



The VOICE of Disciples Men

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 3 Spring 2011

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Future of Men's Ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The General Conference of Disciples Men and Disciples Home Missions has started a series of conference call discussions to help provide future directions of Men's Ministries. **Please join us during the General Assembly on Wednesday July 13th from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. at the First Baptist Nashville Church Chapel following the Men's Luncheon as we host discussions dealing with the following:**

- The Future of Men's Ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- Why is fatherhood so important to our children's faith, their families and to the church?

There has been strong interest expressed at recent gatherings of Disciples Men to take an honest look at the face of men's ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and to explore ways of establishing vital ministries to men where they are non-existent, strengthen ministries to men where they are weak, and support and learn from men's ministries that are productive and growing. Many articles have been published about the two above topics.

Also, it's time to move forward with discussions about the importance and uniqueness of men as Fathers. Studies have shown that our denominational future depends upon several things. One very important "thing" is "The role of fathers and their influence to their children's faith and church attendance". Our culture in general and subsequently too many fathers themselves have reduced the role of fatherhood to something nonessential or unnecessary. Many men today regard parenting as being primarily the mother's role and somehow no longer associated with masculinity or "real" manhood. As a result too many men, including professing Christian men, express their role as "father" exclusively in terms of financial provider. The fact is children are not looking for financial provision; they are looking for love, guidance and a role model for what it means to be a man.



Did you know in America, we have 27 million kids growing up without a dad and 85 percent of the people in prison grew up in a fatherless home?

Church growth in 1952 for a typical Protestant worship service drew an adult congregation that was 53 percent female and 47 percent male. By 1986, the female proportion was closer to 60 percent, and the men down to 40; in many congregations the split was even wider. These losses

continued through the 1990s, and a 2002 survey of more than 300,000 worshippers in more than 2,000 congregations found that Catholic services are now 65 percent female, mainline Protestant services 64 percent female and conservative Protestant services 61 percent female.

A rather obscure but important study conducted by the Swiss government in 1994 and published in 2000 revealed that "It is the religious practice of the father of the family that, above all, determines the future attendance at or absence from church of the children." **In short, if a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife's devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular).**

The role of a father as spiritual leader would suggest exactly what fatherhood itself is, to love our wives as Christ loves the Church, to model Christ-like love for our children in our most important earthly relationship, to care for our children as our Father in heaven cares for each of us and finally, that we diligently teach our children the truth about reality.

Our denominational future depends upon our ability to lead men to spiritual maturity and provide them with skills to reach others for Jesus Christ.

Gary Ochs

Bedford, IN
President General Conference Disciples Men
Executive Committee

The Transitions of a Man's Life

Transitions are always difficult. The third and fourth chapters of Matthew talk about a wrenching transition. It takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus began his ministry by preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:17). That was the same sermon that John the Baptist preached earlier (Matthew 3:2). John had been preparing the way for Jesus, and Jesus began his ministry by taking up where John left off.

Then Jesus saw two men – Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew – as they were casting their nets into the Sea of Galilee. Simon and Andrew weren't just taking the day off to go fishing – they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people" (4:19). When you stop to think about it, Jesus promised these two fishermen something quite special. He said, in effect, "If you follow me, I'll promote you to the next level. You've been fishing for fish. I'll make you fishers of people."

Peter and Andrew – James and John – Jesus' first disciples – didn't say "tomorrow." They IMMEDIATELY dropped what they were doing to follow Jesus. You can be sure that they were there with Jesus – following faithfully – doing what needed to be done – witnessing, blessing, helping. Jesus called them because he needed them. Those first disciples were in training for ministry. And so are we.

Jesus has called some of us to be pastors. He has called some of us to be engineers. He has called some of us to be assembly line workers. He has called some of us to be teachers. But Jesus has called all of us to follow him – to serve others as he did – to sacrifice comforts as he did – to bless the lives of others as he did – to minister to the sick as he did – to proclaim the good news of the kingdom as he did.

Now, there's nothing wrong with being followers. It's okay to be a follower, but the fact is, Jesus wants so much more for us. His fondest wish is that each of us we come to be his disciples.

