

REPORT NUMBER 2

# *Clergy Think-Tank*

For Ministries of  
United Methodist Men

*One purpose of the  
G. ROSS FREEMAN  
LEADERSHIP AWARD,  
sponsored by the  
Southeastern Jurisdiction  
Conference Presidents  
of United Methodist Men,  
is to identify clergy with the  
imagination and interest  
to create effective  
expressions of ministry for  
United Methodist Men.*

Sponsored by  
The Southeastern Jurisdictional Awards Committee  
of United Methodist Men  
and The G. Ross Freeman Foundation Inc.

At The Hinton Rural Life Center  
January 21-23, 2004

THE REV. DR. GEORGE R. FREEMAN, JR.  
Educational Director  
and Editor

## *Offer Men Christ*

By Sharing  
Your  
Personal  
Testimony  
In Christ . . .

By Pointing  
Them  
To Hope  
In Christ . . .

By Promising  
Them  
Deliverance  
In Christ . . .

## **Contemporary society has an *alarming way of Ignoring the church***

**T**he effectiveness of the church in carrying out the great commission depends upon the character and commitment of the lay members in obeying the command of Christ.

Lay people are the carriers of the faith from the sanctuary to the world. Failure to recognize this leaves the church impotent.

No matter how effectively the good news is proclaimed from the pulpit, it has to be proven in the pew before it becomes living truth.

The gap between the church's declaration and its demonstration is seen in our inability to penetrate the institutions of society with transforming power.

It results in a gospel with laryngitis that does not win converts. In this case, God's redemptive word is made dumb by church people whose lives deny it.

**That's what the Mission Statement** of The G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award is all about. Men of faith are no longer content just to be just

- "greeters at the door,"
- "receivers of the offering,"
- "payers of the bills,"
- "managers of the property," and
- "helpers of the preacher."

No longer do men feel that they are serving God merely by being handymen of the institution.

**Men are being compelled** by fresh insights from New Testament Christianity into the nature and meaning of the church. Their apostolate is to be expressed in the demanding centers of civic affairs.

Men want to be involved in the exciting ventures of the kingdom.

Secular society has an alarming way of ignoring the church. When Lay Christians take their ministry seriously, they become the most effective ambassadors God has to send into the structures where their abilities and interests take them.

*Adapted from Chapter 5, 'Inspiring Laity' page 101 of A JOURNEY BEYOND, G. Ross Freeman. (Providence House Publishers. Franklin, TN. 2001)*

# Clergy Think-Tank Report #2

At The Hinton Rural Life Center  
January 21-23, 2004

*Have you thought about these ways to increase the Ministries of Men?*

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- Organize small Teams for short-term ACTION Projects...
- Schedule CONVENIENCE MEETINGS anytime ten to twenty men can get together – any day of the week, any hour of the day or night, and maybe around different agendas or purposes...
- Bring all the MINISTRY GROUPS together quarterly to report to one another about what they are doing and to share enthusiasm...
- What would happen if the small groups were advertised as "MINISTRIES OF MEN" instead of United Methodist Men...

## *We Believe . . .*

Men are discovering that God wants to use and empower them in ministry. Many pastors are inspiring men with a passion and pointing ways for them to find personal fulfillment and strengthen the church.

*We believe that* all pastors will benefit from mentoring men as disciples of Jesus Christ and calling them into ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth as an essential part of their responsibility.

*We believe that* unless the pastor finds ways to encourage men in the local church, their participation will be minimal and their commitment to God's mission will be undeveloped.

*We believe that* if the pastor supports the Fellowship of United Methodist Men, the organization will be an instrument to inspire and teach and enlarge the vision of men and thereby strengthen the total church.

*We believe that* pastors who guide and share in the ministries of men should be recognized; therefore:

*The Mission of the  
G. ROSS FREEMAN  
LEADERSHIP AWARD  
is to encourage ministries  
of United Methodist Men  
in evangelism, missions  
and spiritual growth by  
honoring pastors  
who inspire men in  
these areas.*

## **THE SEJ CLERGY THINK-TANK**

**Roy Lifsey,**

*President, The G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc.*

**The excitement continues.** Last year we thought it couldn't get any better. But momentum builds. We completed the second Southeastern Jurisdiction Clergy Think-Tank at the Hinton Rural Life Center, January 21-23, 2004 with the eight pastors who received the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award in 2003. It was a mind-expanding experience to listen to their stories, to watch the interaction of these men as they bonded with one another, and to catch the enthusiasm they have for the ministries of men in their churches.

