



RELEVANT PRACTICAL MINISTRY FOR MEN

WHAT DO WE DO...

AFTER THE CONFERENCE ?

RPM offers Iron Sharpens Iron and other outstanding events and conferences throughout the year, but attending a conference shouldn't be seen as an isolated event. Ideally, it will be one step in a continuum of growth. For many, the next step is to follow up with our team.

One of RPM's most effective resources is our "church coaching." Tom Cheshire and Tom Gensler will sit down face to face with your church and ministry leaders on a quarterly basis to help you develop and implement a plan for creating a discipleship culture within your church.

"There is no cookie cutter approach that will work regardless of what church uses it," Tom Gensler explains. "Meeting face to face and working together, we will find the most effective way to help your church create a discipleship culture. Experience has taught us that one consultation every three months is the most effective interval in most cases."

Please don't think our coaching is one more tool that large churches use and smaller churches can only dream about. In fact, the costs are negligible—intended only to cover travel and incidentals. RPM's supporting churches and individual donors make it possible to help off-set the cost of our coaching. This is not a revenue stream for RPM, rather a cost recovery to cover our time and gas for the coaching session. The goal of our coaching is to see every man in your church maturing in Christ.



Michael Peer is a men's ministry leader at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Decatur: "We had a men's ministry in name, but not really in practice. We didn't know how to go about it. After we met, and got to know, Tom C. and Tom G., our ministry began to move!

"They started us off with a basic outline, and helped us get organized. Now, we have a steering committee, and men working in three specific areas that contribute to the overall men's ministry. Our current goal, after the last coaching session, is to create several small groups. Church coaching with RPM took our men's ministry from haphazard to intentional, and I look forward to seeing where this goes in the future."

CALENDAR

SEPT 19:

Leading Noble Men
Pastors' Conference
First United Methodist Church
Springfield, IL

NOV 4:

Ignite Pathway Training
First United Methodist Church
Springfield, IL

NOV 18:

Ignite Pathway training
State Line Christian Church
Paris, IL

IRON SHARPENS IRON 2018

O'FALLON, IL	2/17/18
TERRE HAUTE, IN	3/3/18
SPRINGFIELD, IL	3/17/18
CHAMPAIGN, IL	4/21/18

GENSLER'S CORNER



I'll leave it to Tom C. to write thought-provoking men's ministry this month. Myself, I'm going to pause and give RPM's friends and supporters an update on our baby in the hospital.

Our twins were born July 31st. Selah is now at home. Shiloh is still hospitalized because she suffers from *long gap esophageal atresia*—basically, a disconnect between the stomach and esophagus. About fifty babies a year are born with this condition in the United States. This isn't a life-threatening issue; Shiloh is healthy and growing, but she

has to remain in the hospital and use a feeding tube until surgery can be performed.

The vast majority of babies born with this condition have other issues as well—often life-threatening or leading to disability. Praise God! Shiloh is expected to be perfectly normal and healthy once her surgery is done! Our prayer at this moment is that God's hand will be on our baby's surgical team at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago.

These next few months will be an ordeal, to be sure. But Lisa and I feel *so blessed* that God has given us stewardship over these two precious girls, in addition to our other children. As always, we rely on our faith, our church family, the comfort we take from God's word, and, of course, each other.



IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

We use the term "discipleship" in reference to a specific mentor/mentee relationship. Discipleship training, however, affects all of a man's relationships—with his spouse; with his children; with other Godly men; with lost individuals; and with our Savior.... That is where men often get hung up: men struggle to develop relationships.

As He surveyed all of early creation in the Garden of Eden, what was the only thing God declared to be "not good"? *That the man should be alone.*

The core of the Trinity is relational. Genesis 1:26, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness...." identifies us as relational beings as well. The greatest sacrifice Jesus made in dying for our sins was to be separated from the Father.

The most impactful relationships any man has (whether he thinks of it in terms of "discipleship" or not) is with his own children. One focus of RPM is to help men understand what relationship and responsibility look like in the home. But the sad truth is, if discipleship is not happening in the home, it is because it is not happening in the church.

Tom Cheshire

Your support of RPM actively encourages and assists local church pastors. Your prayers and financial contributions make this ministry possible. Together, we are RPM!



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