



RELEVANT PRACTICAL MINISTRY FOR MEN

FOCUS ON CHAMPAIGN

AN INTERVIEW WITH BRODIE CROYLE

Look up ISI Champaign keynote speaker Brodie Croyle on the internet and you'll learn he played college football for the University of Alabama from 2002 to 2005, leading the Crimson Tide to the 2006 Cotton Bowl Classic. He was named the game's offensive MVP. Drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs, he enjoyed a short run in the rarefied air of NFL quarterback stardom before giving up the game.

For many with an earthly perspective, Brodie's relevance ended there. But from a godly perspective, Brodie shines even more brightly now that he is in service to Christ. As Croyle himself says, "God put me on Earth to take care of children."



RPM talked to Brodie Croyle as he traveled between meetings related to his work as executive director for Big Oak Ranch, the Christian non-profit founded by his father, John. Big Oak Ranch in Alabama actually features two ranches: one for girls and one for boys, as well as a Christian school.

"I have a beautiful wife, Kelly, I've been married to for ten years," Brodie says. "We have two boys, Sawyer (5) and Luke (3). I was blessed to grow up at the ranch in a wonderful family. Now, I help spread that blessing. My sister is the child care director. We take in abandoned, abused and neglected kids and put them in a home with a godly man and woman (each ranch features multiple private homes)."

(cont. on back)

...AND DON'T MISS PASTOR LORITTS

Also keynoting in Champaign is Pastor Crawford Loritts, Senior Pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, GA. Married in 1971, he and his wife, Karen, have 4 children and ten grandchildren. Crawford was ordained to the ministry in 1972.

Crawford has preached at churches, colleges, and other venues worldwide, and has been a featured speaker at Super Bowls, NCAA Final Four Chapel, and the Pentagon. He and his wife are co-authors of "Developing Character in Your Child," and they both speak at Family Life marriage conferences.



ISI 2017 SCHEDULE

DONE! O' FALLON, FEB 18
DONE! TERRE HAUTE, MAR 4
DONE! SPRINGFIELD, MAR 18

COMING UP!

CHAMPAIGN, IL
April 8

New Horizon United
Methodist Church
Speakers: Crawford Loritts,
Brodie Croyle

OTHER EVENTS

April 22: Ignite Pathway training, Coal City, IL

April 29: Ignite Pathway training, Grace Bible Church, Florissant, MO.

July 14-16: Fathering Adventure, Clinton, IL

AUG 25: Bob Brady/RPM Golf Classic, Decatur, IL

November 4: Ignite Pathway training, First United Methodist Church, Springfield, IL

November 18: Ignite Pathway training, State Line Christian Church, Paris, IL

CROYLE (CONT.)

That way, they can see and experience what a real family is like. Where they come from—the situations they are coming out of—looks nothing like that."

In addition to his duties at the ranch, Croyle inspires as a Christian speaker. "I'm looking forward to Iron Sharpens Iron in Champaign. I'm coming with an open heart, ready to talk about what it means to be a godly man and father. I'd challenge every man to come ready to learn, and also ready to teach."

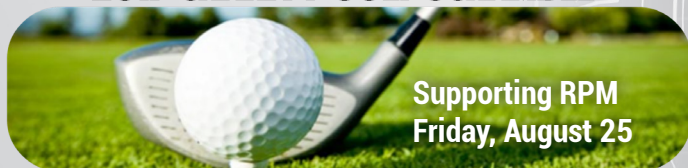
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2017 CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE



Supporting RPM
Friday, August 25

GENSLER'S CORNER



Last month we discussed the first of three key themes in discipleship: "Maintaining a solid spiritual discipline." The second is, "Develop a Clear Vision."

What I'm getting at is that to model and teach godly manhood, you need a clear vision of what that means in your own life.

Discipleship is helping someone learn to be a godly man not just in church on Sunday morning, but day in and day out, in all the different areas men have to navigate.

What does it look like to be married and a man of God? How do you handle finances? What is a godly man in the workplace when you encounter a difficult work environment? You don't have to have every answer but those who disciple well have an understanding of what God says in these areas. It's impossible to teach what you don't know; it's easy to teach when it's an overflow from your own life.

Tom Gensler

MAKING EMOTIONAL DEPOSITS

I understand the pressure and demands that a pastor faces, but one expectation I will place on pastors is that you need to make emotional deposits. That one can't be delegated. One question I ask is, "When is the last time you took a man from your church to lunch with no agenda?"

Unfortunately many never have, but that's what you need to do. As the pastor of this church, who do you see that's actively leading in ministry, or that you can see the characteristics of leadership in? "Well, I see Bill Jones leading in missions...." My challenge to him, then, is to call Bill Jones on Monday and ask him to lunch.

Bill might think he has screwed up or that you have an assignment for him. Tell him you just want to spend time. "I see you leading, and I want to know you. What's Bill Jones all about?" Engage in a real conversation about him and his life, not just church business. Invest in Bill Jones.

Men need that from their pastors. If you're not making emotional deposits regularly, the men of your church won't think you care for them. That's why you don't get a response when you ask something of them.

All this leads to a further challenge we give to pastors: are you discipling another man?

If you have children, you know how hard it is to get them to do something you don't do yourself.

That invitation to lunch—it doesn't seem like much, but it's a start to investing in the men of the church, out of which discipleship will come, and spiritual maturity.

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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