



# The VOICE of Disciples Men

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 2 Spring 2010

## In this Issue:

- X-treme Faith Bold Action
- Getting Dirty for Jesus!
- Tamales not Pancakes

### Executive Committee President

*Gary Ochs*  
106 Edgewood Drive  
Bedford, IN 47421  
(812) 275-7241  
gocbsimlions@att.net

### President Elect

*Archie Jenkins*  
1162 Highway 17  
North Guyton, GA 31312  
acjenk@yahoo.com

### Pastor- Counselor

*Rodney Hopper*  
804 Summit Drive  
Rock Port, MO 644832  
rhopper@rpt.coop

### Staff

#### Director of Men's Ministries

*Tod Iseminger*  
P.O. Box 1986  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 713-2619  
or (888) 346-2631 ext. 2649  
tiseaming@dbm.disciples.org

#### Administrative Assistant

*Lorna Hernandez-Ramos*  
P.O. Box 1986  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 713-2666  
or (888) 346-2631 ext. 2666  
lhernandez@dbm.disciples.org

## MEN MAKING ONSIDE KICK WITH 'X-TREME FAITH-BOLD ACTION' FOR 2012

In response to recommendations and guidance of the General Conference of Disciples Men (GCDM) Executive Committee and the newly established, "Gathering Planning Committee" (formerly known as the "Sessions Planning Committee" chaired by Roger Poage), the "Sessions" model is being retired with an every changing theme driven event format to be known as: "...A Gathering of Disciples Men".



"X-treme Faith-Bold Action: A Gathering of Disciples Men" will be the first new formatted event, July 13-15, 2012 at Bethany College (Bethany, West Virginia) thus replacing the previous quadrennial conference format.

Regional men's representatives from the Capital Area, Ohio, Virginia & West Virginia have begun a process of fellowship and work in order to plan the first of these national men's GCDM events for 2012. Under this previously explored regional "cluster concept", Disciples Men are supporting one another in an exciting effort to plan more affordable, fresh engaging events; emphasizing community focused mission opportunities; developing ways to effectively involve young family men; mentoring to younger men transitioning from the Disciples youth camp experience; promoting intergenerational activities; working to increase overall participation and nurture our individual spiritual growth journeys through exciting worship, camaraderie and fellowship. This event will not be exclusive to the regions putting it together. On the contrary, men from all Disciples regions are being encouraged to participate.

On March 6, 2010, the "X-treme Faith-Bold Action Team" met at Strasburg Christian Church (Strasburg, VA). Team Co-chairs, Ralph Wesley (GCDM Area Liaison) and Ray Gryder (Director of Men's Ministries, Virginia) led the first successful planning meeting. They were joined by men's representatives from the regions mentioned above to discuss implementation of the new format.

The team's Spiritual advisor, Pastor Greg Ott (Trinity Christian Church, Mechanicsville, VA) likened the new format and group's work ahead to football's most recent Super Bowl where an unexpected "onside kickoff" played an integral part in the winning teams success. He reminded the men of the accolades the winning team received due of the brilliant coaching decision and team focus to execute the play successfully, but he also noted that without that determination and focus, failure of the play could easily have turned into criticism of the decision making process. The Disciples Men leadership is committed to a successful execution of this 'play call'.

The new format will be announced officially during the 'Disciples Men of Virginia' regional retreat, April 9-11 where various members of the "X-treme Faith-Bold Action Team" will come together in fellowship to share in the excitement and promotion of the event with the men of the Virginia region.

The goal is to have registration for the event available in time for General Assembly in Nashville, summer 2011. Look for more promotional info and details in coming issues of 'The Voice' and on the web.

Members of the team are: Art Banks (Capital Area DM President), Rob Bernard (Ohio DM President), Randal Dawson (West Virginia DM President-Elect), David Freeman (Virginia DM President), Ray Gryder, Felix Ortiz (Ohio DM Vice-President), Greg Ott, Ben Saunders (Virginia Young Men's Rep), Steven Searcy (Team Secretary) and Ralph Wesley.

By: *Ray Gryder*  
(Director of Men's Ministries, Virginia)

# Getting Dirty for Jesus!



## Special Projects

Disciples Volunteering seeks willing servants for 2010 Special Projects. Along with the ongoing mission opportunities available through Disciples Volunteering Mission Stations, special mission projects are always in the works. These projects typically run for 2 – 8 weeks and focus on one particular need or mission. Disciples Volunteering is also pleased to celebrate a growing number of ecumenical partnerships that are leading to increased opportunities for Special Projects. Registration is now available for these special projects.

