



Counselor Training and Development

We know from experience that a person who meets the qualifications for a G\$ counselor can be provided with the basic tools and training they need to be effective in the one-day training course that is part of the G\$ Kit. However, we recommend in the training materials that training not stop there. Counselors should meet on a regular basis for ongoing training, encouragement and further skill development. Some thought along that line include:

- Do in depth study of related scripture.
- Study various books together to gain enhanced biblical perspectives concerning our relationship to money, greater insights in to our culture and its impact or to deepen understanding of the counseling process. Some suggestions are:
 - Larry Crabb (*Connecting and Shattered Dreams*)
 - Randy Alcorn (*Money Possessions and Eternity*)
 - Ray Linder (*Financial Freedom*)
 - Mary Hunt (*Raising Debt Proof Kids*)
 - Wendell Berry (*Sex, Economy, Freedom and Community*)
 - Gary Moore (*Faithful Finances 101*)
- Bring in a debt collection industry professional to speak - concerning the legal rights of those in severe debt, a view of bankruptcy from their perspective, latest practices in the debt collection field, etc.
- Secure a speaker from Consumer Credit Counseling (realizing they'll not be coming from a biblical perspective) to discuss how you might work together on certain cases.
- Share successes and failures (anonymously, of course) - what worked and didn't; some of the frustrations and how they might be alleviated.
- Have an annual retreat focused upon the spiritual development and growth of the counselors.
- Especially for new counselors, role-play different counseling situations.
- Bring in someone to conduct interpersonal skills training (listening, goal setting, boundary setting, etc.)
- And as a special treat for the counselors, arrange as a surprise for several clients who have been helped through G\$ counseling to give testimony and thanks to the counselors.