



November 09 Newsletter



“Men are God’s plan. The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.”

As I look back on this year, 2009, I know that we have fully embraced the strategic mission God has given us to go after His men. It’s a noble, difficult and challenging calling, this looking for and making better men. As they say, if it were easy, everyone would be doing it. And sadly, few are. There are few organizations outside the church that are targeting men, certainly compared to the millions of men that are out there. Add to this the fact that only ten percent of churches are officially attempting to minister to their men. Add to this the observation that the overwhelming majority of these are struggling in their efforts at best. They struggle with having effective leadership, and the vision, understanding and experience needed to know what to do with men. Without this leadership and know how, it’s easy to see why there is little true passion and commitment to minister to men in our churches today.

You see, men are God’s plan for leading and serving in a way that Jesus Christ led and served. He created men to uniquely stand in the face of danger, to bear up under suffering and to sacrifice for the good of others. God’s men and the strong servant leadership they can bring to their marriages, homes, churches, marketplaces and communities are desperately needed today. But while the enemy is ravaging all of the above, God’s men are noticeably absent. They innately know they are needed, but are having a difficult time attaining to this biblical standard.

But while ministering to men is an uphill battle, it is a battle that MUST be won. We lose it at our peril. The encouraging thing is that we believe that there are tens of thousands of God’s men wandering around with no real direction, who have a deep longing in their hearts for Christ. These men long to be involved and engaged with other men in an effort that is centered on Christ, and that has credible leadership they can follow. Promise Keepers proved this to be true fifteen years ago.

As we endeavor to go after God’s men, we have seen Him do some wonderful things this year. God has given us a vital and timely message that many men have said is the message they have been waiting to hear all of their lives. It’s a grace and faith based message that is freeing scores of men from the bondage of self-effort and their sense of being spiritual failures.

God has given us the opportunity to share this message with over 2500 men here in Orange County in our Wednesday and Friday groups, as well as in the many places where I have had the opportunity to speak this year. We have visited places in California like Clovis, El Cajon, Hume Lake, Escondido, Laguna Niguel, Sacramento, Portola, Bakersfield, Jackson, as well as in Arkansas, North Carolina and Ireland.

God has encouraged us by seeing several hundred men in Orange County and in a number of places mentioned above engaged in our small group called *The Journey*. It has proven to be a life changing process that helps men connect with God at the heart and with each other. **In every place we see God transforming men’s lives** as they see Him in a new way and are drawn closer to Him. In most places that we have been, especially at the men’s conferences and retreats, the men are anointed by their leaders as Men of God, and they place a wristband on them that says in

bold letters, MAN OF GOD. I'm not sure if you can picture this, but it is a powerful thing to see and to be a part of. **We have anointed well over a thousand men this year.**

Our country and world is going through some tough times as we all know, but God's men were made for tough times. These times can be the hardest thing that ever happened to us, or it can be our finest hour. We're seeing God's men begin to decide that this is going to be their finest hour.

While 2009 has been an exciting, busy and fruitful year, I can't tell you how excited we are as we look toward next year and what God has placed in our hearts that He wants to do to more aggressively go after His men. We are having a 24-hour retreat next month for the purpose of asking the Lord to inspire and motivate us, and to give us a shared vision and His plan for going after His men in 2010. (Visit our website to get more details at influencerswest.org)

God has encouraged us regarding His leading with these verses:

(Jeremiah. 29:11-14) *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope."*

(Habakkuk 2:3) *"For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."*

(John 8:25) *"Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly."*

With all of this in mind, I want to personally thank you, on behalf of all of the men who have been touched and transformed by this ministry this past year and before, and for their wives and children whose husbands and fathers are becoming more mature in their walks with God. I also want to thank you on behalf of the churches and communities that are benefiting because they all need God's men to be God's men when the need arises.

BUT WE ARE ALSO KEEPING IN MIND THAT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. So please allow me to thank you for all the men who are going to be transformed by God's Spirit in the next year as God allows us to continue to go after them. We have spent these first four years in The Influencers establishing a foundation to build on and to launch from, and now God is commissioning us to go after the tens of thousands of His men out there who are struggling in ways that are unnecessary from God's point of view. **With your help and participation, we will together go after them. God's work is always a team effort.**

We are always grateful for your generous and sacrificial gifts and prayers, but somehow we find ourselves being even more grateful during these days. Regarding these things, we never forget that our God is faithful, and we love how He continues to keep us dependent and trusting in Him.

Grateful, Trusting and Excited About The Future,

Pete