Welcome to this issue of The Voice of Disciples Men. Men from 23 different regions recently met at Bethany College in Bethany, WV for the Extreme Faith Bold Action Gathering of Disciples Men. Thank you just doesn’t seem to be enough to say for the hard work of the committee that planned this gathering. But I would like to say thank you to the committee for your planning and executing a great event, and to the Region of West Virginia for opening its arms and welcoming all of us. West Virginia, you were a wonderful host. Very soon you will be hearing about the next General meeting for Disciples Men.

In this issue, you will find more on the new initiative of the General Conference of Disciples Men through our Cookin’ For Mission program. The new initiative is Feeding Hungry Kids. Please read the article and see what your local or regional DM or CMF can do to feed hungry kids in your area.

For your information we have listed the named Endowment Funds. It is very easy for you as an individual or group to make a donation to one of the funds. If you would like to honor someone by creating a named Endowment Fund for that person, it can be done for as little as $1,000.00.

I also met Oscar Haynes at the Gathering. I had heard his name mentioned many times in the context of the work he had done for Disciples Men. To meet Oscar and talk with him you soon find that not only was he a hard worker but he is a kind and gentle spirit. Oscar is a very young 90 something year old who we all can still learn from. Oscar is the first recipient of an award given by the GCDM. Read about it inside this issue.

We will also see what different Men’s groups are doing or have already done. Please send us information and picture if possible on what is happening in your area.

Hope you enjoy this issue of The Voice and if you have any suggestions on how to improve the newsletter please let me know.

Archie Jenkins
Some of you are familiar with The Disciples Men Cookin’ for Missions. This began as the International Day of Pancakes in 1994. In 2008 the change in names took place. At this time, the focus of the program although remaining the same, helping and ministering to youth, took a different turn when it came to disbursing the funds. In the past, grants were given to Men’s Groups or to Regional Men’s Groups for projects designed to promote ministries to the youth. In 2008, due to financial difficulties, Disciples Home Missions had to make funding cuts in its programs. Four mission centers that work with the youth were facing cuts in their budgets.

The four mission centers affected are:
- Yakama Christian Mission Center in White Swan, WA
- Inman Christian Mission Center in San Antonio, TX
- All Peoples Christian Center in Los Angeles, CA
- Kentucky Appalachian Mission in Berea, KY

Starting in 2009, the General Conference of Disciples Men decided that, for the next four years, all money raised by this program would be divided equally among these four missions.

Now, let’s talk about the new initiative that the GCDM would like for your Disciples Men or CMF group to consider. Every day, children in every county of every state in the United States wake up hungry. They go to school hungry. They turn out the lights at night hungry.

In the United States, the most prosperous nation in the world, 17.2 million children under the age of 18 do not have enough food to meet their needs. They live in food insecure households, households that are uncertain of having or unable to acquire enough food to meet the needs of their family members. These hungry children are everywhere, even in your communities. With the continuing uncertain economy, the numbers will only grow.

The consequences of malnutrition can be severe. Several studies have shown that food insecurities affects cognitive development among young children reducing the ability to succeed in school in the fields of vocabulary, reading comprehension, math, science and general knowledge. This increases the chance of being a school drop out. Studies also show that with hunger comes more frequent sickness and emergency room visits, and with that, higher health care.

What are we asking you to do?

1) Look for ways to help feed the hungry children in your communities. There are many ways to do this whether through a back pack program, helping a food pantry have enough food for the families they serve or helping or starting a kids feeding program. Perhaps, there are other feeding programs in your communities that need your help.

2) Once you have decided on a project that helps to feed hungry children we request that you raise funds to support the project. The fundraisers will be done however best suits your group.

3) We ask that you to send a portion of the money you raise to the Disciples Men Cookin’ for Mission program so that the 4 mission centers mentioned earlier can continue operating.

4) Communicate with us on what your group or Region is doing to help Feed Hungry Kids.

We can do this together!
Tennessee Disciples Men

“Western Area” is going “gung-ho”!

Following the successful BBQ dinner at Lindenwood Christian Church last year, where we had close to fifty men in attendance, we had a huge success with a Disciples Men of Memphis breakfast at Mississippi Blvd Christian Church, having the Memphis Grizzlies Head coach, Lionel Hollis, as our guest speaker!

Over 100 men & young men in attendance! A record, as far as I go back (32 yrs), for attendance at any Disciples Men’s event in Tennessee!

