

PK

WISE CHOICES

friends



## THE INSIDE RUNNING

As men we like to think that we are up to any challenge and can conquer any obstacle on our own. Satan can use that independent streak to isolate us from God and from other people, especially men. We were not made to be lone rangers – men need men.

Eventually everyone faces problems: health, finance, relationships, emotional issues, employment and even a crisis of faith. Real friends – brothers – can stand with us in the tough times with practical help and wise counsel.

I have been in several men's groups over the years. None of them were perfect but they all enriched my life. Some of those men did crash and burn. Sometimes they felt that their sin disqualified them from being Christians. Men are experts at putting on masks and maintaining a "Christian" image. That sort of faking it pushes men straight into isolation and potential failure. Real friendships can avert disasters. I learned the need for trust and honesty between us if I was to really be successful in true friendship, the sort of friendship that makes a difference. Men in those groups have also challenged me to grow and to lead. They have not come between me and God but have helped me to grow closer to God. Sometimes the benefits are hard to see at the time but looking back you appreciate the changes that have happened.

Whatever you are facing, don't confront it alone.



John Subritzky

## MOST MEN ARE ISOLATED

by Steve Sonderman

Competition, comparison, isolation, individualism and self-sufficiency—those words describe today's men. That isn't good news for men trying to make friends! Those are wedge-driving words. Splintering words. Those are labels most of us have worn since the day we were born—and as a result the average male over thirty can't name one close friend he could call at any time of the day or night to share his hurt and pain.

One survey asked men who their best friends were. More than 75 percent said it was a guy from high school, a guy from an old sports team, and so on. What was interesting is that most of the men hadn't spoken to that man or seen that man for several years. Some friendship!

The average guy is looking for one or two good friends to hang out with. Friends he can share heart to heart with. Friends who will walk with him at the birth of his first child, who will be there when he loses his job, who will provide wise counsel when his teenager rebels and mourn with him when his parents or spouse dies.

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*I joined a men's group and although we started off slowly, once we got to the hard to talk about stuff in our lives, it was like God switched on the "let's get real" light bulb. We became closer and more purposeful in who [we] were in Christ. This not only changed who we were as a group of 4 men getting together, but who we were to our wives and others, especially God.*

Wayne Fisher

**PROMISE 3: A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.**

**INTEGRITY, COURAGE, ACTION**

# WHAT'S ON THE DVD:



**NEW!** **IPOD VIDEOS:** For the first time, the videos are also included ready for copying straight to iPods for viewing on the move! This is in addition to MP3s of the speaker and panel.

**NEW!** **FREE STUDIES:** Fresh from the new PK 'Band of Brothers' study guide for Men's Small Groups are 9 studies for each week until the next WiseChoices DVD. This includes instructions for getting started!



## FEATURED SPEAKER:

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**Ivan Bezzant** pastors a Salvation Army church in Napier. He has spoken at Promise Keepers for several years. In this video he is in Christchurch in 2008. Ivan looks at how every man can be an effective part of the army of God by using several simple keys. Refresh your vision for your place in God's plan.



### HUMOUR

The wildest speed bump you will ever see! Also, how police stop a motorcyclist when they have lost their sense of humour!



### BONUS FEATURES

**Jeff Struecker** tells how he led the army Rangers into Mogadishu in 1993. Retold in "Black Hawk Down", this is a story of courage and faith.

**Dogtag Commissioning** shows men receiving their dogtag at the end of the powerful *Leave No Man Behind* Events.



### PANEL

Ministry with Men. Six leaders share their wealth of experience about how they have succeeded in Men's Ministry.



### DRAMA

"Welcome Home". What happens when life goes wrong and the difference real friends can make.



### DVD ROM

High resolution **photos of Auckland Leave No Man Behind 2008**. 149 selected photos – 750MB of vibrant action!

**iPod audio/video:** MP3s and MP4 so you can be fully portable with WiseChoices! You can burn the MP3s to CD for even more flexible listening.

**Band of Brothers:** 9 study guides for Men's Small Groups.

**Website links:** 14 links to websites that have some great information about Men's Ministry and Men's Small Groups.



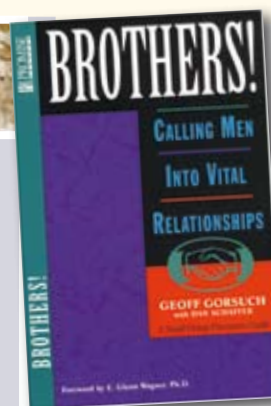
Most Men Are Isolated *continued...*

In his wonderful book *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, Kent Hughes says this about male friendship: "Men, if you are married, your wife must be your most intimate friend, but to say 'my wife is my best friend' can be a cop-out. You also need Christian male friends who have a same sex understanding of the serpentine passages of your heart who will not only offer counsel and pray for you, but will also hold you accountable to your commitments and responsibilities when necessary."

Gary Oliver notes in *Real Men Have Feelings Too*: "When emotional pain strikes, we often lack the ability to understand and deal with it. When the pain becomes too uncomfortable, the only other option is to attempt to anesthetise it. For instance, you can replace feelings with busyness. The busyness becomes workaholism. They become insensitive and blind to their spouse's messages of discouragement, dissatisfaction and resentment."

Excerpted from: "How to Build a Life Changing Men's Ministry" by Steve Sonderman.

**The answer must be to deliberately build real friendships with other men. When you have genuine friends, look around for men who need friends and build into their lives. These are the natural steps in mentoring and discipleship. – Promise Keepers**



## RESOURCES

### Brothers! Calling Men Into Vital Relationships

The textbook for running Men's Small Groups. Every

leader of a small group needs to read and understand this book. It gives the blueprint of how "closed" groups develop from stage to stage and the sort of issues that are likely to arise. \$14.00 + postage. Shop online or phone Promise Keepers. Details below.

