

MAC News

modeling + multiplying discipleship

FALL/WINTER 2012

2012 in Review

2012 has been an exciting year, especially when I reflect on the impact God is having through this ministry. Below is an update on four areas that continue to develop within MAC Ministries: Spiritual Mentoring, Intentional Discipleship, Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC) and Gringo Mission Trips.

Spiritual Mentoring

On average, I meet one-on-one with 10-12 men each week. The focus for these meetings was to help men go deeper with the Lord - to grow their relationship with Jesus. As this part of MAC Ministries continues to grow, I follow these foundational guidelines:

- Almost always, discipleship takes place over a period of years in the context of significant relationships and the study of God's Word.
- My focus is to remain faithful, NOT to produce results. The results belong to God.
- Helping men to seek the God that "IS" vs. the God we "WANT"
- Sustaining change in a man comes through helping him recognize his growing need for Christ in his life.

Intentional Discipleship

This is a twelve week study that I host with church leaders. The goal is to take a group of lay leaders and help them understand and become intentional with discipleship in their lives and in the ministries that God has them.

I have had the blessing of facilitating this study at two different churches in 2012: Eastminster Presbyterian and First United Methodist of Marietta. A couple of focus points from the curriculum are:

- Most long-term change takes place in the context of relationships and regular study of God's Word.
- One's leadership model needs to have a strong focus on shepherding vs. teaching.
- We're building folks to carry out the "mission" of the church, NOT just to do the "work" of the church.

Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC)

CLC equips individuals who come together in small groups who are all seeking Christ. These small groups are designed to bring 12 men or 12 women together for two years to study Scripture and other Christian writings and, most of all, to live life together.

Please continue to pray for this effort as interest in starting three more groups at three different churches is in the works.

Gringo Mission Trips

This is the area of MAC Ministries which has expanded beyond every expectation that I've had. Over the past three years, it has been exciting to see *the focus of this mission turn towards discipleship.*

Through four trips in 2012, I had the opportunity to lead small groups and meet one-on-one with the men of Renacimiento and Casa Samuel. A huge milestone was accomplished with the groundbreaking ceremony for the Medical Clinic in September.

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Groundbreaking of Medical Clinic in Renacimiento

Over and over, I find myself reiterating the following points on these trips:

- These trips are about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the context of relationships.
- Our focus is walking with (not fixing) those we're serving.
- Our challenge to those who attend these trips is to "be still" and be molded and shaped by the love of Jesus Christ that cannot be contained.

Meet the Hernandez Brothers

I'll never forget the first time I met Chuy and his two younger twin brothers Juan and Mike on my first visit to Renacimiento, August 2009. I immediately took a liking to these three young men.

Chuy, 19 years old at the time, stood out. At such a young age, I could tell in this first encounter that he had the respect of all his peers, yet he was also different. The twins, at 15 years of age, were always in Chuy's shadow doing whatever he asked....but not in a trite way, more with a sense of honor.

Like most of the men in Renacimiento, these three men graduated from the 5th grade never to attend school again. They support their mother and other family members with any type of work that they can acquire. They're hard working men who have won my heart over because of their selflessness.

My relationship with these men has blossomed over the past year. Early on, I was able to have some one-on-one

time with Chuy and it was then that he shared that Jesus was his Lord and Savior. But having the same conversations with Mike and Juan has not been so easy until last July.

In July, I was able to have Juan and two other men (Chino and Lino) over for dinner at the hotel that I was staying.

I took the opportunity at this meal to encourage these three men to commit their lives to Christ and to continue to work closely with Casa Samuel. One of the men, Chino, talked openly about his faith and all three shared their appreciation for the Bibles that I gave them at



Juan, Mike, Pat and Chuy

dinner. Juan, as always, remained quiet sporting his big smile.

In September, it was a blessing to have both Chino and Juan attend a Bible study that I led. This was the first time that these two men had attended and although Juan was quiet, I could tell his ears were busy.

Last month, on a conference call, Pastor Eva announced that Juan publicly professed Jesus as his Lord and Savior. It has been a wonderful three years anticipating this event. I praise God for letting me witness his awesome Grace.

