

The VOICE of Disciples Men



Welcome to you who are reading this latest issue of the Voice! Inside you will find a lot of information concerning Disciples Men and the work that is being done. From men working at gleaning **110,000 lbs of yams** from fields already harvested in order to help feed hungry people to the **gathering of unwanted bicycles** and turning them into prized possessions. For many these bicycles may be the only form of transportation they have. You will also find an article by a former President of the Disciples Men, Charlie Gaines on our **endowment programs**.



The money we receive through the endowments is the only source of revenue that the Disciples Men of the General Church have to operate. We have a page in memory of several men who served the Disciples Men on a church wide basis. If you have someone who should be remembered please let us know. This is only a sampling of what you will find inside.

At the last Executive Meeting of the General Conference we agreed on a new initiative. This initiative is "**Feeding Hungry Children.**" We do not plan to create any new programs for this initiative, but to encourage men to look at existing programs in their communities that they can become involved with, or to come up with things that have yet to be tried. You will hear more about this initiative in the future.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Voice. I ask you again to always feel free to contact me on any item concerning Disciples Men and its activities. I also look forward to seeing many of you in Bethany, W.V. at the Gathering.

God Bless and keep showing the love of Christ to others in what you do.

Archie Jenkins

Executive Committee

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What's Going on with the Disciples Men?

2011 General Assembly



Visitors and Executive Committee members at the Disciples Men booth



Disciples Men Luncheon
and guest speaker,
Rev. Dr. Tom Jewell



GCDM Executive Committee meeting



The future leaders of Disciples Men!

Members of the General Conference that were in attendance at our meeting Feb 3rd- 5th outside Savannah, GA.
Front row seated from L to R
Howard Coleman, Arnold Nelson, Archie Jenkins, Dan Crawford.
Back row standing
Ben Saunders, William Leong, Lester Brooks, Gary Ochs

Missing Kevin Prahar and Terry Robison



2011 West Virginia Disciples Men's Retreat Cedar Lakes Conference Center Ripley, West Virginia

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/cedarlakes/>



56 of the faithful disciple men of the West Virginia Region gathered this fall against the beautiful backdrop and scenic wonders of Cedar Lakes Conference Center in the heart of wonderful West Virginia to share and fellowship in their annual fall men's retreat. We were blessed to have as our keynote speaker: Darwin Collins from the Christian Church Foundation, who gave us insights as to why we can end up so much like our earthly fathers and

why as Christian men we end up reflecting the beauty and love of our Eternal Father. We shared the weekend with three of the event planners for the Extreme Faith/ Bold Action Gathering. They were Ray Gryder (event co-ordinator), David Freeman (disciples men's president for the VA region), and Ben Saunders (filmmaker and event planner). Ray gave a wonderful promotion for the event and many of our men were motivated to learn about the event and where they could help out. As host region for the general event, the men of the West Virginia region are excited and proud to welcome our brothers to our home and to Bethany College, home of the Extreme Faith/ Bold Action Gathering of Disciple Men. Much of our retreat was spent talking and planning how we could help

as ambassadors to our state and to the region and the potential of this wonderful and new event in Disciple Men's Ministries. We will be ready to greet and assist our bretheren from across the five participating regions and beyond to ensure they will have a memorable and enjoyable gathering.

Our blessings included the WV regional book fair, shared meals, taking time out to get reacquainted, long walks in the crisp fall air, taking in the beauty of the conference center and a traditional Saturday night sing along and campfire as well as a golf tourney and our shared singing and praises and worship on Sunday. A wonderful time was had by all and was marked by a strong presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst the entire weekend. We left the retreat with renewed strength and a glimpse of the exciting vision and direction for Disciples Mens Ministries.

