



GETTYSBURG

Master's Commission

2010-2011 Information Catalogue



Welcome to the **TURNING POINT**



FROM THE DIRECTOR

In July 1863, two armies fought an incredible battle right here in Gettysburg. It was the American Civil War and the Union (the North) defeated the Confederacy (the South) after three days of fighting. Many historians say that the Battle of Gettysburg was the point where momentum of the war changed and where the Union was assured of victory over the Confederacy...they call Gettysburg, "The Turning Point."

Today, almost 150 years later, I believe that Gettysburg is still "The Turning Point." Each August, a group of young adults has come to Gettysburg for nine months of intensive discipleship. During their time at Gettysburg Master's Commission, the momentum of their lives radically changes and, after completing the process, they leave assured that they can live a life of victory regardless of where God ultimately takes them... for them, Gettysburg is "The Turning Point."

I am praying for you and I am really excited that you're considering Gettysburg Master's Commission! If you're ready for a change in the momentum of your life, if you're looking for some assurance in God in the face of a culture of questions, if you're ready to be challenged and to do battle with anything that tries to hold you back from greater intimacy with God, then Gettysburg Master's Commission is for you!

Thanks for considering Gettysburg Master's Commission. If you have any questions about GMC, please contact me personally. I hope to see you here in August!

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Gettysburg Master's Commission

Gettysburg Master's Commission (GMC) is a nine-month, intensive discipleship process that prepares you for a lifestyle of service and ministry. The goals of the discipleship process are that you will pursue and know Jesus on a more intimate, personal level and that you will make Him known to the world. The GMC process combines intense personal discipleship, accredited classroom instruction through Valley Force Christian College, and "hands-on" ministry experience at Freedom Valley Worship Center. This combination of personal discipline, formal classroom education, and practical ministry experience provides you with an incredible foundation on which to build your life and your ministry. At the end of the nine-month program, you will graduate with a strong sense of God's specific direction for the next step of your life

Discipleship is a cooperative process...you receive from the Lord, and from others, but you are still responsible for applying these things to your life. At GMC, we structure the week and our activities to help you do this. We focus on four primary activities in the discipleship process:

MENTORING As a GMC student, you will have weekly “one-on-one” mentoring opportunities with the GMC Director, other GMC staff and/or Freedom Valley Worship Center staff. These mentoring sessions allow you the chance to reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching you and they create an environment of accountability to help you apply the truths that you are learning to your life.

LIFE SKILLS Every week, you will have time devoted to developing vital life skills. You’ll learn skills like, time management, conflict resolution, financial planning, personal devotions, etc. In these sessions, you’ll receive practical tools that will help you personally and that will make you a more effective leader and mentor to others.

PRAYER, WORSHIP & THE WORD You will spend personal, one-on-one time alone with God daily. Each day that you are in classes will start with an extended time of corporate (all together) worship and prayer. Every week, GMC has it’s own chapel service – Coram Deo – where we meet “face-to-face” with God. In addition, you will attend at least one weekly service at Freedom Valley Worship Center. In these services you’ll experience relevant, life changing messages from experienced preachers, teachers and church leaders.

SERVANTHOOD In John 13, Jesus established his Kingdom with a towel, not a throne, and He set an amazing example for each of us in the process. After He washed His disciples’ feet, Jesus instructed them to go and do the same thing...he told them to serve others. In GMC, we take that command very seriously and we seek to serve others as a lifestyle. You will serve in an area of ministry (Children’s’ Ministry, Youth Ministry, Worship Team, etc.) at Freedom Valley Worship Center during one service each week. In addition, we build service opportunities into the GMC schedule on a regular basis.



Education, Training & Credentialing

EDUCATION GMC partners with Valley Forge Christian College (VFCC) to give you a diversity of accredited college courses right in Gettysburg. VFCC is a regionally accredited, four-year, undergraduate college affiliated with the Assemblies of God. VFCC is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The credits that you receive as a GMC student can be transferred and used towards a degree at VFCC and many other colleges and universities. *

The classroom experience at GMC is a vital tool that will teach you to think critically, help you to solve problems, and provide you with information and resources that you will use daily in the practical ministry experience portion of the GMC process. First and second year GMC students receive 18 credit hours of instruction per year (three, 3-credit hour classes per semester).