Please continue to pray for these three brothers as they pave a new path for men in Renacimiento. This new path places Christ in the forefront and is the beginning of a great transformation that we are experiencing and seeing in this community. Life is still hard (as the brothers recently lost their home to a fire), but Hope is clearly in their hearts and eyes.

Thoughts on Intentional Discipleship

Reflections from Fred Finzer, Marietta First United Methodist Church

In June of this year I retired as a United Methodist minister and moved to Marietta.

Instinctively, one of the first steps to working through questions such as these was to get affiliated with a local church. So there I was sitting in a 4000 member church and I don't know a soul, nor do I have the slightest idea where to start to get involved in my "Kingdom building". Who would I serve with? What is the church already doing? What community needs are unmet? How to I plug into the existing culture of the church? Who would hold me accountable? How would I grow in my faith and bloom where I was planted? How do I begin to form relationships and build friendships?

With all these questions bouncing around in my head and my discerning prayers seemingly not netting much direction, I read something in the

church newsletter about a Monday morning men's group (with a leader named Pat MacPherson) that is forming to consider how to be about making disciples.

One Monday morning I drag myself out of bed and stumbled into my first class. And somehow the Holy Spirit takes over and answers to my long list of questions begin to evolve and develop. Relationships and friendships begin to form and grow. Ideas begin to transform into plans.

Bottom line is this. My life in on track and focused on "Kingdom building". I know where I am going and how I am going to get there. It was very helpful to me to work on formulating my own personal mission statement. The class helped me, and I believe everyone in the class to not only build relationships, but to also find others to work with in making disciples. I'm energized, committed, growing in my faith and can't wait for the future to unfold.

Reflections from Steve Hartt, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA

Overall, this class helped me realized that, after God initially calls us to himself, we need to spend time learning what it means to be disciples. Once we become true disciples ourselves, we cannot help but to ~~begin~~ look outward to others to share the joy we have found.

Pat's class helped me to realize that making disciples is about relationships.

These relationships can take time to develop and can, at times, be messy and difficult. But by focusing on where I am in my walk with Christ and thinking specifically about my gifts and what I think my mission is, I now have a clearer picture of how God can use me to begin to make disciples.

How's your motor running?

What's the difference between gasoline and kerosene? It's subtle.

When I was a teenager, I mowed yards for spending money. One time, I put kerosene in the mower. It wasn't an intentional choice; it was an honest mistake. The homeowner failed to tell me that the *red gasoline container* in the garage actually contained kerosene. Why would I suspect it to contain kerosene? That's supposed to be in a different container right? The motor exploded about 45 minutes into mowing the yard, caught fire, and provided quite a display of fireworks. It was the mechanic that pointed out the problem the next day. There was no hope of saving the motor.

Our hearts & minds are sort of like the motor on a lawn mower. What we pour into it matters. When we start our day, we're faced with a choice; be a disciple of the world, or a disciple of Christ. The difference is subtle in the beginning, but the outcomes are tremendously different.

The world teaches us knowledge is power. It teaches us numbers matter. We can do anything if we work hard

enough. We're "number one." But Christ teaches us something different; "If we say we are his, we must follow the example of Christ." (1 John 2:6)

"I needed a friend who could love me, be devoted to me, encourage me, pray with me, rejoice with me, and spur me on."

I met Pat shortly after he started MAC Ministries. We were acquaintances for a while. But as I got to know him and his heart for discipleship, I began to meet with him occasionally for advice. Then in 2010, we began meeting weekly. I needed a friend who could love me,

be devoted to me, encourage me, pray with me, rejoice with me, and spur me on. I wanted someone that could pour gasoline into my tank. Since then, Pat's been that friend and then some. His devotion, counsel, and ability to stir me up and pierce my heart with the Truth is rare, humbling, and rewarding. It's produced growth in my own life, and my ability to minister to others. Nowhere was that more evident than this past summer when some abrupt changes impacted the ministry I serve. My funding was eliminated and my position was put in jeopardy. Pat's ability to bear such a burden with me helped me keep my head clear and focused on discerning what God was trying to achieve.

When I meet people, especially churches and leaders, who are looking for a practical, relational model of discipleship, I think of Pat and MAC Ministries. Remember that lawn mower I blew up? If he were a mechanic, he'd be able to fix it.

