

MAC News

Leading Men to Live a Life of Significance in Christ

Dive Deep!!

For the past several months, I pass a sign in a local church that I have been serving that says, "Dive Deep." Every Friday morning at 5:45 am, it seems to press on me where we need to go with the Lord. I pray that Lord uses 2009 to take Men Abiding in Christ Ministries even deeper.

It truly has been a challenging and exciting year in all areas of my life. As many of you know I lost my beloved brother-in-law, Rick Kool, and soon after found out that Bridget was expecting with # 5 (who we now know as Rose Jeanne). Between these two events, the Lord has strengthened every aspect of my life, especially my faith.

When I reflect on the year, I get excited about how God is using this Ministry. I have spent much of my time serving churches this year across three denominations (Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian). One of the churches was located in North Carolina which allowed me to explore serving remotely. Pastor Adam shares in his article on the next page with this experience. One common trait with these churches was an intentional decision to push men in these congregations to Dive Deeper in their faith. As a result, more time was being spent with the leadership teams at each church letting them experience what we and they had hoped to launch within their churches.

God has also increased the number of men that I meet with on a weekly basis (averaging 25+ men a week). I am seeing these relationships being used to break down barriers allowing a more intimate walk with the Lord. I continued to be amazed at how most men, when offered an authentic opportunity to Dive Deep, will make a commitment to do so. One such group of men is the 12 men that have committed to meet with me for 2 hours every Monday morning (6 am – 8 am) for the next 2 years. Using curriculum from Christian Leadership Concepts, these men are sacrificing time each day to Dive Deeper with the Lord and live it out for others to see. I anticipate the results to have a great impact on the life of their church.

- Pat

Please continue to pray for me and my board members as this Ministry continues to grow and serve men and churches. This ministry continues to be sustained through your financial contributions. Please know that we are dependent upon your support and are grateful for your willingness to commit to this ministry.

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries in Action-

- Christian Leadership Concepts every Monday morning at FPC Marietta
- No Man Left Behind sessions with the men's leadership team at Marietta First United Methodist
- **January 22-24** Man In the Mirror Annual Summit training seminar in Orlando, FL
- **February 18-19** Global Fellowship Conference in Atlanta, GA
- **February 21-22** Men's Retreat for Eastminster Presbyterian Church

A NOTE FROM BRIDGET'S HEART...

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 5:17

This past September, our family received an incredible gift. It all started this summer when a friend asked me if I wanted a baby shower. I laughed. While it was nice to offer, I thought it to be a little over the top for the fifth baby. I told my friend that what I really needed was help getting ready for the baby. Sorting through clothes, moving children to new rooms, preparing the nursery for the new baby. We had all the "stuff" we needed. In fact, we had too much. I was overwhelmed.

So, my friend put the word out that I needed help "sorting clothes." The response she received was more than she expected. She asked me what other home projects we had that they could work on. When all was said and done, our family was sent away for four days so that our friends and family could help get our house ready for the baby.

Imagine the ABC show, Extreme Makeover, Home Edition. When we returned to our home, we were met what seemed like a cast of thousands— and a bus! I started crying before we even got out of the car. When we walked through the house, we were blown away. Every room in the house had been touched with artwork, paint, or window treatments. We felt so loved. It was obvious that a lot of work went into our home.

It was amazing to hear the stories from everyone involved. They shared how they couldn't stay away. The 2 hours they thought they could spare became 2 days. If someone suggested another project, it was answered by someone else willing to do the work.

It was clear to us that our community was joined by the Holy Spirit to renew our house, and in many cases, their own spirits.

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries

Pat MacPherson
PMB #104

1000 Whitlock Avenue, Suite 320
Marietta, GA 30064
Phone: 770.655.1711

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.*

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

MINISTRY UPDATE

- We need your financial support for 2009. If you're not already, please consider joining the MAC Ministries support team by making a financial commitment to give on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, annually) to the Ministry. We continue to seek additions to the financial support team so the ministry can continue to serve those opportunities that God provides. God continues to use this ministry within churches to build intentional methods of discipleship for men. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.
- I invite you to join 90 others as part of the Prayer Team. This Team is intentional in praying for the protection, sustainability and growth of the Ministry. Please contact Jim Ford at jimfordmanager@aol.com or (678) 429-9089.
- Continued needs: HP Model 96 & 97 print cartridges for office printer; postage stamps; copy paper; and gasoline vouchers.

On the 3rd weekend in August, the men at FPC Douglasville held our 3rd annual Men's retreat. As a past participant I had an idea of how the retreat might flow. Pat MacPherson had been involved in the set up of the previous two retreats, but this year was different on two accounts.

The first was that I was helping to plan a men's retreat for the first time. Just by serving in this capacity, I was blessed by having some great fellowship with other followers of Christ that have similar interests in growing disciples. Pat's leadership was fantastic. I went into the event planning thinking that we needed to put on a huge production to top the prior years retreat. I was not exactly right. Through meetings with Pat and the other men, I realized that the basic details of the weekend were important, but the most important aspect of the retreat was integrating the main message and tying all of it together to help men grow as disciples. We decided on a message after numerous planning sessions and diligent prayer about the direction of the retreat. The rest of the planning took time and effort from many men, but the planning was worth it.

The second way this retreat was different was that Pat was our keynote speaker. Right before the retreat started, I found out that Pat was a little nervous because this was his first retreat as the keynote speaker. You never would have known it. God spoke through Pat that weekend and had a great influence on the many men in attendance. Pat's message on being set free was an inspiration for all of us to reflect on our walk with Christ and how we might be limiting our ability to truly abide in Christ by keeping issues in our life. Pat brought the scripture to life through sharing of his personal testimony as well as other great examples of others that have walked with God in the Bible. Pat tied the whole weekend together on Sunday morning with a message on abiding in Christ and gave specific examples on things that we did over the weekend that help us to abide in Christ.

Over the weekend, the men of FPC Douglasville had great messages, small group times, quiet personal reflection, prayer time, praise and worship, great fellowship, and plenty of great food. We shared one on one time with other men and developed stronger relationships with God and other men in the community.

I Thank God for Pat and the other men of my Church who were a part of a great weekend of renewal. May we all walk daily to be closer to God.

- Scott Patman, First Presbyterian Church of Douglasville

On September 13-14, 2008 around 30 men from First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, NC ventured out to Camp Grier (Old Fort, NC) with their pastors and Pat MacPherson from Men Abiding in Christ Ministries. Many did not know what to expect, and were not too sure why they had given up most of a weekend. However, those uncertainties quickly vanished as Pat led our men in a weekend retreat we will not soon forget.

We tried out a new e-survey system when we returned, and we asked the men, "What will you take away from this retreat experience?" Here are just a few of their answers:

- *"I wrestled with some aspects of my retired life. There are some aspects that I need to reconsider such as time for study and prayer with my wife. We used to do this, but it dropped along the way."*
- *"For me, this was a 'die to self' experience which has not evaporated since returning to the real world!" "It reinforced the truth that walking God's path requires God's discipline which comes with tons of grace."*
- *"A better understanding of my need for quiet time with God; confirmation that I'm not in this alone, my church family has similar problems and we can share them with each other and God, to help handle our situations."*
- *"An increase in my overall faith and the power of forgiveness."*

For me, as the pastor of these men, I came away with an excitement about a sustainable men's ministry, and a joy that we were connecting with Christ and with each other at a deeper level. This retreat has now ignited the men to meet on Tuesday mornings for Bible study (in the back room of a local restaurant) and there are talks of a mission project/trip on the horizon. **However, it is not the programs that excite me as their pastor. It is the deeper relationship with their Lord and Savior that has become evident in their lives since the retreat. Men are now meeting one on one to pray with, and for each other.**

What many do not know is that Pat, via long-distance conference calls, led our retreat planning team through a time of prayer and discernment as we planned this retreat. Using Pat's retreat experience as a resource, the team carefully and prayerfully planned every aspect of the retreat. Upon Pat's suggestion, the retreat planning team began to pray for the men that would attend by name. I pray that God will continue to use MAC Ministries, to bring men into a deeper relationship with Him—the fruit of this ministry has certainly flourished here in Morganton, NC.

- Rev. Adam Bowling, First Presbyterian Church of Morganton