



Hey guys, get some direction for the journey!

What you need is God's Positioning System, says Paul Subritzky of Promise Keepers

At 10 am on a cold, rainy November day last year in Paris, my wife Lynette and I picked up a tiny rental car and started our ambitious road trip around Europe. We'd come prepared, buying a Global Positioning System (GPS) in New Zealand and pre-loading it with European maps.

I pushed the power button and waited for the GPS to show us where we were. To our dismay, the GPS couldn't locate a satellite. We were completely on our own!

Desperate for direction, we bought a road map, but it was the wrong scale and proved totally useless. We couldn't ask for directions as the streets were either too narrow to stop, or the locals didn't speak English. As a last resort we followed our noses. The rain grew heavier, our window wipers didn't work and the food we ate for lunch was horrible, but we finally made it out of Paris. Day one and we were already absolutely disheartened.

But suddenly our GPS unit beeped—it had successfully located a satellite and could now report exactly where we were. That GPS changed our lives. It saved our marriage! Over the next few weeks we travelled over 5000 km, trusting our GPS to lead us to the destinations we loaded in each day.

This year's Promise Keepers Men's Events are about the ultimate GPS: God's Positioning System. The events are designed to help men hear God's voice more clearly so that we can receive God's guidance and direction for our lives.

You'll gain the maximum benefit from attending with others. That's because a powerful dynamic occurs whenever we join forces. Consider this: one horse can pull a weight of up to 6 tonnes, but two horses together can pull 36 tonnes—that's three times the amount that they could pull individually! When we operate as a T.E.A.M. (Together Each Achieves More), we discover that the power of doing things together dramatically increases our effectiveness.

If you attend one of this year's Promise Keepers events on your own, you'll be impacted from spending quality time seeking God. But men who attend alone are also the most likely to leave early. There is a lot going on and they have a full life, so it's easy to just slip away. And then, as they travel home, they move on to the next important thing and what's been learned is easily forgotten.

Those who attend with a whole group of men are the ones who reap the long-term rewards. As Brian Doyle of the 'Iron Sharpens Iron'

men's ministry explains, the difference is this: 'You anticipate together as you travel, maybe you pray together ... your expectations rise together. Ministry happens together—it may even occur before the event starts when you are in the car ... You arrive together, you sit together and your faith and anticipation of what God is going to do in each other's lives together is magnified. You worship together ... with hundreds, maybe thousands of guys ... You listen to what is being said and process God's words together.

'[In the break times], you can continue to process stuff together. You then travel back together [recounting your experiences], and a pattern has begun of doing things together. The walls that maybe you came with—the barriers you put up, or the guard you have erected—will come down as guys begin to hear from God and share together with one another. The next day at church, the same guys who went to the conference together are connecting. You are reminding, encouraging, reflecting—you're doing it together.'

Promise Keepers events aren't stand-alone events; they are part of the ongoing process of growing men spiritually in the local church. They might last for just one night and one day, yet the process of fulfilling the decisions made impacts the local church across the remaining 363 days of the year.

Now is the time to gather the men of your church and take advantage of the power of doing things together—a Promise Keepers GPS event is a resource to help men hear from God personally and it will also take your men's ministry to the next level.

Let's be honest, us males have a reputation of *not* asking for directions—but life is far too important not to seek God's direction and guidance. And it's too short to waste time heading down dead-end streets! **PAUL SUBRITZKY**

Promise Keepers events transform men's lives, especially marriages and families, but Promise Keepers offers other resources to encourage and equip ministry with men in the local church. This includes its 'Developing Spiritual Champions' workshops, Field Representatives to work with local churches, and customised coaching with National Coaching Director Brian France.

PROMISE KEEPERS MEN'S EVENTS 2010

DUNEDIN: 30-31 July / CHRISTCHURCH: 13-14 August / TAURANGA: 27-28 August / WELLINGTON: 10-11 September / AUCKLAND: 8-9 October
Ph: 0800 PROMISE or go to www.promisekeepers.org.nz