As a reminder, the conference presidents of United Methodist Men in the Southeastern Jurisdiction established the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award to honor pastors for exemplary leadership with United Methodist Men in local churches.

**The goal is** to give an award to one pastor in each annual conference each year. The first year, we had five. The second year, we have eight. We expect the number to increase until we have the men of each conference honoring a pastor.

When the Jurisdictional Awards Committee saw the quality of the information in the nominations, they recommended that the Jurisdictional Conference Presidents authorize a program to bring the pastors together, to collect the stories and gather ideas to inspire other ministries of men.

The G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc. joined the Leadership Awards Committee in sponsoring the Awards and the Clergy Think-Tank. The captivating stories were organized, published and circulated over 5,000 copies of the SEJ Clergy Think-Tank Report Number 1. It is filled with insight to stir the imagination.

For the gathering of the Second Clergy Think-Tank we decided to do more than to collect the experiences of the pastors. We wanted to see what such an event could do in projecting concepts for the future. Report Number 2, therefore, was designed to be more creative. The pastors were asked to envision what could be done in a six-hour workshop with men in local churches. You too will be thrilled with the outcome. Read on.

**In addition** to the eight pastors, several members of the SEJ Leadership Awards Committee, the Foundation, and a couple of observers participated with me in the days at Hinton. John Dowell, president of the SEJ United Methodist Men; Bill Smith, president of the South Carolina United Methodist Men and a member of the Leadership Awards Committee; Larry Bryant, secretary of the

When my name was announced as having received the *G. ROSS FREEMAN LEADERSHIP AWARD*, the entire South Carolina Conference stood and applauded as I walked down the aisle to hear the Citation and be presented the plaque. The conference celebrated with me and my men . . .

. . . *REV. LEE C. BINES* shared the excitement with the *Clergy Think-Tank* at Hinton.

G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Walter L. Johnson, treasurer of the Foundation, Dr. George Freeman, educational director of the Foundation and facilitator of the Think-Tank; Gene Hammer, chairman of the North Georgia UMM Retreats Committee; and Ken Harper, chaplain for the Virginia Conference UMM Cabinet. G. Ross Freeman himself was there to be encouraged and inspired.

We hope this second report will create as much excitement and inspire men to create ministries of men in evangelism, missions and spiritual growth.

## THE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**John Dowell,**

*President of the SEJ Conference Presidents and Chairman  
The Jurisdictional Leadership Awards Committee*

**United Methodist Men** of the Southeastern Jurisdiction decided to create the Leadership Awards program to honor pastors who work creatively with the men of the local church.

Thirteen pastors from ten Annual Conferences have been awarded the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award so far. The stories and insights from the first five were collected during the *SEJ Clergy Think-Tank #1* at the Hinton Rural Life Center. These were circulated throughout the Jurisdiction. Eight more met January 21-23, 2004 in another exciting session. Some of the inspiration has been captured in this report. Though none of the pastors knew one another in advance, they quickly jelled into a creative team.

Two of the pastors served as spiritual guides for the experience. They led morning and evening prayers, shared insights into the mysteries of God, and called us to deeper spirituality in our search. They set the tone for the exploration and solitude periods. For the final session, they brought us to oneness in holy communion. We came as strangers; we left bonded to one another and committed to this vision.

**The Award is** more than a beautiful plaque presented at Annual Conference to be hung on the wall of the pastor's study. It is the symbol of acknowledged leadership, of creative effort in the ministries of men, and now through the *Clergy Think-Tank* they are offering workable ideas for inspiring men. Recognition of their expertise is bringing them additional opportunity. Several of the thirteen already have been invited to lead retreats for men in their Annual Conference, to keynote and lead workshops at several other conferences.

You will read this report with growing appreciation for the depth of the pastors who were nominated by the men of their churches, chosen by the Annual Conference Selection Committees, and honored by their Annual

**T**wo of the Pastors served as Spiritual Guides for the experience. They led morning and evening prayers, shared insights into the mysteries of God, and called us to deeper spirituality in our search. . .

