



December 2010 Newsletter



2010 has been a great year for Influencers West ministry to men. But the days ahead are going to be even greater! I believe our best days are ahead of us!

Ezekiel 37:1-10

Has God ever given you a passage? A few years ago He gave me this passage regarding His plan for men today. "... *He brought me out . . . and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones . . . that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"*

For 18 years God has been building a momentum in changing the lives of men who are chasing after Christ like never before. I'm not saying we have arrived, because we haven't. This is just the **Ezekiel 37:7**, "rattling." That verse says, "*So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together . . .*"

This is insightful regarding men today. We believe that God is gathering His men, these *dry bones*, to breathe His life into them. In the spiritual battle that is raging, men whom God designed to be the reliable and dependable ones in any crisis have been neutralized, and for all practical purposes, removed from the battle. They are strewn throughout Orange County bleaching in the sun. Men don't want to be on the sidelines in this war, but for many reasons, they have become "*dry bones*" spiritually. We hope to effectively equip, motivate, and engage them in the battle.

I have the privilege and responsibility of teaching 250-300 men every week on Wednesdays and Fridays here in Orange County. These men are seeking after Jesus Christ and are increasingly becoming "Men of God." They are praying fervently and consistently on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. As a result, we are watching God answer our prayers in many ways. One way is in seeing Him attract men to Himself through these men as they chase after Christ. We believe that if we catch on fire for Christ, men will gather around just to watch us burn. Can you hear the rattling?

This year I have also had the privilege of speaking to another 3,000 men in retreat and breakfast venues. The response has been amazing as these men hear a message that helps them understand . . .

- That the average Christian man today is "*dry bones*," but **our hope** is in the fact that God "*chooses the foolish things to shame the wise; the weak things to shame the strong; the lowly things and the despised, and the things that are not to nullify the things that are . . .*" (I Cor. 1:27,28)
- That he is "**the plan**" that Jesus chose when He called 12 men to follow Him and become "*fishers of men*" in a dark, chaotic world. Jesus started the first Men's Ministry and He is still choosing men to be the point men in going after His men.
- **That by God's grace, he can be free in Christ** from the guilt and shame of a performance-based religious system that has discouraged and defeated him.
- **That discipleship** is not about "shoulds and musts," but **is about relationship.**

- That dying to self **and life change happen in the context of proximity to Jesus**, not by keeping the rules or having good intentions or trying harder.
- **That God loves, accepts, and approves of him** because of what Jesus has done in him, not because of what he has done or tries to do.
- That **he is worthy** in God's eyes in the righteousness of Christ.
- **That there is no condemnation in Jesus**, and that obedience, exercising disciplines, and living out his salvation naturally occur as he comes to Christ and abides in Him.

This is why we are excited and believe that our best days are ahead of us.

There are about 1.4 million men in Orange County. God has put them on our heart. We believe thousands are ready to be recruited to a movement of men who are chasing after Jesus Christ. Thousands are ready to find their primary identities in Jesus Christ and are eager to become Men of God, if only given the chance. So, we are ready to marshal our time, talents, and resources around **one God-given purpose . . . going after God's men!**

With that in mind, we aren't just meeting weekly for ourselves. God has patiently, graciously, and intentionally prepared us for this time of crisis and uncertainty. In our own unique way, God has made men "**His Plan**" for such a time as this. I believe with all my heart that God is ready, and we are ready, to see amazing things happen as we pray and trust His lead. **In the coming year I will be challenging God's men to go after God's men—together . . . with great expectation of what He is going to do.**

We hope to see a coalition of churches and ministries who are ministering to men come together for the purpose of gathering our prayers, gifts, and resources to reach the men of Orange County for Christ. **In Ezekiel 37:1-10**, the passage concludes with this vision, "*So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath entered them; and they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*"

Can you see them? Can you see the vast army of men God is raising up here in Orange County? Your prayers and generous giving are helping to make this vision a reality. **THANK YOU!** It's great to know that we are in this together and that God has called us for such a strategic and important purpose.

Believing with All My Heart That These Bones Can Live!

Can you hear the rattling?

Pete