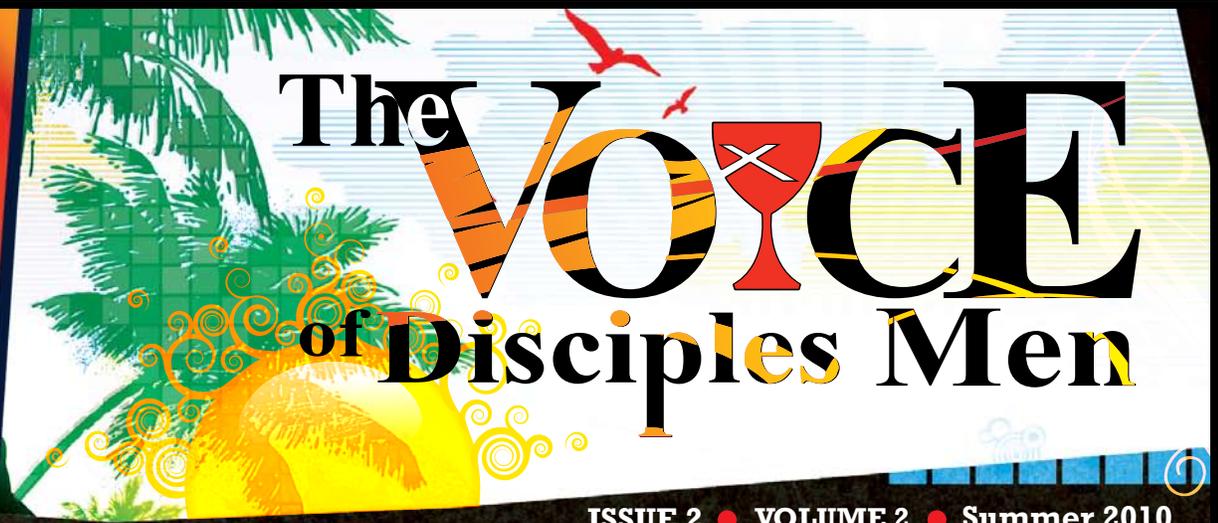




**DISCIPLES
MEN**



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Greetings!

Welcome to the summer publication of "The Voice". Great things are happening throughout the U.S. and Canada when it comes to Disciples Men, and thanks to you, the voice is coming out! There is great and exciting news that we would like to share with you. Make sure you check out the following:

- The DHM's Disciples Men webpage has been updated and looks fantastic! Go to <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Men> to find a calendar of events and other important news and information;
- The Voice of Disciples Men can be found online at <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Men-Newsletter> along with copies of past issues;
- The X-treme Faith Bold Action: A Gathering of Disciples Men event is being enthusiastically designed and the word is spreading everywhere. Look for the last page of this newsletter, print, copy and use as a flyer to help us promote this transforming event. Also, go to <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Men-Gathering2012> to find a promotional video that can be shown at your men's group and gatherings. This event will be a success with your extreme faith and bold actions! And;
- Send us notes, inspirational stories and photos of your group in fellowship, worship, volunteering and Cookin' for Mission. We believe it is important to get to know each other and share experiences and ideas that would encourage other groups to do so. We want to hear from you!

Enjoy this issue and help us keep it fresh and alive for years to come.

(A word of thanks to all that contributed in big and small ways to make this possible!)

**GCDM Executive Committee
Men's Gathering Planning Committee**



Homeless Youth And Disciples Men: God Reaches Each Through The Other

A guest described his work with homeless men in St. Joseph, Missouri to the dozen or so men gathered for a monthly men's breakfast last July in the fellowship hall of First Christian Church, Cameron, Missouri. During the question and answer time that followed someone mentioned that there were 30 homeless teens in Cameron. **"No way! . . . Really?"** (Cameron is a rural community in northwest Missouri with 9800 people 3500 of whom are incarcerated in two local state prisons.)

"Is there any way to confirm that number," asked one of the men. "If this is true, shouldn't we do something about it."

The following month Brandi Derstler—coordinator of youth services for the not-for-profit Community Action Partnership in Cameron confirmed the number of local homeless teenagers and added that at least that many were identified in other parts of Clinton County. While sharing breakfast with the men Ms. Derstler described some of the circumstances and characteristics of the sixty homeless youth.

The problem, it seems, is not simply a lack of available housing. Some youth choose to move from house to house usually staying a night or two with a series of friends before being encouraged by the friends' parents to move on.

They believe themselves ready to take on adult responsibility or they have become rebellious. In any case, they refuse to stay at home with parents and siblings. Some also leave high school. Other youth tell painful stories of abuse and neglect by parents, siblings or partners. Some are pregnant and several are already parents of one or two children.

They all struggle to make a life without the usual support systems. Many are bright, talented and eager to make a contribution to the world they will one day help to lead. Some believe in God and welcome reassurances given that Jesus may believe far more in them than they believe in themselves.



Brandi Derstler (center) and her supervisor (left) answer questions about local homeless teens at a Disciples Men breakfast.

That was all the guys needed to hear. One month later at yet another Disciples Men breakfast a plan was announced to support one of the unmet needs of these young neighbors. Every other week homeless youth gather on Tuesday evenings for a meal and conversation with supportive adults after which they are provided with toiletries, disposable diapers and other items and referred

to meet other needs. There is no effort made to guilt participants into joining the congregation or even attending a worship serve although they have all been made to feel welcome.

Success is measured simply in the opportunity to be present with these neighbors and to expect that Jesus is present and active in the trust that is building slowly here.



Pam Edwards (right) helps with a decision about toiletries.

Not all the local Disciples Men participate in this particular ministry and it was made clear from the beginning that this was okay. The men realize that all guys are wired differently by their Creator.

Good missions need partners whose passion for a particular group of people, skill sets, experience, and availability

support full-on engagement in that specific mission. Jesus is certainly serving homeless teens in our community.

He is also reaching out to those chronically

ill, unemployed, separated, addicted, and abused and he may require differently gifted partners for those missions. There are plenty of opportunities to find just the right mission to support.

These Disciples Men also recognize that while they may initiate and invest in certain missions, they do not own them. Missions are, after all, really a work of God in which we may participate along with many others. Shortly after they began work with the youth, the guys quickly invited women and youth in the congregation to help. One of the men arranged a meeting with a nearby Baptist pastor and the NW Area Pastor to explore ways for people of any or no denomination within a 20 mile radius to plug in or to expand the outreach. Missions like these are seldom accomplished quickly. Since that original meeting there is now a deepening connection with **Community Action Partnership (CAP)** and other agencies.

Cameron's Disciples Men have also learned something important about their own identity in the process. By their participation in congregational and wider church life and personal Bible study and prayer, they have become well equipped to build mission partnerships among other members of the Body of Christ. They are beginning conversations about how people they know in each of the community's local congregations can bring something distinctive to make the mission more effective and sustainable.

Beginning in April it is the homeless teens who are cooking the Tuesday night suppers with food and supervision provided by patient and affirming instructors. One of the single mothers among them is now working part-time at the NW Area office to build up her resume as she seeks full-time work and a GED. Her pay is provided by donations from a couple of the Disciples Men and next month she will move from the women and children's abuse shelter into an affordable apartment.

One young homeless couple—the parents of two infant children—just learned that the husband's enlistment into the U. S. Army has been approved. After training, the family will reunite in a place of their own and make their way out of the cycle of poverty. They feel very thankful to God for support from several individuals and organizations in the community and they have a special place in their hearts for a small group of guys who meet monthly for man-food, prayer, and conversations about hunting, farming, fund raising dinners and being better neighbors in the name of Christ.



FCC Pastor Aaron Todd gets pointers from a sibling on how to feed his brother.



This mom is improving her cooking skills while celebrating her husband's new job.

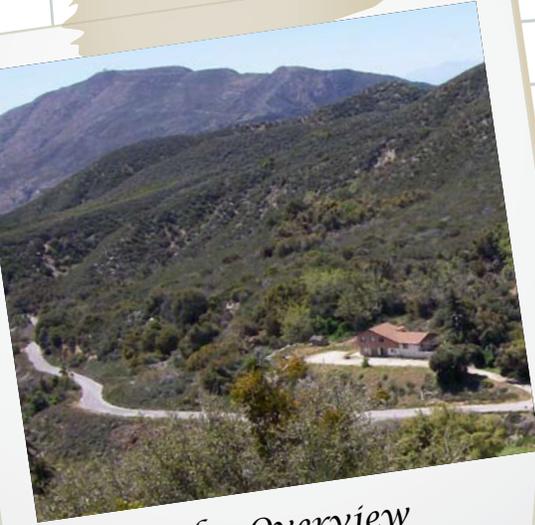
Jack Edwards and **John Schindler** are two of the Disciples Men spearheading this mission. You can connect with both through Facebook or learn more about this ministry by calling their pastor,

Aaron Todd at:
(816)-632-3605.

Bill Rose-Heim
CC-Mid-America,
NW Area Pastor

What's Going On with Disciples Men?

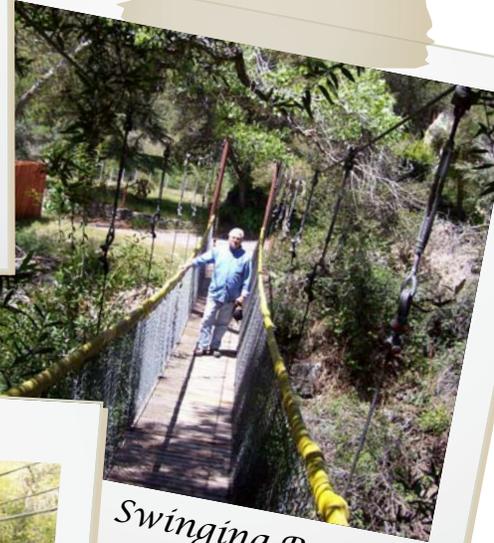
Pacific Southwest
Region Men's Retreat
April 30-May 2, 2010



Lodge Overview



Small Group Discussion



Swinging Bridge



The PSWR men attended a great retreat led by Phil Woelfel, M.DIV. He attends the First Christian Church of Oceanside, CA



The Kentucky Men's Spiritual Life Retreat

The Kentucky Men's Spiritual Life Retreat was held July 16-18, 2010 at St. Meinrad Arch Abbey in beautiful southern Indiana.

This retreat focused on a very specific text, Luke 15:11-32 commonly known as the parable of The Prodigal Son. Ed Huckleberry was the keynote presenter during the retreat and did a great job. Ed currently is campus pastor for The Valley, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation in Louisville, Kentucky. The Valley is also the Valley Station campus of Middletown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Seventeen disciples' men and Gary Ochs, President GCDM attended this week end event.

Disciples Men at National Convocation

The 21st Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on July 29 – August 1, 2010 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has just been completed. The theme for this spiritual event was “**SAVED to SERVE LIVE all OUT**” from Hebrews 9:14.

Two workshops were presented to Disciples Men entitled “**Starting or Re-Vitalizing Your Disciples Men’s Group**”. Some of the other workshops and resource groups were: **Clergy Continuing Education; Critical Presence – A Growth Plan That Works; Youth and Young Adult Christians in the 21st Century; Speaking Generously; New Choices in Capital Fundraising; African American Churches Starting Churches; Saved to Serve – Reigniting Your Fire and many more.**

During the Disciples Men’s luncheon the presentation was “**The role of fathers and their influence to their children’s faith and church attendance**”. Gary Ochs, President GCDM spoke about our culture in general and subsequently the many fathers that have reduced their role of fatherhood to something nonessential or unnecessary. Many men today regard parenting as bring primarily the mother’s role and somehow no longer associated with masculinity or “real” manhood. Studies have shown that our denominational future depends upon our ability to lead men to spiritual maturity and provide them with skills to reach others for Jesus Christ. In short, if a father does not go to church, no matter how strong the mother’s faith, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper.

Bill Cosby once said, “Nothing I’ve ever done has given me more joys and rewards than being a father to my children”.

It’s time to move forward with the discussions about the importance and uniqueness of men as Fathers and their influence to their children’s faith and church attendance. Gary closed his remarks by saying, “**To the world we might be one person, but to one person we might JUST be the world**”.



Lester Brooks, Howard Coleman and Gary Ochs



Jim Powell and Dr. Timothy James



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER



William Leong is a member of the First Christian Church of Palo Alto, CA where he has attended since late 2000. It's the only church that he has called home.

William has served at Palo Alto, CA in a number of different positions and was recently named an Elder. Outside of church, William works at Microsoft as an ISV Evangelist where he partners with software companies in Silicon Valley to build products using the latest Microsoft technologies.

William is married to Nelly and has three children (Matthew, Angela and Micaela). He and Matthew both sing in the choir. William likes running errands on weekends and chauffeuring kids from place to place in his spare time. When he was younger and thinner, he enjoyed playing basketball and volleyball.

Invite Us to Come Gather with You

Again, 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 is being replaced 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 Disciples Men's programs.

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) 262-7442 representing: Capital Area, Northeast, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

In Christ Service,

Gary Ochs

President GCDM

Thank You Notes...

As you all know, the Disciples Men Cookin' for Mission events help raise money that goes to the following four mission centers: Inman Christian Center, All Peoples Christian Center, Kentucky Appalachian Ministry and Yakama Christian Mission. Earlier this year, each center received a check for \$3,741.49 to help with the cost of keeping programs directed to children and youth who live in these areas.

Thanks to your cookin' for mission efforts, these mission centers were blessed with your contributions, and have sent the following thank you notes:

"Just a quick note to thank you for the wonderful donation of \$3,741.49! Your partnership in Mission is truly a blessing!"
Yakama Christian Mission

"We are thankful for those who supported 'Disciples Men Cookin' for Mission'. That they have chosen to support our mission centers around the U.S. gives encouragement and needed funding."
Kentucky Appalachian Ministry

"It is such a wonderful feeling to know that there are people like you that care about our community. Through your donations we are providing services and programs that enable our community to grow and gain self-confidence in themselves."
All Peoples Community Center

"I commend all the Disciples Men's organizations across the country for holding fundraising events such as, the pancake breakfasts, lunches, and barbeque dinners. What a great mouth watering opportunity to assist the community while raising money for a worthy cause."
Inman Christian Center

Go to <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Men-CookinForMission> to download a copy of the Cookin' for Mission brochure and Survival Kit!

the place2b

A Safe Haven for the Community's Youth

Our very own Pastor David Geenen of 15th Avenue Christian Church in Rock Island, DHM Board Member and former GCDM Executive Committee member, along with Pastor Stacie Fildar of St. John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island led the way this past fall to partner with local churches, agencies and foundations to meet a growing need in their community.



LtoR: Courtney Hernandez, director of ThePlace2b; Pr. Stacie Fildar, St. John's Lutheran, Rock Island; Rev. Dave Geenen, 15th Avenue Christian Church, Rock Island; and Julie Larson, executive director of the YWCA, Rock Island.

On June 3, 2010, a new displaced/homeless center in Quad Cities named ThePlace2b opened its doors. ThePlace2b is a community effort attempting to reach homeless childrens raging from 14-18 years old. With a donated building in Downtown Rock Island, a working agreement with the YMCA, and much community support, ThePlace2b will serve as the hub of care for homeless/displaced teens.



Taken from "The Christian" (IL & WIS Journal)

UP COMING EVENTS

August

Aug 20-21, 2010 - NEBRASKA MEN'S RETREAT (KAMP KALEO, BURWELL, NE)

September

Sep 10-11, 2010 - INDIANA DISCIPLES MEN RETREAT (BEDFORD CAMP, IN)
 Sep 17-19, 2010 - OHIO DISCIPLES MEN FALL RETREAT (MAGNETIC SPRINGS, OH)

September

Sep 17-19, 2010 - INDIANA DISCIPLES MEN RETREAT (BARBEE CAMP, IN)
 Sep 17-19, 2010 - SOUTHWEST DISCIPLES MEN RETREAT
 Sep 24-25, 2010 - KANSAS DISCIPLES MEN RETREAT (DISCIPLES CTR, TAWAKONI, KS)
 Sep 24-26, 2010 - NORTH CAROLINA DISCIPLES MEN FALL RETREAT (CHRISTMOUNT, NC)

October

Oct 8-10, 2010 - WEST VIRGINIA DISCIPLES MEN RETREAT (CEDAR LAKES CONF. CTR., RIPLEY, WV)

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

To get a full list of all upcoming events log on to:
<http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Men>

XTREME 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