This is a picture of part of the crowd with the coach holding the “Disciples Men’s basketball we presented him! We thought it fitting to give him a ball, with all of our signatures on it to commemorate this successful men’s fellowship event!

Dave Luehauer
President
Tennessee Disciples
Men’s Fellowship
901-874-3128 (wk)
901-481-8354 (cell)
The Disciples Men’s Fellowship (DMF) of the Madison Christian Church (MCC) in Madison Alabama held their Annual Steak and Baked Potato Dinner on Veterans Day November 11, 2011 for all Active Duty Military, First Responders, and Veterans. The DMF provides this free dinner to the community with the assistance of the Madison Christian Church as a whole.

For the fifth time the MCC DMF Veterans Dinner was honored with the attendance of 50 plus Wounded Warriors from the US Army and US Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Battalions at Fort Campbell, KY., Camp Pendleton, CA., Camp Lejeune, NC., and Walter Reed. These Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines suffered combat injuries while serving in IRAQ and Afghanistan.

In 2012, the DMF held a Pancake Breakfast in March, supported scholarships to Camp for MCC Youth and the Miracle Day in June. Come join us for our Fish Fry in September to prepare for the 2012 Veterans Dinner.

James L. (Jim) Samuelson
Chairman, Madison Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Disciples Men’s Fellowship
Ohio Disciples Men
have been working to build mission teams throughout the Regional Church to respond mission needs of congregations though out the Regional Church.

Recently, St. Philips Christian Church of Cleveland, OH was in some bad need of a facelift. Their side property had become entangled with brush and shrubs. There were several large limbs of trees that were dead and needed to be removed.

One tree hung dangerously over the parking lot. There was also work that needed to be done on the building itself.

On May 5th, 15-20 men descended on St. Philips Christian Church, cleaned the side yard, cut and chipped the limbs and one tree, and filled in cracks in the concrete building.

Two weeks later, 8-10 men met at Camp Christian to build a fence, clean the pools, and prepare the cabins for summer use.

We are just beginning the process of building these teams but it is looking good.

Rob Bernard
President of the Ohio Disciples Men.
The Christian men that live around the geographic area of Elwood, Indiana have birthed a **Bold New Event**. It has been parented by the Christian Churches, but is open to all believers and non-believers to let all men know that Christian men can have fun and enjoy life with Christ. We all know that it is a challenge to get younger men involved in church activities. This event gets the attention of young and old alike.

The program has been named “**Quest**” which is appropriate relating to the type of activities that are challenging to all. Most men like to get involved in hands-on activities. We all have seen other men accomplishing all types of activities and said to ourselves “**I wonder if I could do that?**” Well, this is their chance.

To name a few, shooting bow and arrow, small arms, turkey shoot; throwing a hatchet or knife; operating a portable sawmill, a backhoe, an excavator, a bobcat or a skid loader; Riding a horse, shoeing a horse, driving an antique tractor or Model T Ford or a four wheeler, walking through antique and classic cars. Other new events are being planned such as fly fishing, a Zip Line and hot air balloon ride. This is all wrapped up in a one day program that includes a meal and at least one or more motivating talks to emphasis the need we all have for an encompassing Savior.

This event was held the first Saturday in October 2011 and was attended by approximately 175 men on 40 acres of hilly, wooded ground belonging to one of the men of the Elwood Christian Church.

It takes a lot of planning and a lot of help on the day of the event. **It was said that this was one of the largest gatherings of Christian men in Indiana in 2011.** It is anticipated that “**Quest**” will grow and may be limited to the number of men that will be able to attend. **God is in all things, we only need to recognize his power and give him credit.**

For more detailed information, call **Bill Bronson** 765-860-2646, **Gino Small** 317-439-2014 or **Earl Watson** 765-552-0820
Men’s Ministry Endowment Fund List

**Men’s Ministry Endowment Fund (MMEF)** is the main endowment for Men’s work. The endowment is owned by the GCDM, but managed by the Christian Church Foundation for us. (The Executive Committee manages the endowments and interest on behalf of the GCDM.) We do not have access to the principal dollars, but a portion of the growth/interest is refunded to us in support of our work.

Paul Few (Nebraska) was instrumental in establishing the MMEF and always is a good resource on the history of the endowment.

