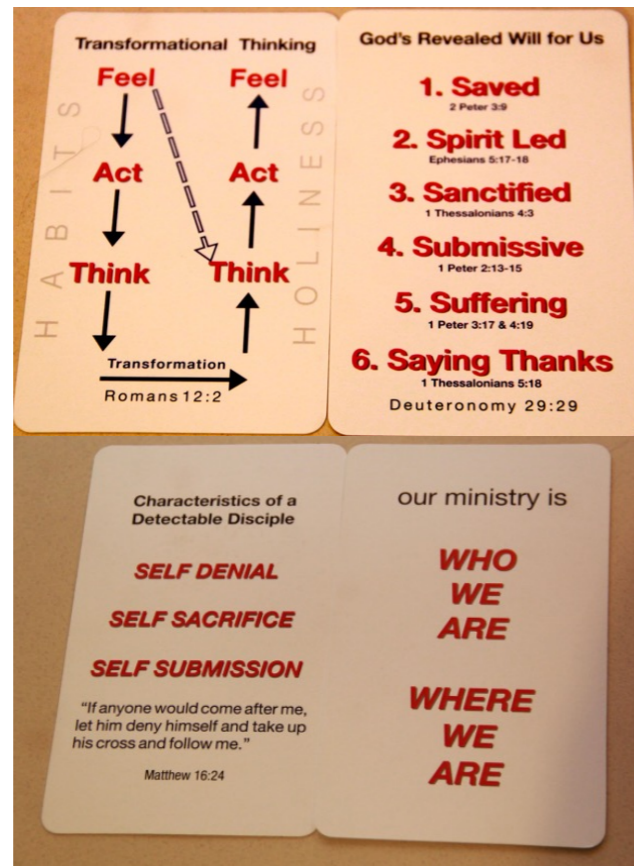
With a culture growing towards greater sensitivity and tolerance, Bruce never compromises on truth while always clearly articulating reason.

In many ways Bruce shows us all how to be warriors: men always ready and willing to protect God's Word.

I'll always think of Bruce as an example of how to be a real Godly man and defender of the faith.

Bill Obaker, Jr.

## Bickelisms



Our rallying cry is "Thy Kingdom Come."

I can't be your Holy Spirit.

Justification is freedom from the penalty of sin.

Sanctification is freedom from the power of sin.

Glorification is freedom from the presence of sin.

Deceit = doubt, distortion & denial.

The church is a benevolent dictatorship, not a democracy.

Meekness is living according to the power of the Lord.

As we pray, the Son intercedes and takes it to the Father.

Christ saves me, not because I invited Him.

Blessed means happy in spite of circumstances.

We live by faith, not by sight.

You study the truth to find out what is false.

If you know, you go.

Grace is sufficient at the time of application.

He who overvalues himself, undervalues his Savior.

DART: Depend Upon, Adhere To, Rely Upon, Trust in Christ

It's not mercy when you think you deserve it.

It's better to be separated in truth than be united in error.

I'm not the victim, I'm the vessel God is using.

It is in our weakness that we become powerful.

Worship is not an event, it is a lifestyle.

**God ordained Son accomplished Holy Spirit applies**

**WHJD**

What is a Bickelism? It's a summary of an aspect of our faith in God that helps us remember the deeper truth. There are 476 Bickelisms that our Brave Man, Bob Busteed, compiled from years of Bible studies led by Dr. Bickel. We printed Bickelisms on wrist bands and cards to help us remember key phrases. For example "WHJD" stands for "What Has Jesus Done." This was in response to a popular phrase, "WWJD" which stands for, "What Would Jesus Do." The emphasis is not on what would Jesus do if He were in our situation today. We really don't know. What we do know is what was accomplished through the person and work of Christ to reconcile us to God. The entire list is on our website, [www.bravemen.org](http://www.bravemen.org). Click on "Bible Study Content" from our home page. Then click on "Bible Study Resources" then "Bickelisms." You can download the entire list.



It is great to be involved in this Bible study where it isn't just someone speaking but the whole group is involved.

I very much liked the talk about us all being "priests" and not just those who are in the official offices.

Tim Baker



Bruce,

Your teaching has been an inspiration to me. I find I remember more of your teaching than that of any other teacher I have had. Thank you for your dedication to teaching the Gospel.