Conferences. You will see how their varied experiences are blended in this report. Together they offer far more than any one of them could contribute as individuals.

Study their work as you look for ideas to inspire the men of your church. In this way you will be blessed and become a blessing to the men of your church. Give careful attention to our Mission Statement.

**The Jurisdictional Awards Committee** is grateful to the Conference Presidents who have worked diligently to encourage Nominations, for the Annual Conference Selection Committees who have analyzed the nominations according to the criteria which guides the decisions, and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc. which provides the funding for the program.

## SPIRITUAL GUIDES

**George Freeman,**

*Educational Director of The G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc.*

**F**rom the beginning it was determined that the basic element in the Clergy Think-Tank would be spiritual. Stories and ideas and creativity are essential, but these must be under-girded by a sense of God. Otherwise the report would have little appeal to United Methodist Men of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Men who attend the monthly meetings or register for the conference retreats are expecting to hear a good word from God.

Those who planned the first event at the Hinton Rural Life Center thought about inviting an outstanding theologian or renowned preacher to furnish this element. Several were considered.

We talked with Clay Smith, the director of the Hinton Center, and he had a solution. Why not use the Hinton Team that directs the Academy for Spiritual Formation sponsored by **The Upper Room**. This is their main function. They provide immeasurably rich insights and material. Further they are already on the staff at Hinton. Roy Lifsey, President of the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc. gave the devotional, set the stage and summarized the purpose at the beginning of the first session.

From that point, the Hinton Team directed all the worship experiences.

What a blessing. They led Morning Prayers before breakfast and Evening Prayers the last thing at night before relaxing conversation around a popcorn bowl and fruit. Through the day they reflected theologically about what they were hearing and experiencing. The closing communion just before we left provided a bonding experience that made us all want to linger longer. They were good, but they could not be available for the entire period. Other duties called.

### *Pray the Lord's Prayer*

***I***n our worship services we tend to recite the Lord's Prayer, rushing through without thinking about its words or scope. For most of us it has become a mindless rote.

So I decided to change the tempo, speak more slowly, and deliberately pause between the phrases so that the rich meaning could soak in.

At first the congregation was shocked. After several weeks, and some teaching about the phrases of the prayer, *Praying the Lord's Prayer* has come to be a high point in our worship.

. . . *REV. A. FRANK GORDON, JR.* shared this experience during the Clergy Think-Tank at Hinton.

**For the second** Clergy Think-Tank, therefore, we decided to shift the spiritual focus and theological reflection.

After studying the nomination forms and supporting data, two of the people receiving the Leadership Awards stood out as ideal Spiritual Guides. You can see in the biographical and citation material why the Rev. A. Frank Gordon, Jr. and the Rev. Richard W. Soper were chosen. Even these data, however, do not reveal the depth of spiritual insight and understanding. Our choices were led of God. What a blessing they proved.

They participated fully in the general discussions and the Team contributions. Sharing in the total event enabled them to lead the worship, speak directly from appropriate scripture, and reflect what was happening every moment of the day.

Their devotional thoughts, shaped indeed by careful preparation, were inspired from inside the event. What a dimension this added.

### **Members of the Clergy Think-Tank, January 21-23, 2004**



*(Standing L-R)* David Adams\*, Lee C. Bines\*, Larry S. Bryant\*\*\*, A. Frank Gordon\*, Jr., Gene Hammer\*\*\*\*, John Dowel\*\*I, R. Allen Stewart\*, George Freeman\*\*\*, Roy Lifsey\*\* \*\*\*\*, Thomas E. Farmer\*. *(Seated L-R)* John T. "Jack" deJarnette\*, Richard Soper\*, G. Ross Freeman, Ken Harper\*\*\*\*, Joe B. Royal\*.

\* Recipients of the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award

\*\* Members of SEJ Leadership Awards Committee

\*\*\* Members of the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc.

## THE EIGHT FOR 2003

**These Eight make thirteen Pastors** from ten Annual Conferences who have received the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award so far. Spend a little time reading about their ministries and information presented at their citations.



