

PR WISE CHOICES



CHURCH FOR MEN

THE INSIDE RUNNING

Are you a man of God?

Are you closer to God now than you were a year ago? These are challenging questions, especially if we have hit a few tough patches. The real question is, at the core of my being, am I journeying closer to God?

This month we look at how involvement with other Christians encourages men with their spiritual growth. David Murrow points out that the path is not always easy and some things that happen in some churches are not helpful to men. The value of this is to help you recognise these issues so that you can change them or work around them.

At the heart of the Christian community is fellowship. Building genuine friendships usually needs intentional action. Brothers can spur us on to a deeper spiritual walk, as well as being with us in the tough times.

We have packed this DVD with thought-provoking resources. Many churches don't even have a Men's Ministry. Many men don't have genuine male friends.

Let's change that this year!

John Subritzky



What are the Men of Your Church Looking For?

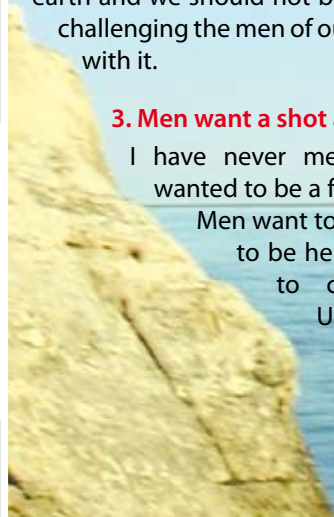
By Steve Sonderman

I am often asked "Why are the men leaving the church today?" Sometimes it comes out as "What can we do to keep the men of this church?" Sometimes the question sounds like "How can our church reach more men?" The overriding principle is simply this: The environment you develop is more important than the events or programs you put on. A man is looking for an environment that is consistent with who he is as a man and a place where he feels comfortable belonging and becoming the man God wants him to be.

- 1. Men are looking for Relevance**
The most important issues for men are their work, family, marriage, sexuality, and finances and rarely are these addressed from the pulpit today. (Many times we are answering questions they are **not** asking!)
- 2. Men want to be involved in a Cause greater than themselves**
Men want to be involved in something
- 3. Men want a shot at Greatness**
I have never met a man who wanted to be a failure or a loser. Men want to win. They want to be heroes. They want to come in first. Unfortunately, it
- 4. Men want to be Challenged**
Men tend to view the world around them as something to be overcome or conquered. It's high time we told them they do not have to check their competitive drive at the door of the church. If they are seeking risk, adventure, change, competition, and expansion—tell them how to find it within the mission of Jesus.
- 5. Men are looking for Action**
Men today are looking for something to do; they do not like sitting around and theorising about the twenty-seven views of the second coming of Christ! Men measure themselves by productivity and gain a portion of self-image based on what they do. Their desire for adventure is often expressed in the desire to be on the solution side of things. Many churches today are in maintenance mode, rather than being missional.
- 6. Men are looking for Leaders and want to be Leaders**
This principle is simple: Men do not follow programs, they follow men. They want to follow a bold, courageous, visionary leader. Establish an environment where strong leadership is attractive. Not only are men



driven by a compelling vision. Men want to know what hill the church is climbing, where we are going, what we are about. The church has the greatest and most far-reaching mission on earth and we should not be bashful about challenging the men of our congregation with it.



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looking for a leader to follow, they want to become leaders themselves. They want to lead in their family, workplace, church, community and world. One of the things you can do is equip them to lead.

7. Men are looking to have Fun

If men walk into a church and see a bunch of serious, stoic-looking people, shouldn't they wonder if Christianity really is a kill-joy? The world is a serious place; men are looking to laugh and have fun to balance that reality. They love a good joke, funny story or movie. I encourage you to develop a ministry environment in which men have fun together.

8. Men are looking for Brothers

Most men have many acquaintances but very few men have a good friend. According to statistics, the average man over 35 years old does not have one close friend. Men need teaching on how to develop and strengthen friendships and an environment where they can find genuine male friends.

9. Men are looking for Healing

Many are using socially unacceptable means to deal with the pain – making their work or their hobbies their life, misusing sex, drugs or alcohol. Unless these wounds and hurts are dealt with in a healthy way, they will never become the man that God wants them to be. They will never be able to have healthy relationships or move on from childish behaviour.

I hope some of these insights from my own ministry to men will serve you well as you seek to minister more effectively to the men of your church and community.

Excerpted from the full document which is on this issue of the DVD ROM. Steve Sonderman is the associate pastor for men's ministry at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wis., and the author of "How to Build a Life-Changing Men's Ministry". He has faithfully worked with men for over 15 years at Elmbrook.

Steve will be speaking at Promise Keepers NZ in October 2010.



Featured Speaker:

David Murrow examines some of the issues that can make churches more difficult for men to engage in successfully. With insight and humour, this message will bring up some talking points and food for thought. Discussion starter questions are on the DVD ROM. There is also a short version (11 min) of David's "Church for Men" video included. David's message was recorded at the 2008 Promise Keepers Event. (30 min)

Panel: Men's Small Groups

Paul Subritzky asks five other men what has been important to them about Men's Small Groups. These groups provide an excellent opportunity for men to build friendships and to grow spiritually. (28 min)

Drama:

In the changing shed after footy practice, the boys wonder why you would train hard out if you are only going to coast along when you are in the game. How involved are we, really?

Bonus Features:

- **PK music** – song "Awesome God" from Auckland 09
- **Rachel's story** – How her dad unwittingly protected his friend who was making erotic videos of Rachel and her sports team mates
- **Space** – How the universe reveals our Awesome God

WHAT'S ON THE DVD

Humour:

Bullfighter; ice skater; workers with cable drum; aliens meet trunk monkey; and are we the bad guys?

Promo:

- **Promise Keepers 2010 GPS Event** promo
- **Developing Spiritual Champions** promo
- **Men's Team Ministry** to Widows & Solos promo

DVD ROM:

Study Questions for "Church for Men" – David Murrow

Weekly Studies – 9 studies for Men's Small Groups from PK study guides "Aircrew Manual" and "Battlestations"

Articles & Tools for Men's Ministry:

- **David Murrow** interview
- **"What are the Men of Your Church Looking For?"** – by Steve Sonderman
- **Activity & Outcomes Grid** – the essential planning tool for Men's Ministry
- **Robert Lewis DVD Courses** – How to use these great DVDs for Men's Small Groups
- **"Manhood in Crisis"** – article for VisionNetwork by Paul Subritzky. A good overview of Men's Ministry

Book:

"How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit" by Bill Subritzky. Simple 20 page guide. From our supporter, Dove Ministries.

MP3s:

David Murrow's message and the **Promise Keepers music** are also included as MP3s.

A bonus feature is **Steve Sonderman** being interviewed by Mel Lawrenz. They look at the spiritual needs of men. Recommended listening! (20 min)

iPod videos:

David Murrow, Men's Small Groups, Panel and Music



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To action this, call 0800 77 66 47 or email pk@promisekeepers.org.nz

Workshops for Men's Ministry MARCH 2010

DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

- Invercargill:** Mon 1 March
- Dunedin:** Tues 2 March
- Christchurch:** Wed 3 March
- Nelson:** Thurs 4 March
- Wellington:** Mon 15 March
- Palmerston Nth:** Tues 16 March
- Tauranga:** Wed 17 March
- Hamilton:** Thurs 18 March
- Auckland:** Fri 19 March

