

MAC News

Leading Men to Live a Life of Significance in Christ

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries in Action-

- Men's Discipleship Groups on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Thursdays—one-on-one discipling.
- No Man Left Behind training sessions with the men's leadership team at Sugarloaf United Methodist Church.
- June 30—July 3—Igniting Your Men seminar at Montreat, NC for the Presbyterians For Renewal Christian Life Conference.
- July 21—No Man Left Behind seminar with Man In the Mirror at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church.
- August 25-26 Men's Retreat for FPC Douglasville.
- Nov. 3-4 Men's Retreat for Cherokee Presbytery.

Dependency on Christ!

"I'm in the same place spiritually as I was 20 years ago." That's the comment made to me by a man who was reflecting on his life over coffee one day. I have come to find out that this seems to be a common trait among us men. Especially men who, like me, are nearing the half way point in their lives. If you think about it, it makes sense. Everything in our lives seems to be growing around us, including our age. Responsibilities at home and work, size of our house, income, frequent flyer points, commitments (financial and time), acquaintances, complexity of homework, even the number of children. As you can see, it's easy for God to get lost in the shuffle. Just like the man above, if we don't stop to reflect, then we won't even notice. I am grateful to say that this man and I are meeting every other week to help grow his relationship with the Lord.

One of the focuses with Men Abiding in Christ Ministries is to be intentional about becoming more dependent on God and less dependent on ourselves. In his book No Man Left Behind, Pat Morley states that the fundamental struggle with men is

Every moment of every day we choose either to live out of our own strength and be independent from God, or to depend on God alone and walk by faith. When we try to be independent, we sin. When we walk by faith, Christ's righteousness is lived out in obedience. The system of this world is almost perfectly designed to encourage our men to rely on their own strength.

This is true in my own life and very true in many of the men who I spend time with. Men in church struggle with the same issues which is why I spend so much time with the men's leadership team in churches emphasizing the importance of discipleship. I help leadership teams view everything that touches men in their church as an opportunity for God to reveal himself in a new way therefore, in many cases, creating a desire to know him better. I am finding that most of us believe in God and want this all powerful and loving Creator to be a part of our day to day walk. My passion is helping this become a reality.

Please be in prayer that God continues to use this ministry to strengthen men in their dependency on Christ and strengthen churches in discipling their men. Thank you for the continued support and encouragement!

- Pat

So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

John 16:22

A NOTE FROM BRIDGET'S HEART...

My heart is sad. In a matter of days, probably by the time you are reading this, one of my very good friends will have moved away. This is new for me, as I have always been the one to move. I've never been left behind.

I know that this move is a great opportunity for my friend and her family. I trust that it is God's plan. But I am still sad. I've managed to avoid all public celebrations to say goodbye, but in the next couple of days, it will be my turn to say goodbye.

This move will probably not hit me all at once, but in little moments when I will miss my friend. No more passing each other in carpool or in the hallways of church. No more spontaneous picnic lunches at the park with our children or random meetings at the grocery store.

God blessed me with this friendship, long after I expected to make such a good friend. God gave me someone at this time in my life, when I was having babies and changing our family's life with this new venture into full-time ministry. We have laughed together, cried together, had babies together, understood each other's role as a wife of a man in full-time ministry.

As sad as this time is for me, I am confident that God will comfort me. I trust that He will provide for my heart, as He has always done. I know that He loves me like no other, and he will turn this experience into something wonderful.

Because of this friendship, I have hope. Hope that God will continue to bless me and others through me by the love He has given to me through my friend.

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries,

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MAC MINISTRIES IS CALLED TO SERVE GOD BY:

- *Partnering with churches to build sustainable men's ministries, enabling leaders to reach all of their men for Christ.*
- *Discipling church leadership teams to develop a vision and purpose for their men.*
- *Launching and developing men's discipleship groups to foster relationships with each other and with the Lord.*

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

MINISTRY UPDATE

- We are continuing to build a financial support team with people who can commit to giving on a regular basis to Men Abiding in Christ Ministries. Please consider this opportunity to help further God's kingdom and contact me to find out how you can be a part.
- Please continue to pray for the viability of the ministry as contributions have slowed going into the summer.
- We also look to continue to grow a Prayer Team. This Team will be intentional in praying for the protection, sustainability and growth of the Ministry. Please contact Jim Ford at JFord@MortgageIT.com or (678) 429-9089.
- Thank you for your continued prayer support!

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

The weekend that changed me forever! It was a warm weekend in August of 2006. My church's first men's retreat at the Cherokee Retreat Center was nothing like I had anticipated. When I heard about this retreat, I must admit, I pictured Ned Flanders and the boys sitting around the campfire singing Kum-By-Ya. I didn't know anything about Pat MacPherson, who was hosting the retreat, nor did I know about Men Abiding in Christ Ministries. Well, assumptions can lead you astray and this was no exception for me.

I felt the presence of God that weekend like never before. Between the

great music, a wonderful program, the three hour quiet time on Sunday morning, and some of the best barbecue ever, I found that there are many men like myself who needed this time of spiritual renewal. Three hours of quiet time can be intimidating but what a powerful gift it is to have three hours of uninterrupted time with the Lord.

I have never been able to express my feelings to other men about my daily struggles the way I was able to at this retreat. God set out to capture our hearts that weekend and we became brothers in Christ. Each man bringing different talents, gifts, problems, heartaches, joy,

love and laughter with the sole intention of glorifying our Creator. I now know that I am not alone in this world, that everyone needs God just as much as I do. Where I am weak I know I have a brother who is strong and vice-versa. Because of the brotherhood I experienced that weekend I am more equipped to share the Gospel and see the Lord in others so I can glorify God in my everyday life.

Thanks Pat for letting God use you at our church.

-Bryan Leeth
Southwest Airlines Pilot