

MAC

Build It and They Will Come

by Pat MacPherson

I heard this often about two years ago in Monterrey, Mexico, during the planning phase for the medical clinic to be built in Renacimiento.

It was also something that I witnessed over five years of serving in Renacimiento where many will walk as far as 10 miles to participate in the events and activities provided by Casa Samuel. Especially when those activities

News

MEN ABIDING IN CHRIST MINISTRIES

modeling + multiplying discipleship

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include food and health incentives.

Therefore, my prayers have not been centered on seeking "patients" for the medical clinic to serve as there will be more than enough needing/receiving health care (and possibly receiving health care for the first time in their lives!).

My prayers have been more focused on "providers." It has been exciting to see the local medical university

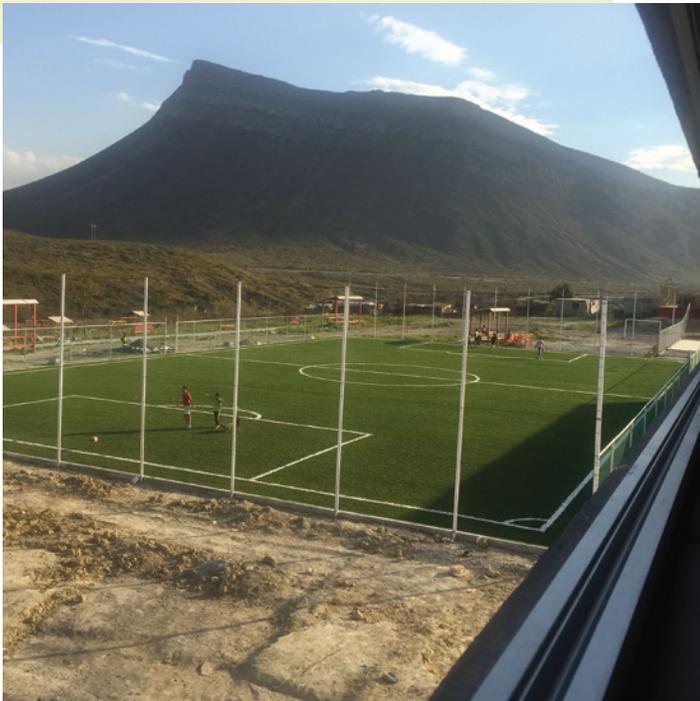
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get involved as well as local physicians and clinicians, but the demand for providers continues to grow as we get closer to completing the facility.

In a visit to Monterrey back in February,

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These are some pictures of Casa Samuel down in Renacimiento. As you see, God has grown this ministry from one small building when I first arrived in August, 2009 to now four buildings and a turf soccer field. I now refer to it as the Casa Samuel Campus in Renacimiento.



Initiative vs. Response by Pat MacPherson

“Our highest activity must be response, and not initiative”

– C.S. Lewis in his book, *The Problem of Pain*.

I have used this statement in each of the Intentional Leadership groups that I have been leading each week at three different churches. I love sharing this comment because of the discussion that arises from it.

As a man with multiple college degrees, a family of seven in my home and a ministry to direct, it usually is the exception to focus on “responding” as opposed to “initiative.” Please don’t misunderstand, ministry requires initiative, but it must be out of a response to the Lord, as opposed to a desire to “fix.”

Using Hebrews chapter 11 from the New Testament of the Bible to launch Intentional Leadership, we are reminded of many men and women from the Old Testament who are known for their Faith. But as I spend more time in this chapter, what we, the readers, see is their response that comes from their Faith.

It’s in their response that we encounter the leadership that results. In their responding to the Lord, much initiative is taken. As well as intentionality.

But as we dissect how we interpret initiative, the discussion usually uncovers a sense of self-reliance that can easily misstep into disobedience.

In building the discussion platform, my desire is to recognize that when we’re intentional about responding to the Lord, our self-reliance decreases as our obedience

to letting the Spirit navigate increases. This is Intentional Leadership!