Blessings and peace,

Randal Dawson
WV Disciples Men's President



X-TREME FAITH *bold action*

As is the Church, men's ministry is on the cusp of transformation and **Xtreme Faith, Bold Action** is leading the way. This 'Gathering of Disciples Men' is introducing new ways to be men of faith in a time that the Church needs us most. There is no reason to even compare this gathering to previous events, as it is moving forward in fresh and exciting ways. With an unprecedented 100+ guys registered by the early bird deadline, the energy behind **Xtreme Faith, Bold Action** is contagious! Of the registered, three continents are already represented and guys from various traditions all over the map are becoming increasingly curious about this July weekend in Bethany, West Virginia. This pilgrimage to some



of the roots of our Church will be more than a history lesson as we have the opportunity to get real about our faith, fellowship as brothers in Christ, and get our hands dirty serving God by serving the world.

Be there **July 13-15, 2012** to experience how God is transforming men's ministry – and the Church as a whole. ALL are welcome! Don't miss this event!

If you haven't registered, go to: **www.gathering2012.org** to do so, and if you already have, invite a friend and help them sign up today!

Registration goes through May 5, 2012.

As a 22-year-old, I can honestly say that **Xtreme Faith, Bold Action** will be one of the highlights of my summer! Can't wait to see you in Bethany!

Up Coming Events

March

April

May

North Carolina Disciples Men's Spring Retreat

Where?: Camp Caroline

When?: May 10 & 11

Theme: That All May Be One

The scripture is John 17: 20-22.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Harry J. Ghee

June

July

X-Treme Faith, Bold Action

Where?: Bethany, West Virginia

When?: July 13-15, 2012

More Info:

www.gathering2012.org

Tell us about up coming events, gatherings and retreats. And don't forget to send us pictures as well!

Getting to Know

Each Other *Arnold Nelson, Jr.*



Arnold Nelson, Jr. is a native of Tennessee, born in Knoxville and reared in Clarksville. He is the son of the late Arnold Nelson, Sr. and Beverly Nelson, fourth of six children. He is a Timothy of First Christian Church in Clarksville and a graduate of Clarksville High School.

Arnold received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma in 1972, and the Master of Divinity degree from The Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado in 1976. Following graduation from Iliff he was ordained by the Central Rocky Mountain Region at Central Christian Church, Denver. He was pastor at First Christian Church, Las Animas, while completing his theological education and then moved to Arkansas. In Arkansas he served First Christian Church in Camden for over seven years and Pulaski Heights Christian Church in Little Rock for fourteen.

In 1998, Arnold accepted the call to serve as Regional Minister of the Christian Church in South Carolina. In that role, he served congregations in a variety of capacities and helped bring unity between racially divided Disciple structures.

In 2002, Arnold became President of the Division of Homeland Ministries in Indianapolis. During his five years service there he helped the organization concentrate its ministries on programs to serve congregations and help them being in service beyond themselves. Highlights of this ministry include establishment of the Home Mission Advocate, online publications for congregations, development of the Office of Disciple Volunteering and overhauling offices serving Disciple clergy.

Arnold has served the church in various regional and general capacities, including the boards of the Council on Christian Unity, the General Board and its Administrative Committee, the General Conference of Disciple Men, the National Convocation, the Standing Committee of Renewal and Structural Reform and the General Commission on Ministry. He currently serves as a Trustee of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society.

In 2007, Arnold moved to Duncan, Oklahoma. He enjoys being Senior Minister of First Christian Church, serving in various church and community functions, is President-Elect of the Duncan Rotary Club, and is an Officer in the R.O.G.F.

In 2011, Arnold agreed to reprise his role as Pastor/Counselor of the Disciple Men, and in that year received the DHM's Distinguished Leadership Award.

Arnold enjoys playing golf and the mandolin, doing, in his words, both poorly. He likes Southern cooking and working in his yard. He takes an active interest in the lives of U. S. presidents.

Arnold is married to the former Kelly Painton, a CPA, and they share three daughters, Kate is a thirty something realtor in Nashville, Tennessee. Anna is a senior in high school looking forward to attending TCU. Kerry is a junior in high school looking forward to a date to the Junior/Senior Prom.

WOW!

On Oct. 8th, Disciple Men of NC gathered in Rocky Mount, NC and after coffee & donuts from the host church caravanned to the field of a local farmer who has allowed them for the last several years to "**Glean the fields**" of sweet potatoes at the CMF "**Yam Jam**".