**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA**  
**Rev. John T. "Jack" deJarnette**  
Perdido Bay United Methodist Church  
13660 Innerarity Point Road  
Pensacola, FL 32507

**REV. JOHN T. "JACK" DEJARNETTE, JR. –** was born February 21, 1943, in Temple, Texas, and spent his childhood and youth in College Park, Georgia. He served as president of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship, member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and taught the senior high Sunday school class of the College Park United Methodist Church.

He was called to preach when he was 17 years old, but did not answer until he was 35. In the meantime, he graduated from the Georgia Military Academy in 1961 as a Cadet Captain, commanding the Silent Drill Team and provisional company for John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Parade. He graduated from Emory at Oxford College in 1963 and attended Georgia State University 1963-64.

He served in the United States Army, 1964-67, in the Medical Service Corps at Sp 5. After completing his military service, he returned to Georgia State University to complete his undergraduate work in 1970.

**Jack married** Beverly Funchess October 5, 1964. They have two children, a daughter, Tracy Lynne, born July 25, 1967, and a son, John Thomas III, born April 4, 1970. They have three grandchildren. Before entering the ministry he served as Director of Life Support Systems at Grady Memorial Hospital, 1967-77; developed Clinical training for the Associate and Bachelors degree programs in Respiratory Therapy at Georgia State University, 1969-72; Co-founder and Technical Director of Master in Life Support Systems Program at Emory University School of Medicine, 1972-77; Assistant Professor, Division of Allied Health, School of Medicine, Emory University, 1972-77.

He served as pastor of the Byrneville/Barrineau Park United Methodist Churches, 1979-83; the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, 1983-89; and was appointed the organizing pastor of the new Perdido Bay United Methodist Church, January 1, 1988, in the Pensacola District of the Alabama West-Florida Annual Conference. He has built a great congregation in the fifteen years he has been there.

**In giving the citation** during the Awards presentation, Norman Burton, Alabama-West Florida Conference President of United Methodist Men, said, "Mr.

deJarnette has taken an active role in the leadership of men's ministry. The Fellowship of United Methodist Men is re-certified each year with 24 members registered in the EMS (Every Man Shares) so that they receive information and support the international work of United Methodist Men.

"The pastor is an enthusiastic supporter of spiritual growth among the men. For the last six years, he has led a Tuesday morning study group of men in addition to guiding a monthly Saturday morning meeting. He is recognized in the community for having deep insight into the psychological and spiritual needs of men. This skill increases the demands upon his leadership and opens doors for broader participation in city wide events. His interest keeps men involved in the activities of the church, even as the community makes increasing demands upon his time.

"The congregation, led by the men, has fund-raising projects which enriched their fellowship and enables them to do good. They have a Spring Fling, a Fall Fellowship, a Community Baseball Seminar, participate in an Interfaith Service of Worship at the local WalMart, support SIFAT, UMCOR, and help with the Community Highway Beautification program."

deJarnette received a heart transplant at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, August 9, 1997. So far, he has not slowed down.



**FLORIDA**  
**Dr. Thomas E. Farmer**  
St. Paul United Methodist Church  
1199 Highland Avenue  
Largo, FL 33770

**DR. THOMAS E. FARMER** – Dr. Farmer is completing 16 years as senior pastor of the 4000 member St. Paul United Methodist Church of Largo, FL, in the St. Petersburg District of the Florida Conference. With a full, rich ministry in local churches, he has always been a strong supporter of United Methodist Men and a favorite at the Leesburg Men's Retreat. He confesses that in the six years left before retirement, he is expecting to experience a breakthrough of spiritual power in this great church through a program which has just been launched. He is excited about what is about to happen.

John Dowell, President of the Florida Conference United Methodist Men, said in presenting the Award, "Dr. Farmer participates regularly with 50-60 men in monthly meetings and encourages the men to accept leadership roles in the local church, district activities and conference events of United Methodist Men. He attends conference retreats with the men and has been speaker for the program at Leesburg on several occasions.

"One of his greatest contributions to the men has been in the area of prayer and spiritual growth. He leads men in praying for one another, for others in the church and community. As a result of this sensitivity, some men from the St. Paul Church started a homeless shelter. Dr. Farmer has guided men whom God has called into the ministry and provided them opportunities to use their gifts."

