



Sharpen your Axe

"Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."
Abraham Lincoln

LINDSEY BRYANT

*Lindsey Bryant works with
FCA Fayette County
LBryant@fca.org*

Do you ever have those days where you feel like you can't catch your breath? I don't mean literally, but you know, those days that just seem like you go from one activity to the next without

any breaks? There have been many weeks where my husband and I finally arrive at the weekend with no energy to do anything but sleep. It feels like we don't have time to do anything but eat sleep and work, much less any time to spend with friends or relaxing. Our small group leader challenged us to take inventory of how we occupy our time over the course of the week and advised that not only should we be spending time in God's word (duh!) but that we should also have time set aside to spend with other followers of Christ. You could hear the group's collective moan as we thought about all the things that were already on the calendar. It's not that we didn't want to hang out with each other outside of our small group. We all just knew that our schedules were quickly filling up with "important stuff." It says in Proverbs chapter 17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." The time that we spend with other believers is not purely for social benefit, but for our spiritual benefit as well.

There was once a man who challenged another to an all-day wood chopping contest. The challenger worked hard all day, barely taking a break. The other man, however, had a leisurely lunch and took several breaks to rest. As evening fell, the first man was angered by the results. "Every time I checked," he said, "you were taking a rest, and yet you ended up chopping more wood than I did."

"But you didn't notice," said the winner, "that I was sharpening my axe each time I sat down."

I want to challenge each of you to take a look at how you spend your time this week. Remember, that it isn't about how much time you have to relax, but rather what you are filling your time with. Spending time in fellowship with other believers can be as beneficial, if not more so, than taking a break and catching up on your favorite TV show (and no one ever said that you couldn't fellowship out by the pool). Being challenged and encouraged by friends in faith "sharpens your axe" and makes you more productive throughout the rest of your day. I think that you will be surprised to find that when you rearrange your priorities and make time for productive relaxation instead of staying busy with meaningless tasks that seem important at the time, you will find you are much more refreshed!

Education for Everyone

GMC COLLEGE

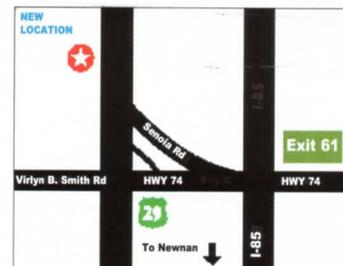


A Liberal Arts Junior College

**GMC is ranked #12 on The 2010
America's Best Community Colleges
List in the Washington Monthly**

[-www.washingtonmonthly.com](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com)

- No Military Obligation
- Two Year Liberal Arts Program
- Fully Accredited by Southern Association of Colleges & Schools
- Daytime, Evening & Weekend Classes
- Small Class Sizes, Personal Attention, & Free Tutoring
- Dual-Enrollment Courses Available
- All University Students are Welcome to Take Courses
- Leased Books



Start Here-Go Anywhere

Call Today 678.379.1414

See Our Website for Details

gmc.cc.ga.us/atlanta