Ministry Spotlight

Men of Destiny: Am I My Brother’s Keeper?

Started by the late Reverend Anthony Biddings in 2000, the Men of Destiny Ministry has been blessing the Vernon Park Church of God (VPCOG) family for seven years and upholding the standards set forth by Rev. Tony, who was the current leader of this brotherhood. These men are consistent with their mission statement: Am I my brother’s keeper?

The Men of Destiny work their Street Ministry every last Saturday of the month during the spring and summer. They walk the streets in different communities greeting people who have been highly disregarded by society, and ministering to all who will listen. These brothers offer a word of encouragement and prayer to men and women of all ages. They do, however, pray special prayers to young men that sell, use, and abuse drugs. The Street Ministry participants used to only minister between 88th and 93rd & Stony Island Avenue. They have led them to other locations for greetings and blessings. Rev. Mack shared that “sometimes a ‘God bless you’ may be the only positive thing that happened to them that day.” The Men of Destiny are proud to be the bearers of glad tidings.

The men of this ministry are also the proud sponsors of the 6th Annual Claude S. Wyatt Golf Outing held at the 18-hole Tuckaway Golf Course in Crest, Illinois. Get updates about the annual golf outing at www.vpcog.golfreg.com.

In addition to their ministry events, the Men of Destiny partner with and support other church ministries. These men will tune their voices, wrap up like Eskimos and join the Women of Purpose for an evening of blessing the community with song through Christmas caroling.

These gentlemen help where needed at VPCOG’s Annual Picnic during the summer and join Brother Rodney Tucker for his Annual Memorial Day Service. Bro. Mike McKinnis leads the food pantry and monthly produce distribution while Bro. Rick Nelson mentors young men. These guys are not fair-weather friends by any means. The men in this ministry are very busy. More men are needed to help the ministry to continue to be their brother’s keepers.

The Men of Destiny Ministry meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings start with devotion and lead into ministry business. These brothers discuss things that are relevant to Christian men in today’s world. Rev. Mack shared that “we are in the world, but we want to live the life of Christian men. We are human and we all have human frailties as the next man. We attempt to deal with them from a Christian standpoint. We gain our wisdom by reading books.

Although there are over 500 men on the rolls of the VPCOG, less than 10% are active participants. Meeting sizes range from five to 30 people with attendance averaging 10-12 faithful brothers. Bro. Mack’s goal is to gain at least 10% active participation or a minimum of 50 dedicated men.

Bro. Mack says that “there is plenty of purpose (work) to do. It would get done much more efficiently and take the load off the few if others would participate.” Bro. Mack is proud of the devoted men who have answered the call. He understands that there will be challenges and the Men of Destiny are being instructed to meet those challenges. Bro. Mack and the Men of Destiny are looking for the ministry to grow and do greater things in the church and in our community. Proving yet again that they are in fact their brother’s keeper.