

ACT3 Ministry

THE STAR

Spring Issue 2023 / Vol 3

#Fight the Fade

#Follow your Star

#Find your Place

Message from Jeff



Did you know that this Spring's leaves formed as buds after the trees dropped their leaves last Fall? Counterintuitive to me is that as the days shortened and grew colder, the new buds began to develop on those same branches. Those buds laid dormant until the warm weather activated the tree, and the sap began to flow through the tree from the roots to the branches. The new leaves we see forming have been waiting for this and are now springing into life. New life, new leaves, and new fruit are just waiting for the sap to flow.

What a God! He designed the system, and His glory is demonstrated in every tree as it forces water to the top and springs into observable life again.

Do you understand we go through our own seasons? ACT3 uses four broad categories as a framework to outline our lives, with our primary mission being to help people emerging into the 3rd stage, or having fully entered the 3rd stage of life, continue to be fruitful in their life. At the roots of ACT3 is the belief that the four macro seasons also exhibit their own micro seasons. Those micro seasons are when life morphs from beginning to ending, and then, like the trees, cycle to another Spring of new beginnings.

The buds of the new leaves and new fruit of a 3rd Stager are just waiting for the sap to flow in our lives. Those are not random buds that produce random leaves and a hodgepodge of fruit, but are rather predetermined by the master design of the tree.

Is the sap of the Holy Spirit flowing through your life? Do you know what buds God has already developed at the end of the branches that produced last season's leaves? ACT3 Discovery cohorts can help you. They are designed to help you recognize the buds that are longing for the sap to flow and energize them to spring into the beauty of a new season, and produce fruit for the world around you to enjoy.

A Gift of \$39.00 Provides for One Participant:

- All **Course Material** for one participant
 - **Clifton Strengths Test**
 - Connection to a dynamic website -**Galaxy Digital**
 - **Transformational experience** of reassessing life
- Donate today**



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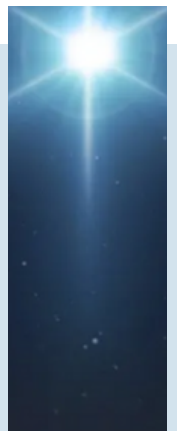
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FOLLOW YOUR STAR

"Every sunset brings
promise of a new dawn"
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

FIND YOUR PLACE!





Save the Date!

June 22nd

ACT3 Participants will have the opportunity to help build a ramp. It will be for an elderly couple (85+) so that they can easily access their home.



Program Spotlight

SAWs Ministry

Bob Hill - Coordinator for Howard County

I got involved with SAWs during a Serve Together Weekend. Serve Together joined as many churches as they could in Howard County to serve in various non-profits during a selected weekend. During that weekend I volunteered to build a ramp with Bible Baptist and enjoyed it. Through that weekend, I got connected to SAWS Ministry. I was encouraged by the coordinator of Howard County to build a couple more ramps. When I got injured while serving during a natural disaster, the head of SAWS came and talked to me in the hospital. He asked me if maybe I would be interested in being involved with SAWs Ministry. Since then, I have had the opportunity to help provide many ramps for those that need handicapped access to their home and cannot afford to have it built. We have done as many as 23 in a summer.

I got involved with ACT3 Ministry when Jeff Harlow connected with me, knowing my involvement in SAWs, and he invited my wife and I to attend a Cohort of ACT3. We joined the next cohort and then decided to partner with ACT3 to provide build opportunities to ACT3 participants.

As a result of ACT3 he also volunteers in other local ministries such as Cross America on the quality control team to assist in mailing thousands of gospel messages and others. Bob's knowledge and planning make the ramp builds a joy to participant in. There are jobs for everyone's skill level!

Volunteer Spotlight

Marcia Jodway

I first came to an ACT3 Ministry cohort a little while after losing my husband, Al. I had been taking care of my husband for 10-12 years as his health declined. After his passing, I came to a point where I was feeling overwhelmed by life and felt I needed a plan. I had been a trainer at McDonald's and tried to go back but then Covid hit our area.

