



"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have PEACE.

In the WORLD you will have TRIBULATION.

But take heart; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."

There is real persecution and tribulation among believers in this world. What I'm about to share with you in no way compares to what Christ followers around the world suffer for the sake of His name. However, Satan is at work in our midst as well. Challenges have surely impacted our first two The Noble Man / Iron Sharpens Iron conferences...

Saturday, February 17th at 6:45 AM I received a call from Todd Christian notifying me that our host church for the Roanoke conference had been vandalized overnight. The impact could certainly have been much worse but, destruction of a computer in the sound booth and damage to a stained-glass window made the sanctuary a crime scene that had to be processed before we could kick off the conference. But, in many ways, God made himself known and the day turned out to be quite a special one for our team and the men who joined us.

What was intended for harm, God used for good. He's like that!

Friday, March 2nd at 3:30PM I received a text from Todd Christian (have you noticed a pattern here?) indicating that the Nor'easter had knocked out electricity in much of the region and our host church, Mt. Ararat, had just lost electricity. We pow-wowed, prayed and determined that we would move forward with set up and preparation, wanting to be prepared if and when the lights returned. Unfortunately, electricity was not restored by 6:00 AM on Saturday and we had to cancel the event. This is clearly a struggle for us. Months of prayer, planning and preparation are invested prior to a conference. Our team was frustrated but still helpful and hopeful as we broke down tables, SWAG bags and workshop rooms. We're sad for the missed opportunity for ministry among hundreds of men, the loss of potential relationships and even financial support for the ministry.

But, we haven't lost heart....

▶ Pray with us that the Richmond conference will go smoothly. We'd love to actually have an opportunity to see men have the full conference experience!

MINUTE WITH MIKE

The truth is God is always at work. Even in the midst of difficult things. I need to preach to me a bit sometimes and simply be reminded that ministry is not easy and we shouldn't expect it to be. Satan is opposed to what we're doing.

I once heard Bishop Joseph Garlington say, **"Every step in the Kingdom is contested."**

During a conversation about their films, Stephen Kendrick once said, **"A movie does not want to be made."**

So, we must push through challenges to accomplish what God wants... not what we want. To that end, we know of many victories in spite of the setbacks.

The teenage guy who perpetrated the vandalism in Roanoke is being ministered to by the host church and others in the community. **Join us in praying that this young man will find hope in Jesus!**

A father and son had a really cool interaction with one of our keynotes for Fredericksburg even though the conference was cancelled.

I spent several hours with Steve Coble (one of the Fredericksburg keynotes) visiting the monuments in Washington DC. It was quite a treat for this 50-year-old white guy to talk about race and culture with a 31 year-old African American pastor while standing at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial! **What a blessing!** (See photo on back.)

One group from a local church was on the way when they learned that the conference was cancelled. **They stopped and had breakfast and great fellowship together.**

Another man was bringing a reluctant young father. **They also had a great time of fellowship and transparency over breakfast when they learned the conference was cancelled.**

▶ Pray with us for these small seeds to bear much fruit! We know there were other stories as well but these made it to our attention! We are thankful that God works, even when the lights are out!

The NOBLE MAN

EQUIPPING MEN FOR BATTLE

16

EQUIPPING WORKSHOPS

MASCULINE WORSHIP

RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO MEN

CHAPLAIN BARRY BLACK



ERIC LUDY



ONE-DAY LIVE EVENT
RICHMOND, VA

MARCH 17th, 2018

8:30am - 4:55pm

St. Paul's Baptist

Check out the entire list of EQUIPPING WORKSHOPS at NobleWarriors.org/2018Richmond

FITNESS: PHYSICAL, RELATIONAL, SPIRITUAL

Mike Flynn • Christian Counseling Associates

HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY THAT LASTS

Chuck Crismer • SAVE AMERICA Ministries

LAZARUS MARRIAGE

Rick Brundage • FamilyLife

GOSPEL INVESTMENT IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF MEN

Kelvin Washington • Village Church at Midlothian

YOUNG ADVENTURES

With less than 100 days remaining, **Tim** is counting down to graduation and commissioning. He's serving as Company Commander for I-2 this semester. He's learning much by being responsible for at 120 other cadets!

Zach is finally through the hardest parts of his Freshman year at Virginia Tech and the Corps of Cadets. He and Rachel made a striking couple at the Military Ball!

Ben finished up basketball season with a strong game and is now settling in to new routines. He and a couple of friends were with Zach at Cassel Coliseum to see the Hokies take down Duke with a buzzer beater!

Hannah also finished up basketball season and is now running track. She tried out as a sprinter. Looks like she'll be sprinting, hurdling and throwing. She's pretty sore most days.

Youngs beyond... My mom had double knee replacement at the end of February so Dad's taking care of her but before the surgery... mom, dad, my sister and 2 nieces and a nephew helped us stuff a mailing around the kitchen table. NW is an extend family affair!

