



Caring Presence News

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES INC.

JULY 2026

Greetings, Friends of ICM!

Having begun just a few weeks ago as the new Executive Director of ICM, this is my first time sending out our monthly newsletter. As has been customary for these newsletters, I'll begin with a Scripture passage and share a brief devotional reflection.

Scripture: John 1:35-39

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" 39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

At my first local ICM chapter meeting, our speaker began her talk sharing about a devastating personal loss. Some weeks later, still grieving, her phone rang. It was Steve Wingfield inviting her to become a chaplain. "Why me?" she replied, "I'm not qualified." "Oh, I think you are," Steve replied. "You've suffered greatly and not lost your faith." "Perhaps I almost did," she said, "but you're right. I haven't lost my faith."

That phone call was twenty-five years ago, and Barbi Borntrager still serves as a chaplain with a ministry like ICM at a local poultry plant in the Shenandoah Valley. "People need light," she told us, adding, "They are ready to hear about Jesus." Barbi has a book worth of stories from her years of faithful service. Her stories radiate—as she herself does—with the joy of God at work in our world. Reflecting on her service, Barbi made a simple observation: "I ran into a whole new world of people at the poultry plant that I never related to before." Steve's phone call was an invitation to that whole new world.

Our Scripture passage above ends with perhaps the greatest invitation of all time. Jesus sees two of John the Baptist's disciples following behind him and, after they ask him where he is staying, he says simply, "*Come and see.*" Of course they did just that—and spent the day with him. A few

verses later, Philip repeats the same "Come and see" invitation to Nathaniel, urging him to meet Jesus. Now, notice this: *Philip repeated Jesus' invitation, as disciples have kept on doing ever since.*

Steve's phone call to Barbi twenty-five years ago was a "come and see" kind of invitation. He invited her to find Jesus, and those who need him, at a poultry plant. Barbi did come and she has seen—a lot! And only the Lord knows how many people Barbi has extended the same kind of invitation to. Like the parable of the sower in Matthew's gospel, the seed multiplies 100, 60, or 30 fold!

Isn't it incredible to consider what a mere invitation can set in motion? Perhaps you have an invitation to extend — one that, like Steve's to Barbi long ago, might initiate a cascade of blessings you can hardly imagine. As the Lord brings people to our minds, let us not hesitate to repeat Jesus' "Come and see" yet again!

If you're reading this newsletter, I trust you have your own stories of people sharing—or responding to—Jesus' invitation. I'd love to hear yours. Might you take a minute, reply to this email, and tell me a bit about it? The stories of God's good work among us, in us, and through us are worth telling — so let's share them!

Thank you for your support of ICM over the years. May God bless you richly.

Warmly,

Eric S. Coddling

PS: Please note that I'll be using this email: eric@icmchaplains.org. We'll also begin using www.icmchaplains.org as our web domain name. (The old website will still work, and we'll continue to monitor the icmmin@aol.com email address.)



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