



# THE INSIDE RUNNING

As we travel and work with men and churches we see a lot of desire for Ministry with Men and some activity and action. Some churches have cracked it and are pumping. Many churches struggle with the challenges of growing a vibrant Ministry with Men, yet the benefits are clear. Men need friendships instead of isolation. We need a clear path for spiritual growth. Ian Grant said to me recently that the older he gets the more he realises that nothing matters more than Jesus. Our fulfilment should be in showing Jesus in us to the world.

Promise Keepers is investing heavily in helping men and churches to be successful in building friendships, growing spiritually and being equipped for mission. Brian France is the Coaching Director and brings immense experience to the role. From commanding men in the RAF to being an ordained minister, he is used to organising and motivating men. Promise Keepers also has Field Representatives around NZ to help churches.

Are you relating well with other Christian men? Do you have friends who pray with and for you? We need each other.

All the best

John Subritzky



## Ready for Battle?

By Brian France

**Men have been engaged in warfare for endless generations, battles have raged and men have fought and died on the land, sea and in the air.**

During World War I, aircraft were first used as a weapon of war. The simple wood, fabric and wire construction of those early biplanes has developed into modern supersonic swept wing fighters of advanced technology and great sophistication. The cockpit of a modern jet fighter is a confined space filled to capacity with instruments, gauges, knobs, buttons and switches. To the untrained eye it is a complex assembly of high-tech gizmos guaranteed to produce a "wow" response when the cockpit is peered into.

When airborne, the fighter pilot is trained to extract optimum performance from his aircraft. Not only is the pilot operating his aircraft to its limits but he is also experiencing "G" forces on his body which are many times the force of gravity. He wears a "G suit" that squeezes his lower limbs and abdomen as he "pulls G", keeping the blood supply in his upper body and brain, thus helping him to retain consciousness.

Pilot navigation must be accurate whilst arming weapons and responding to radio calls. At the same time, he needs to be aware of how his engine is functioning; pressures and temperatures. Also, what is happening on the weather front, where the wind is coming from and what clouds and visibility he is encountering. On top of this he has technical data from his hydraulic, pneumatic and cockpit pressurisation systems to monitor, along with fuel consumption and fuel remaining.

It's a complex task, yet the pilot also needs to have his eyes out of the "office" as much as possible to know what is happening in the sky around him. To aid him in this the "head-up" display came into being. This projects an image of his essential instruments onto

the windscreen in front of him. Now he can maintain the best possible lookout and still know how his aircraft is functioning.

The principles of keeping one's head up and eyes out of the "office" are essential to the fighter pilot and are also important to Men's Ministry within the church.

As Christian men we should stand tall and hold our heads up for we are sons of God. We can tune in to the Holy Spirit's frequency whilst looking out and around at how we might be used as Christ's ambassadors. Like the fighter pilot, we need a clear vision of the task to which God is directing us and to understand how to use the spiritual weapons with which He has equipped us.

Like the fighter pilot we need to be ready for warfare; not carnal but spiritual. Many men become casualties and are "shot down in flames" because they are not equipped spiritually for the battle that is raging within and around them. The apostle Paul put it this way: *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God."* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

Fighter pilots are dedicated, well trained and equipped for their task. The spiritual battle requires every Christian to be no less dedicated, trained and equipped for the battle to which God has called each one of us.

The Bible says to us, *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against*

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spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

The fighter pilot has a thorough knowledge of his aircraft and is in synergy with it. Our equipping comes through an ever-deepening relationship with Christ Jesus, by the reading and proclaiming of the Word of God and by prayer and supplication.

The fighter pilot’s resources are limited to his own performance and the limits of the technology that surrounds him. We have no such limitations, for we are empowered by the great God of the universe who has the power of the universe at His disposal.

It is time for us to lift our heads, look around to see and hear what God is calling us to, and for us to engage in the spiritual battle for which He has prepared us.

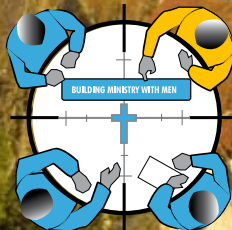
“Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:58 & 57)

**Tally Ho!**



**Coaching**  
WITH PROMISE KEEPERS



# Ministry with Men Coaching

Any sports team that is serious about winning and achieving its goals hires the best coach it can find. This is because the coach has an important role to play, as they train and encourage sportsmen to achieve their potential. The same principle applies to Ministry with Men in the local church.

Coaching is designed to bring a strategic focus that will develop and grow a church’s Men’s Ministry helping to give it structure, direction and a dynamic and godly underpinning. The Coach is also a facilitator and sounding board for suggestions and ideas.

Once a church decides on Coaching, a contract is established to facilitate regular contact. The cost of the Coaching is met in part by the Coached church with the balance subsidised by Promise Keepers.

In the words of one Men’s Ministry Leader: “Coaching is one of the best investments our church has ever made. The step-by-step advice I have received so far has been amazing. Why reinvent the wheel of Men’s Ministry when Promise Keepers already leads the way?”



## Men’s Small Groups

Men’s Small Groups provide two key things that men need – they help men grow spiritually and they build friendship. When it comes to spiritual growth, men will grow up to seven times faster in a Men’s Small Group than if they just attend church on a weekly basis. This is because men can ask questions and receive feedback in a small group environment.

Many men are isolated by their work, circumstances, or by their own choice. They are often not giving the time required to go through the process of receiving the biblical and relational input they need to be truly great disciples of Jesus Christ. However, men who get into a small group come out of isolation, receive biblical input, build real friendships and become part of

a ‘Band of Brothers’. It is in a small group environment that men are challenged and equipped to live out the Christian faith with the intensity that was intended. Use the Men’s Small Group studies on the WiseChoices DVDs with your friends. For further information on Men’s Small Groups, see the Promise Keepers website: [www.promisekeepers.org.nz](http://www.promisekeepers.org.nz)

**PROMISE #2**

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.

**Next Month: Marriage**



**Register Now!**

**Promise Keepers Men’s Events 2011**

- ◆ Wellington 9-10 September
- ◆ Auckland 7-8 October

0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)



Game On QR code