

# Why Men Don't Pray / Why Men Will Pray – Equipped for Service Thomas Bush, Men Praying Everywhere

## A. The Opportunity

► Within men is the DNA of revolutionary impact. (Daniel 11:32b)

"But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

**▶** Our Culture Desperately Needs Godly Men. (Romans 8:19-24a)

"The entire universe is standing on tiptoe, yearning to see the unveiling of God's glorious sons and daughters!" Romans 8:19 The Passion Translation

▶ Discipling men to pray and act is a strategic kingdom priority. (1 Tim 2:8)

"I desire that men pray everywhere, [with holy hands] without wrath and doubting."

### B. Ministry to Men: Understanding the "Male Context"

- 1. Male Context (Why Men Hate Going to Church, David Murrow, 2005, pp. 156-160)
- a. Men follow men. Men need male leadership.
- b. Men will not lead in areas where they do not feel equipped and competent.
- c. Men are looking for men who will lead them to greatness. Men need vision and purpose.
- d. Men respond positively to being discipled.
- e. Men are visual and want to conquer territory. Give men a good target to focus on and work towards. Something to accomplish, to be overcome.
- f. Invite men to where we want to see God work and see the impact of their prayers and labor.

#### C. Men in our Culture - Our Mission Field

- ► Broken Homes: "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.
- ▶ Isolation: Men define themselves by what they do, who they are, and what they own. Men have many acquaintances but may be isolated. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
- ► Health and Substance Abuse: Alcoholics (67%), Illicit drug use (51%), Homeless (81%), Stress-related heart disease and cancer very high. Suicide 4x rate of women. Life span 10% less than women.
- ► Arrests: Alcohol and Drug, Serious crimes (90%) of arrests, Failed school grades (70%), Juvenile crimes (80%), Suicides (75%), Mental institutions (75%).
- ▶ Negative Impact: Almost every negative aspect of our culture can be traced to either something men are doing or something men aren't doing. (Ex. Pornography, human trafficking, abortion, fatherlessness, divorce, greed, selfishness, etc.)

M.A.N Ministries, "The Crisis in American Males," Photocopy from "Fight on Your Knees," Dr. Mell Winger, © 2002 NavPress, Colorado Springs p. 53



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### D. The Need: Prayer Culture, Leadership, Equipping to Know and Follow God's Will

- 1. Leaders Create and Maintain a Culture of Prayer.
- ► To have praying men, we must have leaders who create a culture of prayer.
- ► Culture = Cultivate: To promote or improve growth by labor and attention.
- 2. Leaders Model and Lead Their Organizations to Have a Culture of Prayer.
- ► Every Leader a **Praying Leader** and Every Leader a **Prayer Advocate**. (Page 2)
- 3. Leaders Provide a Discipleship Process So Every Man Can Be a "Fully-Developed Praying Disciple." ► Men Respond Positively to Being Discipled.

Organizations with praying leaders and praying men have the spiritual "readiness" to know and follow God's will.

- 4. Prayer Advocate Every Leader a Praying Leader and Prayer Advocate.
- ► A Prayer Advocate is a catalyst for prayer wherever they go. We invite every leader to strive to be a Prayer Advocate.
- ► Prayer Advocates pray, preach, teach, train and disciple in prayer. They promote, participate in, provide places of prayer and produce prayer requests that would make a difference if God were to answer.

Prayer Advocates Provide a Discipleship Process So Every Man Can Be a "Fully-Developed Praying Disciple."

5. Fully-Developed Praying Disciples need to be equipped in 4 areas of prayer.

## "House of Prayer" Church

**Equipping "Fully-Developed" Praying Disciples** 

#### Personal

## Corporate

#### **Personal Prayer**

Love for God and self

Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for me, as His friend

#### Corporate Prayer

Love for God, His People and others

Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for others together

#### Personal Intercession

Love for God and others

Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for me and others

#### Corporate Intercession

Love for God, His People and others

Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for us and others together

- 1. Personal Prayer: Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will for me as His friend.
- 2. Personal Intercession: Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will for me and others.
- 3. Corporate Prayer: Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will for others together.
- 4. Corporate Intercession: Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will for us and others together.