My dream is that every Disciple man would desire to be, not just a follower of Jesus Christ, but to become one of his disciples. My dream is that each child of God would see the Christian life, not as a destination but as a journey that lasts a lifetime. And my dream is that as each journey unfolds, it would be reflected in the way we live our lives.

A song from the musical "Godspell" contains the perfect outline to the dream I have shared.

**Day by day,
O dear Lord, three things I pray:
To see Thee more clearly,
To love Thee more dearly,
To follow Thee more nearly,
Day by day.**

So where do we start? We start by seeing Jesus more clearly. How can we imitate Jesus' life without examining Jesus' life? There's no substitute for studying the Jesus of scripture – to set aside some time each day when we can read about what he said and did, and pray that God would help us understand why. It's a little thing called "quiet time." And then maybe to be a part of a small group of others who can help us grasp the person and the purpose of Jesus, or being a mentor to a church kid; those are among the best ways I know to grow in our faith and understanding. Seeing Jesus clearly is where our journey must begin.

But the second step moves us to love Jesus more dearly. We cannot love what we do not know ... but once we begin to learn about Jesus, we cannot help but love him more. And our love for him will take shape in practical, concrete ways. Then we wouldn't have to teach Sunday School because we feel guilty, but rather, because we love Jesus. Then we wouldn't give money to the church because we feel required to do so, but because it's a way to express our love for Jesus. Then we don't have to love our neighbor out of obligation, but rather, because it's another way of loving Jesus. Serving Jesus in this world is our most tangible expression of our gratitude for his grace.

But then there is the final part of this equation, and it is perhaps the most challenging. "Day by day ... to FOLLOW Thee more nearly." Being disciples means striving to imitate Jesus Christ. And if we desire to imitate Jesus, then we will, over time, live lives that are more kind, more generous, and more disciplined than before.

Rev. Bob Dailey
First Christian Church
Bedford, Indiana

Disciples Men Activities at General Assembly



Disciples Men's Luncheon & Program

Wednesday, July 13

12pm-1:45pm

Location: First Baptist Nashville Church
(One block away)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Tom Jewell, Regional Minister

Full Meal \$17.00

** All men must register for GA & luncheon online, under "meals & events".
(No tickets will be available at the door)*

Conversation: Future Direction of Men's Ministries

Wednesday, July 13

1:45pm-2:45pm

Location: Chapel at First Baptist Nashville Church

Leadership Resource Group

Wednesday, July 13

3pm-4pm

Location: Fisk Room - Renaissance Hotel

Presenter: Jim Easter, Past President GCDM

GCDM Annual Meeting

Wednesday, July 13

4pm-5pm

Location: Fisk Room - Renaissance Hotel



What's Going On With Disciples Men?



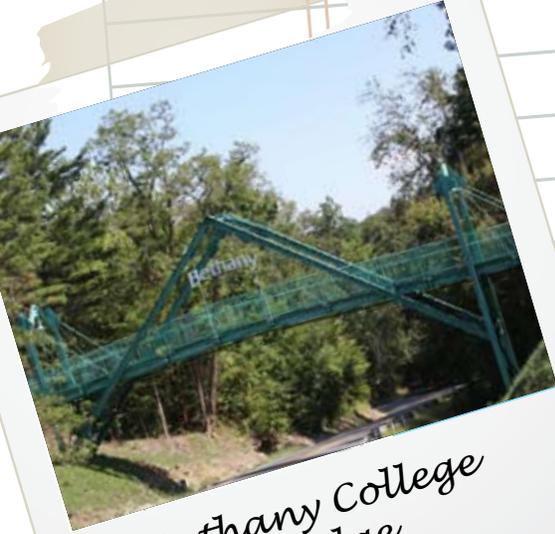
(Left to Right): Howard Coleman, Kevin Prahar, Dan Crawford, William Leong, President Gary Ochs, Lester Brooks, President-Elect Archie Jenkins, Pastor-Counselor Rodney Hopper, Ralph Wesley. Not shown is Scott Taylor.



2011 GCDM Executive Committee Meeting



Bethany College



Bethany College Bridge

Rev. Scott Thayer, Chaplain of Bethany College; Roger Poage, Chairman of Xtreme Faith Planning Group; Dr. Rev. Bruce Dobyfn, Secretary of Xtreme Faith Planning Group; Ronald J. Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions; Gary Ochs, President of General Conference of Disciples Men; Dr. Scott D. Miller, President of Bethany College.



