Great God  Great Men

May 2020

**Our Vision:** Build an ongoing relationship between Jesus and men of all ages, both inside and outside the church, by mentoring men and engaging in small groups, while also recognizing each man’s unique fit into the body of Christ

**Thoughts from George:**

This physical isolation has given me time to think. Dangerous thing. One of the nagging questions for me is” where are the Methodist men of the Conference?”

It is good that we are physically practicing separation. However, that does not mean that we should be socially and especially, spiritually separated.

We are intentionally finding you and reaching out to you in hopefully many ways. One will be this electronic newsletter. I pray it finds you well. Through data bases at the Conference and District offices, we have identified more than 400 men who are engaged in service to Jesus through men’s ministry. WOW!! Who thought our flock was so large?? You may be a legacy or EMS financial supporter. You may hold a local office in your church, leading men in your church, or you may be one of Jesus’ disciples serving in ministry with him. We will be sending you this newsletter, and other information, through the groups you are part of. That way you may connect with others who serve as you do, especially in your District.

We ask your patience. This is a work in process. The data bases are not always accurate. You may receive duplications. Let me know of any problems you see. We want to serve you as best we can.

While we understand the reality that we are separated by boundaries, such as state lines and District boundaries. However, we are all part of the same ministry with and for Jesus. For me, Ephesians 4 says we are all given gifts SO THAT we will go into the world and equip others to do the work of ministry and build the body of Christ, His church on this earth. With our vision in mind, we will be sharing more information about ministry areas we know men are serving in and encourage others to join in. You will be hearing more about how we feed the hungry, serve the prisoners and work with scouting. You will hear more on efforts to help us grow spiritually.

Most importantly, we want to hear from you – what are you doing that you could share with all of us?

Kansas

From Charles File, Vice President from Beloit, Kansas.

I have been involved in men’s ministry for 40 years. I came to Jesus through Full Gospel Businessmen’s Ministry in 1980. Those twenty plus other men where my mentors and taught me how to be a fisher of men for Christ.

In the 1990’s, I came into my own ministry calling as a Promise Keeper Leader and Sunday School teacher in the United Methodist Church.
In the late 90’s, I became an officer of UMM in our local church. Then Salina District President in the early 2000’s. Following that I was a vice president for the new Great Plains Conference. In 2016, I was asked to be our conference president. In 2019, with much praying God had me step down to help our new conference president, George Houle. He is God’s man for this time in the Great Plains.

As a vice president, I will do my best to be a helper to our especially important men’s ministry in growing men into the “more” of Christ.

As a former Stephens Minister within the local church, I was assigned to help Rick Piersee, through life events. During those years, Rick found the “more” of Christ. One day God gave Rick a vision of a black spiritual dome over Beloit. In quizzing God about the dome, he told Rick it could be broken if Rick walked a path around the outside edge of Beloit praying to come against the black spiritual dome for one week or 7 times. Pleading the Blood of Jesus over Beloit to a bout God to have His Way toward a new spiritual revival in Beloit. God broke the dome and revival came to Beloit.

I shared this testimony nine or ten years ago with Kevin Marozas. In the first part of March, the Holy Spirit reminded Kevin about that event and gave him a new vision of what needed to be done about this time and event in Beloit, Kansas. This is Kevin’s vision by the Holy Spirit. These are the posts he made on Facebook in the middle of March.

I share this story as a challenge. How can you bring prayer and revival to your community?

