

Revolutionizing Addiction Recovery

THRIVE Summer Conference 2007 – Track IV

July 30th - August 4th
Big Rapids, Michigan

Register Now!

Early registration discounts available until May 24, 2007.

No one will be admitted after registration closes June 28, 2007.

Research From “The Decade Of The Brain” Is Revolutionizing Addiction Treatment

Advances in the study of the brain have confirmed what many Christians have known for years: we are each created to experience loving, healthy and healing relationships. Come and learn this new approach to addictions and treatment at Track IV of this year’s THRIVE Conference.

We are Created for Joy!

Joy-filled attachments to God and to others – particularly parents – create joy in us, and help the brain learn to effectively regulate emotion and pleasure. Research strongly suggests that when these primary relationships are not joyful, the brain lacks the ability to effectively regulate emotions or consistently feel pleasure. In the absence of these relationships, the brain is left craving attachment. It embarks on a quest for someone or something that it can attach to so that it will feel better. Addiction is literally the process by which the attachment center of the brain is hijacked when it attaches to Behaviors, Events, Experiences, People and Substances (BEEPS) so that it can regulate emotion, increase pleasure and decrease pain.

We Can Learn Practical Joy-Building Skills, Relationship Skills and Inner Healing Skills.

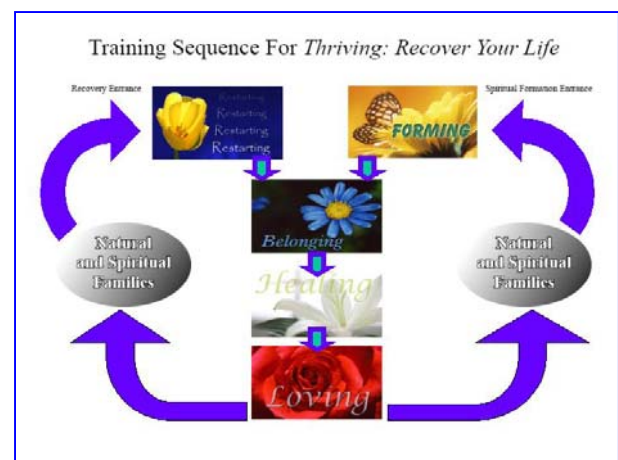
Building Joy in the context of secure, healthy relationships with God and others helps change our brain. As we learn to build joy and then experience quiet together with others, we are better able to regulate positive and negative emotions, pleasure and pain. As our capacity for joy grows, we find that we are more able to respond to the challenges of life. We are less likely to become stuck in negative emotions, better able to handle distress, and increasingly able to live from our heart.

As joy builds, attachments with others become healthier. Joy and inner healing help us choose attachments that are life-giving. Unhealthy attachments to BEEPS become increasingly less important to regulate pain, pleasure and emotions. We find that joy gives us strength, transforms our lives, and helps us to grow into all that Jesus has created us to be.

Thriving: Recover Your Life

Thriving is a new approach to addictions that combines the most recent advances in neuroscience with Biblical principles to help participants practically learn new life-giving joy and relationship skills. Thriving is a series of 4 twelve week modules that combine solid Biblical teaching with simple relational and inner healing exercises to help participants grow, mature and overcome BEEPS. Thriving identifies and teaches the missing relational attachment skills that people need to restore their existing but

unhappy attachments. Unlike other recovery models, Thriving also helps participants deal with traumas that can



keep them stuck in ongoing cycles of addiction. Thriving groups are currently meeting in California and North Carolina, and Thriving materials have been presented in a variety of formats at retreats and seminars in the US – and at several international addiction conferences.

Track IV: The 2007 THRIVE Conference

Track IV of this year's THRIVE Conference focuses on addiction, and will be led by Jim Wilder and Ed Khouri. Jim and Ed are the creators of Thriving, and will be presenting the exciting new concepts and materials that have been created for Thriving: Recover Your Life. Track IV will help participants develop an understanding of this new approach to addictions – and to learn and practice the joy building and inner healing exercises that are being used in Thriving. Jim and Ed will also discuss the implications of this new approach to addictions for traditional support group and treatment models. You can register for the conference online by visiting: www.thrivetoday.org.

Jim Wilder and Ed Khouri

Jim Wilder is a psychologist, pastoral counselor and writer who is the co-author of *The Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You*. Jim is the director of Shepherd's House, Inc., which is a Christian counselling center in Pasadena, California. His greatest interest is teaching the *LIFE* Model which brings God to the center of healing and restores the community in which we live. Jim is especially interested in: Pastoral care, neurotheology, community based recovery, identity change, trauma recovery, maturity for men, husbands of incest survivors, fatherhood, spiritual family formation, and capacity building for addiction and trauma prevention.

Ed Khouri is a minister and international trainer for addiction recovery counselors, and develops new recovery models and programs. Together with his wife Maritza, he has helped train men and women to serve the addicted community in over 30 nations from every continent. They are the co-founders and direct Equipping Hearts, which is a non-profit 501(c)3 ministry that provides training, networking, mentoring and personal ministry to leaders and programs in the recovery field. Ed began working with addictions in 1980, and has served in outpatient counseling, halfway houses, transitional housing for the homeless and in residential treatment centers. He supervised therapy and treatment staff in a licensed 96 bed treatment facility for incarcerated substance abusers.

***THRIVE* Summer Conference 2007**

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Early Registration fees until May 24, 2007

Final registration deadline – June 28th, 2007

THRIVE Conferences

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OR

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- *THRIVE* Conferences - *Changing My Generation* is a series of three one-week intensive skill training with a year of practice exercises between training. Track IV applies THRIVE skills and theory to a different topic each year.
- *THRIVE* Training is built around the 19 brain skills needed to regulate our emotions, hear God clearly and relate well to others. Training includes exercises, books and videos.
- Pre - *THRIVE* Opportunities include teaching videos (*Sensible Strategies/Belonging, Steps to Joy*), Life Model Study Guide and Maturity Retreats.
- *Thriving - Recover Your Life* is a [recovery program](#) for churches that addresses both addiction and trauma recovery. This will be the topic for Track IV 2007.