



MINUTE WITH MIKE

Being a dad is one of the great joys of my life.

I delight in talking, walking, riding, working, serving, praying and laughing with them. I hope, by God's grace, I have imparted some wisdom to the four that call me Dad. But to be honest, I think I've probably learned more from them. Here are just a few things I've learned from the Young 1s.

- ➔ Eventually the boys outgrow hugs so I get firm 'good night' handshakes.
- ➔ It's no fun to get left at home. I'm too fat and slow to be part of their adventures now.
- ➔ It's often quite healthy to let them try things and fail then process what they learned.
- ➔ There's nothing quite so precious as my little girl's face when I tell her she's beautiful!
- ➔ Daddies never get tired of hearing from their kids. I delight in their calls, visits and conversations.

I find this last nugget especially convicting when I consider how much my earthly Dad looks forward to hearing from me. (I need to call him!) But, even more so, I'm reminded of how my heavenly Father delights in hearing from me. Truth is, I could step up my game in communicating with both of them!

MOVEMENT

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 2 Peter 3:8

God's timing is often challenging but always perfect.

I was recently invited to share at a church where I've attempted to connect numerous times over many years. **NOW, they have a developing men's leadership team and are working to launch a solid men's discipleship campaign in the fall.** Their recent vision breakfast was well attended (men simply can't resist 30 lbs. of bacon!) and there's strong support from the pastor!

I've visited a Fredericksburg area church numerous times over 10 years with little response... until last year when I met with the discipleship pastor who's looking to build men in his church. **We've talked several times in the past year and NOW they're also working to plan a strategic campaign to reach and build men this fall.** Again, there's pastoral support, a strong base of lay support and great opportunity among the men in the church and community.

And just last week I spoke with a pastor from Roanoke who recognizes he needs more capable leaders to expand ministries through his church to the community. **As he prayed about this, the Holy Spirit moved him to make a list of men that he could disciple for leadership this summer (NOW).** He invited each of them personally. He was excited to share with me that, to his surprise, 12 of the 15 agreed to join him for a summer Bible study. He's ecstatic about this response and looking forward to what God will do in and through these men.

▶ Pray with me for these churches and leaders as well as many others who making strategic investments in men! Celebrate what God has already done in his perfect timing and pray that He will provide a harvest of godly men!

Your faithful partnership through prayer, time and finances are the fuel for this work God is doing! Thank you for standing with us!



The Young boys circa 2004.



NW VIDEOS

Video is powerful and we're working to use video to share some coaching and training insights. In the past few weeks we've posted two videos. The first is lengthy (actually too long) with some insights answering the question **'How Can We Reach Millennial Men?'**. Our second was on leveraging the summer to invest in your men's leadership team; **'Summertime is Leadership Development Time'**. Check them out by visiting the Noble Warriors Vimeo Channel: <https://vimeo.com/noblewarriors>.

Be on the lookout for other videos soon. Also, if you have a men's discipleship question that you'd like for us to answer, send me an email: mike.young@noblewarriors.org.

SPRING CONFERENCE PLANNING

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Our team is currently praying and planning for our 2018 Spring Conference Season. **We'll share a broader update soon but for now mark your calendars for the Leading Noble Men conference on Tuesday, January 24, 2018.** You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear Dennis Rainey, one of our keynotes, challenge and encourage leaders to invest in men as a priority!

▶ Would you stop now and pray for us as we pursue God's plan and make critical decisions regarding our 2018 conference season?



YOUNG ADVENTURES

Tim finished his 3rd year at West Point and is starting the summer with a leadership detail supporting Air Assault training. We're looking forward to having him home in a few weeks.

Ben is driving solo! I can't even remember where he went on his first trip but he definitely stopped by Nanny and Granddad's for a snack and a Sun Drop.

Hannah is finishing the school year strong and looking forward to summer activities. She's planning for a trip to grandmas and a summer camp adventure at Winshape in GA.

But, the big news is **Zach's graduation**, he's finished with classes already and waiting for the ceremony. We're thankful for his 4 year ROTC scholarship to Virginia Tech as well as several other awards (including 'Most Likely to Become President') that he has picked up in recent weeks. But, we were most excited about the fact that he was asked to present the student message for Baccalaureate. We couldn't be prouder of this young man and are looking forward to what God will do in and through him in the coming years.