March 19, 2020 - Kevin Marozas Facebook Post #1 about walking and praying around Beloit

I wasn’t sure that I was going to post this, but I know a few people saw me walking around Beloit last night, and a few of you even called to make sure I was ok (which on a sad note, shows I need to get out and exercise in public more... Ha). I was told a true story about another individual that did a walk around Beloit because he wanted to pray for this community. I also began thinking about my favorite 90-year-old lifeguard, Bob Severance, and how many laps he has done walking around the NCK Wellness Center pool, walking, watching and praying. So... I parked my truck at Solomon Valley Transmission at 4:30 p.m. last night (told Gayle what I was doing) and started off on my own “prayer walk” around Beloit. I brought my headphones, but never put them in for the 2 hours and 7 minutes it took me to take a lap around this community. I guess I just wanted to do my part, however big or small we think our part is, and pray for this community. Every time I looked at a business or building or school or church or car that drove by or house that I walked by, I said a prayer for that business, church or individual. I have to admit, it was one of the coolest things I’ve experienced. It IS overwhelming right now as we think of ourselves and our families (and we do need to care for our own), but as my good friend and coaching acquaintance would tell me so often “Kevin, get out of yourself and get into someone else that might need something...” It was always a good wake-up call. So, I had lots of time to pray and brainstorm and try and think of ways I can help out others around me in this community (safely and within the parameters of our current restrictions - prayer is always something we can do!), and I would encourage you to do the same. I’m thinking of trying to organize another one of these prayer walks as a kind of relay where we
wouldn’t be walking as a group, but walking sections and “passing the baton” to the next walker as we approach them. I just need to map out a better route. The Hwy 24 ditches are probably not the best place to walk!!!

March 21, 2020 - The 2nd Facebook post after putting up the crosses for the Prayer Walk

Thank you all for the response and comments to the prayer walk. I am overwhelmed at what God is doing through all of us. To those of you who would like to join in and walk a section (they are not in any order just numbers for clarification) around Beloit, I made a little map, and put a cross at every mile interval for a landmark between stations. And if you can’t join in, but want to join in, just visualize these spots as it encircles Beloit, our county, our state, our country, and our world! Even as things come and go during the next days, weeks, and months... keep your FAITH! PLEASE BE CAREFUL and WATCH/Be PREPARED FOR ANIMALS and VEHICLES, and just pick a different spot if someone is there. We still want to practice good social distancing during this time. I also “placed” some crosses at Chautauqua Park, Farm Bureau, and The High School Track (north end in the trees), just as a reminder to pray as you walk a route around town and see the crosses. We do need to stay healthy and still exercise during this time. ALSO, please be respectful of houses, land, farms, and businesses and obey all traffic laws if you park somewhere and then take a quick mile walk and back. This is your prayer time. The attached prayer is only a suggestion if you want (I got some help from a text from my mother-in-law!) God Bless!

Nebraska

My name is Doug Kallesen, of Columbus. I am pleased to be one of the officers representing Nebraska men within the conference. I’ve been doing this for a number of years and the hair has gotten grayer but I am determined to never give up in serving God. A big passion for me is helping Camp Fontanelle expand its ministry to kids and families.

We would like to hear about your passions and ministries as a way to encourage each other in service and spiritual growth. Please get in touch. Here are a couple news items:

• The 31st Annual United Methodist Men’s 100 Club Scholarship Dinner & Auction will be held at 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 1 in Grand Island at Trinity UMC in association with the GP Annual Conference. Please join in this mission of supporting young people pursuing full time Christian ministry and witnessing the award of $11,750 in scholarships!

• If not able to attend, consider donating online to the 100 Club through OmahaGives! on May 20 by clicking here, or anytime by designating such through the donation link on www.greatplainsumc.org/ummen.

• If your men’s group or Sunday School class is not already meeting virtually, please know that ZOOM provides a FREE service for anyone to meet for 40 minutes, and usually longer. The food isn’t as good over the internet, but the “keeping in touch” part is good, and you can give God a ZOOM invitation, too! We’re doing this in Columbus. If questions, please contact me.

Peace and Hope!
Spiritual

The following is borrowed from Kevin Harris, President of Radical Mentoring.