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### E. Why Men Don't Pray

- 1. Men Need Leadership and Equipping.
- a. Leadership: Men need leaders who can provide the leadership and modeling to maintain a Biblical prayer culture within their organizations.
- b. Call to Prayer: Men need leaders who call them to prayer and make prayer an important priority.
- c. Life-Giving Biblical Models: Men need life-giving Biblical prayer models and spiritual engagement to develop a Biblical lifestyle of prayer.
- d. Discipleship: Men need leaders who disciple them in prayer, including praying with them and showing them how to pray.

"There is not a problem we have on earth, that would not be solved, remedied, repaired, healed, straightened out, worked out, figured out, cleared up, untangled, repaired, patched, mended, or fixed if men embraced and lived out the biblical definition of manhood." Walter B. Hoye II, Issues4Life https://issues4life.org/

### F. Why Men Will Pray

1. God Calls Leaders First. Men Need "Leaders of Men" Who Understand How to Lead Within the Male Context.

Men's Key Spiritual Need (Besides Jesus): Fully-Equipped "Leaders of Men."

- ► Have you been discipled to lead men in prayer?
- ► Could you disciple men to become praying men?
- ▶ Do you need to be discipled to lead men in prayer?

## 2. Provide the Call to Prayer and Male Leadership

- ▶ "Whenever God calls His people to Himself, He uses His leaders." (Blackaby)
- ► "People don't drift naturally toward prayer and evangelism." Leadership is required to keep these ministries on task. Dr. Rick Shepherd
- ► "Everything rises and falls on leadership." John Maxwell
- ► The "goal of leadership is to produce more leaders." Ralph Nader

## 3. Disciple Men to be Men of Prayer and Action

- ► Train men to: Pray fervent prayers from promises in God's Word, for each other, their family and community members and in places where we want to see God work.
- ► Train men to: Pray during services, for their leaders, ministries, missions and missionaries, etc.



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- G. Leaders Disciple men so every man can be a fully-developed praying disciple.
- 1. Leaders Disciple Men for Godly Service. John 15:7, 1 Timothy 2:8, Daniel 11:32.
- a. Leaders lead men to a vital connection with God through His Word.

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you."

John 15:7 AMP

b. Leaders disciple men to take godly service to the places where we want to see God work. God's desire is to see God's men on mission with Him in every place.

"Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger and disputing or quarreling or doubt [in their mind]." 1 Timothy 2:8 AMP

c. Men who know their God will be strong and do great exploits.

"But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

Daniel 11:32 NKJV

- Knowing God and being strong come from God-centered prayer and connection.
- Carrying out great exploits comes from being empowered by the Holy Spirit and working together in the Body of Christ.

"People who do not pray will always be disoriented to the activity of God."

Pastor Mel Blackaby

2. Leaders Equip Men to Serve the Lord in "Their" Mission Field.

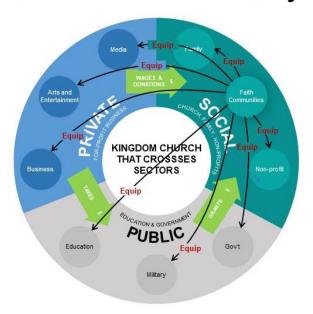
Men are called to impact the culture where God places them. For most men their primary calling takes place outside the walls of the local church.

Church and ministry leaders have the privilege of equipping, blessing, and sending men into "their" mission fields, leading them to disciple and lead other men to be effective kingdom men.

Equipping men to serve the Lord in "their" mission fields will be different for each man – depending on where God calls them to serve.

The "3 Sectors of a Community" diagram describes the potential impact godly men can have on the community.

# 3 Sectors of a Community



**Equip People for Community Service**