

The Power of Discipleship

July 11, 2009 was a perfect day, complete with a rainbow on the way to the church. With my two sons on each side of me, I walked down the aisle to marry Mr. G Ryan Stacey. We met at the church we were attending. Each of us had been married before, and had 3 children ages 6-10 between us. From the world's standard, we knew the odds were stacked against us from the start.

To say the first few years were rough would be an understatement. But we knew God had brought us together and had a plan for us and we were committed to that plan and to each other.

So what does any of this have to do with a men's ministry newsletter????

This is where the "God had a plan" part comes into play. Ryan, my husband of 11 and a half years now, met Tom Gensler and attended his first Iron Sharpens Iron conference in 2015. This conference, along with some counseling for us both, and a whole lot of Jesus, was a total game changer for not only Ryan as a man, but as a husband, a father, and most importantly a follower of Christ. His focus started transitioning from "self" to God and family more each day. The way he was opening up and letting God do a work in his heart was so evident and encouraging to me as his wife.

As we began to learn more about the Gensler's and RPM's mission, I knew that I wanted to be a part of this vital ministry. And it is just that VITAL! Vital to men, to countless children, to wives, to churches, and to servants of God. That is why I am part of the RPM team, I believe in the work God has charged the Tom's to do, day in and day out. God has blessed me with the ability to play a part in this ministry, and I never take it for granted.

Tom G saw that good soil in Ryan's heart and has poured countless hours into him, has discipled him, challenged him, and just loved him through life. Ryan has went from an angry, somewhat self-centered man, to a man that is truly after God's heart and His will for our life.

Ryan humbly serves as an elder at our church and serves right beside me, Tom G. and Tom C. at 3 of the 4 ISI conferences each year and attends one to refuel himself. He is truly my biggest supporter and cheerleader. We are both eternally grateful to God for this ministry we call Relevant Practical Ministry for Men.



Christy Stacey, Admin, RPM

As a single mom with little support, I was panic stricken when my 19 year old son in the autism spectrum started displaying behaviors that I needed help with, like "right now" help! Seeking God's direction, He led me to reach out to Tom Gensler. Knowing Tom and his family at a distance, I had high hopes that it was in fact God leading this. With Tom's commitment to growing God's men within our community, he agreed to help and embraced my Noah.

Tom facilitated a plan to invest into my son on his level, to grow a God's man within Noah. He is showing him what a godly man looks like through everyday life with kindness. My son is developing a relationship with God and Tom's family. Tom's passion for the lost and growing God's men is evident. It all starts with prayer, a desire to nurture a friendship, and having community.

My son's sense of community with Tom is flourishing into a friendship that immolates family. This single momma's eyes are filled with tears – thanking Jesus with holy hands lifted high. My son matters and now has meaning with a new direction, and it all started with a prayer!

~ Sally S.



Tom & Noah at Church

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him up. ~ Ecc. 4:9-10a

Manhood Tips

- Remember to keep **CHRIST** at the center of this holiday season!
- Find time to celebrate **JESUS** in everything you do!



RELEVANT PRACTICAL MINISTRY FOR MEN

State of the Ministry

RPM launched in 2007 and it did so in faith. I believed God had called me to launch a ministry outside the context of the local church, so that I could be a resource to the local church in the area of men's ministry. Jan and I prayed about it, had many emotional conversations about it, but at the end of it all we stepped out in faith, trusting IF this was where God was calling us, THEN He would provide. Looking back, He HAS provided, and he IS faithful. However, as you know yourself, that doesn't mean it has all been easy or even fun at times. 2020 has been a year for everyone, I know no one who has made it through unaffected by the pandemic. We know that many people have been devastated by Covid and have lost their ministry or their business. RPM is hanging in there by the grace of God.



We cancelled our Champaign ISI, and we did our Springfield ISI in September in Decatur to a greatly reduced attendance. We estimate the ministry is down \$60,000 from previous years. We were blessed to apply and receive the PPP and that has sustained us to finish the year. We set a year end support goal of \$20,000 and we have raised almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of that amount. Thank you, Jesus!

We all face the uncertainty of what 2021 will bring. We all operate in faith. We have faith God will provide for you and for us. We look forward to serving the local church in 2021 and beyond.

Tom Cheshire - Executive Director, RPM

YEAR END GIVING UPDATE....

Through YOUR faithfulness, we have been blessed with \$14,000 of our \$20,000 goal.
We thank God each day for HIS blessing!

Coming up....

O'Fallon ISI - 2.21.2021
Terre Haute ISI - 3.6.2021
Springfield ISI - 3.20.2021
Champaign ISI - 4.24.2021

December Recourse Winners

Daniel Miller - Vandalia, MO
Bryan Taylor - Westphalia, IN
CONGRATULATIONS MEN!!!