



BELOVED HUSBAND OF MURIEL  
 LOVED FATHER OF  
 OWEN, ERIC, KEITH, MURRAY  
 IN EVERY THOUGHT AND DEED  
 WITH WISDOM AS HIS GUIDE  
 AND CHARITY HIS CREED  
 HE LIVED AND DIED A MAN

# THE INSIDE RUNNING

Our legacy is a direct measurement of how we live and whether we have really been a Promise Keeper.

When a person comes to Christ, they start a brand new bloodline of faith. Creating a legacy means that you will not be the last generation of Christianity in your spiritual bloodline.

Our most important testimony is how we act, react and step up when we go through the valley of trials. Every day we sow into others – either positively or negatively. As Christians we need to be reaching out to others with the love of Christ.

Our missionfield is where we live and work. Our character is reflected in the impression we make on people. Our most important mission, however, is to our own home and our own children.

Some cultures, such as the Chinese, take a long-term outlook, are prepared to work hard and make sacrifices with the clear goal of improving the lot of the next generation.

Every day, every decision we make, every action we take and every word we speak contributes to or diminishes our legacy. May the love of Christ flow from you and me every day.



*John*  
John Subritzky

## Legacy Influencing your world

July 2011

By Mark Beale

The word "legacy" is one that is frequently used in today's secular world. It often refers to a gift in a will or something that has been handed down by a predecessor. What is the gift that Christian men should hand down to those who are to follow?

For me, the answer to this has been cemented in my involvement with Promise Keepers. I was first attracted to Promise Keepers by its very name. I had been brought up by a father who had ingrained in me that to be an effective man meant I would have to be a man who kept his word. The keeping of a promise was central to my understanding of life. As a Christian man I have made a promise to follow Christ. As a Christian leader and being involved in Promise Keepers I have made a commitment to keep the 7 Promises of a Promise Keeper.

As men it is instinctive to us to provide for our families or to provide for those who we feel a responsibility towards. It is important that we understand this provision to be more than just material needs. To only provide in a material sense is to fall well short of what the Bible would understand as the role of a man. At the very beginning of the book of Proverbs we are told, "*The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge.*" And that, "*Fools spurn wisdom and discipline.*" (Proverbs 1:7)

The material things of this world will perish in time; even the greatest of human monuments slowly crumble away. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19, "*Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and woodworms destroy them and*

*thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasure for yourself in heaven...*"

The legacy that we need to leave is one that will last - a legacy that can be carried down from one generation to the next. As a father of five children I have thought carefully about what sort of legacy I would like my children to inherit. As an Anglican minister my life has not been one of accumulating material wealth. I live a life that has at its heart a desire to serve God and accumulate wisdom.

The essential gifts that I want my children to inherit are centred on walking in the ways of Christ. My father instilled in me certain values: As well as the importance of keeping one's word, he emphasised the importance of contributing to the greater good of the world that one finds oneself in. For me it is important that my children live with an ambition to make the world they live in a better place than the world they inherited, to create an upward spiral of human moral and social progress and not to contribute to a downward spiral of social decay. If they are to do this they need a strong moral base to work from. This base begins with a right relationship with God, a right understanding of the nature of God and the purpose of God in our lives.

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on page 2*



**INTEGRITY, COURAGE, ACTION**

To achieve this legacy as men we need to understand an essential principle. Abraham Lincoln said, "There is just one way to bring up a child in the way he should go and that is to travel that way yourself." If we want our children to live in a right path with God we ourselves need to be living in this right path.

A blind man visited his friends. It was dark when they left and they gave him a lantern. He said, "Thank you, but I don't need it. Light or dark, it is the same to me." His friend replied, "Yes, but carry it anyway so people won't bump into you." Off he went, but soon someone collided with him and shouted, "Why don't you look where you are going?" The blind man replied, "Why can't you see my lantern?" "Sorry, brother," the other said, "Your candle went out."