Bethany College



2012 Xtreme Faith / Bold Action
A Gathering of Disciples Men group
planning committee with Chairman
Roger Poage (left front row).



“ **X-TREME FAITH-BOLD ACTION** ... there is nothing in these words that imply dull, boring, or a lazy get together. This was certainly true at the most recent planning meeting for the 2012 event at Bethany College, Bethany, WV.

As committee members arrived from their travels, the enthusiasm in the meeting room continued to build until we were all together. Ron Degges greeted us and commented about our energy. “It has been a while since I have witnessed this much enthusiasm for an upcoming men’s event; **this is GREAT!**”

Men, the committee members for this event have been praying, listening, and brainstorming about the future since last General Assembly. As we sat in our meeting room, surrounded by the “dreams” of Alexander and Thomas Campbell, we became a living heritage of Bethany. The beautiful rolling hills and sounds of nature beckoned our attention. Our mission was strengthened and vision was within sight as the meeting continued to unfold. Seasoned men were dialoging with young men whom had never been to a General Men’s event. Nothing was taken for granted and nothing was out of the question for discussion. We are planning a “sell-out” event. Is this

X-TREME FAITH or BOLD ACTION ... you will have to come and find out!”

Kansas Men's Retreat

Disciple Men's Fall Retreat "A Life That is Full of Life"

Facilitator: Dr. Richard Guentert

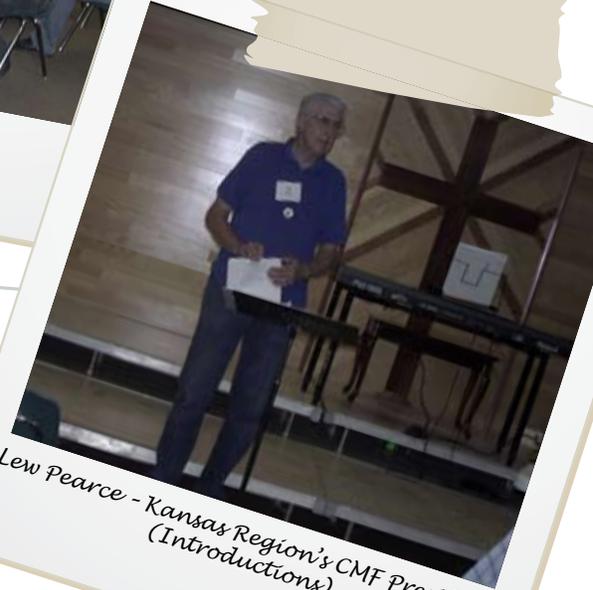
Friday & Saturday

September 24-25, 2010

Disciples Center at Tawakoni



Artwork for Disciples Center at Tawakoni (tile & decorative wood) Created & Designed by: Richard Sack and John Groves



Low Pearce - Kansas Region's CMF President (Introductions)



UP COMING EVENTS

April

April 30, 2011 Nebraska Men's Spiritual Retreat
First Christian, Ashland, NE,

April 29 -May 1st., 2011
Virginia Disciples Men Retreat
Front Royal, VA

May

May 13-15, 2011
Tres Rios Area Disciples Men's Retreat will be held at Black River Learning Center in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
"Building Bridges - Strengthening Bonds In Christ". Faith that Works
Keynote speaker is David Huegel.

May

May 13-15, 2011
ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEN'S MINISTRIES - CRMR
2011 MEN'S CONFERENCE, at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO.
Keynote speaker: Juan Rodriguez, pastor Iglesia del Pueblo - New Hope Center, Hammond, IN, and Vice Moderator of the CC(DOC).

July

July 9-13, 2011
Disciples General Assembly
"Tell it!"
Nasville, TN

October

October 7-9, 2011
The Sixtieth Anniversary Disciples Men's retreat at Cedar Lakes Camp and Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia. Darwin Collins, Vice-President of the Christian Church Foundation will be our speaker.

Registration will be available on regional web site beginning in July. Visit wvdisciples.org/men.

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

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell
Regional Pastor



*Disciples Men's
Luncheon
Speaker*

The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell is Oklahoma's Regional Pastor, serving in that capacity since August 1, 1993, following a 13-year pastorate as the Senior Minister of the Central Christian Church in Warren, Ohio. During his ministry in Warren, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, and the Valley Counseling Center. Tom also was a trustee for the Warren Symphony Society and hosted a religious radio program for seven years. While in seminary, he was pastor of the Dailey Chapel Christian Church, Rosedale, Indiana. His first pastorate was with the Hillcrest Christian Church in Dayton, Ohio where he served for seven years.

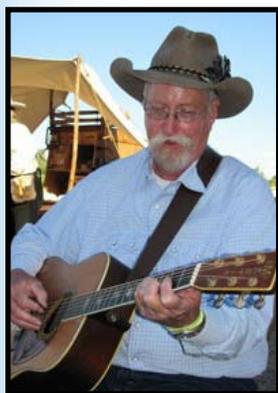
A native of Lima, Ohio, Tom holds a bachelor's degree from the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, majoring in Radio, Television, and Speech. His master's of divinity degree is from the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana. He has taken post-graduate work at St. Anne's College in Oxford, England. Tom was awarded the doctor of divinity degree by Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, in 2007.

Tom has served on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada since 1985. He currently serves on the Board's Administrative Committee, and has previously served on its Executive Committee. Tom is a member of the College of Regional Ministers and serves on the Boards of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, Phillips Theological Seminary, the Jubilee Fund, the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation and the Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma. He is past chair of the Oklahoma Communion Leaders and the General Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Tom has served on the General Conference of Disciples' Men and as well as Pastor Counselor for their Executive Committee.

Two mission journeys have taken Tom to Russia—in 1984, with the largest group of Christians ever to visit behind the Iron Curtain, and in 1991 as leader of a high school youth mission trip. Tom was part of the Disciple delegation to the Eighth World Assembly of the World Council of Churches of Christ held in Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa in 1998 and the Ninth World Assembly of the World Council of Churches of Christ held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2006. In 2004 he participated as a worship leader at the World Convention of the Churches of Christ in Brighton, England and preached at Cane Ridge during Sessions 2004. In 2009, Tom was a member of the Global Ministries two-week pilgrimage to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. He has journeyed to Boca Chica, Dominican Republic in 2009 and 2010 in support of mission work at Caminante.

Tom and his wife, Kay, are the parents of two daughters, Elizabeth (and son-in-law, Sean) and Sarah (and son-in-law, Joseph) and three sons – Matthew, Adam (and daughter-in-law, Jenny), and David - and are grandparents of four grandsons, Joseph Thomas Mars, Joshua Martin Mars, Eli Michael Mars, Noah Patrick Mars, Asher Richard Jewell and two granddaughters, Peyton Diane Jewell and Katherine Jewell Becker.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER



Dr. Scott Taylor

Rev. Dr. Scott Taylor, OSB Oblate

Rev. Taylor is Senior Minister at First Christian Church, Grand Island, NE. He received his M.Div. degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK and was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in May 2007. Prior to accepting the call to Nebraska, he served as Youth Pastor at Disciples Christian Church in Bartlesville where he formed a RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) Team and co-directed annual retreats for long term survivors. Currently, he is active in NAP (Nebraska AIDS Project) and a local support group, Kaleidoscope. Beyond ministry, Scott is also a songwriter and singer with 4 CDs released so far.

In Men's ministry, Scott participated in Regional Men's events in Oklahoma before moving to Nebraska where he serves on the Regional Men's board as well as serving on the national level through the GCDM Executive Board. He attended Sessions 2008 and thoroughly enjoyed it! Scott's also attended the last two General Assemblies and is looking forward to seeing everyone again in Nashville this summer.

“CHRISTIANITY EMBRACES YOUNG LEADERS”

We are in the era of new and glorious Discipleship. Yes, the world is changing and the Christian Church is a part of the movement. What are the key aspects of Christian leadership and how can our churches capitalize on these dynamic forces?

