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Mike decided to renew his fencing skills. He shared how re-engaging this dream as an adult was scary, and how the counsel of spiritual men helped him keep this dream in proper perspective and balance in his life. Mike recently placed fifth nationally in épée competition within his age range.Peter's story was also one of courage – as he moved from his personal nightmares to God's dreams for his life. After years of stumbling with alcohol and drug abuse, Peter became a disciple in the 1990's, along with his wife. Having stopped his drug abuse when becoming part of God's Kingdom, Peter shared how even the occasional glass of beer or wine continued to be an escape from the intimacy that he desired with his family and with God. Crediting a Sunday lesson by Willie Flores about addiction, Peter began attending a chemical recovery program with his discipleship partner. He shared how even as a participant in the group, he doubted his need for it.

Peter's breakthrough came as he spent a night in prayer. He then spent time the next afternoon sharing with his wife how he saw that his use of alcohol had been a barrier to connecting with her in a deeper way.

Wyndham Shaw tied the two messages together and brought the messages home in a challenge for us to men of courage in our convictions in a world where personal conviction is dissolving in our cultural desire to be inclusive to the point of compromised truth and acceptance of every kind of belief except the Bible. He illustrated
it with the USA Today article that showed how Hollywood had stripped the recent hit movie about Jackie Robinson of its true roots in faith in Jesus.

— "This was really a tremendous time. The personal sharing was absolutely courageous."
– Steve Rosenbaum

— "All the stories blended by the Holy Spirit made for an impacting day! My neighbor loved it especially the personal and vulnerable sharing!"
– Wyndham Shaw

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- ***2013 ICOC Delegates Registration - Leadership***
  Service Team Chairmen — Saturday, 15 June 2013
  God truly blessed the International Churches of Christ with the World Discipleship Summit in San Antonio. Along with the 17,000+ attendees, people from 120 countries have loaded the WDS videos over 600,000 times on DToday.tv! We continue to hear great news...
- ***Springfield Church Finds Leaders through DT "Ministry Search"***
  Damon Brog, Springfield, IL — Friday, 14 June 2013
  The Springfield Church of Christ eagerly awaits the arrival of some new leadership in the coming weeks. Steve and Rebecca Wormer have felt the call to serve in the full-time ministry for the past several years...
- ***A Call for Volunteers from the Oklahoma City International Church of Christ***
  Roger Lamb — Thursday, 13 June 2013
  When multiple record setting tornadoes tore a mile-wide path of destruction through the metro Oklahoma City area, our small church there eagerly jumped in to serve but soon realized they needed more help as...
- ***Spurred On: Texas Oklahoma Singles Retreat***
  Adam Smith, Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX — Thursday, 13 June 2013
  Y'all are invited to get away this September 27-29, in Fort Worth, Texas, a city of cowboys and culture.Enjoy an opportune time to really focus on He who is Faithful, to truly consider encouraging one another, and...

• UPCOMING EVENTS

International Campus Ministry Conference
Orlando and San Diego, USA
July 4-7, 2013

"Be One" Middle East Conference
Jerash, Jordan
July 18, 2013

ICOC Delegates Meeting
New York, New York
September 11-15, 2013

International Youth and Family Conference
New York City, USA
September 13-15, 2013

New York 30th Anniversary Service
New York, New York
September 15, 2013

Biblical Studies Tour & International Teachers Seminar
Greece & Turkey
October 19-26 2013

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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Courageous – A Men's Breakfast

Jeff Todd, ManUp section of Disciples Today

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."
—Acts 4:13



Mike Jones, left, attacks an opponent in the U.S. National Fencing Championship

Spanning the seasons of life from teenagers to senior citizens, several men's groups within the Northern Worship Center of the Boston Church of Christ gathered for a grand buffet breakfast and a feeding from God's Word centered on the theme, "Courageous." Even at 8:00 A.M., 40 disciples and 21 of their friends gathered to share a meal and powerful sharing from Mike Jones and Peter Hirmer.

Few in the audience were aware of Mike's skills as a fencer as he shared about courage to follow a dream. He shared of how he abandoned a dream from his childhood- only to see it fulfilled after being a Christian for 19 years. Mike's dreams to be an Olympic athlete were dashed when he failed to reach the medal round of the U.S. Nationals as a high school senior. Mike kept his swords and awards in his basement until Eric, his then preteen son, asked about them.

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