

Dear Ministry Leader,

During the past year the *Georgia-Cumberland Conference Men's Ministry* has partnered with *Blueprint for Men* to provide every man in the conference with an opportunity to grow as authentic godly men through fellowship, education, and accountability. The *goal is not to just create another "ministry" but to create an unstoppable movement of godly men in these last days and answer the challenge written long ago...*

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men-- men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."

Education, p. 57

What is men's ministry?

Men's ministry is, at the most basic level, *relationship-based discipleship for men*. Effective men's ministry *"educates, equips, and empowers men to move from isolation and brokenness into healthy relationships and wholeness"* (*Blueprint for Men Mission Statement*). Men who engage in an intentional transformational process become better husbands, fathers, and disciples for Christ and therefore marriages, families, churches, and communities are strengthened.

What is Blueprint for Men?

Blueprint for Men is a Chattanooga-based 501c3 non-profit men's ministry founded by Marty Miller in 2014. *Blueprint for Men* has developed an effective biblically-based strategy that encourages men to engage in a transformational, relationship-based, discipleship journey. Complete information about *Blueprint for Men* can be found at their website which is www.blueprintformen.org

Why has Georgia-Cumberland Conference partnered with Blueprint for Men?

The *Georgia-Cumberland Conference* has a high level of confidence in *Blueprint for Men* because of a proven track record in building men's ministry. During the past several years *Blueprint for Men* has provided a wide variety of momentum events such as rallies, seminars, conventions, retreats, etc. that have spawned over 30 small groups. The majority of these small groups follow curricula that focus on developing authentic godly men with several groups focused on sex addiction recovery. In addition *Blueprint for Men* has provided guidance and resources for men's ministry leaders. More information about resources, events, and groups found at www.blueprintformen.org.

What is the strategy for growing men's ministry in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference?

The basic plan is to have *three **momentum events designed to inspire men to step up into their high calling as men and encourage them to get involved with a small group back at their home church. As men come together on a regular basis they will develop deep meaningful relationships with other men and learn how to become the men God designed them to be. Suggested momentum events are the...

- 1) Fall Rally
- 2) Winter Summit
- 3) Fall Retreat

* All the men of Israel were required to gather together three times every year during the Feast of Unleavened Bread/Passover, the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles/Day of Atonement (Exodus 23:14-17). These gatherings corresponded with the harvest of crops and pointed to the future *harvest of souls*. The proposed calendar of events will use this model, but instead of following the agricultural schedule, it will follow the academic calendar... fall semester, winter semester, and summer break. These three large gatherings will enable men to feel that they are part of an unstoppable movement of men... not just a small, unimportant ministry.

**Southern Region (Atlanta), Central Region (Chattanooga), Northern Region (Tri-Cities).

Why has men's ministry not grown in our church over the years?

Men's ministry has not grown within our church because it...

- #1 has been a *low priority* compared to other ministries
Recommendation: Pastors should seek to understand and communicate its importance
- #2 has received *very little financial support* compared to other ministries
Recommendation: Conference should seek to increase funding from <\$1/man to \$10/man
- #3 has been perceived as a *poor use of time*
Recommendation: Leadership should expect slow growth at first, like growing a fruitful tree
- #4 has been viewed as *primarily for men who are in crisis mode and struggling*
Recommendation: Every man benefits from manhood education and small group support
- #5 has been thought that *leaders must be talented, strong and confident*
Recommendation: Leaders can be just regular guys who are empowered and used by God

How can *Blueprint for Men* help initiate and support men's ministry at your church?

If you desire, *Blueprint for Men* will provide guidance for starting and growing your church-based men's ministry. To get started we highly recommend that you take the following steps...

- Step 1 Seek God's guidance to determine if you should start a men's ministry at your church
- Step 2 Find a man (or better yet two men) willing to step up and lead your ministry
- Step 3 Meet with your leader(s) and determine realistic goals and objectives
- Step 4 Sponsor your leader(s) to go to the upcoming GCC Men's Retreat at Cohutta Springs
 - Registration at www.blueprintformen.org
 - Retreat fee is \$135 - \$190.00 per person but is an incredible value when you consider that this investment in your leadership will also give you the following services and resources from *Blueprint for Men* for FREE...
 - Monthly coaching calls with your men's ministry leader(s) – \$600 value
 - One speaking engagement by Marty Miller at your church - \$400 value
 - Access to RightNow Media video streaming service which will provide your men with a wide variety of biblically-based instructional videos for men, women, parenting, marriage, and even Vege-tails! - \$1,000 value
- Step 5 Read and learn all you can about men's ministry. The *Blueprint for Men* website has recommended resources to get you started. Ask questions and seek wisdom from others who have experience such as Marty Miller who can be reached at 423-322-8491. When ready, formulate a plan based on proven strategies and get started!

How can you promote men's ministry at your church?

In the weeks and months ahead we ask that you enthusiastically promote the following men's ministry events so that we can continue to build momentum in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Make sure you have these events in your bulletins and flyers on the bulletin boards. Each event also has a short 15 second promo video that can be found on the *Blueprint for Men* website that you can show to spark interest. Your attendance at the events is a big influence to the men in your church, only second to their wives! ***Let's pack out these events that seek to inspire and challenge men to move forward in their walk with God!***

Chainsaws & Butter Knives Men's Rally

Aug 25, 2018 from 6:30 to 10:00 pm at the Collegedale Community Church

Join with us for a full evening of celebration, inspiration and perspiration. Whether you feel as sharp & powerful as a chainsaw or as weak and dull as a butter knife we need each other to get sharper. ...*Just as Iron Sharpens Iron* Proverbs 27:17. This evening will be an out-of-the-box experience as you hear compelling testimonies, eat a hearty pancake supper, & join in lumberjack contest if you choose! For more info: www.blueprintformen.org. Registration required to participate in the lumberjack contest.

Georgia-Cumberland Conference Men's Retreat

October 5-7, 2018 at Cohutta Springs Conference Center

The theme for the 2018 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Men's Retreat is "Blood Brothers" which is in reference to the brotherhood of men through the blood of Jesus Christ. During the weekend you will be refreshed and restored through inspirational music, challenging messages, delicious food, outdoor activities, and our 2nd annual car show! For registration information go to www.blueprintformen.org. Sign-up deadline is September 21!

Fire and Ice Men's Summit

January 19, 2019 at Southern Adventist University

This event will be held at Southern Adventist University and focus on current issues facing collegiate and post-collegiate Christian men. It will be promoted throughout the NAD and live-streamed to reach a much larger audience. Stay tuned for more information in the months ahead.

Regional Leaders Needed

As men's ministry grows in the years ahead we need to have strong leadership emerge in each of our regions. By the end of the year we hope to have leadership teams established that can plan and coordinate the large momentum events in January, August, and October. If you or any of your men desire to help with the next phase of growth contact to either Gary Rustad or Marty Miller. Thanks!

In Closing: Pastors... the key to successful men's ministry!

You, the pastor, are critical to the growth of men's ministry in the GCC. Through your promotion and personal engagement in men's ministry you will begin to see a brotherhood develop at your church which will ripple out into the marriages and families. It's worth the time and the investment... that's a promise! If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions feel free to contact Marty Miller by phone or email. Thanks in advance for your support of men's ministry in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. You make a huge impact for the kingdom of God and you are in our prayers!

Here's to Building Men for Him,

Marty Miller

Blueprint for Men, Founder
GCC Men's Ministries Coordinator



Gary Rustad

Georgia-Cumberland Conf., VP
GCC Men's Ministries Director