**Tom prepared a series** of provocative devotionals for "the spiritually hungry" of St. Paul and asked them to commit themselves to a month of practicing six disciplines. They begin each day with the devotional reading and

prayer, involve themselves in serious study of God's Word, and attend Worship each of the Sundays of the month. They intentionally encourage and affirm one person a day, either anonymously or through a note or phone call or visit. They agree to close each day (before sleep) with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for the blessings of God's love and presence and care. Each person is asked to make "notes" in this devotional book as a record of his/her spiritual journey.

After completing this month of Discipleship Journey together, the next step is to establish a goal of 500 people organized into small groups of 12 each – called Discipleship Groups – to continue the journey. The plan is to have about 100 to commit themselves to study the Word in each of five groups: Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*; Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*; Nicky Gumbel, *The Alpha Course*; Sam Teague and Danny Morris, *The John Wesley Great Experiment*; and *Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*.

United Methodist Men are involved in this in a big way. Twenty percent of these cell group leaders are men. Additionally, each of the five areas there are "Men only Groups."

**Farmer is a graduate** of the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He and his wife Peggy have three daughters. From the beginning, he has focused on the basics with enthusiasm and vigor. Throughout his ministry, the emphasis has been upon discipleship as an authentic walk with Jesus. Tom focuses this for himself and the church in his preaching, teaching, and study of the Word. He insists that his staff and leaders encourage others in the journey by sharing the Word and telling the story.

**REV. R. ALLEN STEWART** – When Allen Stewart came to Bascomb nine years ago, average attendance at worship was below 100 and the United Methodist Men Fellowship consisted of a handful of mostly senior men. As he moves to a new appointment, the record indicates that attendance at worship is approaching 400, over half the men of the church have some involvement in UMM, with more than 70 men playing active roles. This growth is the result of a pastor who decided to devote a considerable portion of his time to developing men as disciples.

"Today Bascomb has one of the most dynamic UMM Fellowships in North Georgia, and its ministry with and of men is still expanding," Conference President Joe Kilpatrick said in presenting the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award. "They are involved in more than 20 mission and outreach projects."

Stewart realized that getting men to the North Georgia Retreat at Rock Eagle was the way to deepen them spiritually and to enlarge their vision. The first year only four went with him. The next year a few more went along. One of them dedicated his life to Christ. This was a spark. The third year even more



**NORTH GEORGIA**

**Rev. R. Allen Stewart**  
2295 Bascomb Carmel Road  
Woodstock, GA 30189

*Current Address for Rev. Stewart*  
200 East Howell St  
Hartwell, GA 30643

men went and even more dedications resulted. Now he takes more than 50 men with him each year, and each year more men dedicate and re-dedicate their lives. Now several of the men have been invited to lead workshops there.

**A big part of Stewart's ministry** has focused on building leadership. "Building men's ministries is scriptural—Building leaders in men's ministries is even better," this pastor is convinced. Two of Bascomb's men are now serving as youth pastors as they prepare to enter the ministry... Eleven are now local and certified Lay Speakers, and one of them is the Associate District Lay Leader... Three men now serve in various conference level positions... One man was selected for the title as "District Laity of the Year" for 2002... Two men have designed and implemented conference level outreach ministries: the "Rock Eagle Witness Team" has spoken to UMM Fellowships and congregations in over 80 churches of the North Georgia Conference; "Operation: Good Samaritan" was launched with the help of the conference office to assist families of National Guard men and women who were serving in Iraq...

**In addition** to all that he has done for the UMM of Bascomb, Stewart's leadership has reached across the district and conference. He was keynote speaker for "Super-Saturday" in 2001 and had led various workshops at the Rock Eagle Retreat.

Allen and Tracey married in 1988 and are proud parents of three beautiful daughters, Lauren and Taylor (12) and Ashton (7). They are active parents in the lives of their children and in helping them adjust to meeting new friends in the Hartwell community.



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**Rev. Lee C. Bines**  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
701 John Street  
Kingstree, SC 29556

**REV. LEE C. BINES** – A native of Bennettsville, South Carolina, Reverend Bines is married to the former Shirley Gordon of Charleston, SC, who is a biology and chemistry teacher at Kingstree Senior High School. They have one daughter, Alia, an attorney in Columbia, SC.