The men in return donated the YAMS they gathered to their local Food Bank or to their church food pantry for the needy. **This year's harvest netted over 110,000 lbs. of yams.**

MISSION & Vision

It was in the mid 80's that I first had the privilege of attending the International Christian Men's Fellowship (the predecessor of the General Conference of Disciples Men) leadership event in Indianapolis. There I met men who had real insight into men's ministries; were active in local, regional and general level's of the church; and who were kind enough to teach me how to be a better leader and churchman. Men like Elby Boosinger, Richard Tumblin, David Garshaw, and Jim Hillery.

One of those men I found so inspiring was a quiet gentleman from Nebraska, Paul Few. Paul had a passion for funding non-profit causes like ICMF. He also had terrific vision and foresight, and he imagined the creation of an endowed fund that would provide on-going funding for men's work in a regular and permanent way. Through his efforts, the Men's Ministries Endowment Fund was created for exactly that purpose, and the fund has been managed for us since that time by the Christian Church Foundation.

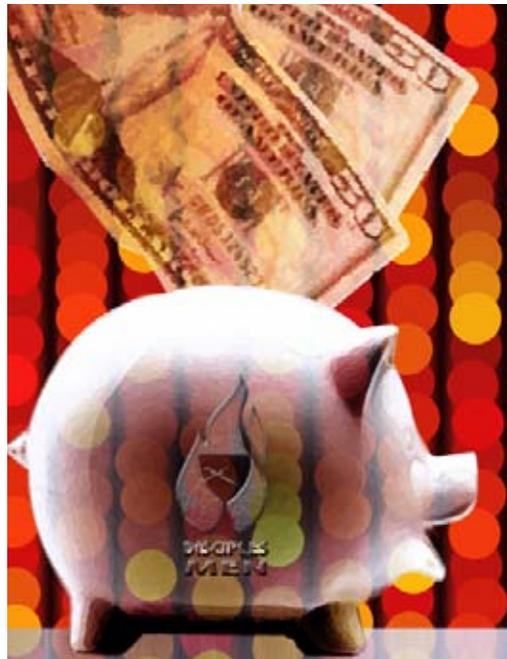
Each year the Foundation makes a distribution from the Endowment to the Office of Disciples Men on behalf of the General Conference Disciples Men. The Executive Committee of Disciples Men uses these funds in special programs related to its work on behalf of Disciples Men in the United States and Canada.

"There I met men who had real insight into men's ministries"

Which brings us to the question many of you may be asking: why is this of interest to me. The very fact that you are reading this newsletter tells me you are interested, more likely, very involved in Disciples Men. If you are, then the work of the GCDM should be important to you. This group of laymen and clergy work for the advancement of the same causes you do. But to plan the events they sponsor for training and education, inspiration and instruction, they need funding.

That's where Paul's vision comes into play. Who better to fund this work that will provide us with resources and leadership than the men that will benefit from the work? That's you and me. And it doesn't take any of us making large contributions to make a big difference (although we'd certainly welcome that if you are of a mind to!!). If we could simply find 100 Disciples Men who would contribute \$100 this year, the total donation would be \$10,000.