Yes, young men and women are up to the challenge, we must listen to their questions, embrace their generation and prayerfully encourage them. The future of our church is in their hands; we'll take a look at a few of these leadership characteristics through the eyes of F. Washington Jarvis, author of the book; *With Love and Prayers: A Headmaster Speaks To the Next Generation*, published by David R. Godine, Publishers, Inc., 2000. The stories told by the author reflect messages he shared with his students while Headmaster of the Roxbury Latin School for young men. These are simple, timeless truths about:

- Attitude
- Great American Teenage Tragedies
- Coping With Stress
- Sometimes I Get Discouraged
 - Tough and Tender
 - Leadership 1 and 2

The presenter will speak about the elements of a successful church program from his experiences as a church leader and the many lessons learned at Woodmont Christian Church. What are the strategic and operational aspects of a successful church and why should the Christian Church expand beyond the walls of their

congregation? This era of aging citizens will be followed by a new generation of “special people” who see the church from different eyes.

The most significant features of the church of tomorrow include the following:

- A Leadership Team Of Energized People
- A Focused Mission and A Vision
- Leadership Training
- A Small Group Mentality
- A Passion For People
- A Spiritual Base
- Biblical Research
- Preaching and Praying
- Living The Religion
- American Idols

Disciples are encouraged to come, share the vision and enjoy the energy. We are a church for the future with a common bond and a belief in unity through diversity. We can learn from all the churches of this world and that is part of the beauty of Christianity. We have the ability to connect worldwide with nothing to impede our progress, the window is open. The young leaders of the future are passionate about sharing the vision of the church universal. We embrace these changes and sing the songs of love, joy and opportunity!

by: *Jim Easter*
Nashville, TN

X **TREME**
FAITH
bold
action

Men's Gathering 2012

At this gathering which will be held at Bethany College in Bethany, WV from **July 13 through 15, 2012**, men of all ages will come together to enrich their spiritual lives, enjoy great fellowship and make a difference in the lives of others. See you there!

Go to <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Men-Gathering2012> for promotional videos and poster.

We did it!

We did it, the Men's Ministry of the Hispanic Southeast Convention, Disciples of Christ just celebrated its 2011 retreat at the Christian Church Conference Center, Ocala FL from March 18-20.

"Llenando el Vacío" was our theme, the translation being filling the void or emptiness. The response was great with overall 75 men from 13 of our churches participating and by far surpassing all our expectations.

We started with a commencement service Friday evening directed into worship by the worship group "Mosaico", followed by a reflection from Pastor Jose Sanchez from the Disciples of Christ Centro de Vida Familia of St Cloud, FL that challenged us all to the calling of filling the void and becoming Godly Men in our communities.

Saturday we participated in two workshops after breakfast, one on financial planning and awareness in the family and with a strong biblical stewardship foundation presented by Antony Rodriguez from the Central Christian Church of Dade City followed by a conflict awareness and resolution in relationships by Ginette Olsen PH.D. We were all blessed by these presentations and have plenty of useful information that was being put to use immediately. The reception and enthusiasm was contagious, as no one wanted to end either session. We shared lunch and spent the rest of the afternoon hanging out with each other with one goal, which was to get to know each other in an open, non-organized atmosphere.

Saturday night was nothing short of a revival lead by Pastor Samuel Lopez of the Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vision of Palm Coast. Pastor Lopez led us to

a powerful encounter with God through his exposition and ministering to men who were yearning to be in the almighty's presence and to fill all voids that only one can fill. After breakfast Sunday we had a traditional Disciples service led by Pastor Quiñones who is currently the moderator of our Convention.

We have shared much together this weekend; everyman has expressed in a unique way how they have been fulfilled by this experience, but most of all visited by the almighty Spirit of God. We are grateful for only the power of God can move so many in the way we have seen amongst us and

continue to look forward to "reaching all men", one man at a time, one church at a time and building relationships among us and in Christ all the time.



Efraín Rivera

Men's Ministry President Hispanic Southeast Convention, Disciples of Christ and member of the Iglesia Cristiana Hispana Discipulos de Cristo del Norte de Orlando.

Register Now!



Mark your Calendars:

- General Conference of Disciples Men Assembly Meeting
- Disciples Men's Luncheon & Programs

Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!

Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!

2011 General Assembly

SATURDAY, JULY 9 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011
BRIDGESTONE ARENA • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!



A publication from:
General Conference of Disciples Men
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The VOICE of Disciples Men

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