

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I trust this letter finds you well and entering into the busyness of the holiday season. If you are taking time to read this newsletter, you either care a lot about the ministry of Priority One or me and my family. In either case, I am so very thankful for your love and support.

Thank you



A LOOKBACK ON 2017

God has really blessed our ministry this year. I have led 6 mens groups with an average of 8-12 men in each group. I meet individually with men from these groups, as well as, a few men who are not currently in a group for mentoring/discipleship. These meetings often take place over a meal, coffee or even a beer. In a typical day, I meet with 2-3 men face-to-face and follow-up with several more via phone, text and email.

In between meetings and groups, I am spending time in prayer, Bible study and preparation for upcoming meetings and events. The days go quickly and are filled with opportunities to share the message of Christ's love. Similar to the model of Young Life, I strive meet men where they are in order to earn *the right to be heard*. Sometimes this involves joining them on the golf course, at their workplace, in the gym, in the woods, or on the water.

FRUIT OF OUR LABORS

James 5:7-8 says, "Be patient therefore, brothers, to the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be you also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draws near."

Each year I am seeing the fruit of patient, yet persistent, labor in this ministry. Lasting life-change takes time but the eternal significance is beyond what we can fully comprehend this side of heaven.

Brokenness in relationships is one area that I see over and over as I meet with men.

This year I have met with a number of men who are trying to hold on to their marriage. I long for them to see how it is through **grasping the depth** of Jesus' unconditional love for them that they can **begin to understand** how to really love their earthly bride. I've also been meeting with a single guy who is falling in love with a beautiful young woman but has been deceived by pornography and needs **help breaking free** so that he can love her the way God intended. Other men are realizing the **value of living in community** rather than choosing isolation.

For some men, being brought into the fellowship found in our small groups is their first experience **feeling the love** of Jesus. The list goes on and on as I meet individually with men from our community providing a **safe place** to process the pitfalls of life.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

In the coming year, I am excited to begin a new Iron Man group with 12 young men who have committed to spending two years together building friendships, developing a deeper walk with Christ, hearing from leaders of our community and building leadership skills.

We are also considering plans for adding staff in the future and building a core team of leaders for the ministry. I hope to develop several weekend retreats and potentially plan a trip to the Holy Lands with another ministry partner. I often meet with leaders in other Christian organizations in our area that are focused on men's ministry to find ways to collaborate our efforts. I am excited to see how God uses Priority One to develop men of faith in the Charleston area.

MY FAMILY

My family is such a blessing to me. My wife of 41 years helps me in so many ways—a sounding board, prayer warrior, confidant and friend. I am so proud of the way she ministers to our children and also to her clients in her role as a professional counselor.

Kelly, like her mother, is a wonderful therapist and our son-in-law Michael was recently voted "Best Dentist in Spartanburg". They have given us three lovely grandchildren that are pure delight.

Our younger daughters, Marifrasier and Kathryn, set off together in January to travel abroad for several months.

It is truly a wonderful season of life.

SUPPORT FOR PRIORITY ONE

This is the time of year to remember the greatest miracle the world has ever seen. Our Savior came down and took the form of a man. Years later his death and resurrection proved his claims to be true, and our being made new in Him proves He is still working on earth. He is forever God, and we are forever His children. Please do not forget the miracle in your life of being made new in Him.

It is also a time of year when many of you will make year-end giving decisions. Since we are fully supported by our ministry partners, I hope that you will invest in me and Priority One this year. Financial support remains one of the greatest challenges to our ministry, so please know that your support really does make a difference!

WAYS TO SUPPORT:

- 🌐 To make a one-time donation, go online to priorityone.org/contribute.
- ✉ Use the enclosed envelope to provide year-end gift in the form of a check.

Join our team of monthly supporters by filling out the enclosed form or by opting into monthly, quarterly or annual donations through the online form.

Bad

