



November 2008



Dear Friends,

In this newsletter I want to address the important and strategic question: "WHY MINISTER TO MEN?"

After 38 years of ministry, I can honestly say that I am enjoying ministry more than ever, and I'm seeing more lasting fruit in ministry than at any other time in those 38 years.

I have the privilege of getting up every day with no other ministry thought or focus than to zero in on God's heart for His men. I get to teach, counsel, mentor and encourage men in their faith in Jesus Christ as I watch God create true Men of God. I also get to help God's faithful leaders in many of His churches minister to their men. I'm deeply grateful and passionate about this work and I'm firmly convinced that this is a most important and timely ministry.

I say "*important and timely*" because of this bias I have involving the priority and focus of going after God's men. In the 38 years that God has allowed me to be in ministry, I have served in a wide variety and broad scope of ministries. All have been valid and important to God and to those ministered to. However, at this point in my ministry journey, after all I have experienced and learned, I'm wholly convinced that men are crucial and vital to all that God does in His kingdom. Because of this I believe that to reach wives and children and to build God's church for such a crucial time as this, we must make going after God's men our top ministry priority.

I'm sure that not everyone would agree with me on this, but allow me to share some facts that might give some credibility to my bias.

A Southern Baptist survey found that if you reach a child for Christ 5% of those families will follow them in the faith; reach a mom and 17% will follow; reach a dad and 93% will follow. But have you noticed that men are in short supply in the church today? **Consider these statistics that have been revealed in recent surveys from The Barna Research Group:**

- On any given Sunday in the average church, 61% of the attendants are female and 39% are male (this means that nationwide, there will be 11 million more women in church on any given Sunday than men)
- 25% of the women attending come without their husbands
- 75% of volunteers are women (one mainline pastor said it was 99% in his church)
- 90% of boys check out of church by age 20
- The avg. ratio of men to women in Christian colleges is about 1 male to every 3 females
- Only about 10% of churches have a men's ministry
- **Women Are...**
 - 100% more likely to be involved in discipleship
 - 57% more likely to hold a leadership position in the church
 - 39% more likely to have a regular devotional time
 - 29% more likely to read their Bible
 - 29% more likely to share their faith
 - 16% more likely to pray

Then I considered statements like these:

"Without masculinity, there would be no civilization as we know it."

"If any civilization is to survive and prosper, it needs men who will act like men when the need arises."

"The sons of Issachar understood the times and knew what Israel should do, for such a time as this."

"When the crisis comes and courage is required, God expects His men to have such confidence in Him that they will be the dependable ones."

When Jesus came to earth, the world was in just as great a mess as we are in today. He came with a plan, but the Zealots and their plan to violently run the Romans out of Israel wasn't it. He turned the politicians down flat, knowing something that we don't seem to get in our day, that politics is not the answer to man's most important problems. He also turned down their plea that He would become their King. He told them that His Kingdom was not of this world.

So, what was His plan? MEN! He chose twelve of the most unqualified, ragtag group of men you could imagine, gave them a good 2 ½ years of 24/7 time in His presence, and they were transformed. Then He commissioned them to go out and turn the world right side up. That's exactly what these uneducated, untrained and extraordinary men did. Today their names are written on the gates of heaven.

There is much more that I could say, but I hope this helps to explain why I am biased toward giving my life to reaching God's men. It's what Jesus did when He stepped into a crisis. Men were in the bleachers then like they are today, so He started the first ministry to men. They were His plan and I believe they are still His plan today. God values and cares for His men and He will never give up on them. As God has designed it, men have always had a unique influence and assignment in accomplishing His work in the world. It's time for them to man up and be counted for such a time as this. They are ready and willing. They just need some leadership and encouragement.

It is our privilege and calling to be involved in this strategic ministry, but we're going to need your help to continue this work and to get the job done.

We have the unique challenge of having a rapidly growing and much needed ministry with an exciting momentum as we come to the close this year. We've added to our staff to meet the needs that rapid growth naturally produces. We are seeking to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us, but the bottom line is that we are receiving about \$9000 a month less than we need to make our budget moving into the new year. We expanded our staff as the Lord expanded our ministry, and He continues to bless. We are confident that we are on target in what He has on His heart for men and what He has called us to do. We are also confident in His desire and ability to provide.

I'm sharing this with you to ask that you prayerfully consider a generous gift to The Influencers as we come to the close of this very fruitful year, and as we prepare with great anticipation to move forward into the new year.

We would be deeply grateful.



Pete McKenzie
The Influencers