

MAC News

Modeling + Multiplying Discipleship

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On the Sidelines!

Have you ever come up short on a goal? Have you ever experienced not meeting expectations? Or experienced a job change due to unmet expectations?

Maybe you have or haven't, but I bet you can imagine the emptiness and fear that can arise.

Not only did the person, across the table from me, experience these things, but he experienced them in a foreign country....a place far away where he had uprooted his family.

What a privilege it has been to spend time with this missionary. I've had the pleasure of knowing him for many years and the immense faith and initiative that he has.

But, at this moment, he was sidelined. And not sure if he wanted to get back in the game.

Sometimes, we're able to bounce right back, but sometimes we're not....and when faith is involved....this timeout can be a life saver.

Although I met with him regularly, I can honestly say that I never provided a breakthrough comment or idea or discussion. The greatest gift provided was the ability to join him on the bench.

We discussed at length how God uses the bench to prune us, mold us, and shape us for the next set of plays. Many times we need each other's assistance to stay patient as we recover and regain our position.

This has been that type of season. One involving SEEKING. WALKING. SITTING. It's a pattern that is common throughout the Bible. Especially with the disciples until you get into Acts when the Spirit ignites them.

It's been a joy watching God at work through my friend. I'm excited to say he's back in the game and God has filled his plate with new directives making it harder for us to connect.

Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued prayers and support for this Ministry!! - Pat

A Note from Bridget's Heart

John 2:11: Cana in Galilee was the place where Jesus began to perform miracles. He made his glory public there, and his disciples believed in him.

Our family recently had the occasion to celebrate the wedding of my sister, Meegan and my new brother-in-law, Ty. I couldn't be happier for the newlyweds and I wish them every nuptial blessing. Amazingly though, it is I who feel especially blessed by this celebration of marriage.

Some of you may know that my family is spread out all over the country. My siblings live in Las Vegas, Boston and Chicago. My parents and most of my aunts, uncles and cousins, including my grandparents, live in the Chicago area. Many may be surprised to hear that I am one of 65 first cousins, when you combine both sides of my parents' families. It is true that I haven't seen some of those cousins for nearly 30 years, but the tie to family is still incredibly strong.

God designed us to be in community and family. He promises us that whenever two or more are gathered in His name, He is with us. As we were reminded in the Gospel reading at the wedding, Jesus' first miracle was performed on behalf of a new married couple. What I also love about that miracle is that it was Jesus' mother, Mary, who interceded for the couple and prompted Jesus to begin His ministry.

As you prepare for Christmas, and the inevitable gatherings with family, some of you may not be filled with the joy that my family brings. I pray that Jesus will work miracles for you and that you will be blessed by the joy of the very first Christmas celebrated by a young couple and new baby over 2000 years ago.

GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

Pat and I met years ago through an introduction of a mutual friend. In the last year, we have been meeting regularly at a McDonald's on Tuesday mornings. I am in full-time ministry and I have recently gone through a difficult season of brokenness where I needed a friend to connect with outside my circle of influence. We share life, questions, and ministry experiences during this time. One thing in particular that I admire greatly and celebrate about Pat's ministry is that his influence is not confined to a building or an organization. Rather, he is "out there" wandering and seeking relationships that result in intentional discipleship. Its bold, its risky, its passionate. It challenges my comfort zone, frankly, to move from a mode of people "coming" to our ministry for help, and going "out there" courageously and creatively—encountering people and their need for a meaningful life connected with God. Yet, this aligns very much with the heartbeat and model of Christ.

by Tim Galloway
Grace Ministries

2011 Highlights

- Facilitated the launch of 4 CLC/BLC (women's CLC) small groups in two churches of which over 80 men & women from FPC Marietta have participated. An additional 2 groups will launch in early 2012.
- Launched and facilitated 2 other (non-CLC) Bible study groups.
- Hosted "Intentional Discipleship" workshops at 2 different conferences (Presbyterian and Methodist)
- Led five mission trips with 25 individuals to Renacimiento, Mexico (Gringo Mission Trips). One of our focuses for 2012 is the construction of a medical clinic.
- Spiritually mentored and walked along with 20+ men meeting on a regular, periodic basis.
- Beginning in 2012, I will be serving Eastminster Presbyterian Church in a Ministry Consultant role. approx. 10 hrs/mth.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

As we close out 2011 and look forward to 2012, I would like to thank each of you for your prayerful and financial support of the Ministry. As we reflect upon the 2011 Highlights to the right and see where God has placed Pat and the Ministry, we are excited for what God will accomplish through the Ministry in 2012.

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, God, through your prayer and financial support, has continued to meet the financial and spiritual needs of the Ministry. Pat and the Board continue to devote time to fund raising efforts. As we prepare for 2012, the Ministry's cash position is the lowest we have experienced since the Ministry's inception. We ask for your continued financial support and for your prayers for the Ministry and for Pat for sustenance, growth and His guidance as Pat serves the Kingdom in this community.

Thank you for making this Ministry an anchor in our community for discipleship.

In Christ,

Scott Ebert, Chairman



Vacation at Outer Banks, June 2011



Christmas Tree Hunt, December 2011