

Men of Courage was established in February 2010 via inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We began humbly by meeting at a Golden Corral restaurant on Saturday mornings. The format was very unstructured and consisted of a few men, simply talking about the Lord and how He delivered us from the cares / trials of the world. There were times when the only men present would be another brother and myself. There were also a times when I was the only man present. Those informal discussions eventually grew into a group of men and a more structured format.

Near the end of 2010 we began using an “ice-breaker” development workbook that focused on men taking an honest “look in the mirror” at themselves and recognizing that a change was needed to take place in our spiritual lives. As the group began to grow in attendance, we also grew in terms of graduating from the original development tool, to a more advanced curriculum of spiritual self-development.

In 2011 we decided to seek other spiritual development tools and were introduced to the “Majoring in Men” Curriculum written by Dr. Edwin Louis Cole, Sr. The curriculum is based on the Word of God and is biblically sound. The curriculum focuses on men with the thought that **“so goes the man ... so goes his family, the community and the nation”**.

As we continued to grow as men of God, we began to attract men from various “entry points” and began to establish roots throughout the city. We worked with men who were seeking resources from a number of social service agencies, men from different churches, men who were referred to the group and men who visited our meetings via evangelism efforts.

We also began major fundraising events to assist our Men’s Development Series. Those events included our Annual Golf Classic and Kingdom Builders Recognition Banquets. We held said events for 3 consecutive years. We have continued to partner and support several organizations throughout Columbus including the Mentor Central Ohio, who have been instrumental in the design, implementation, growth and development of our “Youth Mentoring Series” in which we minister to and mentor the “at-risk” male youth demographic particularly in the age group of 11-18. Our YMS works with boys and young men individually and in small groups, to assist in their spiritual growth and in terms of life choices and the consequences of said choices, not only for the individual, but for his family and those close to him as well. We currently mentor in the following Ohio School Districts: Columbus City, Lorain City and Brooklyn City. In 2018, we completed a short-term assignment (3 months) in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District at Lincoln West High School. As 2021 moves forward, we will continue with our plan of establishing Men of Courage affiliates in the following Ohio cities (Akron, Elyria, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Springfield) as we work to fulfill our mission of evangelizing men to Christ and develop male youth to grow into men of faith who love their families, their communities and who desire to “give back” in some capacity.