



“Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go.”

1 Samuel 9:6

Welcome to this inaugural issue of the True Men Ministries newsletter. The initial subscription list is the same group of people who receive my (mostly) weekly devotion “In My Father’s Footsteps.” I’ll explain that below. I started True Men Ministries in 2004, but in all that time I have never with True Men Ministries full-time. I am a full-time parish pastor of a congregation of nearly 1000 with a school ministry of about 150 children (preschool through 8th grade). I’m also husband to Nancy – have been for over 17 years. And I’m dad to Eddie, Kurt and Mark – have been for over 12 years. I preach every weekend and lead nine different Bible studies each week. At times I would like to be able to devote more time to True Men Ministries, but I realize that isn’t where God wants me right now.

Having said that, I do have some projects with TMM that I’m planning and working on. This newsletter will give you an idea of what those projects are. I hope you’ll pray for God’s leading in these projects. And if you are moved to help TMM reach more men and their families with the life-changing – and generational transforming – Gospel of Jesus Christ, there will be an address at the end of this newsletter than you can send your tax-deductible investment in the Gospel work of TMM.



Brothers in Battle Against the Evil One

“God chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn with many brothers...”

Romans 8:29

A year ago, I read Stephen Ambrose’s book “Band of Brothers,” the story of Easy Co. of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne in World War II. I had seen the HBO miniseries already, but finally read the book. That led me to read other books based on the unit – the memories of Major Richard Winters, Sgt. Don Malarky, and Sgts. Bill Guarnere and Ed Heffron. I had a personal interest in that my grandfather fought in World War II, receiving a purple heart from wounds suffered north of Bastogne in what is known as “The Battle of the Bulge.” History has always been interesting to me, but this was something different. I don’t know if it is the writing style, or because of my grandfather, but this history “hits home” for me. It is part of *my* history, part of who I am.

What I also have been learning is that the way these Citizen Soldiers (as Stephen Ambrose called the U.S. warriors who fought in World War II) lived and fought this war. They joined the military because they loved their country. But they fought the battles and performed heroic acts of sacrifice and honor because they loved each other. They were truly brothers in arms.

That kind of brotherhood is what God has called us to. Out of His love for us, He chose us to be like His Son, Jesus Christ, brothers in battle against Satan. Satan wants to destroy everything that God loves and that loves God. Jesus Christ came to win us back from Satan with His death on the cross and resurrection three days later. The war against Satan and against evil was won. But the battles are still being fought. The battle ground is the human heart and the human family. *Brothers in Battle* is designed to help men engage in this already-won war. But not alone! *Brothers in Battle* will help men band together in groups – squads, platoons, and companies – where the battles are truly won. An army of soldiers is important. But it is at the squad, platoon and company level that the battles are fought hand-to-hand. No one can fight and win alone, nor should they expect to. *Brothers in Battle* will provide ideas and strategies for small groups of men to band together and fight the enemy as well as to strengthen their families or future families with the powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ.



In My Father's Footsteps

“The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways his father David had followed.”

2 Chronicles 17:3

I call “In My Father’s Footsteps” a “mostly weekly” devotional because I don’t send out a devotional each and every week. I try to make it weekly, but there are some weekends where I just am not inspired to write anything interesting that will help you in your walk with our heavenly Father. I must confess that more often than not I do not work on the devotions ahead of time. Many times I write them on Saturday nights or early Sunday mornings. I also must admit

that I first started writing devotionals in order to get published, to get my name in print. It was a very selfish thing to do. I did manage to get a set of devotions published, as a Lenten devotional booklet produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries. That only proved that God can use even my selfishness to His glory. At one point I had a literary agent who was trying to get someone to purchase my devotions for publication. But it never happened. As time moved on, the Lord melted my selfish heart and now I write devotions as a way of expressing my love for God and what He has done for me. In doing that, I hope to be able to share that love with others, so they can see that God loves them and gave up His Son to death on the cross to save them. I now write pretty much weekly and I email out these devotions to those who subscribe as well as posting them on my blog.



www.truemen.org – the Official True Men Ministries Web site.

We are hosted at Yahoo but we could always use help in paying for the website space. On the website are several Bible studies that I’ve put together and led at my church’s men’s and adult Bible studies. There are also recommendations of music, videos, and books that can be ordered through our Amazon.com portal.



True Men in the Mountains Retreat

Idaho, 2006 & 2007

Joshua Tree, California
2008



I first visited Northern Idaho in the summer of 2005 on a servant event trip with my church's youth group. It was amazing! So I planned to lead a men's retreat (advance? True men don't retreat, do they?) and did for two summers. We hiked up a trail for an hour to a campsite on the north fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and spent three days hiking, fishing, and listening to God.

In the summer of 2008, I switched venues to Joshua Tree National Park. I invited Craig DeMartino, an experienced rock climber, to come and lead that portion of the retreat. It was very hot there - 114° F during the day. But it was an amazing experience, one that I will never forget.

I would like to lead a fishing retreat in Northern Wisconsin as well as another camping retreat on the Southern California Pacific shore. Your prayers and support for True Men Ministries can make that happen, God willing!

Well, that's enough for this first edition of the TMM newsletter. I hope you enjoyed it. Let me know what you thought of it. Pass on this newsletter to your church's men's group or pastor.

Please visit the True Men Ministries website at www.truemen.org

You can email us as admin@truemen.org

You can support our ministry by sending a check to:

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