For more information on each course, you can visit VFCC's website (www.vfcc.edu) and download their course catalog:

FIRST YEAR (18 credit hours)

Intro to Christian Living (CRL 103)

Public Speaking (COM 123)

Old Testament Survey (OLT 123)

New Testament Survey (NWT 113)

Intro to Bible Interpretation (NWT 223)

Principles of Leadership (PST 313)

SECOND YEAR (18 credit hours)

Acts: The Holy Spirit at Work in Believers (NWT 243)

AG Doctrine and History (THE 233)

Developing Outreach and Discipleship Programs (CRL 233)

Synoptic Gospels: The Life and Teachings of Christ (NWT 223)

Theology 1 (THE 243)

Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon (NWT 363)



TRAINING Because GMC is based in a local church, Freedom Valley Worship Center, you have many opportunities for practical ministry training. GMC supports, and is involved in, nearly all of Freedom Valley’s ministry events. We also support other events and churches in the Gettysburg area, and the PennDel District, by committing GMC students and staff to minister and work at community and ministry events.

We realize the how important it is to get God’s Word through your head and into your heart, so scripture memorization is another part of the training. You will memorize four passages of scripture each week; that’s between 100 – 150 passages by the end of your first year! Each week you will write a short “reflection paper” on how you are applying the verses that you memorized to your life.

CREDENTIALING If you choose to complete a second year of GMC, you will complete all of the course requirements and practical ministry requirements to apply for your ministry credentials (Certified Minister) through the PennDel District of the Assemblies of God.

** Each college/university handles credit transfers differently. You’ll need to check with the Registrar’s Office of specific institution to determine if they will accept VFCC credits. All schools affiliated with the Assemblies of God will accept these credits.*



Ministry Experience

This is where you put the discipleship and the classroom instruction together and where you use everything that you've been learning to become a more effective minister! There is nothing more incredible than allowing the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you to touch others...there's really nothing else like it! GMC will give you a wide and diverse set of ministry experiences that will help you develop a lifestyle of ministry. Let's be honest, not everyone is called to full-time ministry, but we are all called to a lifestyle of ministry...ministering to others no matter what we're doing in life. The focus of GMC, especially in the first year, is to help you develop this kind of lifestyle and we do it through a lot of ministry experience.

CREATIVE ARTS You will have the opportunity to be involved with worship, dance, human videos, sound and media as a part of GMC. The GMC process is not a travelling drama team. If you're a "creative type," right-brained person, you'll be challenged to use that creative gift for the Lord in GMC ministry events and in our support of Freedom Valley Worship Center's ministry.

CHILDREN & YOUTH Freedom Valley Worship Center has an incredible kids ministry that cares for children from newborns through elementary school age. If you have a heart of kids, you'll find many opportunities to teach them, care for them, and love them during services and special events!

The Edge is Freedom Valley's youth ministry. GMC students with a passion for youth have amazing and diverse opportunities for ministry. You'll lead small group discussions, participate in ministry and outreach events, and act as a mentor to teens at Freedom Valley and in the community.



TRAVELING MINISTRY A big part of our vision here at GMC is to take the message of Christ outside of Gettysburg and, as a part of GMC, you'll have the opportunity to travel regionally and nationally with our ministry teams. You'll minister in different venues, from Sunday services to ghetto sidewalks. You'll find yourself stretched and challenged, but you'll also have a chance to see God work in you to touch and impact others!

CHURCH PLANTING Do you have a heart to see new churches established in unevangelized areas? Then, you've got to be a part of GMC! Pastor Gerry Stoltzfoos is the Lead Pastor of Freedom Valley Worship Center and nothing burns more passionately in him than church planting. GMC regularly supports the existing and new church plants from Freedom Valley by sending ministry teams to services and events. There are a number of GMC grads who are now leading their own church plants or who are a part of a church planting team sent out from Freedom Valley Worship Center.

MISSIONS We believe in the mandate of the Great Commission. Your passport is almost as important as your Bible! Every GMC student participates in a cross-cultural missions trip each year. These trips are as important for what they accomplish in you as they are for what you accomplish on the mission field. The cost of the trip is not included in the tuition, but we will provide you with training and support to help you raise the funds you need to participate in the missions trip.



Tuition

THE TUITION FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND YEARS IS \$6000.00.

View available tuition payment plans at www.gettysburgmc.com.

WHAT IT COVERS Your tuition covers registration at Valley Forge Christian College and all of your class costs for 18 credit hours of instruction per year. The tuition covers a monthly housing stipend that goes to your home opener and, finally, it covers all travel, food, and housing costs when we are ministering regionally or nationally.

