



## RELEVANT PRACTICAL MINISTRY FOR MEN

# ISI REDEMPTION STORY

*"I came home from Vietnam with a broken heart following two battles in which I lost most of my best friends. One died in my place, bled out in my arms. I came home to a broken country broken myself...."*

So begins the testimony of Phil Downer, President of Discipleship Network of America: a war veteran, former attorney, author of numerous books, and a popular speaker within and outside the United States.

Having heard Phil's redemption story rattled off with military precision (many of his speaking engagements are to the various branches of the military) we decided to share only that bit of it. We don't want to take away any of the thunder he will deliver as a keynote speaker at ISI Champaign on April 6. The only spoiler alert we will offer is that the victory, and Phil, belong to Christ.

Downer uses his story to open minds as he delves into a message on discipleship and its ability to change the world that will inspire men of all generations.

Having worked with his wife to rescue a marriage that was on the brink of divorce, Phil will also host a workshop entitled *Love, Sex, And Marriage God's Way*. "I have a fabulous, vibrant, team-working, intimate marriage now, but there are things we do every day, every week, every month, to keep it that way," he says.

Phil Downer is only one of the people you will meet when you attend *Iron Sharpens Iron: Champaign*.

### ALSO IN CHAMPAIGN....

Our second keynote speaker of the day will be Pastor Jeff Strueker. Strueker is also a combat veteran. At age 18, he enlisted in the United States Army as Infantryman. He retired as a Chaplain. An accomplished writer and speaker, he now serves as lead pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. He and his wife, Dawn, are proud grandparents.

## CALENDAR

### IRON SHARPENS IRON...

O'FALLON, IL  
**COMPLETED!**

TERRE HAUTE, IN

March 9, 2019

Maryland Community Church  
Speakers: Jamaal Williams  
Steve Coble

SPRINGFIELD, IL

March 23, 2019

First United Methodist  
Speakers: Bruce Fong  
Kempton Turner

CHAMPAIGN, IL

April 6, 2019

New Horizon Church  
Speakers: Jeff Struecker  
Phil Downer

### AND BEYOND...!

### FATHERING ADVENTURES

July 19-21

Little Galilee Christian Camp  
Clinton IL

### IGNITE TRAINING

May 11

1st Baptist Church  
Woodlawn IL

### LEADING NOBLE MEN

November 7

1st United Methodist Church  
Springfield IL



## LET'S MEET CHRISTY!

Christy Stacey took over as administrative assistant for RPM last May, and quickly became indispensable. She sees it as being an outlet for her passion to see the people of God connect and care for one another.

"We can't do this alone," Christy says. "A big part of our relationship with Christ is reflected in our relationships with others. Man to man or woman to woman, we can help to lift each other up and call each other out when appropriate. That is the heartbeat of RPM."

Christy, Ryan, and the Stacey children are members of the same church as Tom Gensler. "Tom and I have worked together in the church. He saw how I work and thought it would be a good fit with RPM. I would say he is right. I take care of the financial aspects of the ministry, data entry, hotel bookings, etc. Whatever is needed to keep things running smoothly. I'm a bit of a perfectionist.

"RPM is good at helping churches get their game plan together. If a church is new to men's ministry RPM gives tools that help get that off the ground. They also teach what effective discipleship looks like and how to encourage that.

"They don't just teach and encourage," Christy goes on. "They also walk the talk. Personally, the men are good to work with. They are open to questions and suggestions. To see Tom C. with Jan, and the affectionate, precious way he treats her is something. Tom G. is the same. His wife is one of my tight circle of friends, a prayer partner.

"This is the first ISI conference season I've been with RPM. I'm surprised how smoothly it's gone. It is like a well oiled machine!"

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