### Neighborhood: Cedar Rapids\*

**May 2 – May 22, 2010 Cedar Rapids, IA**

Disciples Volunteering is calling for volunteers to serve alongside ecumenical partners in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, repairing homes damaged by the historic flooding of 2008. When more than 5,000 homes were destroyed, it was clear that the recovery would take years. For too many families and individuals, the recovery has only just begun. That is why Church World Service is coordinating the work of at least 10 denominations to bring a focused effort to neighborhoods in need of assistance. Disciples Volunteering and Week of Compassion have joined in this mission to bring hope, healing, and a helping hand to Cedar Rapids. Please consider serving for a week in May, repairing homes and rebuilding lives damaged nearly two years ago. Volunteers are needed May 2 – May 22. For more information or to register, contact Brenda Tyler at 888-346-2631 or visit website: <http://gd4jc.org/>



**Summer 2010 \* June 6 – August 7, 2010**

### Beaumont, TX

Looking for a Summer Project? Plan now to make a mission trip to the Gulf Coast of Texas. In 2005, Northwood Christian Church, Beaumont, TX was hit hard by Hurricane Rita. The church is now ready to build a new center of worship and ministry. Disciples Volunteering and the folks at Northwood are looking for faithful partners to spend a week in mission and lend a hand.

Registration is now available.

**Ecumenical Work Week IV \* August 1 – 7, 2010**

**New Orleans, LA or Pass Christian, MS**

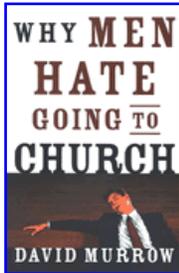
Join ecumenical partners through the National Council of Churches for this fourth annual week of mission and worship. The project has expanded to occur within two communities, New Orleans, LA and Pass Christian, MS.

**Fall Blitz Build \* November, 2010**

The Fall Blitz Build is in the planning stage. Details will be available as the plan comes together.

**For more information on any of these projects or to schedule your next Mission Trip, contact Brenda Tyler at 888-346-2631.**

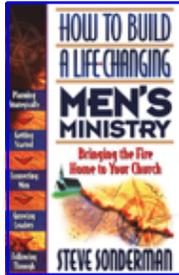
# GOOD RESOURCES FOR MEN'S MINISTRY



## [Why Men Hate Going to Church](#)

By David Murrow / Thomas Nelson

"Church is . . . boring, full of hypocrites, greedy, etc." You've heard the excuses, now read the *reasons* why institutional Christianity leaves countless men cold. Arguing that many churches create a man-hostile environment, Murrow offers detailed explanations of resulting male/female imbalances. Discover how to meet the real needs of men---and close your congregational gender gap! 224 pages, softcover from Nelson.



## [How to Build a Life-Changing Men's Ministry](#)

By Steve Sonderman / Bethany House Publishers

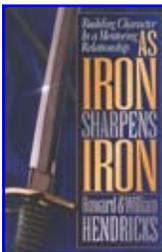
Help the men in your congregation become what God wants them to be by mobilizing a powerful men's ministry. Sonderman shows you how! A full-time men's pastor, he gives you the nuts and bolts for assembling an on-fire program. Learn to plan strategically, build effective leadership, develop healthy small groups, and expand missions and outreach. 240 pages, softcover from Bethany.



## [Effective Men's Ministry: The Indispensable Toolkit for Your Church](#)

By Phil Downer, ed. / Zondervan Corp.

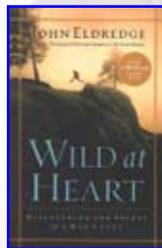
The National Coalition of Men's Ministries is a partnership of over 75 ministries from over 30 denominations that represent more than half the churches in North America. Members of the coalition - experienced national leaders and pastors - have written this hands-on resource guide to assist local churches and denominations as they seek to both initiate and implement healthy ministries for men. This is a comprehensive and practical ministry resource with 26 chapters that show how to plan, organize, and lead an effective ministry with men. Chapters include worksheets, charts, and checklists that can be photocopied.



## [As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship](#)

By Howard Hendricks / Moody Publishers

In *As Iron Sharpens Iron*, respected authors Howard and Bill Hendricks show that the most dramatic spiritual and personal growth often happens through the influence of a mentor. Rooted in biblical principles, this book is both a profound and practical guide to mentoring relationships for men.



## [Wild at Heart](#)

By John Eldredge / Thomas Nelson / W

Dare to be the man God created you to be---passionate, adventurous, and free! In this provocative look at Christian manhood, Eldredge challenges you to actively pursue the dreams God has given you. Encouragement for every man who wants to walk the road least taken---and important insights for the woman who loves him! 224 pages, hardcover from Nelson.



## [Wild at Heart Multimedia Facilitator's Kit with DVDs](#)

By John Eldredge / Thomas Nelson / W

Dare to be the man God created you to be! In eight provocative lessons on authentic masculinity, John Eldredge challenges you to abandon passivity and actively pursue your God-given dreams. Encouragement for men to walk the road least taken---and important insights for the women who love them! Includes one copy of the book, facilitator's guide, field manual workbook, media kit, and three DVDs.

# What's Going On With Disciples Men?



Improvement of Regional Camp facilities

These are three pictures from Men's retreat in Kansas.



Rev. Reed Hartford leading the evening worship



The silver Round Tu-It recipients

2010 Men's Retreat  
March 19-21 - Camp Christian  
Conference Center



The men really enjoy singing!!!



Lasagna served up by Pricilla



Dean Phelps conducts session 2



After dinner the men built a campfire.

## WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON

The General Conference of Disciples Men Executive Committee would like to visit your next planned event. It could be a retreat, area rally, assembly, workshop, or etc. in your state or area during the months ahead. Many Disciples Men's programs could be presented:

(1) Starting or Re-Vitalizing Your Disciples Men's group, (2) the "Sessions" event model is being retired with a new theme driven format entitled "**X-treme Faith-Bold Action: A Gathering of Disciples Men**", coming July 13-15, 2012 at Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia, (3) Exciting new study programs for your Disciples Men's groups, (4) Other GCDM programs to suite your event.

Contact your GCDM member by the area he represents:

- **Dan Crawford**, Bakersfield, CA. (661) 664-4905 representing: Pacific Southwest, Arizona, Central Rocky Mountain
- **Archie Jenkins**, Guyton, GA. (912) 772-4589 representing: Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
- **Gary Ochs**, Bedford, IN. (812) 275-7241 representing: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio
- **Scott Taylor**, Grand Island, NE. (308) 384-7072 representing: Canada, Illinois/Wisconsin, Upper Midwest, Nebraska, Montana
- **Lester Brooks**, Gulfport, MS. (228) 831-2524 representing: Great River Region, Florida, Alabama/Northwest Florida
- **William Leong**, Palo Alto, CA. (650) 283-2255 representing: Northwest, Northern California/Nevada, Oregon, Southern Idaho
- **Howard Coleman**, Dallas, TX. (214) 499-8526 representing: Southwest
- **Rodney Hopper**, Rock Port, MO. (660) 744-2486 representing: Mid-America, Oklahoma, Greater Kansas City, Kansas
- **Ralph Wesley**, Washington, DC. (202) 249-9963 representing: Capital Area, Northeast, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

In Christ Service,  
*Gary Ochs*  
President GCDM

DISCIPLES  
MEN

## Tamales Not Pancakes

For the last two years our group has been selling **Tamales (not pancakes)** at the Bertram TX, old Tyme Christmas event in Bertram, Texas. We started in 2009 and raised just over \$300.00 dollars net and **in 2010 we raised \$417.00 net as the result of selling 70 dozen tamales.** We have decided to make the event an annual fund raiser for "**Disciples Men Cookin' for Mission**". For the last two years we have sent 50% of the money to the Pancake Project and given 50% to Regional Mission direct.

The picture shows our cookin' team, left to right, Ron Rosignol BBA Area Men' President, Bobby Moore Deacon at FCC Burnet, Earnie Spiekerman Associate Minister at FCC Burnet and Chuck Orr past BBA Area Men's President and current Vice Moderator at FCC Burnet. These men also work on the Regional Mission Trips and attend our area and regional retreats. The Men's group at FCC Burnet has a monthly breakfast and average about 15 of our men present. We are always finding ways to serve God in Burnet and outside our own community.

I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful ministry.

*Ron Rosignol*



# Growing Through Conversations

“If only we had more...”

What does your men’s group need more of? Many a men’s group has expressed a desire to see more young men involved in the group. That desire trickles up to regional and general men’s events as well.

We just wish more men, particularly young men, would participate.

It’s not for any lack of effort. We get up on Saturday morning, head over to the church and cook breakfast. Someone prepares and leads a Bible study or gives a program. Breakfast is satisfying, and the program is inspiring. We get the word out in the newsletter and the bulletin. We announce the meeting in worship and even make a few phone calls.

Despite our best efforts, though, the results aren’t what we were looking for. We don’t get the “more” that we were seeking.