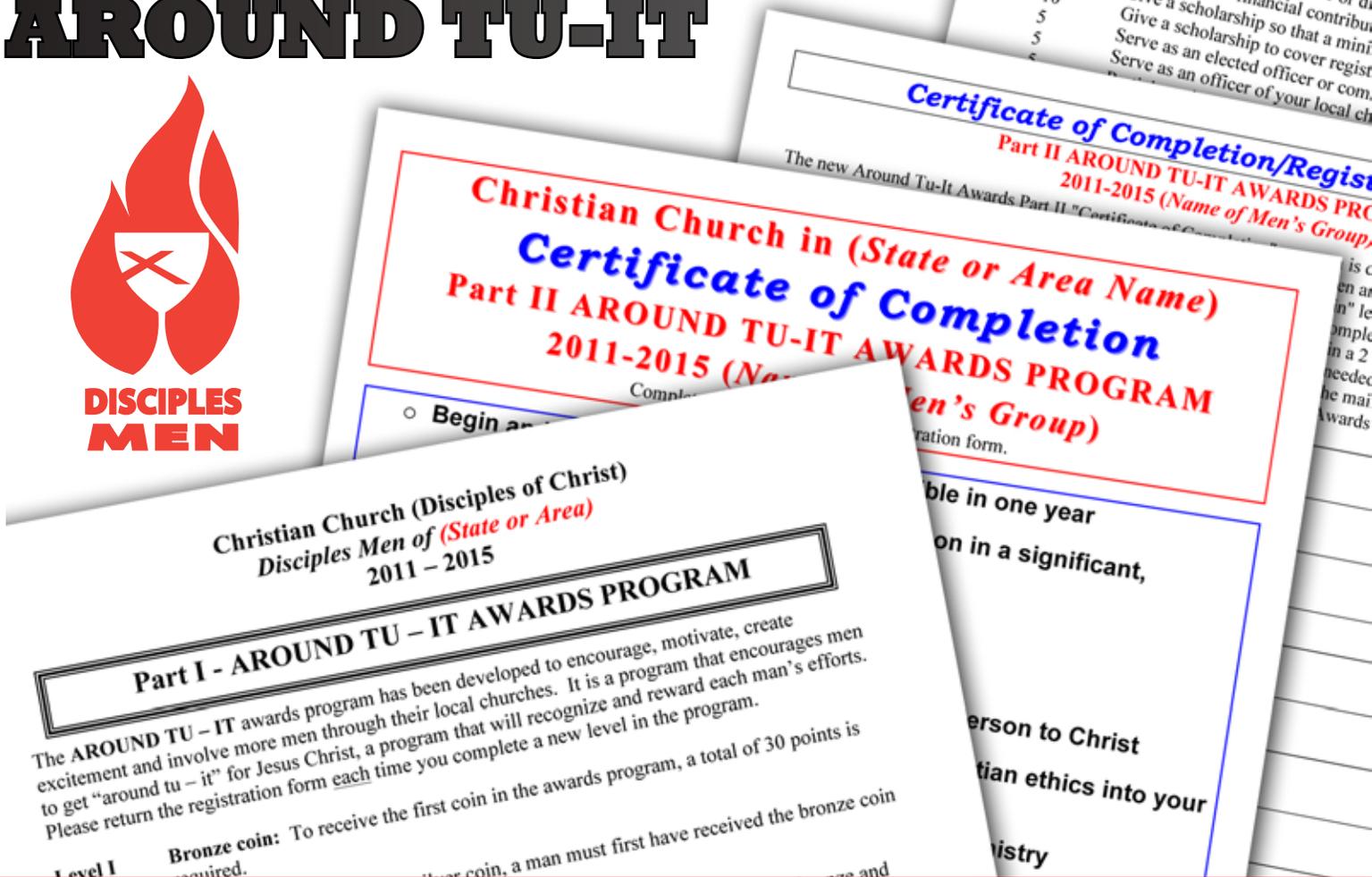
If we make that a regular yearly commitment, the endowment would benefit enormously in a very short time. It's an easy thing to accomplish and the goal of 100 men is actually shooting pretty low for participation from the entire denomination. Let's see what we can do! Make a contribution to the Men's Ministries Endowment Fund today. \$100 would be a great level to begin with, but any contribution will help.



Charlie Gaines
FCC Arlington TX

DISCIPLES MEN

AROUND TU-IT



The new Disciples Men's Around Tu-It Awards Program

On the following pages you will be introduced to this new program. But first, let me ask everyone a few questions:

- How can men be encouraged to do acts of service for God?
- How can men be challenged to reach out to their community?
- How can men get some excitement about being involved in the local church?

All of us have seen men who have great potential for God, but they just don't get around to using the gifts God has given them. Well, this program can help them get AROUND TU-IT. By using the AROUND TU-IT program you can recognize and reward men when they get around to it for Jesus Christ.

Gary Ochs
Past President GCDM
Program Coordinator
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Program information will be available during the Men's Gathering 2012 event at Bethany College in Bethany, WV on Saturday, July 14, 2012.

