

Men With a Purpose Leadership Tips

MEN WITH A PURPOSE

EFCA Men's Ministries

Volume 4, Number 3

<http://www.efca.org/men>

An Equipping Resource For Men's Leaders Across the EFCA

Discipleship: Eternal Impact

Phil Downer, Founder and President of Discipleship Network of America, has a message for the local church. It's the age-old message of intentional discipleship. I met Phil several years ago when he was president of Christian Businessmen's Committee (CBMC). His commitment to discipling others is beyond theory, he lives it in every aspect of his life. That's why he is so effective an emissary for Christ. Phil is the author of the best selling, *Eternal Impact* and several other books, a frequent speaker at Promise Keeper Conferences and other events across America. Here is Phil Downer's message to the church.

One night in June 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower walked the beaches of England, alone with his thoughts. Occasionally he would stop and stare across the dark waters of the English Channel, toward the coast of France where Nazi armies had built a military fortress. The next dawn would see hundreds of allied ships and thousands of soldiers storm that coast, and General Eisenhower knew that for many of those soldiers it would be their last morning.

As he walked along, he came across an American private, standing by himself, also staring across the ocean. The general asked him what he was thinking about. "Home," came the reply. Then the supreme commander of the Allied forces suggested they walk together, that perhaps they would draw confidence from each other's company. So the two men walked on – one older, one younger; one experienced in ways of war, the other inexperienced – but each man drawing strength from the other.

That is exactly what many people need today – others to walk with them, offering wisdom and encouragement, particularly in difficult times. Men in our world are in turmoil. The pressures of our modern age are draining away the joy and leaving people too exhausted to experience the abundant life God has promised. They are physically tired, emotionally drained, overwhelmed by debt, and trying to cope with damaged relationships.

What a person needs is someone to draw close, minister to him, and help him mature. He needs somebody to demonstrate for him another way to live, modeling a godly marriage, biblical parenthood, and the love of Christ. He needs someone who will take the time to parent him in his spiritual walk, helping him find the new life Christ promised. Many people are exactly like I was twenty years ago, in need of a spiritual parent.

Dr. Jim Lyon did that for me. He spent time with me in the Scriptures each week, inviting me into his home and allowing me to see what a spiritually mature man is like. He made his life transparent, so I could see the real Jim inside and showed me the importance of opening my own life to him as well. He became my spiritual parent, and his investment changed my life.

Excerpted from [Eternal Impact](#), Harvest House Publishers Pp. 13-14

Phil spoke in Salt Lake City at our annual Men's Ministry Luncheon during the EFCA Leadership Conference. He talked about his experiences in discipling men one at a time. His message inspired 100 of our pastors to kneel before God and ask Him for one man to disciple over the next 12 months. These leaders, if God answers their prayers, can have a mighty impact on their local churches. Most men today, when they think of the word "discipleship," think of rules for good Christians; be nice, no drinking, no smoking, no cussing, put a fish on your car, have a 1-hour quiet time, and wear a tie on Sundays. It is up to mature pastors and Christian leaders to model what discipleship really is; spiritual parenting, as Phil reminds us. When our churches begin to develop men's discipling ministries, men's relationships with Jesus will change, their marriages will change, their families will change, our churches will change, and our world will change.

You can contact Phil Downer at PhilDowner@DNAMinistries.org or explore the Discipleship Network of America web site www.DNAMinistries.org. A major thrust of Discipleship Network of America is that each man and woman would have the opportunity to hear the claims of Jesus Christ and respond as He calls them. To that end, as of May 6, 2004, they have presented the Gospel at 112 events in 71 cities, 32 states, and 2 countries to 22,466 people. To God's glory and by His grace 6,387 people have responded that they prayed to receive Christ at the close of the presentation.

EFCA Men's Ministries Update

Chris Van Brocklin

By way of an update: The EFCA Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City was an excellent time for pastors and men's leaders from across the EFCA.

Our National Men's Ministries Council met with Phil Downer to discover more about discipling men. He helped us to understand, once again, the impact that one-to-one discipleship can have on a local church.

Each of our Council members represents their EFCA district as men's ministry "experts" and consultants. They are committed to assisting you as you strengthen your men's disciple making ministries.

EFCA Men's Ministries led three workshop training sessions for pastors and men's leaders. The first session, Focusing Men's Ministry in the Local Church (see below), inspired participants to evaluate their ministries and create strategies for discipling men. The second session, Developing a Male Context in your Local Church, presented principles that reach men through the way God has uniquely designed them. The third training session, Discipling Leaders for the Future, helped leaders to plan their men's ministries around Phil Downer's one-to-one disciple making plan.

Perhaps the highlight of our time in Salt Lake City was the Men's Luncheon on Friday, when 100 pastors knelt in prayer to ask God to give them one man to disciple over the next 12 months. We look forward to hearing how God answers those prayers when we meet again in Pittsburgh in June 2005.

If you have a passion for discipling men and an interest in coaching, training and networking in your district or region, please let us know. We are all striving to de-centralize men's ministry assistance and offer help locally. Eventually, we want to have assistance available to every church on a district level so that our office in Minneapolis will never become a bottleneck to the process of *assisting local churches as they strengthen their ministries to and through men.*

We value your comments and suggestions concerning EFCA Men's Ministries and how we can serve you.

Write CVanBrocklin@efca.org or call 970-206-4723 for more information.



Is a ministry of the Evangelical Free Church of America
901 East 78th Street – Minneapolis, MN 55420
Chris Van Brocklin, EFCA Men's Ministries Director
CVanBrocklin@efca.org www.efca.org/men

The mission of the EFCA is *to glorify God by multiplying healthy churches among all people.*

EFCA Men's Ministries joins the Women's Ministries, Student Ministries, Children's Ministries, Church Planting, and Church Health Divisions of EFCA National Ministries in our combined goal of *serving district and church leaders as they multiply healthy churches among all people.*

We have a vision for all churches to have healthy men's disciple making ministries. Our mission is ***to assist local churches as they strengthen their men's disciple making ministries to and through men.***

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Men With a Purpose Training has been developed to give your men's leadership team principles and practical strategies that will strengthen the men's ministry in your local church. Focusing Men's Ministry in the Local Church introduces an excellent strategy for ministering TO men and THROUGH men. Your men's ministry leadership team develops a plan to take home and implement. To examine the session descriptions, go to www.efca.org/men.

EFCA MEN'S LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

August - September Rocky Mountain District Training - Various Locations

October 14 & 16 New England District Training – Woodbridge and Wethersfield, CT

October 21-22 Great lakes District Training Indianapolis, IN

November 6 Forest lakes District Training Kenosha, WI

Contact Todd Gunning, Training Coordinator
GunningTodd@hotmail.com