

MAC News

Leading Men to Live a Life of Significance in Christ

Check out the website!
www.macministries.net

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries in Action-

- Men's Discipleship Groups on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Thursdays—one-on-one discipling.
- No Man Left Behind training sessions with the men's leadership team at First United Methodist Church and Wieuca Baptist Church.
- Nov. 3-4 Men's Retreat for Cherokee Presbytery.
- March 8-9 men's retreat for First United Methodist Church.
- March 29-30 men's retreat for Wieuca Baptist Church.

Growth!

At a retreat in August, a man shared with the group that had been anxious coming to the retreat. His anxiety seemed to be driven by his experience at last year's retreat where God revealed some areas in his life that needed changing. He committed to surrendering these areas of his life to God and shared how much had changed over the past year. He shared how God became a priority and how it was impacting his marriage, fatherhood, work and church. He was so excited when reflecting on the past that he was anxious because he couldn't see what God might be reveal to him on this retreat.

As he was talking he began to share about his day and he referenced Galatians 2:20 that was the theme for that weekend. He immediately saw that his identity needed to be placed on Jesus Christ and not himself. He wanted to experience this new identity.

I was excited to hear him share this as this is what we're about..."growth". Growing men in their faith to bear fruit for the Lord. You see, last year he was focused on conduct, this year character; last year...forgiveness...this year a new life; last year behavior...this year abiding. Meeting men where they are and becoming intentional about discipling their men is how this ministry is used to serve churches.

I am grateful for all of the support that is given to help enable this ministry to grow. Please continue to pray that God equips this ministry to disciple men.

- Pat

A NOTE FROM BRIDGET'S HEART...

This November, Pat and I will be celebrating our ten-year wedding anniversary. Many things have changed in our lives since we married ten years ago. Our house is bigger, our family is bigger, our car is bigger and the love we have for each other has grown. When I met Pat 12 years ago, I had no idea what God had in store for us. If someone told me that we would be a ministry family, I would have laughed. It's not that I didn't have faith; I feel I've been blessed with that gift all my life. I just always imagined my life differently. As I look back, I know that I had a very worldly view of what my life should be after ten years of marriage. I had not completely surrendered my life to what God wanted for my family and me.

When Pat first approached me with the idea of quitting his job and starting a ministry, I was not on board. He told me that he wanted to meet with 10-15 men with a mature faith and a successful career to get advice on whether or not he should begin a ministry. I was sure that those men would advise a father of three small children and a stay-at-home wife that he needed to focus on his career in healthcare administration and practice his ministry on the side. I was wrong.

As sure as Pat was that God had plans for him in men's ministry, was as sure as I was that we, our family, needed no part of this career change. Can you think of times in your life

when you really prayed for God to give you an answer? I remember crying myself to sleep at night praying that God would either remove the desire from Pat's heart for this ministry, or change my heart to accept this call. I longed to be on the same page as my husband. I knew that all I had to say to Pat was to forget it and he would, but I couldn't imagine living the rest of our lives together with him always wondering "what if..."

God changed my heart. I remember the night it became so clear to me that this was His will for our lives. I was at a talk for young adults at the Cathedral of Christ the King here in Atlanta. The speaker made a statement about how much God loves us and how he wants to bless us beyond our wildest dreams. Because we have free will, the choices we make sometimes cut off those blessings. And, even more, the choices we make could cut off blessings from other people. That's what hit me. God gave Pat and I a gift. Our choice to follow his will and begin Men Abiding in Christ Ministries was another way for God to use us to shower his blessings on his people. I wanted to be a part of that.

It's been just over two years since Pat left the "security" of full-time employment. God has provided for our family in ways that I could never imagine. The initial fears that held me back have never been realized. God has a way of taking care of those fears when we put our complete trust in Him. I thank God for the gift of our marriage, for the gift of my faith and for the opportunity to be a part of this incredible ministry.

Men Abiding in Christ Ministries,

Pat MacPherson
PMB #104

1000 Whitlock Avenue, Suite 320
Marietta, GA 30064

Phone: 770.655.1711
pat@macministries.net

MAC MINISTRIES IS CALLED TO SERVE GOD BY:

- *Partnering with churches to build sustainable men's ministries, enabling leaders to reach all of their men for Christ.*
- *Discipling church leadership teams to develop a vision and purpose for their men.*
- *Launching and developing men's discipleship groups to foster relationships 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 are continuing to build a financial support team with people who can commit to giving on a regular basis to Men Abiding in Christ Ministries. Please consider this opportunity to help further God's kingdom and contact me to find out how you can be a part.
- We also look to continue to grow a Prayer Team. This Team will be intentional in praying for the protection, sustainability and growth of the Ministry. Please contact Jim Ford at JFord@MortgageIT.com or (678) 429-9089.
- Thank you for your continued prayer support.
- Please join me in welcoming Scott McLain to the Board of Directors!!

As a child, I remember my mother taking my older brother and me to Sunday School at an early age. As I grew older, however, I noticed that my father didn't go with us. He stayed home and read the newspaper. I didn't understand how this man they called Jesus could walk on top of the water, or why Dad was allowed to stay home. So my complaining about Sunday School started in earnest, and my mother eventually relented, allowing us to stay home Sunday mornings. I grew up without a belief in Christ.

When my wife and I married, I had no interest in going to church, but I agreed that when we had children we would raise them in the church. So, when our oldest daughter was about 4 ½, we realized that the

time had come to start attending church. While my wife was already a believer, it was me that prompted the family into a church routine on Sunday mornings. I still thought I would play golf a couple Sundays a month and attend church a couple Sundays. But in this place where the feeling of Hope emanated literally from the walls and from everybody within them, God grabbed me. In that church I found Christ...my whole family found Christ.

Just under two years ago we moved to Douglasville, and found a wonderful Presbyterian church there (FPC). The day we officially joined the church some of the service committee chairs recognized fresh meat when they saw it, and my wife and I both were approached about joining a

few service committees. The Men's Committee chair was the fastest, so I landed there. We were having events without knowing why, and hoping men would show up. Then we met Pat MacPherson. Through Pat's mentoring we have now held two Retreats, and two strong summer Men's Studies. We went from reaching 10 men, to directly touching over 20% of our Men's membership. Pat helped us to create a vision of a discipling ministry, with discipleship at the core of everything we planned, and our men responded. Pat also took a personal and intentional interest in me, helping me to understand the need for discipleship, and helping me along my walk with Christ. I have seen discipleship make a difference in men and their families.

- Scott McLain

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES