

MAC News

Leading Men to Live a Life of Significance in Christ

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Three Keys for Being Intentional with Discipleship

What does it mean to be intentional? Can it be taught? And what, exactly, does discipleship look like when it's practiced in the real world? Or in your congregation?

These are some of the questions that MAC Ministries have been addressing over the past five years. Using Pat Morley's book, No Man Left Behind, I have developed a curriculum that takes a cross-gender focus on discipleship this is applicable at the individual level as well as at a church level.

I am calling it Intentional Discipleship and it's based upon what I have seen and learned from five years of modeling and multiplying discipleship.

Intentional Discipleship focuses on three keys:

1. Understanding the role of relationships in faith development;
2. Using discipleship as the central means (the funnel) to achieve stated outcomes; and
3. Growing people rather than gathering them.

Intentional Discipleship helps churches transform, rather than transact.

It's about learning core principles of how discipleship is first modeled, then multiplied, by church leaders.

This new development for MAC Ministries has been a result of your prayers and support in sustaining this Ministry. I am grateful and honored by your commitment to enable this Ministry to serve. Please continue your support as 2011 has already launched.

Have a Merry Christmas!

- Pat



A Note from Bridget's Heart

Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10

Every Sunday when we go to church, I am captivated by a family that worships with us. The mother is elderly and has recently been confined to a wheelchair. Her two sons are grown, large men, who look like they might be comfortable in a biker bar.

The thing that strikes me about this family is the quiet yet powerful display of gentleness and mercy. When it is time to get up to receive Holy Communion, the sons get on either side of their mother. One son walks backwards up to the altar, facing his mother and holding her hands. The other son walks behind his mother, holding gently onto her waist. They all receive the Body and Blood of Christ and return to their seats to pray. This happens every Sunday. Every Sunday, even though I know the routine, I am moved to tears.

You see, this mother has given her sons a precious gift. Not only has she shared her faith with them, which they have obviously come to love and share as well, but she continues to share what it means to live in the Spirit of Christ. Lovingly, gently and faithfully, these men care for their mother and help her live her faith as they witness to all of us who worship with them.

In this world, we are so focused on being self-reliant and independent. Yet, when we are focused on this "selfishness," we may miss opportunities to teach others how to be loving, gentle and merciful. How will our children learn to show kindness and mercy if they can not practice with those they love?

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries

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

MINISTRY UPDATE

Over the past several months, we have shared with you how God has used the Ministry to serve the needs within and beyond our community. At our five-year celebration in October, several speakers shared the impact Pat and the Ministry had on individuals and churches. During this period, we have also shared with you the financial and prayer needs of the Ministry. The response has been reassuring that the Ministry is in God's hands. The Ministry continues to be blessed and we are thankful for your kind support. As the funding for the Ministry has improved over the past several months, we will continue to reach out to new potential donors and continue to ask for your prayerful support as we transition into 2011.

Thank you for your support of the Ministry and we look forward to glorifying God in 2011.

In Christ,
Scott Ebert, Chairman

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

Who turns down an invitation for a free lunch? Certainly not me, so I accepted when my minister, Dr. Bob Bullock, asked me to join him and several other men from Eastminster Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Marietta for lunch on a fall Saturday in 2006. He wanted us to meet a fellow by the name of Pat McPherson who could guide a leadership team in re-focusing the men's ministry at Eastminster. Pat gave his testimony of leaving the corporate world to start MAC Ministries and I took notice. We were about the same age and both had young families so the thought of trusting God to make such a life defining decision got my attention.

Pat taught our leadership team that we must seek out every man in the church and personally invite him to participate. We must also offer opportunities for men at various levels of spiritual maturity. But most importantly, we needed to think spiritually about all our activities. Whether it was as passive as a day at a Braves game or as intense as a weekend retreat, the leadership team had to see beyond the actual event to how can it can grow just one man in his relationship to our savior, Jesus Christ. It is working at Eastminster as more and more men go beyond just attending Sunday worship and really engage with other men and their own faith. MAC Ministries influence is continuing to touch men's lives on a personal level.

Relationships and discipleship are the cornerstones of MAC Ministries and Pat's work. Whether it is relationships with individual men or churches, Pat has a gift of getting in the trenches with you no matter where you are. I had never been exposed to that kind of Christian love until meeting and working with Pat.

Seeing that model of discipleship in action has influenced my decision to join the MAC Ministries Board. Pat needs support in his faith journey just as he supports so many of us. Beyond the formal, legal duties of the board, we pray for Pat; we listen to Pat; and we encourage Pat in all his work for our Lord.

Andrew Sain
Senior Associate

Stanley Lindsey and Associates, Structural Engineers

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries in action!

- Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC) every Monday morning at FPC Marietta
- **August 18 - October 20:** Intentional Discipleship class at FPC Marietta
- **Sept. 24 -25:** Rock Eagle men's retreat.
- **October 5:** Guest Speaker at Eastminster Presbyterian Church's Job Seekers Ministry: **"Transitions on a Personal, Emotional, and Spiritual level"**.
- **November 19 - 21:** Gringo Mission Trip to Monterrey, Mexico
- **December 19:** Guest Speaker at Men's Breakfast, Hollydale UMC.
- **January 6:** Overnight retreat
- **January 14:** New CLC group launches at FPC Marietta
- **January 22 - 23:** Guest speaker at Eastminster's Annual Men's Retreat
- **February, 2011:** Intentional Discipleship session at Cherokee Presbytery Leadership Conference.