Rarely do we fully understand how we’re being used while we’re in the middle of it. Hebrews 11:13 reminds us that rarely did those mentioned personally receive God’s promises – most just saw them from afar (I think of Moses here). The verse then goes on to say that all of these folks mentioned knew they were strangers and aliens in their own country.

I share this as a reminder that it’s okay – and very normal – to respond to the Lord without knowing the results. That’s a “big” part of what we describe as a “calling.” As Walt Henrichsen says, “it’s not how God sees you that so important, it’s how you respond to how God uses you.”

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I attended three meetings in one day with three organizations interested in using the medical clinic. It was then that I started seeing the phrase “build it and they will come” take new meaning.

The phrase also includes “health care providers” as in each of these meetings we encountered medical groups volunteering their services. The doors keep opening to local organizations and ministries designed to provide services from examinations of all types, education/training, pharmaceutical supplies, dentistry, etc. It has been a blessing to see so many eager to partner with Casa Samuel and fill the different needs that are present.

The most exciting part has been that each of these organizations operates from the

common foundation of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we wrapped up that week in Monterrey, we learned that four to eight organizations could be using the medical facility to provide needed healthcare and a message of Hope that will unify and sustain this poverty stricken community of Renacimiento.

At times, it is overwhelming when trying to figure out how it’s all going to be completed. But I continue to be reminded that our “response” is what the Lord asks as He continues to reveal the many pieces that He will bring together!!! Praise to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!



Marietta missionaries touring the clinic



Inside the Waiting Room of the clinic



Following to Lead *by Scott McLain*

As a long time Board Member it was a pleasure to once again participate directly in the ministry. Over the last nine months I was a participant in Pat's Intentional Discipleship and Intentional Leadership curriculum with a group of men at my home church in Douglasville. While I am no stranger to discipleship material and exploring what it means to be a disciple, I found the Intentional Discipleship course to be very beneficial. I particularly appreciated the slow pace designed more for depth of understanding than volume of information. Our group was challenged to determine *our* commitment to live intentionally for Christ.

And if you know Pat even casually you will understand when I tell you that his Intentional Leadership course is NOT your typical Leadership material. Instead it was more of a "how to" on living intentionally for Christ. The sections that emphasized obedience and abiding especially resonated with me. I was able to apply this new filter

to other areas of my life, understanding that the condition of our heart is more important to our "good works" than the actual works themselves. The material in Intentional Leadership helped me to clarify my paradigm around some leadership activities I am involved with in my home church – both international missions and church governance. But the material is not about leading people; rather it is about following the One who died for us and conquered death. One of the "tensions", as Pat likes to describe them, is that Leadership for His Kingdom is more about following (Him) than leading. We lead when we *intentionally* follow.

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries has continued to evolve over the last nearly ten years. The location varies from Roswell to Douglasville to Monterrey, Mexico. The method varies from small groups to one-on-one meetings to personally developed coursework. But the message remains the same – we thrive through dependence on Christ.



Cameron, Tricia, Scott, Leah, and Kayla in St Augustine, FL

Are you a "part" of God's work with Men Abiding in Christ Ministries? I encourage you to prayerfully consider financially supporting this unique ministry. And I also hope you have had or will take the opportunity to participate directly yourself.

*Scott McLain
Chairman of the Board
Men Abiding in Christ Ministries, Inc.*

Faith Revealed Through Obedience *by Tim Kittredge*

It is a blessing to be able to share with you how God has been at work in my life and the lives of other men at Roswell United Methodist Church (RUMC) through MAC Ministries.

After hearing about Pat through my neighbors, I had the pleasure of meeting Pat many years ago through a mutual friend, Blaine Clotfelter. How amazing it was at that time to meet a young father who took such a big leap of faith in answering God's call to ministry! Little did I know how grateful I would be to Blaine, Lance, and Shelley for introducing me to Pat as his faithfulness has been an inspiration and his wise counsel has been a valuable resource over the years.