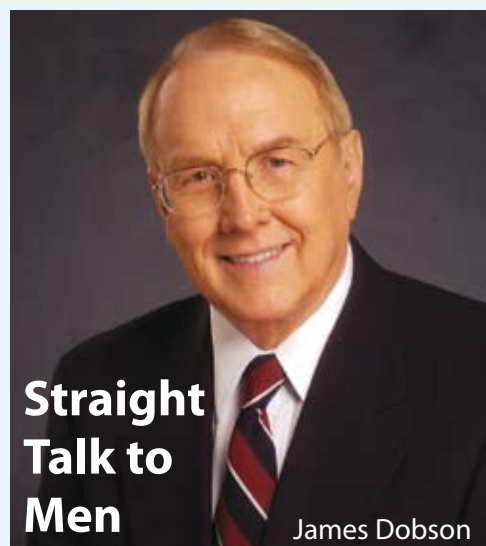
When we ourselves are not walking in the

path of faith our children will be without a light to follow. Jesus calls us to let our light shine. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on a lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they will give the praise to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

If we are to leave a legacy of value, our lives need to have a positive impact on the world around us. This impact must begin in our homes and spread out into the wider community. In 1845 a boy called Andre Bessette was born in Canada. Andre's parents died when he was young. He joined the congregation of the Holy Cross Church Montreal. He was given the task of greeting

people at the door, as those in charge felt he was lacking in education and physical strength. He died in 1937 at the age of 92. It is reported that over a million people came to bid him farewell at his funeral. Why? They honoured him because his ministry had touched them, their relatives and their friends.

The legacy we leave is determined by our faithfulness to the calling God has put on our lives. If we are a father we are called to be a good father. As Christian men we are called to make a difference in the world we live in for the glory of God. Our legacy is what we leave behind.



## Straight Talk to Men

James Dobson

One of the most common letters I receive is sent by hundreds of women who ask the same question: *My husband won't assume spiritual leadership in our family. He doesn't seem to be aware of my needs and the requirements of our children. How can I get his attention?*

Derek Prince expressed his view that the major problems facing the Western world can be traced to what he called "renegade males".



**"Yes, I played rugby to the highest level, but my greatest achievement was being a dad who served his family"**

Eroni Clarke

God said, "You are going to write a book for husbands and fathers, based on the life of your dad. The inspiration will be derived from his values, his dedication, his walk with Me."

I feel that my message to men is the most critical topic I have ever addressed, and as such, may be the task for which I was born.

[My dad's life] involved sixty-six years of integrity and devotion and love. I had watched him at home throughout my childhood, where it was impossible to hide his true nature. But never one time did I see him compromise with evil or abandon the faith by which he had lived. His character had been like a beacon for me, illuminating my way and steering me past the snares that entrapped so many of my friends.

[At the funeral for my dad] I thought about my own children. I wondered what memories will predominate in their minds when I lie at the point of death, a moment or two from now. What will they remember to be the happiest experiences of their

lives? Will they recall a busy father who was preoccupied with writing books and catching planes and answering mail and talking on the telephone and being a "big man"? Or will they recall a patient dad who took time to love them and teach them and enjoy the beauty of God's world with them? I pray that the Lord will help me keep my little family at the top of my list of priorities during the precious primetime years.

James Dobson [Snr] was a man of many intense loves. His greatest passion was expressed in his love for Jesus Christ. His every thought and deed were motivated or influenced by his desire to serve his Lord. And I can truthfully say that we were never together without my being drawn closer to God by being in his presence. Not because he warned me or chastised me... but because his love for the Lord penetrated and shaped my own attitudes.

If I can be half the father to [Danae and Ryan] that he was to me, [they] will be fortunate children indeed.

Excerpts from "Straight Talk to Men" by Dr James Dobson

## PROMISE #7

A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Next Month: Sexuality



Register Now!

### Promise Keepers Men's Events 2011

- ◆ Dunedin 29-30 July
- ◆ Tauranga 26-27 August
- ◆ Auckland 7-8 October
- ◆ Christchurch 12-13 August
- ◆ Wellington 9-10 September

0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)



Game On QR code