

Time to Start Planning

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Now is the time to begin planning for your next year of ministering to men. September is when most churches gear up for the next twelve months and you need to be ready to go when it arrives. Before you even realize it, Fall of 2018 will be upon us. It seems like yesterday we rung-in 2018 and in a couple of weeks, we will be halfway through the year.

I have discovered the churches that have vibrant ministries to men have a plan as they come out of the summer months and enter what is considered the traditional first month of Fall. So start planning, NOW!

If you haven't performed a survey of your men, this is the time to do it over the next few weeks. You will need to plan a few weeks to conduct the survey as many men will be taking their families on vacation during the month of June and July. You want to be sure you capture the thoughts of as many men as possible when you do the survey. I would recommend you plan an annual survey since the desires of men will change with each passing year. If you will [click here](#) the link will take you to a sample survey you can use or use as a template to create your own. If you create your own, I would caution not to make it too complex. You want the individual to complete the survey in just a couple of minutes.

Once the surveys are completed, here is how you use them;

- **Bucket the interest of your men.** You will probably find the men in your church have varying interests. You need to do all you can to target each one of those interests that have the attention of at least five men. You may find that as you plan for those interests, there will be others who will show an interest also; rather it is a fellowship event or a study.
- **Be intentional in your planning.** You do not want any man to feel left out. That is hard; but, it is a goal to strive for as you seek to develop intentional relationships with every man. You may not be able to plan for every interest but give it consideration. It could be something that can be done the next year, so be sure to keep a list of those interests.
- **Use the interests to create multiple entry points.** When you create those entry points in the area of a man's interest, it indicates to him you care about him. He will be more likely to participate and begin developing relationships that will help him grow in his walk with Christ.
- **Update your database.** If you don't have one – create one. This helps the leadership team to know the men – or as a coach would say, know his players. A coach must know his players, so he understands what skills the player needs to work on and how he fits onto the team. This will help the leadership team to understand what studies men are looking for and activities to participate.

Next time we will talk about areas where you will find men in the church that most Ministries to Men don't venture into to target men for the kingdom of God.

Together in the challenge and adventure to disciple men – Mike