I came to a cohort in February 2022 looking for direction. I had served in the church and with other opportunities like Serve Together with my adult children, but I wanted to get grounded again. Through the homework, I realized God's provision. I had always dreamed of going to college and becoming a teacher but that never worked out. While doing the Journey Map, I realized that God had given me the desire of my heart in my job working as a manager and trainer for McDonald's restaurants. I had the opportunity to teach and mentor young people. One thing I always told them during their training was, "working at McDonalds could be an important job IF you let it be!" God had allowed me to BE a teacher!

After 2 hard years of singleness, I met Keith. I wanted him to experience the cohort too so we both signed up to take it together in March of 2023. We wanted to find things we could do to serve together in our community. We helped at a SAWs ramp build last summer and helped provide lunch for the recent Habitat for Humanity build and have also served in our church. While we are still exploring opportunities to serve together, I have had the opportunity to serve Samaritan Caregivers by providing groceries and cards for shut-ins. It has been both fun and fulfilling to get to know the ones we are shopping for.



During Connecting Serving and Fellowship, Marcia started with, "I have never done this and do not know what to do." and finished with,

"I can do this!"

We had so much fun in the process too!

"God had allowed me to be a teacher!"



Pam got to attend the Roundtable 2024 in March for ministries focusing on those in their third stage of life. Authors, professors, pastors, lay leaders from all over our country came together to discuss the diversity of this group and the importance of engagement of 3rd Stagers in church and community.

HERE'S WHAT IS NEW

By Pam Givens - Engagement Director

What a blessing it was to attend the 2024 Roundtable and discuss the topics that are near and dear to our hearts here at ACT3 Ministry. The theme this year was "Living Missionally in the Third Third of Life". Facilitators were Dr. Amy Hanson, author and professor of Gerontology at University of Nebraska and Dr. Mark Roberts, senior strategist for Fuller Theological Seminary's Max De Pree Center for Leadership and founder of the Third Third of Life initiative.

You might remember Mark's name from his endorsement of Jeff's book *The Sacred Switch* on the back cover. I drank from the fire hose and was allowed to share what ACT3 is doing in this area. It was referred to as a "Third Third Missional Movement" that if catalyzed has the potential to revolutionize our churches and our communities. **How about that! We are part of a movement for Jesus!**

Jeff has restructured the cohort material to fit within a Sunday School format. He will be starting this cohort this spring and will be located at Crossroad Community Church in the warehouse building. Pam will be starting one in the fall located at Morning Star Church. Also this fall, we will be having several cohorts starting in Michigan. Please pray for these cohorts and their participants and for connections made during the Roundtable to encourage the 3rd stagers we influence to live intentionally in their third stage of life and impact our communities with the love of Jesus.

We would also treasure the opportunity to share at your church or organization.

Please let us know of any opportunities!

Get Connected Tip




How do I respond to an event?



Connecting *Serving* with FELLOWSHIP

To respond to our monthly events for Connecting Serving and Fellowship you must **first login** to the ACT3 Galaxy Digital Site. You can view opportunities and programs without being logged in. Choose the **Event Tab** on the left. Then on the top right select **YES MAYBE DECLINE** for the RSVP. It will send a message to me and I will be in contact with you!

Does your church want to engage 3rd Stagers?

We are looking for churches to partner with us and engage their 3rd stagers in living missionally for Jesus in their third stage of life. We would provide the support to integrate it into their own missional objectives. The tools are well developed, and the digital platform is ready to engage them with their community. Our ministry is independent from the church.

Approximately 10,000 Baby boomers are retiring every day in this country, and many are falling away from the church. We would love the opportunity to share what ACT3 Ministry could offer to the Church to meet this need.

Our communities need the skills, experience, and gifts of those in their third stage of life.