

# MAC News

*Leading Men to Live a Life of Significance in Christ*

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## Relationship First

“So, you’re going down to Mexico to teach these kids how to play soccer?” “If it’s not about the soccer then why are you taking 130 soccer balls, soccer socks, etc.?”

I can honestly say it was not about the soccer. Nor was it about fixing the community of Renacimiento. The goal was to be a part of the community. With over 100+ kids, 50 mph winds, and only 15 of us, it would have been nearly impossible to do anything else.

Within a few hours, each team member made unique relationships with each one of their kids just by calling them by their first name and giving them their full attention. We recognized that this community is often neglected.

Using stick-on nametags, we tagged every kid with their first name so that we could quickly bond with them. It wasn’t long before the kids were bringing their younger siblings to get nametags too. Then the mothers wanted nametags. In fact, we gave away all 400+ nametags that morning!! Being someone! Being loved!! Knowing that you matter!!!

The same goal that we used in our approach to the community of Renacimiento is the same one I use in my day-to-day discipleship opportunities. I don’t want to fix you, I just want to walk with you. It is one of the fundamental practices that I have learned when focusing on discipleship. But it’s so hard to embrace... especially among men.

On the other side of the table most of us are looking for the fix and not someone to accompany us on the journey. And that’s what I wanted to challenge from my discipleship experience on this latest mission trip to Renacimiento, Mexico.

My team returned home feeling that we left things unfinished. Not because the trip wasn’t successful, but because, in our rushed world in Marietta, we miss out on the grace that we receive from walking with each other.



## A Note from Bridget’s Heart

*Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

You may not know this about me. I am a yelling Mom. When I hear the shot of the starter's gun, I start yelling. The moment the referee drops the puck, I start yelling. If your child is on the opposing team, you don't want to be standing next to me.

Last year, I trained and completed a half marathon with my sister. I was inspired by many friends who had gone before me. While I cheered from the curb, my friends completed the 13.1 miles. Now that I've completed the race, I know that I would rather be on the sidelines cheering. I believe that it is part of who I am. It's one of my gifts.

Think about it, wouldn't you rather speak with someone who is giving you words of encouragement rather than words of contention? I'm not suggesting that you build someone up to fall or provide false hope. I mean really looking out for the best for your friend. Encouraging them, cheering them on. And at the moment of success, you also share in the joy. It is so heart-lifting.

So, when my children are grown and they are reflecting back at their experiences, I hope they remember me cheering them on. When my friends succeed, even if it's just making it through another day, I hope they remember me encouraging them in their journey. I know that through it all, my God is saying to me, Good Job, Girl! You are precious to me!

## Men Abiding in Christ Ministries

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### MAC MINISTRIES IS CALLED TO SERVE GOD BY:

- *Partnering with churches to build sustainable ministries for men.*
- *Discipling and coaching church leadership teams to develop a vision and purpose for intentionally growing their men.*
- *Launching and developing environments where relationships can be fostered with each other and with the Lord.*

### MINISTRY UPDATE

As we close in on completing our fifth year, we praise God for the numerous blessings bestowed upon the Ministry. Your donations of supplies, equipment and services and most importantly your prayers have helped place the Ministry on strong footing. Through your prayers and donations, the Ministry has always been blessed with the appropriate level of financial support. While the reach and the impact of the Ministry have grown over its five years, we have focused on reducing expenses where possible enabling the Ministry's costs to remain flat over this same period. As we move into summer, the Ministry continues to need your prayerful consideration of financial support to help sustain us through one of our lowest cash balances since the Ministry's inception.

Thank you for your support of the Ministry and we look forward to glorifying God during the remainder of 2010.

In Christ,  
Scott Ebert, Chairman

## GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

I personally have been through a three year run most people would rather forget, or simply not have to deal with. I consider myself a little different- I consider myself very blessed. Blessed to have experienced success, love, family and friends. Even though in the last three years I have filed bankruptcy and in doing so lost 20 years worth of good business relationships, I am now divorced and I am fiercely battling colon cancer and the hellish remnants of the 6" tumor, radiation, chemo and all of the associated love.

Pat hears times are tough because he hears it from you and me about the wears and tears of our families, pressures of our jobs, and the realities of raising kids today - you know-the ordinary pressures and pleasures of life. While we complain, or comment or brag on the normal rigors of life, we do this with Pat to seek his opinion, understanding, compassion, advice or just to have someone listen.

One of the most important things Pat does, as I see it, is that he listens to us - thus greater is the potential for influence!

Another impressive thing about Pat is his understanding of time, place and point and how important these things are when lay ministering.

In my case - I've known Pat for years. We both happened to run into one another at his office on the square - the Square Bagel. I was there talking politics and Pat was there doing his morning ritual of administering God's ministry on a willing participant. We talked briefly and decided to meet and discuss life and the struggles therein. I must admit through this onslaught of life changes - I had never slipped away from Christ but wasn't effectively utilizing my toolbox for the Lord nor using the Good Book on a daily basis.

In his direct, but easy, individual way, Pat pursued me to open up about my struggles and boy did I. Then, while trying to catch my breath and feeling somewhat re-assured about my place within God's green earth, I found out I had this cancer - that was January 8, 2010. That's a pretty steep cliff to run up on - especially when I thought I was on the right path to the life I wanted and deserved.

Pat's compassion for people and the Lord, his Biblical knowledge and his trust in God affords him a unique ability to intervene when necessary, disciple with effectiveness, and minister without force. There's a VERY BRIGHT LIGHT ON and it's Pat MacPherson - steadily doing the tough work - the Lord's work. I'm proud to know him, to see God working through him and fortunate to consider myself a friend to the Ministry. Mathew 28:19 says to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" and that is what Pat is doing.

David Garrison  
GARRISON CONSULTING

### Men Abiding in Christ Ministries in action!

- Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC) every Monday morning at FPC Marietta
- 2-3 Job Networking messages on Prayer: Does It Really Work
- 3 overnight retreats for small groups.
- 1-3 new CLC small group launches at 3 different churches
- Gringo Mission Trip for Fall - Monterrey, Mexico