Most of my mentees have come into the mentoring season with some “prayer baggage.” Many men, myself included, seem to struggle with prayer. We talk too much or try to be too formal. We can’t get past shallow prayers or stop being self-centric. But you can’t mentor like Jesus without prayer. Unintentionally, I’ve followed a pattern when covering prayer with my groups…

1. **Teach Them to Pray:** In my first mentoring meeting with Regi in 2002, he dropped to his knees and prayed to his Father. It was such an intimate act I was taken aback. When I open my mentoring sessions, I try to do the same.

2. **Teach Them to Pray for Each Other:** Instead of having one person pray to close the meeting, I’ve started having my mentees all pray out loud. I assign each guy someone to pray for, we all share prayer requests, and then we pray out loud together. Many have never prayed out loud before, and the safety of the mentoring group provides an excellent opportunity to try it.

3. **Teach Them Pray with Their Wives:** For many of us, praying with our wives is a big step. It can make us feel inferior, leading to feelings of guilt and shame. Which is why “Praying with Your Wife” is one of our homework assignments. I always love seeing how God shows up, and marriages are changed as my guys have spent a month praying with their wives. Nothing brings me more joy than hearing how my mentees have moved from fear to fully alive in their marriages.

I hope those three frameworks, as well as the resources below, are helpful as you seek to make the most out of prayer with your mentoring groups. What ideas, activities, and approaches have worked for you?

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**Kevin Harris**  
President  
Radical Mentoring  
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Hunger:

It is my honor to introduce David Toler to you. David is your Hunger Relief Advocate. Here is a little about him and what he does, in his words. How can you help? (A suggestion is to put his words in italics or indented to make it clearer who is presenting what info.)

One of our main sponsors for hunger relief is our Meals for Millions program through the Society of Saint Andrew. As the Great Plains UMM Hunger Advocate I have worked with the Society of St. Andrews (SoSA) over the past 15 years. They have help the United Methodist Men in the Great Plains Conference provide over 1 million lbs. of potatoes to those in need in our conference. Most of the funds that help provide these potatoes were raised through the Meals
for Millions program. I would encourage every member of the Great Plains Conference to become a financial supporter through EMS and Meals for Millions Programs. This will help SoSA to continue to provide us with potatoes.

But there is more that we need to do to help those in our communities that find themselves for the first time in a Food Insecure situation.

➢ First: look at our local food pantries, food kitchens, and food banks and ask them what we can do to help them do the great work that they do. Can we provide them with nonperishable food items or may gift cards to local grocery stores that they can provide to families in need?

➢ Second: check with local farmers to see if they would give us permission to come to their fields and glean crops that were left in the field, and provide these items to local food relief agencies so they can provide fresh produce to those in need.

➢ Third: host an “Adopt and Bushel” event to provide funds to help purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to give to local agencies to help provide nutritious fresh produce to families that are suffering from food insecurity. More on that next month!

We are called to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. This is reflected in all that we do. We demonstrate the power and effectiveness of a true Christian community in addressing critical human problems, particularly hunger.

For more information about how your UMM Group can engage your Church and Community in helping fight and defeat food insecurity in your area please contact your Conference President George Houle ummwbb11@att.net or (316) 573-8359 or myself, David.

Thanks for your support
David Toler (Great Plains Hunger Relief Advocate)
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SPONSORED EVENTS

Family Night at the K with the Royals:

This has traditional been a great night for the families, biological and spiritual, to enjoy a night or even weekend away. Unfortunately, baseball in general seems to be a victim of Covid 19. We are not able to confirm with the Royals that the game will even be played.

Prairie River District Annual Dinner:

This annual gathering of the men in that District to break bread and share a message also fell victim to the virus.

McPherson Golf:

The golf scramble is still ON!!
Not only is it good chance to get out in the sun and meet new people, it raises money for the ministry at McPherson UMM and your Conference UMM. OPEN TO ALL. More info at our web site linked below.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MEN’S MINISTRY? Simply open the links below.

www.greatplainsumc.org/ummen
www.gcumm.org

In His Service,

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