

Seed of the Month:
Encouragement

Inspiring with Courage



*"So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with
my righteous right hand."
– Isaiah 41:10*

Prayers:

- ◆ Thank You, Lord, for being the God of encouragement.
- ◆ Thank You for sending others to encourage me.
- ◆ Please help me to be sensitive of the fears and challenges of others.
- ◆ Help me to encourage others, as you have encouraged me.

Discussion Questions:

- ◆ What's a good example of encouragement?
- ◆ What could I do to give more encouragement to others?
- ◆ What will I commit to doing?

More on Encouragement:

"Hope can be ignited by a spark of encouragement." – anonymous

"Helping Others, Help Others" is the motto of a prison ministry based in Lansing, MI, called New Directions Inc. They seek to serve God by training loving Christian volunteers to teach God's love to prisoners and their families. Pastor Len Hill trains volunteers all over Michigan to serve in County Jails and Michigan Department of Corrections facilities. They will be using the *12 Seeds* materials in their ministry, and recently obtained a grant for *12 Seeds* books and journal-workbooks. We are excited to "help them, help others!" To learn more about New Directions, [click here](#).

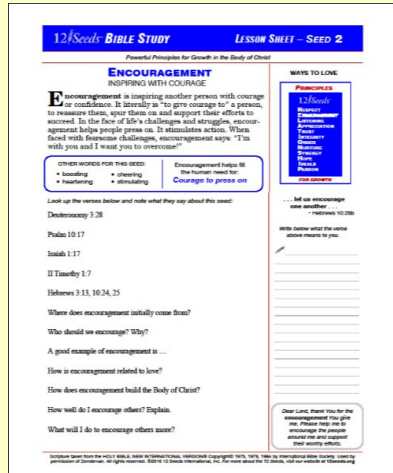


Hope at FreedomWorks: Norm was guest speaker at the FreedomWorks Connection Dinner on January 11th. He was asked to speak on the seed of Hope. He focused on several points. What is hope? Why is it sometimes in short supply? How do we get it? He pointed out that the Lord is the source of our hope, Romans 15:13. We are called to not only be *filled* with hope but to *overflow* with hope so that others see it. Other Scripture passages discussed were Isaiah 40:31, Jeremiah 29:11, and 1 Peter 3:15.

[FreedomWorks](#) is a post-prison aftercare ministry in North Minneapolis.

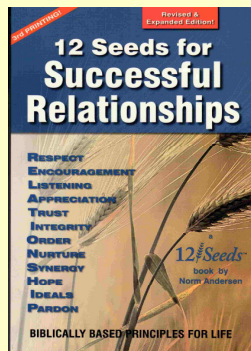


Lessons from the Geese: Most people know that geese generally fly in a V formation, which gives them up to 70% greater flying range. What is less well-known is that their honking, which is part of their social bonding, is actually a form of encouragement to keep flying and keep the speed up. Their speed while in formation can reach 60 mph. Even beyond the honking is this interesting fact: when a goose drops out of the formation due to illness or exhaustion, one or two



[Click here](#) to download the Bible study worksheet on Encouragement from the [12 Seeds Leader Library](#).

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To remind about 12 powerful Biblical principles for character development and relationship growth.

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others will go with it and stay with it until it is again able to fly or dies.

– from the Audubon Society and other sources

R3 Collaborative at MN Adult & Teen Challenge:

The R3 Collaborative met there on January 18. Tim Walsh, Vice President of MN Adult & Teen Challenge was the main speaker. His focus was how we can advance God's Kingdom and best work together to help those in recovery. A highlight for us at *12 Seeds* was Pastor David Hibbison's comment about how the *12 Seeds* book helped residents in his ministry develop more respect for each other. Another highlight was the Teen Challenge residents' interest in the *12 Seeds* books and journal-workbooks. One resident wanted to use the journal-workbook in a small group study with other residents. It was great to be able to provide them with relationship training materials to assist them in one component of their recovery. Since 1983, [MN Adult and Teen Challenge](#), has helped people recover from drug and alcohol addiction.

Help Multiply the 12 Seeds! By focusing on equipping and encouraging leaders, we multiply the impact of the *12 Seeds!* Your gift to the [12 Seeds Ministry Fund](#) will enable us to equip and encourage more leaders who are working with people in recovery from addiction and crime. An update of our [2017 Highlights](#) is now available on our website. To view the ministries that have received grants from the *12 Seeds* Ministry Fund, [click here](#). Your tax-deductible donation goes directly to the *12 Seeds* Ministry Fund, administered by the National Christian Foundation.



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