Throughout his 25 years in the Conference, Bines has always supported United Methodist Men in their spiritual growth. This continues in his ministry at Mt. Zion. He goes with the men on District retreats and the annual conference UMM fall retreat at Myrtle Beach. He highlights the activities and ministries of men and leads the congregation in honoring them. Though he never seeks to dominate the meetings, his presence is a positive and supporting influence.

Bines challenged the men to have a UMM Conference to address the absentee father and other male issues within the church and community. Every Sunday a local candidate for ordained ministry participates in the service of worship, but lay speakers also participate. UMM recruits men to assist in the

service by providing resources and prompts to be used in demonstrating Lee's sermons. Men are urged to participate in the Scouting program, the Day Care Center, and a program called Vision Food as essential ministries of our church. The Vision Food ministry begins at 5:00 a.m. with Bible Study and concludes at 7:00 a.m. with the distribution of food baskets within the community.

Bines initiated B.E.T.T. – ***Brave Energetic Talented Teens*** – a program in which men are involved in mentoring and discipling youth. This initiative brings together approximately 120 young people from the church and community every Saturday morning or Thursday evening. The activities are at the Mt. Zion church. They come for discussions, dialogue, and supporting teams to focus on recreation, education, cultural and family concerns. It has become an effective evangelistic and spiritual growth tool. Many families have come into the church and 22 young people have joined the church in the last six months as a result.

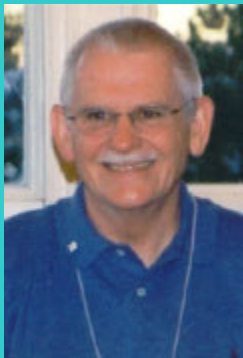
He encourages men to participate in T-Quest for accountability groups, in small group prayer and Bible study groups, and in special prayer for the needs and hurts and struggles of the world. Evangelism, missions and spiritual growth are high on his agenda.

**REV. RICHARD W. SOPER** – Member of the South Georgia Annual Conference and Pastor of the First United Methodist Church, 309 South Broad Street, SW, Cairo, GA, 39828 – grew up in Valdosta, Georgia. He served as a Gunners Mate on an ammunition ship in the U.S. Navy, 1969-1973.

He entered the ministry in 1978 as a Student Local Pastor and was appointed to the Hilltonia United Methodist Charge in the Statesboro District of the South Georgia Conference. He graduated from Georgia Southern University in 1982 with a B.S. Degree in Sociology. While he was attending Asbury Theological Seminary, 1982-1986, he served as pastor of the Hopewell—Mt. Carmel United Methodist Churches in the Frankfort District of the Kentucky Annual Conference. During this time he received a Commission in the U.S. Navy as an Ensign and was promoted to Lt. JG.

After graduating from Seminary, he resigned his Commission in the Navy in order to return to the South Georgia Conference as a pastor. He was ordained a Deacon in 1985 and Admitted into Full Connection and Ordained an Elder in 1988. He was appointed Associate Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Moultrie, 1986-88. He was appointed Pastor of the Ocilla United Methodist Church, 1988-90.

For ten years he served the Lake Park United Methodist Church, 1990-2000. Since June of 2000, he has been the Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Cairo, Georgia. His work with the men of his church and men of the broader community resulted in his selection for the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award by the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men.



**SOUTH GEORGIA**  
**Rev. Richard W. Soper**  
First United Methodist Church  
309 South Broad Street  
Cairo, GA 39828

**The plaque** is given to honor pastors who inspire men by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men,” Bishop Michael Watson said in making the presentation.

Between 35- 45 men actively participate in the meetings and ministries of United Methodist Men, including support of district and conference functions. The charter is renewed annually, and several men are dues-paying members of EMS (Every Man Shares—in *Evangelism, Missions and Spiritual Growth.*)

This pastor goes with the men as a man. He has been the key man in four different UMM groups, creating interest, bringing inspiration, offering suggestions and actively promoting all the ministries of men. “Sometimes pastors, all of whom are busy, attend UMM meetings as a visitor,” the men wrote in nominating Soper. “But Richard is a full member who believes in what the men are doing and joins vigorously in it!”