- Dan Boles

Director/Campus Minister
The Journey, KSU

A Note from Bridget's Heart

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. St. Paul's Letter to the Phillipians 3:7



This past month, our home was selected to be a test case for a new insulation product. In preparation for the installation, Pat and I were required to empty our attic of all the things we had been storing up there since we moved into the house in 1999.

First came the empty boxes that once held the treasures of our new married life, gifts that are displayed in the china cabinet and lovingly used for special occasions. Why in the world did I feel the need to save all those empty boxes for all these years? Did I think I might need them to return something? Use them for easier packing for an unexpected move? I let the empty boxes go – remembering the precious gifts that they held so long ago.

Then came the boxes that contained

items I hadn't touched in over 20 years. Boxes containing **very** old documents that were **very** important at one time, such as old paystubs, tuition receipts, financial aid applications, cancelled checks. The contents of these boxes must shred - lest anyone steal my college identity!" As if!

There were the boxes labeled "HS Scraps" or "Sorority Scraps." These boxes contained the mementoes of a life lived so long ago, it's hard to believe that girl even existed. My own children are closer to that age when those "things" were so important to me than I am to that age now. These boxes remain intact, in the attic.

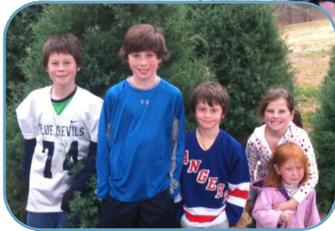
The boxes that took the most time to go through were the ones that contained precious, hand-written letters from dear girlfriends that I laughed and cried with – shared our young, truly blessed lives with. Letters that reminded me so much of who I was and what made me the woman I am today.

Just like the boxes that I keep in my attic, I keep boxes in my mind and heart of all the memories and blessings that God gives me. My Father God sits in delightful expectation, waiting for me to discover the treasures he has in store for me.

Here's my question for you... What boxes do you have in the attic of your mind and heart? Do you have boxes that contain very old information that needs to be destroyed – shredding an identity that does not reflect your new creation? Are you holding onto empty boxes anticipating an uncertain future? Do your boxes contain pleasant memories of a life well lived? My hope is that you are ready to receive the new gifts that God has in store for an abundant life!

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We're on the web!
macministries.net



Ongoing Ministry Needs:

- 25 new monthly financial commitments
- 96 ,97 and 901 HP print cartridges and printing paper are needed for the MAC office!
- Postage Stamps
- Gas Cards (Sams Club or QuikTrip)

Ministry Highlights

- **April - June:** Intentional Discipleship class at Eastminster PC
- **September - November:** Intentional Discipleship class at MFUMC
- **September:** Groundbreaking for Medical Clinic in Mexico
- **October:** Christ Renews His Parish retreat, St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Ahead:

- **Ongoing:** 2 small groups and approx. 12 one-on-one meetings weekly
- **January:** Gringo Mission Trip to Monterrey
- **January:** Intentional Discipleship Retreat for MFUMC
- **January - March:** Intentional Discipleship class at FPC Marietta
- **March:** Annual Men's Retreat, Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- **May:** Gringo Mission Trip to Monterrey

Chairman Update by Scott McLain

While Thanksgiving has passed and we look forward to Christmas, I remain thankful for all of the financial supporters of MAC Ministries. I continue to watch with joy as God sustains this ministry year after year, now seven years running.

Like many organizations, though, we have experienced a decline in our income this year. And like so many of you, we have

“tightened our belt” once again, including salary reductions through the lean summer months. As the year end approaches I encourage each of you to strongly consider taking part in God’s work through MAC Ministries with a financial contribution. If you are unable to contribute, please use this time to take part in sustaining the ministry through prayer for its continued provisions. God doesn’t need us to do this work, but I am convinced

He wants us to take part in it.

As you can see, through God’s direction, the Ministry has been blessed by the opportunities to serve and through your support. The Board of Directors and I enthusiastically look forward to the opportunities that God will provide during 2013 and pray that we will be obedient to his calling. Merry Christmas!

Scott McLain
 Chairman of the Board