

CHECK THESE FRESH IDEAS
FOR MINISTRIES OF MEN

Summary from Roy Lifsey's notes during the second Southeastern Jurisdiction Clergy Think-Tank

What is the SEJ Clergy Think-Tank? ... How were the Pastors selected by the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men for the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Awards... And how did their stories come together in creating the report ... **Page 1**

Where did these eight pastors come from? Examine their backgrounds. You may want your leaders to discuss what these eight pastors discovered about creating Ministries of Men in your local church ... **Page 5**

How can you help men find a place? ... In this culture where there is so much gender confusion... As a real man... In God's Plan... In the structure of the church?... **Page 13**

What do we know about men, The Eight asked? ... Men are vulnerable... subject to all the frailties and temptations of the human race... capable of achieving more splendor and rising to spiritual greatness as they grow to become like God... desperately need to be needed... seek fulfillment in authentic relationships with other men... accept challenging goals... and measure up heroically when they are called to stretch... **Page 13**

What are some approaches that work with men? ... Ask the personally to lend a hand...don't depend on general announcements or publicity ... be non-judgmental in accepting any who come... have a clear sense of purpose when they are asked to invest time or energy... plan programs of integrity so that they are worth a man giving up a morning or evening... remember that men are doers—not talkers—and they respond to a challenge to build something... do some fun-things together... and keep reminding men of any small or big successes in their work together... **Page 14**

What are some things you would like for your men to try? The Eight came up with 18 ideas of specific things during a brainstorming session they would for their men to do. You may want to ask your men in the local church to respond to these... and to generate some ministries of their own using these as starters... **Page 17**

How did we focus action ministries for men? The Eight, plus some of the leaders from the Southeastern Jurisdiction Awards Committee and several members of the G. Ross Freeman Foundation Inc. Board, were placed in three Teams of five. Major energy was devoted to pulling the stories together and focusing the best ideas for action-ministries in evangelism, mission and spiritual growth. Reports of the Three Teams begin on **Page 20**

What is the quickest way to move men into a relationship with Christ? The Evangelism Team under the leadership of Allen Stewart probed deeply...**Page 21**

- Focus on Christ...
- Keep the message simple...
- Make every man feel welcome to the group...
- Men come to Christ primarily through relationships...
- Enable even the timid to feel the warmth of fellowship with men...
- Testimonies of what Christ has done in the life of another moves men...
- Taking men on retreats has proven to be a good way for men to experience Christ...
- Men who are to be active in evangelism are more comfortable when they are trained...
- Have the men sponsor one of *The Spiritual Journey* programs...

How can we involve men in hands-on Missions? The Mission Team under the leadership of Tom Farmer said that one goal of United Methodist Men is to equip men to tell their stories, to witness to their faith, and to demonstrate their faith by what they do...**Page 24**

- Mission can not be separated from Evangelism or Spiritual Growth. The three are inter-related and inseparable. The man of Christ is **In Mission** not **On a Mission**.
- One responsibility of leaders in the Mission of United Methodist Men is to keep the Local Fellowship informed about the mission thrust of other churches in the community, with other men in the district, with the outreach projects of men in the conference, and the major mission efforts of the national organization of United Methodist Men along the impressive partnerships we have.
- Make the foundation of all United Methodist Men Spiritual. Never let UMM be seen as just another dinner club or civic organization.
- Equip men to think "Missions" by having regular reports from men who are involved in mission and outreach projects.
- God will lead men into Missions who pray, who worship, who read God's Word, who seek the mission for which God has equipped them.

What are ways to encourage men toward spiritual maturity? Joe Royal, the leader of The Spiritual Growth Team, shared some of the secrets he has learned over many years of guiding men into deeper relations with Christ... **Page 28**

- Seek to have spirit-filled meetings...
- Mentor the men in praying, in sharing their stories, in small groups of Bible study...
- Using some of the video materials through Nashville to focus the discussion in monthly meetings and provide depth of content...
- Other videos for men were suggested to create spiritual insight and questions...
- Various small group ideas were suggested to provide accountability...
- Find a way to have a retreat-time with the pastor...
- Be sure to explore the *Prayer Summit* concept offered by Jack deJarnette