

MAC News

Leading Men to Live a Life of Significance in Christ

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Partnering to Make Disciples!!

On July 18th, I had the privilege of hosting a 4-hour “Reaching Every Man” seminar for four churches at Timothy Baptist Church in Athens, GA. Being among an influential African-American Baptist congregation.....and having to hold their attention for 4+ hours.....I was nervous.

But only until I got started.

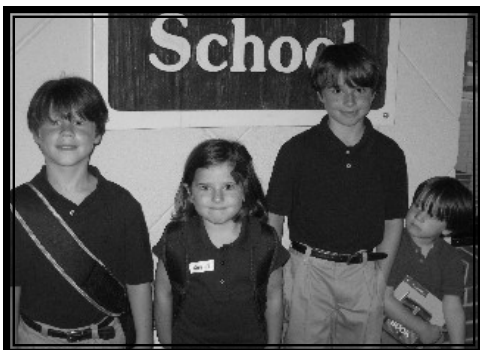
The seminar exceeded my expectations. Each leader and pastor attending was eager to listen and apply all that was shared. It was a blessing to model how discipleship can **ripple through a church congregation one man at a time**.

I was surprised by a compliment from Bishop Hutchinson of Timothy Baptist Church when he expressed excitement that God provided a “white” brother to come and share his personal discipleship experience. He further shared that although his congregation is strong in worship and evangelism, discipleship has not experienced the same growth resulting in a challenge to retain the “normal” man in their congregation. It was important to him that **discipleship become the focus** and let the outflow of worship and evangelism transform and sustain growth in God’s Kingdom.

One reason I am so excited about this Man In the Mirror seminar is the focus it places on the “**one**” man and the importance of **that “one” man growing in their faith**; as opposed to a focus that seems directed to Sunday morning attendance or serving on a church committee.

Join me in praising God for continuing to grow Men Abiding in Christ Ministries through partnerships like Man In the Mirror and Timothy Baptist Church. These will help extend our reach, sharpen the impact of this ministry, and continue our mission to transform the lives of men.

- Pat



MacPhersons go Back to School

Jamie (6), Mary Emmalyn (5), Liam (9) and Sean (3)

A Note from Bridget’s Heart

“How does she know that you love her? How does she know she’s yours?”

Giselle, from the Movie, Enchanted

The iPod. The 21st century version of the Walkman. I created my ultimate “Run Mix” playlist for my 13.1 mile run in the Chicago Rock n Roll Half Marathon. Songs by Michael Jackson, Bon Jovi, Sugarland, and Beyonce. I trained with these songs, I looked forward to hearing them. The songs made me want to move.

At the halfway point, I switched to my “Worship” playlist. As I ran (walked), I lifted my hands in praise. I even sang out loud. But, somewhere around mile 9, I grew weary. The music lifted me, but more than that, it was knowing that God was there, running (walking) right beside me. I placed all my weariness on Him. I knew that when I was so thirsty that I couldn’t go on, He would provide the water station. When I needed encouragement, He provided the smiling faces of my sweet children. He even placed people on the course who were wearing t-shirts that said “Keep Going Bridget!” I didn’t know those people, but God did.

Mile 11. Wow. Two more miles to go. I am tired God. I think I have blisters on my feet. I know I won’t see my family until the end. How will you sustain me? How do I know you love me? How do I know I’m yours?

I switched back to my “Run Mix.” God has this way of making His presence known to those who love Him in ALL circumstances. Through music, God provided a soundtrack that gave me confidence in His love for me. Even through music that some would consider secular, He spoke loud and clear. The last song I heard before I came in sight of the finish line was a romantic song from the movie, Enchanted. How does she know that you love her? How does she know she’s yours? Every word of that song suddenly came into perspective. It was a love song from my God to me. I’m not a runner, but I am thrilled to be running the race!

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**

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.*

MINISTRY UPDATE

- **FUNDING:** The Ministry is experiencing a decrease in contributions this summer. Although the Ministry continues to be in demand, more and more churches are not able to partner financially. I greatly appreciate the continued support that God provides through you and ask that you continue to support this ministry financially.
- Continued needs: HP Model 96 & 97 print cartridges for office printer; postage stamps; copy paper; and gasoline vouchers. Portable Overhead Projector needed for upcoming seminars/speaking engagements.

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

Like a lot of men, my walk with God has not always been consistent. There have been some short stretches when I feel like I was sprinting straight ahead, completely focused on God and on my relationship with Him. Other times, wandering in circles might be a better description. And, sadly, even more time has been spent sitting off to the side, going nowhere as I made little effort and less progress.

What I've come to learn along the way is the importance of having others – specifically other men – walking alongside and spurring you forward. That's a central theme of Men Abiding in Christ Ministries and I am one of the many who have benefited from having Pat come alongside me on my walk.

Pat was launching a Christian Leadership Concepts group at our church – this was a more intensive discipleship effort requiring a two-year commitment. I attended some introductory meetings but in the end chose not to join the 12-man CLC group because I felt unprepared spiritually and quite honestly, was intimidated by the time commitment keeping up with the daily readings and Bible study.

Although, I had opted out, Pat stuck with me by inviting me and another to meet with him on a weekly basis. What I learned from my time with these two men is that its much easier to be **intentional about growing in your faith** when you're **not doing it alone**. I always had the best intentions, but without the accountability and schedule of regular meetings, I allowed it to slip. Pat continued to mentor me through our small triad and when a second CLC group was planned at our church, he invited me again. This time, God not only eased my concerns about the time commitment, but more importantly He gave me a true desire to pick up my walk with Him.

Now I look forward to our CLC group's weekly 6 a.m. meetings. The daily study comes easily and is rewarding. I've found that I share many of the same challenges and blessings as the other men in my group. We each continue down our own path with the Lord, **but we don't walk alone**.

-- Dave Schaefer, Manager E-Strategy
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries in action!

- Christian Leadership Concepts every Monday morning at FPC Marietta
- **August 21-23** Lay Renewal/Why Men's Ministry Doesn't Work seminar @ First Presbyterian Church, Griffin, GA
- **September 15** Guest speaker at Career Transition Ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Douglasville, GA
- **September 17-20** Mission Planning in Monterrey, Mexico
- **September 25-27** United Methodist Men's Retreat, Rock Eagle, GA
- **October 19** Guest speaker at Career Transition Ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA