

MAC News

Modeling + Multiplying Discipleship

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Who Do You Know that Could Join You in a Small Group?

I have been blessed this summer by the opportunity to help start a small group among several men.

This group was a vision of one man who wanted more out of the relationships he had with a small group of high school friends. These relationships of 30+ years, have experienced much: Laughter. Sports. Scouts. Church Youth Group. College. Marriage. Children. And after 30 years, they all still live in a close proximity to each other.

One thing these friends haven't experienced is the opportunity to intentionally spur each other on in their faith. Please don't misunderstand me, these guys would do anything for each other if needed, but their relationships seem to stop at some imaginary line when involving Jesus.

After making contact with the 10 men, we found that everyone was eager to come together for this purpose. One was even willing to drive 45 miles to be a part of it.

The first meeting seemed to be awkward as one of the guys pointed out that we had not all been in the same room since we were 17 years old. Being younger in the group, it had been since I was 14 years old that I was in the same room with all these guys.

Well, we've only begun as we have just finished our fourth meeting discussing Kent Hughes' book, *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Sure, the discussion has been engaging especially with appropriate jabs reminding each other of blunders from 30 years ago, but the focus is clearly with our relationships in and around Jesus Christ.

This group has reminded me how God uses relationships. Any relationship. Even those "old" high school relationships. Making Jesus Christ the core of our relationships, whether at work, school, home, etc. is part of the discipleship process.

What relationships do you have that could be strengthened through a small group experience?

A Note from Bridget's Heart

Psalm 139:7-10: *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.*

Within the last two years, Pat has traveled to Monterrey, Mexico almost a dozen times. "Aren't you scared when Pat travels to Mexico? Don't you worry that something is going to happen to him?"

When we started this journey in full time ministry, I was convicted that God was leading us and in that, He would take care of all our needs. Six years later, that continues to be the case. So, when Pat was approached with the opportunity to develop an adult mission experience to the community of Renacimiento outside of Monterrey, Mexico, I trusted that God would continue to guide us and provide for our needs.

Do I worry about Pat's safety in Mexico. Yes. The question should be, what do I do about it? I pray. I pray that Pat is safe and that the Lord is protecting him. And then, I let it go.

To me, worrying endlessly about Pat's trip, or even still, forbidding him to go, would be the same as me admitting that God is not the All-Powerful, Ever-Present God that I trust that He is. Do I think that God is not present in Mexico? Do I think that anything Pat experiences in Mexico is outside of God's realm? Do I believe that the only place God is present is within the safe borders of my own church and community? That He is a God that loves only those who look and act like me? Thank you God for being so much bigger than that!

Pat goes back to Mexico in September and again in November. If I am asked if I am afraid, or worried, I will answer with all confidence – Yahweh, I know You are near!

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****If you prefer to receive this news-
letter via e-mail, please notify me at
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CHAIRMAN UPDATE

God continues to bless the Ministry! The finances of the Ministry continue to incur ebbs and flows at levels we have not experienced since the Ministry's inception; but, in each case of need, God has always provided. We continue to ask for your prayers regarding the finances of the Ministry. If not already, we are asking for your prayerful consideration of becoming a pledged donor to the Ministry.

A monthly pledge of \$25 would have a significant impact on the Ministry's finances and would be a blessing during this time. Thank you for your prayers and consideration of financial support.

In Christ,
Scott Ebert, Chairman

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

Why MAC Ministries uses CLC as a tool for discipleship?

Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC) has been an answer to prayer in so many ways. For years, I have watched churches focus on growing the church and hoping that, in the process, it would grow disciples. With CLC discipleship groups, MAC Ministries is helping these churches become more intentional in this process.

These groups which consists of 12 people, is just one "tool" that MAC Ministries is using for one to come to "**know**" our Lord, not just "**know about**" our Lord. Along with other types of small groups, mission trips, and spiritual mentoring, I'm seeing men come to "know" Jesus. They recognize him more! They seek him more! They're transformed by Him!

It's been a blessing to have started five CLC groups in my home church with 2 more to start this fall. Do the math... over 80 men committing two hours a week to building relationships that are grounded in knowing God.

I have personally had the experience watching these men and women 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.

God continues to grow MAC Ministries through the impact of changed lives. I'm excited to share the blessing of starting two CLC groups this summer at two different churches. I am also currently leading the efforts in starting a CLC group for women at FPC Marietta. I ask you to continue to pray for the men and women in these groups, that they will experience transformation and grow as a disciple of Christ.

MAC Ministries in Action

- **June 18:** Overnight CLC Kick-off retreat for new group at FPC Marietta
- **July 5-7:** Gringo Mission Trip to Monterrey, Mexico.
- **August 24-26:** Fellowship PC(USA) conference in Minneapolis, MN
- **September 13-15:** Gringo Mission Trip to Monterrey, Mexico
- **September 24-25:** Leading workshop at Rock Eagle - United Methodist Men's Annual Men's Retreat
- **October:** Kicking off CLC group for women at FPC Marietta
- **November 15-17:** Gringo Mission Trip to Monterrey, Mexico
- **96 and 97 HP print cartridges and printing paper are always welcomed for the MAC office!**