

Dear Student,

Greetings in the name of our Lord! We trust that you are enjoying your summer and will find some time for refreshment and maybe even a chance to get away for a while. We are busy planning our programs for the 2016-17 school year here at CUBM, and that is why I am writing you – to inform you of a special training to be held on September 9 and 10 for all CUBM students, staff and faculty.

In 2006, Dr. Stanko and I discovered a company based in Seattle called The Pacific Institute. This organization has provided training in cognitive and social learning skills to Fortune 500 companies, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Olympic teams, just to name a few. TPI has offices in London, Johannesburg, China, Japan and Australia, and Dr. Stanko had the opportunity to introduce their training into Kenya and Zimbabwe, as well as conduct sessions throughout the United States. I have assisted him on several occasions and have seen the sessions transform the lives of those in attendance.

“What exactly is the training all about?” you may be asking.

Cognitive psychology is a study of how we think and how our minds work. Your first response may then be, “Why would anyone need training in how to think?” That is exactly the issue. While we all know how to think, very often our thinking is the source of our actions and behaviors that hinder rather than enhance our ability to achieve our goals or make the changes we would like or need to make to be more productive for the Lord.

When we first encountered this training, we were not that impressed. Yet, after a period of one year when we applied the principles, they changed our lives. In short, we discovered where we had put limits on God and ourselves, and learned how to remove those limitations. We both knew Romans 12:2, which stated, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Yet we did not really know how to change our thinking so that we could be transformed and changed. Now we have the skills to do so, and understand how God made our minds to help us do His will.

When all this happened, we knew that this training was something that our CUBM students and urban residents needed. Carla Lovelace, Helen Jackson, and Val Ford have all sat under this training and we know they would agree.

Usually, this training is four days in length, but we want to conduct an abbreviated session for our students on **Friday night, September 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM and then again on Saturday, September 10 from 9 AM to 4 PM at Allegheny Center Alliance Church on the**

North Side. We are calling this workshop “Renewing the Mind Workshop: Learning to Be a Better Student.”

We are making this training mandatory for all current students, and are inviting other alumni to participate. We will serve meals on Saturday, and both Friday and Saturday will be working sessions, so come dressed casually but ready to work! There is no doubt that you will find the training useful in your own life. While the training itself is from a secular company, we have sufficiently “biblicized” it so that proves to be consistent with biblical principles.

Please circle your calendar for September 9 and 10, and plan to be in attendance. Classes will be cancelled that weekend, and you will receive a bonus of 25 points if you attend the entire session. Those points can be applied in whatever class you choose for the fall semester. Let me know if you have any questions, and I look forward to seeing you when our semester starts in August and then for the Renewing Your Mind workshop on September 9 and 10.

In His and Your Service,

Karla Threadgill Byrd
CUBM Assistant Director