The Indiana region just completed its two fall men’s retreats. Each retreat featured an outstanding keynote speaker, fun, fellowship and great food. Yet, the age of the group was easily discerned. Even though each man that attended enjoyed the weekend and talked about being back next year, the number of men attending was down.

We promoted the retreats in emails, on the website and through the regional newsletter. Some men even commented that promotion was better this year than in recent years, yet the turnout was down.

Perhaps one problem is that all of the communication described above is one way. The information has been pushed out from some central location.

It’s good information, and it needs to be shared, but the method assumes the receiver is looking for what we have to offer. Worse yet, it precludes the opportunity to listen.

The rise of social networking is an indication that one-way communication is no longer sufficient. People no longer look to the World Wide Web as a place to retrieve information. More and more, the internet is a place of interaction, of tags and comments, of sharing important pieces of your life. It’s a place where people go to connect with one another.

In order to be in ministry to, with and for men in that kind of environment, conversation takes on primary importance. Before getting to “I’d like you to come to this event (meeting, retreat) with me,” it’s necessary to work on “I want to get to know you.”

A personal invitation is as important as it always has been, but now the invitation comes out of having conversations and listening.

As we begin to have those conversations, we will discover that the men we seek to join our group are more than units to add to our membership. We will recognize them as human beings with hopes and dreams, needs and desires. If we take the time to get to know someone, we just might make a friend. And then the funniest thing happens. That man just might choose to be part of the men’s group because, after all, he has a friend there.

*Rev. Dean Phelps*

# Men's Luncheon SRO Crowd!

On Thursday, July 30, the room was packed as men from all over the US and Canada chowed down on sausage, pancakes and sides! At least, that's the way it looked to me through the lens of my camera. I was the appointed 'photographer' and I can honestly share that it made my mouth water just looking at those delicious pancakes through the lens.

The theme of our primary mission activity in support of our Mission Centers around the country is 'Cooking for Mission' and we practiced that with our pancake breakfast at lunch this year. We also practiced that by learning more about.

"Center from our featured speaker", She had a moving and informative slideshow and talk that was very well received by everyone in attendance. After the presentation, we celebrated all the men of the Executive Board who manned the griddles and honored Rev. David Geenen for his years of service to the Men's Executive Board and Chairperson of the 'Cooking for Mission' efforts.



## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

### Dan Anderson, 2009 Layman of the Year

Sunday January 23, 2010, Dan Anderson was awarded the 2009 Layman of the Year award by members of the Disciples Men's commission at Augusta Central Christian Church.

The Region of Georgia Disciples Men's Commission has been active over the years supporting the various Men's Groups throughout the state. We encourage their formation, productive activities and overall wellbeing. We manifest a portion of the wider church through yearly Retreats, Rallies and Work Gatherings. And, in so doing, there have been Men coming to the forefront - rising high - leading the way in demonstrating superb Christian character, ideals, and service to others. And, we recognize these men as Laymen of the Year.

For 19 years now, this Commission has crossed the state from north to south and from east to west saying "Thank You" to Layman of the Year award winners and trumpeting their efforts, their resolve, their loyalty and their love of Christ and His Church. For four of those 19 years the Commission has come to Augusta and in 2010 they returned an unprecedented 5th time to present the Layman of the Year Award.

Dan Anderson has been involved in the Region and District and Congregation in a variety of ways:

- Dan has participated in Miracle Days where improvements and upgrades were made to Camp Christian, to Dublin Christian Church, and Hiltonia Christian Church.
- Dan has served on the Georgia Disciples Regional Board and most recently the Credentials Committee.
- Dan has served the Disciple Men's Commission many years as a District Representative helping with planning and mission, attending numerous Disciples Assemblies, and supporting Retreats and Rallies on a yearly basis.
- Dan has been a committed volunteer at Augusta Urban Ministries, the Augusta Burn Center and Rescue Mission.
- Dan has served as an Elder, Elder Chair, Board member, Board Chair, Property Chair, VBS supporter, Lake property worker, and Greeter.

And all the while, he's been a family man: devoted husband, loving father and adoring grandfather ... AND ...great grandfather several times over.

**Congratulations to Dan Anderson, 2009 Layman of the Year.**

# **X**TREME FAITH *bold action*

*"See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"  
Isaiah 43:19a NIV*

## **A Gathering of Disciples Men**

**July 13 - 15, 2012**

**At Bethany College  
in Bethany, West Virginia**

But someone will say, "You have faith;  
I have deeds."  
Show me your faith without deeds,  
and I will show you my faith by what I do.

James 2:18 NIV