The UMM have two crews who delight in cooking for the community. This year they cooked and served meals for the Cancer Society and for the Ministerial Association—as well as for the District UMM retreat at Vashti in Thomasville. The two crews alternate in cooking for the local UMM Fellowship. The men also had a garage sale and served a pancake supper for the community as fund-raisers.

The UMM joined with the Baptists, Mormons, Church of God, Presbyterians and others in the county for a two-day clean-up and improvement program of painting, repairing brick work, and doing carpentry in homes of older people.

In every instance this pastor is striving to help men and youth grow spiritually. His goal is to attract more men to become involved in the activities of the church.

Soper served as one of the two Spiritual Guides chosen for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Clergy Think-Tank number 2 at the Hinton Rural Life Center January 21-23, 2004.



**TENNESSEE**  
**Rev. David Adams**  
Monterey and Bethlehem  
United Methodist Churches  
Monterey, TN 37352

*Current Address*  
51 Mechanic St., Lynchburg, TN

**REV. DAVID ADAMS** – David Adams is a second career pastor. He was ordained an Elder in 2001, but he is no stranger to the church or to United Methodist Men. He joined the Bellevue United Methodist Church in 1978 and came under the influence of Jim Snead who was at that time the National Director of United Methodist Men and also a member of Bellevue.

He served eminently as President of Bellevue UMM in 1982, was elected the fourth President of the Tennessee Conference UMM 1988-90. As a member of the National Association of Conference Presidents, he was elected treasurer. Three times he was a part of the planning team for the International Congress of United Methodist Men at Purdue (1985, 1989, and 1993). He was a member of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Conference Presidents of UMM from 1988-1996. David was elected a delegate to the 1992 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, elected to the General Board of Discipleship in 1992 and assigned to the Division of United Methodist Men.

***With all this background*** in the work of United Methodist Men and with a theological education at Asbury Theological School in addition, David provides the men of Monterey and Bethlehem with a depth of knowledge and vision of what they can accomplish.

Since he is well known across the Jurisdiction, David has been instrumental in acquiring inspirational leaders for the UMM meetings. His supportive attitude of all the men's ministries has been effective in forging greater stewardship and involvement. He led the men to participate in a "Potato Drop" in Cookeville, installing a ramp for physically impaired persons, and taking part in the renovation project of the *Manos Hispanos* house of worship. He inspired the men to join the "flood buckets" for emergency relief programs, and to serve on Volunteers in Mission teams in Panama and North Carolina.

The local United Methodist Men's Fellowship is chartered with about 20 percent of the men of the church participating, and he has been an active supporter since his arrival.



**VIRGINIA**

**Rev. Joe B. Royal**

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church  
14800 Ashdale Avenue  
Dale City, VA 22193

**REV. JOE B. ROYAL** – was born in Columbus Mississippi, April 4, 1933, and moved four years later in 1937 to Camp Hill, Alabama. He graduated from Camp Hill High in 1951, and served in the U. S. Marine Corp 1952-55. He married Joyce Faye Brown in 1959, and their daughter, Eleanor Denise, was born 1962. He continued as a Student Pastor while he attended the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1961 and was ordained an Elder in 1962.

He served congregations in the North Alabama Conference as Pastor of the Sandy Ridge Circuit, Roanoke District, 1958-61, the church at Alexandria 1961-64, and as Youth Minister Fort Payne 1964-65.

Then from 1965-68 he was enrolled in the very prestigious Clinical Pastoral Education at St Elizabeth Hospital, Washington DC. With these new credentials he was appointed Minister of Counseling and Visitation, at Oxon Hill, in the Baltimore Annual Conference.

He was then selected in 1991 to be the Minister of Evangelism at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Dale City, Virginia Annual Conference. He distinguished himself as a spiritual leader of United Methodist Men and the Scouts for 12 years.

Since receiving the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award from the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men in June 2003, Joe's declining health has forced him to retire from an active and rewarding ministry.

However, he continues to be an inspiration to men through affirmation and prayer.



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Rev. A. Frank Gordon, Jr.**  
Glen Alpine United Methodist Church  
Post Office Box 576  
Glen Alpine, NC 28628

**REV. A. FRANK GORDAN, JR. – *The G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award*** for 2003 in the Western North Carolina Annual Conference was presented to the Rev. A. Frank Jordon, Jr., pastor of the Glen Alpine United Methodist Church of the Marion District in Glen Alpine, NC.