Also, go to <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Men-Resources> to download copies: How to organize the Around Tu-It Program, Around Tu-It Awards Part I, Part I Enrollment Form, Around Tu-It Part II Certificate of Completion Form, Flyer for Part II, Certificate of Completion (power point document), plus Examples of the Disciples Men's Around Tu-It Coin.



MISSION: Providing freedom of transportation to those in need through a ministry of bicycle recycling.

Chain Reaction Ministries (CRM) – A Project of Memorial Drive Christian Church - recycles bicycles by linking donors with identified needs in the community. Started in December 2009, CRM had humble beginnings by answering a call by Westside Homeless Partnership (WHP) for used bikes for kids in their program. A simple email to 40 friends in the Houston area on December 7, 2009 resulted in commitments for 12 bikes. CRM delivered five bikes to WHP on December 21, 2009, just in time for Christmas.

“Chain Reaction Ministries provides freedom and hope through basic transportation. Hope of change in knowing they can get to their job on-time, and the freedom that comes with additional access to surrounding goods and services.”

- Mallory Shaddix, Executive Director
Westside Homeless Partnership

The secret to CRM’s success is linking the donor with the recipient. People have an emotional attachment to their bicycles. It was their first bike, or their kid’s first bike – and they don’t simply want to set it on the curb, or donate it to a large, faceless charity. Donors have given CRM dusty bikes that have hung in their garage for over 15 years, simply because of

the attachment. They want to know that their bike can provide the same freedom and hope to a person in need that they experienced. CRM takes bicycles in any condition, and either fixes them up, or strips them for parts, then recycles the metal components – thus providing recycling in the following areas:

- *Recycling of used bicycles to identified persons in need – satisfying a need for basic transportation and/or recreation to adults and kids.*
- *Recycling of unusable metal scrap – satisfying a need for the continued recycling of metals – keeping it out of landfills.*

We chose charities to contribute the bicycles based on their ability to link bicycle donors directly to their clients. We target charities with employment service programs with clients that have decided to seek help, and to improve their lives. CRM helps accelerate that improvement through providing a source of basic transportation. To date, we have delivered over 100 bikes to partner charities including Westside Homeless Partnership, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Ministeria de Esperanza (a project of Chapelwood United Methodist Church), and West Houston Assistance Ministries.

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Memorial Drive Christian Church is a 501c3.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS.



Thank You Chain Reaction Ministries for our new bikes!



Westside Homeless Partnership is a 501 (c) (3) whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness for families with children. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. For more information: www.westsidehomeless.org / 713-973-8083.
Post Office Box 55607 Houston, Texas 77255 / Office Address: 9610 Long Point Road, Ste. 110, Houston, Texas 77055

"When the bikes were delivered, the children asked to take them to the park so they could ride their new bikes. Maria was very excited for her children, none of whom had ever owned a bike. She was so proud of her children and admitted that she has never owned a bike nor does she know how to ride one. She is so grateful to Chain Reaction Ministries for giving each of her children a bike."

Mercedes Parrish, Client Manager
Westside Homeless Partnership



IN MEMORY OF

In the last several months and years the Disciples Men have lost several past leaders of the Disciples Men. These were leaders of our organization that worked hard to take us to where we are today. It is fitting that we remember these leaders of the Disciples Men.

Reverend David J. McCracken
Born 09/10/1941 Died 01/03/2012

David a past Director of Disciples Men was a long time supporter of the Disciples Men. David was a man of faith who loved his family, and had a deep passion for music. His wife Carolyn, his five sons, and ten grandchildren and all of us will miss his listening ear and caring heart.

Dean C. Ramga
Born 08/28/1946 Died 09/24/2011

Dean a past President of Disciples Men, was a strong supporter of Disciples Men and its activities. We appreciate his leadership. Dean's wife Victoria, his two daughters and son and granddaughter and all of us will miss his love of family, music and Disciples Men activities.

Elby Boosinger
Born 01/20/1923 Died 04/29/1991

Elby was National Field Director in the Department of Men's Work for The United Christian Missionary Society in 1964 and was Executive Secretary of the same in 1972.

As Executive Secretary, Elby directed conferences on men's work. He was the leader in the formation of the first Sessions in 1976.



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The **VOICE**
of Disciples Men

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