

# Iron Sharpens Iron ~ Champaign & O'Fallon, IL

## Al Vogelsang of Christian Life Church!

### 2021 Mike Sheeley Men's Ministry Award - Champaign, IL Conference

Al has been at Christian Life Church for 37 years. As a part of the original church plant that started as a bible study of four couples, he has seen God grow it to 500-600 members! He has "officially" been the MML for the last 10 years, but has invested in men personally from the beginning of Christian Life.

Al explains, "First, it is imperative that the senior pastor is on board. Don't over "event" men, even a monthly breakfast can be too much. Moderation to gather men is key, as it allows you to market and communicate events well, and to that, men will respond. Giving men viable ways to serve is another huge way that CLC engages men.

Providing different options that is attractional to a variety of men will allow them to develop

relationships with each other and may even be given the opportunity to see men that came to "help out" come to the faith and saving knowledge of Jesus! Sustainability is based on being intentional on developing relationships with other men. Lastly, the goal is multiplication. Making disciples who make disciples."



Thanks for staying the course and keeping this conference on track!

-Kevin H



## Lonnie Kuykendall of The Bridge Church!

### 2021 Mike Sheeley Men's Ministry Award - O'Fallon, IL Conference

Lonnie describes his role as one who has a "want to" in seeing men come to know Christ and grow in maturity. That desire is his motivation for gathering men to come to ISI. He has been part of 3 different churches bringing men to ISI over the last 5 years. "Not sure I am the leader, but I am the instigator! It isn't about the title it is about the desire." Lonnie tells us.

"A men's ministry leader must have a good working relationship with the pastor. If the pastor isn't onboard then the men will not see it as worthwhile.", he explains. Without the pastor being in agreement that investing in men is important, no amount of desire from him will really matter. As Lonnie has gotten to know RPM and how they espouse this view, it is complete affirmation that this is not of man, but of God.

Lonnie has been with The Bridge Church since July of 2020 and is happy to be serving the men of the church God has called him to.

Our deepest gratitude for hosting and giving leadership to the following...

First Baptist Church  
Of O'Fallon, IL

Pastor Doug Munton  
Sam Marshall

New Horizon UMC  
Champaign, IL

Pastor Mark Jordan  
Bill Weiss





## RELEVANT PRACTICAL MINISTRY FOR MEN

### Reflection and Pressing Forward

September 25<sup>th</sup> we closed the books on the 2021 Iron Sharpens Iron conference. Although we prepared and planned for eight, this made the seventh conference completed in the last two years. 2021, like 2020, saw us move two of the four conferences to September as opposed to all four in the winter/spring. In 2020 we actually were only able to follow through with three of the four, but in 2021 we were, by the grace of God, able to complete all four. In March, the Terre Haute and the Springfield (Decatur for the second time) conferences and in September the O'Fallon and Champaign conferences.

RPM was able to safely produce 5 of the last 7 conferences in the middle of the pandemic. The sentiment from the men who attended was far beyond general appreciation. We were told over and over how grateful they were that we pressed on and were obedient to what we believe God called us to do. We saw God move in 2021 in the same way we have seen Him move in all previous years prior to Covid. He was faithful to bring the keynote and seminar speakers and He was faithful in protecting the men who attended. We saw God provide financially for the ministry through the conferences just like He has for the last 15 years.

Now, here is the reality of the 2021 conferences, the attendance was approximately half of our pre-covid attendance. That does create a significant financial deficit for the ministry. This deficit is how we are formulating our year end goal. We need to raise funding to finish 2021 in a financial position allowing RPM to continue bringing a top-notch, annual conference to empower and equip your church's men. We will make this goal and the details available in our November Newsletter.

### Mark your calendars for 2022!!!

O'Fallon ISI - First Baptist Church - 2.19.2021

Terre Haute ISI - Maryland Community Church - 3.5.2021

Springfield ISI First United UMC - 3.19.2021

Champaign ISI - New Horizon UMC - 4.2.2021

### Praise Report

Although attendance was down by 50% overall for this year's ISI conferences, we saw an overwhelming amount of men give their hearts to Christ! And for that we are grateful and praising God!!!