

## THE ACT MINISTRY - A WONDERFUL BLESSING!

On October 21, 2002, the Asbury Career Transition ministry was born and held its first meeting. ACT was created as an answer to several of Asbury members' expressed need of a support group during a time of unemployment. It has grown into a vital ministry that has served approximately 1200 people from throughout the Birmingham area.

There are presently over 100 participants in the ministry, most of whom are not members of Asbury. The ACT ministry has always been open to anyone in the community and wider area. Several of our volunteers are not members of Asbury and we never ask the participants or volunteers about church affiliations. It generally takes our participants an average of five months to find a job. Some have come to us after trying to find employment for two years. Several volunteers have been participants in the ministry themselves and, after finding a job, come to us and volunteer as they have "been there" and know what we have been encouraged to do in *2 Corinthians 1:4*: **He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.**

We encourage feedback from previous participants and some have expressed how ACT was a blessing in their lives:

*"The ACT ministry came along at a point in my life when things had just about reached their bleakest. Asbury and the ACT group volunteers have had the ability to transcend all denominational faiths and lend sincere helping hands and support to everyone, no matter what their background or religious beliefs. I can honestly say that I could not have survived the ordeal my family and I went through without all the help and broad shoulders that were extended to me. The ACT Ministry helped me turn things around, deepened my faith in God and helped me more clearly realize that we are all His children, we are all one big family and together there is nothing we cannot accomplish."*

*"The meetings I attended were most helpful - I needed to hear from others that I was not the only person in this situation. The guidance provided helped me face my fears of searching for another job."*

*"I appreciate the time my mentor and resume coach spent helping me update my resume (it had been about 10 years since I had done this). There were so many changes in the HR hiring world out there that I was not aware of and their input on 'what' I said about myself and 'how' I said it was just invaluable. Most importantly, knowing that there were many prayers and spiritual support for my efforts gave me a calm sort of confidence that did not let me give up!"*

*"I would like to thank all the ACT ministry volunteers for their dedication, patience, understanding and encouragement during my career search. The whole process is a humbling experience, especially when nothing seems to be working in your job search. I thank God every day for having the opportunity me and get to know them."*

*"I walked into my first ACT meeting scared to death of putting into words exactly who I was and what I wanted. Compassion, encouragement, perspective, patience and most importantly grace - were all found in abundance for me at Asbury. My life is better because of all of you. May God continue to bless you."*

ACT's vision established originally and continues today is - "to provide a safe haven and caring ministry, to share knowledge and information, and to offer support in a confidential Christian atmosphere for those who are experiencing transitions in employment" continues fulfilling participants requesting help. Working with ACT is a wonderful opportunity to follow Jesus' teachings as reference by Paul in *Galatians 6:2* **Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.**

The ACT ministry provides bi-monthly meetings, mentoring, resume and interview coaching, a prayer ministry, networking and job leads. If you would like to participate in the ministry, volunteer with the ministry as a mentor or other supportive efforts, or know of a job opening opportunity, contact Myrtice Carr, Director, at [myrticecarr@att.net](mailto:myrticecarr@att.net).