In the Spring of 2013, God brought our

paths back together again when Pat was invited by a pastor at my home church, Roswell United Methodist Church (RUMC) to speak to a group of leaders in the church about reviving the ministry to men.

Pat's leadership was essential to pointing us in the right direction as the Lord rekindled this ministry at RUMC and a monthly men's meeting was started the following Fall. Although the meetings were well received, growing to reach over 150+ men in our congregation, the leaders wanted to create more opportunities to go deeper... hence Pat was contacted and plans were made to launch a small group Bible study using his Intentional Leadership material.

In January of this year, God led ten men to

participate in Pat's class which concluded in May. The structure of the class allowed for great discussion and an environment that allowed Pat to challenge each of us in how we were being intentional in our relationship with the Lord. During the class, Pat taught us among other things that leadership was more about our response to the Lord

than our role.

Personally, God revealed to me through Pat's class that leadership is faith revealed through obedience. If I want to grow as a leader my focus should be on deepening my relationship with Jesus, obeying God's commands, and walking with other men in an encouraging and loving way. The more I do these things, the more my capacity as a leader will grow and the better I will be equipped to lead others with the proper balance of grace and truth.

Feedback from other men who participated was overwhelmingly positive. Some of the comments in our post-class survey included:

"Pat is terrific... personal, passionate, and with a true love for God."

"Pat has really made me think about what it means to be a leader in the church setting and how to take that outside the walls of the church."

"I've come to appreciate that raising a Christ-centered family is much more difficult now than it was a generation ago... However, for our family, the only way my wife and I can be assured that following Christ will be an option for our boys is to live and see life through His lens ourselves. When my boys



Tim, Tarrah, Lexi (11), Nate (9) and Ellison (5)

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PMB #104
1000 Whitlock Avenue, Suite 320
Marietta, GA 30064

Will you help us multiply disciples?

MAC Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization funded by individuals and churches who value this ministry in the community.

We invite you to participate in supporting this ministry through your financial contributions:

- online through Paypal at www.macministries.net
- Send a check payable to MAC Ministries at the address above

A Note From Bridget's Heart by Bridget MacPherson

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts.

— Psalm 139:23

This was a year of new beginnings

for our family. Liam, the oldest, started high school. James began Middle School and the baby girl, Rose, started Kindergarten! In January, we became a dog family for the first time when Santa Claus gave Rose a Certificate of Dog Ownership that she redeemed at the pound for our newest family member, Bullseye.

What does all that mean to me? For the first time in 15 years, I had each school day all to myself. It's what a stay-at-home mom longs for, right? Oh the projects I

could complete, the classes I could take, the pounds I could lose! In a word, FREEDOM, right?

This has been one of the hardest years of my life. I am needing to "redefine" myself in a way that I haven't known since I graduated from college. But this time is different. My relationship with Christ has everything to do with my response to my circumstances. In all those years that I was building a career and then building a family, I was also becoming more dependent on God and less dependent on what I had to do for myself. I think that is what has made this year so much harder.

You know the saying, "you know better, so do better?" My worldly expectations are telling me that I am not doing better. Yet, the One who created me for a purpose is



MacPherson family serving on a Blue Skies Mission Trip, Spring Break 2015. Liam (15), James (12), Sean (9), Rose (6) and Mary (11)

telling me to place my trust and focus in Him and He will guide my path. Knowing that Truth gives me peace. It settles my soul. It is freedom.

Faith Revealed Through Obedience,

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are asked to make their own decisions, we want them prepared to know what giving your life over to Christ really means... Pat

may not have meant to provide such heady guidance, but his class about being intentional with our faith was the reminder I needed. I am forever thankful."

Because of this positive experience, RUMC has invited Pat to come back in the fall to

lead a group of men through the Intentional Discipleship class.

Thanks be to God for sending Pat to walk with me and other men at RUMC. MAC Ministries is making an impact for God's glory! Your support is making an eternal difference .