Tom Mueller



Bruce is an amazing man of God....proof of which is everybody piling into the "Barn" at 6:30am. Trust me, I never came all the way across the country for the coffee or the donuts. I came to hear the powerful word of God taught by a true man of God! Blessings!

David Owens  
World Vision



I was impressed with the solid biblical foundation Bruce has been laying over the years at the Friday Men's Bible study at the Barn and the obvious impact it has had.

Dave Finsaas  
World Vision



As a young man who leads studies of Scripture in small groups and often feels unqualified to do so, Bruce's teaching has consistently provided clarity and confidence to help me lead (and follow).

Mike Jacobs



Bruce set the standard for living a Christian life for me.

By God's grace I have taken back many of Bruce's teachings to my church and my family and done my best to live by these standards.

Don Belt



Brother Bruce,

Many times when a person goes through life, there are a handful of people that have a significant impact on their life (positive or negative).

You're one of those people for me, providing guidance and biblical teaching that has profoundly impacted me.

Thank you for dedicating your time and effort towards your brothers in Christ,

Donald Belt



## Generations of Brave Men



### The Helgerman's

The Patriarch, Rich, had 5 children. He died as a Brave Man leaving his son Mark (r) and Grandson Josh (c), to continue the family legacy at the Barn. Rich so enjoyed Bruce's teaching that he once brought his grand-daughter.



### The Belt's

Don Belt, has 4 sons, all of whom have been to the Barn. Donald Belt, (c), is a regular, with his two sons who have been to the Barn often; Max (l) and Donny (r). This is also a three generation family of Brave Men. Don drives in from Greensburg.



### The Lundell's

The Patriarch, Rick, has 2 daughters. Rick, above, with his Grandson Liam, soon to be a Brave Man. Rick counts on the website for his weekly study.



### The Manges'

Father Doug, has 4 sons & 2 daughters. Above are Gideon (l) & Gabriel (c). Next in line is 11 year old Elijah who Doug believes is almost ready to become a Brave Man.



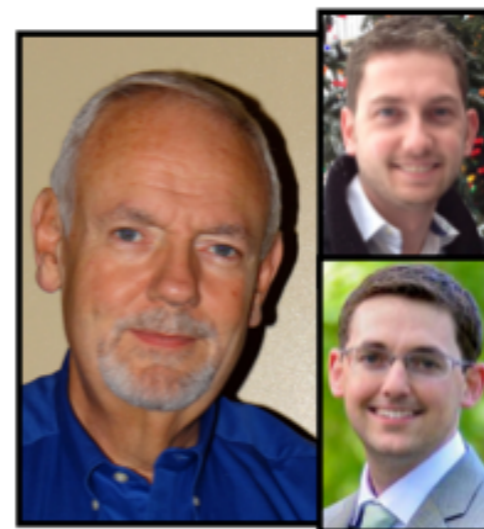
### The Wood's

Father Ted, one of our teachers, has 3 children. His son Dan, (above) lives in Virginia, attended one Bible study and was changed forever. God called him as Bruce taught. Since then he listens to the weekly audio from our website. He was ordained and installed as pastor of Westville Baptist Church in 2014.



### The Batch's

Jay has 4 children. His son Jay Jr., (r) attends our studies and is involved in helping people through Christ Church @ Grove Farm. Jay has two other boys in the wings waiting to be a part of our fellowship.



### The Obaker's

Bill Sr. asks the tough questions from the floor. His sons, Bill Jr. (top) and Jordan (bottom), both married, plan to extend the legacy of the Obaker men who have been challenged by the teaching and enjoy the fellowship at the Barn.



### The Kyriazis'

John has led the way by bringing the Word of God home to his wife and two children. His oldest daughter is in college. Jake (r) is a regular at the Barn. When asked how he makes so many Friday mornings he says, "I'm home schooled."

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What do we say to a man who has given us so much and taken us so deep?  
Let's start with Thank You.

You've shown us Christ like we've never seen Him before.

Bruce taught us that Christ says to us:  
"With all your perfect imperfections, give your all to me, I'll give my all to you."

So we're inspired to say to Christ: "You're my end and my beginning, even when I lose I am winning. Because you give me all of you, I want to give you all of me."



Presented to Bruce Bickel on the occasion of the 300th man crossing the threshold into the Embassy of Grace, August 12, 2010. In November, 2014 we are close to 700 men.