The MMEF is also the umbrella fund. There are a series of named funds under the MMEF to honor or memorialize people who have supported men’s work. Today, we have six named sub-funds:

**MMEF — Dick & Jane Herrington** was set up to honor Dick & Jane Herrington. Dick was a very active Pastor Counselor for several GCDM Presidents. Jane shared Dick’s ministry and became our Recording Secretary for the years Dick served as Pastor Counselor. Dick also served as one of two Sessions Managers (Scott Woolridge the other) for Sessions 2000 held in Des Moines, IA. And Dick was, until his recent death, our honorary GCDM Life Member. Dick also was the Minister Advisor for the Ohio Disciple Men for years as well.

**MMEF — David McCracken** was set up to honor a former DHM Director of Men’s Works. David has a kind soul and personality, and the Executive Committee felt the need to set up this honor. David is from, and still lives in, Indiana.

**MMEF — Mark Rutherford** is in memory of Mark for his active regional men’s work in Oklahoma. He was instrumental in setting up regional men’s work.

**MMEF — Paul Easton** is in memory of Paul. Paul took up ministry as a second career in Ohio. But he was very active in setting up men’s groups in the churches he served as Interim pastor.

**MMEF — Robert “Bob” Johnson** is in memory of Bob’s work as Chair of Men’s Work in Ohio District 4 and as President of the Ohio Disciple Men. Bob was a common man with a big heart (and also father of CCF’s Randy Johnson).

**MMEF — Ellis Lewis Champ** is in memory of Ellis’ work in Nebraska. Like Mark Rutherford in OK, Ellis was instrumental in setting up regional men’s work in Nebraska.

**MMEF — Jay and Mona Stevenson** are active Disciples who have been instrumental in establishing and supporting many of the named Men’s Ministries Endowment funds. Jay served as GCDM president from 2003-2005 and promoted the MMEF as a vital priority of Disciples Men.

**MMEF — Tom Jewell** is the Regional Minister of Oklahoma and has been active in men’s ministry for many years.

**MMEF — Joel E Potts, III** has been active in men’s ministry in West Virginia for many years.

**MMEF — Paul and Ruth Few** have been active in men’s ministry for many years, past president of Disciples Men and currently serving on the Disciples Home Missions Board of Directors.

**MMEF — Nathan and Claudia Higginbotham.** Nathan is a leader in men’s ministry in the Southwest Region and has been for many years.

**MMEF — Richie Tumblin** has been active in men’s ministry in Tennessee for years.

**MMEF — Don Eberly** is active in men’s ministry in the IL/WIS Region.

**MMEF — Indiana Disciples Men’s Commission Fund.** The Disciples Men of the Christian Church in Indiana created the Indiana Disciples Men’s Fund to honor generations of commitment to ministry among the men of Indiana.

**MMEF — Milton Sunnerland Fund** was established by the Disciples Men of the region of Georgia to honor the many years Milton spent as the staff person for the Disciples Men in the Georgia Region.

**MMEF — Roscoe Dickerson’s** name is synonymous with Men’s Ministries in the Ohio Region and also has been instrumental in growing and supporting Men’s Ministries in the Cleveland area.

**MMEF — Oscar Haynes** has been very involved in Men’s Ministries in the Capital Area Region. Oscar’s deep faith and his gregarious nature have been contagious in encouraging and supporting Men’s Ministries.

**MMEF — David Garshaw** in recognition of David’s leadership and for being the force behind the development of Disciples Men while he served on the DHM staff.
Translated to “Finding your Identity”, was the theme for the 2012 Men’s Ministry Retreat of the Hispanic-Bilingual Southeast Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held at the Christian Church Conference Center in Ocala, FL from March 2-4, 2012.

Ninety-one men from our region participated this weekend from all ages and many diverse backgrounds, and were challenged to take a serious look at how they see themselves and then making the comparison with what a man in Christ is striving to be. Our entire retreat program reinforced and challenged our men with this theme. The Friday night service was lead in worship by a group of men from 5 different churches that had little time together to practice. They blessed us all! The preacher at the Friday night service was Rev. Hector Santiago. At the 6 am service in the outside chapel, Rev. Reynaldo Acevedo had the word and following breakfast we had a conference by Manuel Collazo, “Finding your Identity in the proper stewardship for the kingdom of God”. Then, we had Dr. Matamoros with “Blessed to be Men, reexamining our manhood” and after lunch “Finding your success in your Identity” by Anthony Rodriguez.

Having Rev. Dr. Samuel Pagan for the Saturday evening service was a great privilege for our men, being brought to the challenge of looking at our identity by the movements of the water in John 5:1-8. Saturday afternoon, we had encounters with alligator’s in our canoe trip, volleyball championships and special dominoes honors. Rev. David Cortez was honored with the Man of Impact award and activities finished Sunday with a traditional Disciples service with a spirit filled message from Israel Martinez.

A great weekend with an important theme, finding our identities so we can clearly model a life in Christ and witness to the world who we are in our families, churches and communities.

Efrain Rivera
Up Coming Events

- October 5, 2012 – West Virginia Regional Men’s Retreat at Cedar Lakes Conference Center.
- April 5, 2013 – Virginia Regional Men’s Retreat at Airfield 4-H Conference Center.

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

Thank You!

Oscar Haynes, a life long worker in the Disciples Men, was awarded a Life Time Membership into the General Conference of Disciples Men.

The honor was given to Oscar at The Gathering of Disciples Men in Bethany, WV in July. Oscar was the person most responsible for organizing the first Session.

All the Sessions and Gatherings have built themselves around the work done for the first one. All Disciples Men should be proud of the hard work done by Oscar on the first meeting, when there was not history.

Oscar, the General Conference of Disciples Men and all the Men of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ thank you for your guidance, knowledge and hard work.

Thank You!
The Disciples Men of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathered in historic Bethany, West Virginia at Bethany College for “Extreme Faith – Bold Action, A Gathering of Disciples Men” July 13-15, 2012. Men gathered from far and wide to join together for a spiritual experience that would last a lifetime…and that’s exactly what happened. The spirit of God moved freely throughout the entire weekend. Fellowship was plentiful, laughter was abundant and Love was evident!

The weekend kicked off with the Golf outing on Friday morning just up the road at the Highland Springs Golf Course.

There was a unique display of skill and sportsmanship throughout the day on the course. We couldn’t have asked for better weather and a better backdrop to get things started. At the same time, Disciples Men began Mission work began in the Bethany community. Men selflessly gave their time to work on painting the outside of the Community Center and the windows at Bethany Memorial Church! At the center of the Mission focus was the assembling of the Prayer Labyrinth and benches on the grounds of the historic Campbell mansion. Under the leadership of Randal Dawson, President of the West Virginia Disciples Men, men worked morning, noon and night to the Glory of God.

Later Friday evening, everyone gathered at Bison Stadium for the Pig Roast and Pep Rally. There was a feast complete with the actual roasting and carving of a pig. Afterwards, we gathered for praise and worship led by musicians, Stephen King and Andra Moran, accompanied by Justin Ott. We heard from Dr. Larry Grimes of Bethany College, Rev. Greg Ott of Virginia, Rev. Thad Allen, Regional Minister of West Virginia and Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President (DOC). Derek Maul, the Gathering’s Keynote Speaker, gave an introduction for the weekend. The program ended with a powerful communion coupled with a circle of prayer on the Bison football field.

Saturday morning began bright and early with a hearty breakfast. Men continued on to their Mission work at the different sites. There were a number of workshops to choose from during the day, catering to understanding the role of men in church and their communities. Men’s ministry leaders from all over conducted the workshops throughout the morning and afternoon.

Transportation, courtesy of the Men from West Virginia, provided easy access to all locations around the campus and community. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the laying of the last brick of the labyrinth.
Various men wrote prayers on small sheets of paper that were placed in the ground prior to the bricks being laid. The presence of the Lord was in attendance as the last prayer was placed in the ground and the last brick was laid over top. With wonderful words from Rev. Sharon Watkins, the Labyrinth was complete. It was an extremely moving experience, to say the least.

Derek Maul continued with that collective spiritual high with his keynote address in the beautiful Commencement Hall. Mr. Maul, who is an author and Men’s ministry advocate, focused on 10 life charged words specifically designed for men to enhance their walk with Christ. At the end of his address, everyone was given a copy of his new book, “10 Life Charged Words”, his brand new book that, coincidentally, was released that weekend.


If you were not in attendance, you missed out on a wonderful and spiritually charged life altering experience. Words can’t further express the power in what it means hundreds of men gather in fellowship and prayer. Pray for one another and be on the lookout for the next “Gathering”.

Ralph Wesley
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