

MAC News

Modeling + Multiplying Discipleship

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What's Next?

In April, my Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC) small group for men will come to an end after meeting for two hours a week for two and half years. This group which started with 12 guys and is finishing with 9 has been an important part of my life.

If you're not familiar with CLC, it is a small group that spends 2+ years meeting weekly (our group has been meeting from 6 am – 8 am every Monday).

In reaching this finish line, the question has arisen, "now what?" We've been in this discipleship phase, so what do we do after this? It's a question that we should be asking ourselves on a periodic basis, in every area of our life, **right?**

Well, here it goes.... **"I'm not sure."** Ok, I put it out there. Now, let me share what I am sure of:

Our focus should be on who we "become" next, and not so much about what we are supposed to "do" next.

This is where it all comes to a head. We're often asked to be do-ers. Noah was asked to spend 120 years building an ark. Rahab was asked to hide spies on her roof. I've been asked to teach a class on discipleship at a new church. Maybe someone you know has asked you to walk with them through a family crisis. The answer to the question of "now what" will be different for everyone. I believe God is more concerned with who we are and our response to His call. If we are abiding in Him, we are open to bearing fruit for Him, no matter what He is calling us to do.

CLC has helped us move beyond just attending Christian activities at church to learning how to think, act, and be like Jesus in every possible respect, every day of the week. CLC is helping men build relationships grounded in "knowing" God, therefore becoming "alive" in the fullest sense of the word.

I thank each of these men (Mark, Mike, David, Greg, Jeff, Bob, David, Dan, Glenn, David) for going the distance. It has been a blessed journey.

A Note from Bridget's Heart

Isaiah 61:11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

In my part of the world, everything is blooming. Flowers are popping out of the ground, buds of green are appearing on the trees, and my children have outgrown their spring/summer clothes. All I can think is that God has been very busy this winter.

Before we hit Spring and Summer head on, I reflect on all that has happened this past winter. We had an incredible snow/ice storm in January that gave us an unexpected week out of school – full of sledding and snowball fights. The wood that Pat cut back in August was put to good use as we enjoyed many cold winter nights by the cozy fire.

Winter is a time of tunneling in, hibernation, pulling close. And during those cold winter months, God is still so busy, even if we can't see what He is doing. In all the cold, stark, and dreary landscape of winter, so much is going on that we can't see.

I believe that God works in us that way too. In those times when I feel lonely and cold, I know that God is working within me. He uses periods of rest to restore my soul. So, when I start to get down on myself for not being in a bible study, or a small group, or involved in a service project, I trust that God is still working on me. When the Spring comes, everyone will see the beauty that blooms forth.

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****If you prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please notify me at pat@macministries.net**

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Over the next several months, Pat and the Board will begin planning a long-term funding initiative for the Ministry. The current prayer and financial support will continue to provide for the monthly activities of the Ministry; however, this initiative will focus on securing the activities of the Ministry for many years. Please be looking for more information in the next newsletter as we'll be sharing more about it and how you can help.

As always, we praise God and each of you for your support.

In Christ,
Scott Ebert, Chairman

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

One of the benefits of becoming an officer at FPC Marietta is the privilege of listening to the faith journeys of the new officers. Each person's talk is filled with events in their lives that deepened and strengthened their faith and their relationship with Jesus Christ. As my journey continues I can add Pat MacPherson and MAC Ministries to my testimony of faith. Both came into my life ironically at the same time that I was involved in starting a new business. This was in 2004 when the economy was rolling and no end was in sight to the "good times". Little did I know how things would change and how the definition of "good times" would take on a new meaning.

The last five years have been the most difficult in business than my previous 25 years combined. Yet those same years have been the ones that propelled me to a much deeper relationship with God and His son, Jesus. In large part I have Pat to thank for that. His office happens to be in the building where I work. Many, many times I have had the fortune of being able to walk down the hall and around the corner to sit with him and just share my thoughts and fears. Each time he has always made himself available for me, to listen to me, and to pray with me. His ministry of "Availability" mirrors our Lord and Savior as Jesus never turned away anyone who sought him. Pat also introduced me to and got me involved with CLC, a group of 11 men who have met each Monday for the last 2 and 1/2 years to grow in our devotion to Christ.

My time with Pat, whether it be through CLC or individually, has developed in me an awareness that his ministry is greatly needed in today's world, particularly in the business community. Businessmen today are under relentless pressure to succumb to society's definition of success regardless of what road takes them there. MAC Ministries is and continues to be a beacon for men to guide them along the right path.

His background in business in particular provides a unique perspective and, I think, an advantage in working with men. It is this then, where I think MAC Ministries provides its greatest service. Our world needs and yearns for strong ethics from men in business.

What better ministry could provide this but MAC Ministries.

Greg Griggs
President, Highland Commercial Bank

MAC Ministries in Action

- **January 6:** Overnight CLC Kick-off retreat
- **January 14:** New CLC group launches at FPC Marietta
- **January 22 - 23:** Guest speaker at Eastminster's Annual Men's Retreat
- **February 19:** Intentional Discipleship session at Cherokee Presbytery Leadership Conference.
- **April 12-14:** Planning trip to Monterrey, Mexico
- **April 21:** Overnight CLC retreat
- **May 5-8:** Gringo Mission Trip to Monterrey, Mexico
- **May 9:** Launching new CLC group at FPC Douglasville
- **May 11, 18, 25:** Intentional Discipleship at New Canaan Baptist Church
- **June 18:** Overnight CLC Kick-off retreat for new group at FPC Marietta
- **September:** Kicking off CLC group for women at FPC Marietta