



*And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.*     - Luke 1:17



## EQUIPPED TO FATHER

*Brad Austin has been a member of the Carmel family since 2018. As the founder of Inspiro Ministries, focusing on equipping fathers to leave a life-giving legacy to their children, Brad has a unique heart and perspective for the challenges facing dads today. His story of living an ABLE life is one of courage, trust and obedience.*

Although he was raised in the church, at age 13, Brad's faith grew into more than just "religion." Brad saw his dad's life transformed after a serious health scare and decided he wanted the same authentic faith he saw in his dad. Being mentored by his youth pastor and watching his dad live out his faith at age 16 laid the foundation for God's plan for Brad decades down the road.

At a prayer meeting in 2003, Luke 1:17 ignited a passion in Brad for inspiring fathers to leave a life-giving legacy to their children. Reflecting on the role his dad played in his life, the Holy Spirit reminded him that God had uniquely prepared him to guide and equip other fathers. When Brad moved to step out of the corporate world in obedience, he was met with:

*"How old are you? You don't have your "career" settled?"*

*"You are resigning to do what? Is that secure enough?"*

*"If this doesn't work, everyone will think you are a failure."*

In the face of these conversations, God spoke truth over Brad,

*"I have put this on your heart.  
Are you willing to trust and obey?"*

It was time to be courageous and step out in trust. At the time, Brad was challenged by a Christian speaker *"Why should you pursue the passion God put on your heart? For one reason, because your kids are watching and they need to know you have the courage to follow Christ no matter what happens."* So, Brad surrounded himself with godly men and women who prayed and pushed him forward in his obedience to launch Inspiro Ministry in February 2019.

INSPIRO is Latin meaning "to inspire or fill someone with the urge or ability to do something." Inspiro Ministries believes the greatest inspiration for children to continue in a legacy of faith, comes from home. Discipleship begins at home. Parents are primarily responsible for the spiritual development of their kids. In particular, Inspiro is compelled to restore the purpose, hope, and joy of families by guiding and inspiring fathers to pass on a life-giving legacy - all because Brad knew the impact of a godly father!

Brad and his team host Fatherhood, Family Discipleship and Parenting classes to equip men to become nurturing fathers. One of these classes is at Ground 40, a non-profit group in Monroe, NC that provides assistance for men facing some form of addiction. The classes focus on the love of our Heavenly Father and how to love well as a father. By discovering who they are as children of God, they then discover how to be a father to their own children -- *"Fathered and Equipped to Father"*.

The most recent class of 41 fathers with 56 kids, included 11 men who asked to be mentored to help them continue the journey of fatherhood and grow their relationship with the Lord.



## Why does this matter to Brad?

1. Because DADS MATTER! Brad's life was changed by his relationship with his dad, a man who felt disqualified and could have given up as he watched his health fail instead, choosing to step back into his role within his family. What a joy for Brad to see men and families restored so that the next generation might know God's faithfulness. He now sees other men realize it is never too late!
2. On a more personal level, Brad is recognizing each day that he is ABLE regardless of the struggles. It is not about feeling inadequate or the lies of the enemy, but the glory of God and lives that are affected. His life was changed by godly men and Brad can now say with confidence that he trusted God (and is still trusting Him) and stepped out in obedience to do what God was asking him to do. He shut out the lies of the enemy and chose to abide in Christ and His Word so he was filled with Truth.

Without the prompting of the Holy Spirit and Brad's focus on the Lord and His Word, Inspiro Ministry may still be a dream, an idea - even an act of disobedience. when God calls, He will provide and equip us in His perfect way. Brad is seeing this play out *in his own life - and in the lives of those he meets through this ministry.*

## What would Brad tell you about stepping out in obedience?

*"Trust and obey, for there's no other way;  
To be happy in Jesus,  
but to trust and obey."*

Fight the lies of the enemy with the Father's truth and know that when you obey, God will provide.



***To learn more about Inspiro Ministries,  
visit [inspirofirst.org](http://inspirofirst.org).***



Carmel is committed to making disciples of those Nearest, our Neighbors and the Nations.

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