YOUR TUITION DOES NOT COVER

BOOKS As any college student does, you'll have to purchase your books. You can expect to spend \$200 - \$250 each year on your books.

HEALTH INSURANCE You must be covered by health insurance, either under your parents' policy or under a policy that you purchase. If you don't have health insurance, get in touch with us and we'll do our best to help you to find a policy that will work for you. Check with your parent's insurance company for their definition of a full-time student. Since you're taking 9 credit hours each semester (18 credit hours per year), you may be able to stay enrolled under your parent's policy.

LAPTOP All GMC students must have a laptop computer. The VFCC curriculum requires all papers to be typed, many VFCC resources that support the classroom experience are available online, and most assignments are submitted and returned electronically. You will need your laptop daily.

PASSPORT You're going to participate in a cross-cultural mission trip and that means that you'll have to have a passport. If you don't have one, visit the U.S. State Department's website for more information on the process (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>) and get started on applying for your passport now.

Vehicle You must have a vehicle throughout the term. Neither GMC, nor your home openers, can provide you with the daily transportation that you'll need. GMC will, however, provide you with transportation for ministry trips. You are responsible for ensuring that your vehicle is legally registered, adequately insured, and in compliance with the laws of the state in which it is registered.



REALITY CHECK

Here are some principles and guidelines that GMC operates by. These will give you a better understanding of what to expect, and of what will be expected of you, as a GMC student.

TEACHABLE SPIRIT This is one of the most important principles for you to embrace as a GMC student. Having a teachable spirit means that you are open to instruction and willing to learn.

MUTUAL SUBMISSION Ephesians 5:21 says, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." To submit means to yield one's own rights for the sake of another. Our goal in submitting to one another is to prefer others before ourselves, to do what is best for others, and to help others fulfill their God-given purposes. Christ modeled submission for us when He willingly went to the cross, assuming our place, our sin, and all of our sicknesses and diseases on Himself.

RELATIONSHIPS The purpose of GMC, particularly the first year, is to focus on your relationship with God with minimal distractions. We do, however, recognize that Godly, exclusive relationships with members of the opposite sex develop in this environment. While we do not encourage these relationships, we do allow them when both parties have demonstrated the maturity and personal discipline that these relationships require and when both parties are willing to keep the relationship accountable to the GMC leadership.

HOME OPENERS During your nine months at GMC, you will stay with a home opener; a member of Freedom Valley Worship Center who has opened their home and their family to the student. The home opener provides housing, meals, and a family environment for the student. You will be expected to abide by your home opener's household rules and you will spend one "family night" a week with your home opener.

SERVICES Freedom Valley Worship Center holds three services a weekend: Saturday at 6:30 PM, and Sunday at 9:15 AM and 11:15 AM. You will be expected to attend at least one service each weekend, preferably with your home opener, and you will serve in an area of ministry during another service.

CURFEW As a GMC student, you will have a nightly curfew of 11:00 PM, unless you have received permission from the GMC Director to be out later.

ENTERTAINMENT You will be expected to maintain a high level of personal integrity and discipline in what you read and watch. Pornographic and sexually explicit materials (magazines, movies, and/or television programs) are never acceptable and possessing/watching them will result in disciplinary action. As a GMC student, you will not watch R-rated movies nor will you be involved in activities that do not edify your spirit and/or promote an attitude of holiness and purity. We believe that although "...all things are permitted, not all things are beneficial." Therefore, we challenge you to choose to avoid these activities and live a life of greater discipline and accountability.

PERSONAL EXPRESSION/STYLE You can choose your personal style of dress and hairstyle, within reason. Clothing that is too short, too tight, or in any other way revealing or immodest is not appropriate. We do not prohibit tattoos or piercings, however we ask that you discuss your decision to obtain any permanent expression on your body with the GMC Director. After you have prayed through the issue, considered the ramifications of your actions, you will meet with the Director again and then proceed with your decision.



JOIN US FOR DISCOVER GMC

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Discover GMC is your opportunity to “check us out,” meet the GMC and Freedom Valley staff, ask your questions, and get a feel for what GMC is all about. Discover GMC will be held during Freedom Valley’s annual event, Harvest Cry! For more information about Discover GMC or to register to attend, check out the Gettysburg Master’s Commission website!

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