

## Creating a Male Context of Praying Men – An Atmosphere Where Men Grow and Flourish

***The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men..men of prayer.*** -EM Bounds

“Now Jesus was telling the disciples a parable to make the point that at all times they ought to pray and not give up and lose heart.” Luke 18:1 AMP

“I searched for a **man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for [the sake of] the land**, that I would not destroy it, but **I found no one [not even one]**.” Ezekiel 22:30 AMP

### The Value of Men in the Church – And Greater Community<sup>1</sup>

- **When a husband/dad is first to connect to a faith community, 93% of the families follow**
- When a child is first to connect to a faith community, 3.5% of the families follow
- When a wife/mom is first to connect to the faith community, 22% of the families follow

#### Male Context<sup>2</sup>

1. **Men follow men** – Men need **male leadership**
2. They are looking for **men who will lead them to greatness**
3. Men **need vision**
4. Men **need purpose**

#### Male Leadership

- “Whenever God calls His people to Himself, **He uses His leaders.**” (Blackaby) We must **call** our people to prayer and spiritual activity.
- “People **don’t drift naturally toward prayer and evangelism.**” Leadership is required to keep these ministries on task. Dr. Rick Shepherd

#### Equipping Men – Key Concepts

- **Men will not lead** in areas where they do not feel **equipped** and **competent**. Men respond **positively to being disciplined**.
- Give men **a good target** to pray for. **Something to accomplish**, to be overcome. **Men are visual** and **want to conquer territory**. Invite **them to the areas where you want to see God work** and see the impact of their prayers and labor.

#### Men's Ministry by the Numbers<sup>3</sup>

- **85% of lay leadership in the churches in America are women**
- **75% of bible study leaders are women**
- **37 seconds** is the average daily time a father spends one on one with a pre-schooler
- **38 hours per week** is the average time a child spends in front of media
- **24 million children** live absent their biological father
- **40% of children in father-absent homes** have not seen their father at all in the past year
- **11 days (accumulative hours)** is the total time that a dad talks with his child in a lifetime
- **12 years (accumulative hours)** is the total time a father works in a lifetime

#### Overview of Men in Our Society

© Thomas Bush, Prayer Assist, <https://prayerassist.org/>, Thomas.bush.sd@gmail.com, 619-742-8694

## Creating a Male Context of Praying Men – An Atmosphere Where Men Grow and Flourish

1. **“As the father goes, so goes the family, and so goes the nation.”** Woman is the heart of the home; if her heart is broken, so is the family.
2. How we define ourselves (What we do, who we are, what we own)
3. Men can have lots of acquaintances but may be isolated (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
4. The condition of men in America:
  - Overall, men are **committing suicide at four times the rate of women.**
  - Men between the ages of 18 and 29 **suffer alcohol dependency at three times the rate of women** of the same age group.
  - More than **2/3 of all alcoholics are men, 50% more men** are regular users of illicit drugs than women.
  - Men account for more than **90% of arrests for alcohol and drug abuse violations. More than 80% of America’s homeless are men.**
  - Stress on men is taking its toll. **Men’s life expectancy is 10% shorter than women’s.** Incidences of stress related illnesses like heart disease and certain cancers remains very high among men.<sup>1</sup>
5. *We live in a culture that does not give appropriate value to the importance of men.*

### Men and Crime / Health<sup>4</sup>

9 of 10 people arrested for drug abuse are men.	8.8 of 10 arrested for drunk driving are men
9 of 10 arrested for serious crimes are men.	7 of 10 who fail one or more grades in school are male.
8 of 10 who commit juvenile crimes are male.	7.5 of 10 who commit suicide are men.
	7.5 of 10 patients in mental institutions are men.

### Will we use our energies to reach, equip, and deploy men to the glory of God?

***The church or nation who seeks God, the ministry that God uses, the family who depends on God, the community where God is at work, the business that serves God, the person who walks with God, all need meaningful connection with God through His Word, Spirit, and prayer. Thomas Bush***

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Statistics about men (The Promise Keepers at Work, Word Publishing, 1996)

<sup>2</sup>“Why Men Hate Going to Church, D. Murrow, Nelson Pubs, 2005, pp. 156-160

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.ironsharpeniron.net/files/stats\\_mens-ministry-numbers.pdf](http://www.ironsharpeniron.net/files/stats_mens-ministry-numbers.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>M.A.N Ministries, “The Crisis in American Males,” Photocopy from “Fight on Your Knees,” Dr. Mell Winger, © 2002 Navpress, Colorado Springs p. 53