



INFLUENCERS

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Hi Friends,

From 7:00 to 8:00 am on any Friday, an enthusiastic group of men meet together in the Spirit of Christ to worship, enjoy each other's fellowship and hear a message designed intentionally for men for such a time as this. For the last 16 years we have had the privilege of meeting weekly as a "Band of Brothers". On any given week we will have from 150-170 men representing 60-70 different churches. We have seen God create a truly amazing experience for the men who participate, an experience that is unique and unfortunately very rare for men.

I could try to explain what I am talking about, but we have found that it is pretty hard to explain. It's the kind of thing that you have to be there to experience for yourself, and then you understand. I guess I could point out a few things that I believe help to make the hour long weekly meeting an experience to remember:

- **PRAYER:** About 30-40 men gather for prayer from 6:00 – 6:50 am. It's the power that creates an environment where the Holy Spirit is free to minister to His men. The presence of God always makes a difference in everything, and without His presence, we're just another men's club. One of our mottos is, "Any encounter with Jesus Christ makes a man a better man." Prayer is the foundation of the Band of Brothers and the best explanation of what we experience every week.
- **THE MEN:** It's energizing, motivating and encouraging to be with such a large, unified group of men who gather in the Spirit of Christ to be reminded, taught, built up as men of God and who have so much fun together. As men in a culture that has a track record of increasingly tearing men down and confusing them about what a man is in our day, banding together with a group of like-minded men makes a lot of sense. It helps us get it on track with God and His Word as men of God, and keep ourselves there...for such a time as this.
- **WORSHIP & TEACHING:** Engaging, enjoyable, spirit-led worship and challenging, motivational teaching that intentionally focus on men is key. We live in dangerous, perilous, threatening times that by all cultural, social, economic and spiritual indicators, seem to tell us that things will become worse before they get better. Men of God are desperately needed. Another of our mottos is, "When the crisis comes, God expects that His men will have such confidence in Him, that they will be the dependable ones." We've found that when men are led and challenged to be God's men in these perilous times, they respond like Men of God.

WE'RE MOVING!!

Late breaking news! For the last 10 years we have had the privilege of meeting on Friday mornings at the Irvine Boys and Girls Club and they have been wonderful landlords. We have had a great relationship with them and we are leaving on very good terms. But, as we have been experiencing steady growth over the last couple of years, we have been asking God to provide a space that would accommodate this growing group of men. God has answered our prayers.

On Friday, October 3rd, we will be moving to the All-Purpose Room at Voyagers Bible Church on Irvine Center Drive, about 5-6 minutes from the Boys and Girls Club. The leadership at Voyagers has very generously offered their facility for our use on Fridays. We have had several extensive meetings with these men and have come away from every meeting with the assurance that God is in this.

Moving is always difficult, and I quite honestly have had mixed emotions about moving the group. Kinda the, "If it ain't broke don't try to fix it," principle. But after much personal prayer, and meeting and praying with the leadership of the Band of Brothers and the leaders of Voyagers, we believe that God is going after His men, and He is providing us space to accommodate them.


That's really the two reasons for the move: a space to accommodate more men, and a strong feeling that God is moving us for this reason and others that He will reveal to us in His good time.

The move will be what we call a "Plug-and-Play" move. That means that we are planning to move the Band of Brothers to the new location without changing the format, worship or teaching. We will have a new meeting room environment, but everything else will remain the same. We hope to make it as smooth as we can with as few changes as possible.

We know that moves require adjustments in getting use to new places and surroundings. But we are looking forward to discovering all the things God is going to do, and to welcome the men God is going to bring as we follow Him in making this move.

We're grateful to Voyagers Bible Church and to God who has faithfully answered our prayers and who is faithfully leading. This move will help us facilitate His charge to us when He said, "Go get My men!"

Give 'em Heaven!



Pete McKenzie