Gordon was nominated by the United Methodist Men of his local church and chosen by the **Selection Committee** of the Western North Carolina Conference for his influence among men in ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth.

The plaque is given to honor pastors who inspire men by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men.

He grew up in parsonages as the son of a Western North Carolina pastor, a graduate of Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree and the Emory University Candler School of Theology with a Master of Divinity degree. He is credentialed in Clinical Pastoral Education, Fire Fighter Certification, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire and Life Safety Educator, and in every level of Scouting. His skill and willingness to serve for three years with the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad led to him being made an Honorary Life Member. His work as an instructor and first responder with Red Cross won him many more citations and awards.

“Pastor Frank” as he is known among the men and in the community, has been a member of the Western North Carolina Conference for 27 years. Five of them have been at the Glen Alpine Church. He and his wife Mary have two married daughters and were appointed to the church in June of 1998. Since then, Mary has answered the call into the pastoral ministry.

**Gordon is a working member** of the United Methodist Men’s Fellowship, attending all the meetings. Twenty active men are chartered as an official UMM Fellowship with the National Office of United Methodist Men; and all of them are members of EMS – Every Man Shares *in Evangelism, Missions and Spiritual Growth*. The church has experienced growth in the last four years. Sunday School attendance has doubled. New families are showing up for worship every month. More people are coming for prayer and Bible study each Wednesday night. With such evidence of numerical growth, Glen Alpine was recognized as a Church of Excellence at the WNC Conference in 2002.

Gordon is deeply committed spiritually. His commitment and teaching and example are showing up in the life of Glen Alpine as lay people take the light of Christ out into the world. Especially is this true among the men. They are involved in all aspects of ministry both inside and outside the walls of the church. His leadership with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts is evident in the area of God and Country Awards. He works with the Scouts each year in “Scouting for Food.” They take the food collected to the Burke County United Christian Ministries to feed the poor. In 2002 he received the Torch Award, and the Cross and Flame Award in 2003. He is a leader of the “Venturing Crew,” mentoring teen-age boys and girls.

**B**oys who grow up without strong fathers... or absentee fathers... or never having a significant male presence in their lives... wonder about the role of a man...

This massive gender confusion in society raises serious questions about *What it takes to be a Man.*

UNITED METHODIST MEN CAN HELP.

## Searching for a Place

***There is gender confusion** in society. Growing up without fathers, with absentee fathers, or even without a significant male presence in their lives leaves many young men wondering about the role of a man. This is particularly true of the sons of the Baby Boomer generation. Men in the 20-40 age-group. Basically they have no memory of church, of religious instruction, or of Bible stories.*

*Almost two-thirds of this generation is not involved with any faith community or system of faith. They are the first largely un-churched population in the history of our nation. They are hostile toward formalized religion, critical of those who profess faith but whose lives deny it. Their impression of established churches is that they are judgmental, moralistic and arrogant.*

*Another wound to the generational psyche is that twenty-five percent of their generation was not allowed to be born. Think of it. One out of every four members of their generation was aborted!*

*Participants in Clergy Think-Tank # 2 tackled these and other generational issues related to what it takes to be a man, where do men fit into the plan of God, and where do men fit in the church. Three members of the group were invited to make presentations and lead discussions on the subjects: John T. "Jack" deJarnette, Lee C. Bines, and David Adams. Major points made during these hours informed much of the work of the three Teams. So what does it take to make a man.*

## What do we know about Men

**J**ohn Eldridge wrote in *Wild At Heart* "Men need three things: a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue." A Christian man has a spiritual battle to fight, an exciting adventure as he strives to be an authentic follower of Jesus, and to rescue the bride of Christ from the forces of evil that threaten to tarnish her. This is worthy of the strength and devotion of any virile man. Here are some of the things we know.

Men are different...

- Men claim they are busy...
- Men are vulnerable...
- Men are human, subject to all the frailties and temptations of the race, and often guilty of hideous cruelties and evil...
- Men are also capable of achieving moral grandeur and rising to spiritual greatness as they grow to become like God...
- Men need to be needed

**M**any men

have worn a mask  
for so long  
to keep others from knowing  
about their inner lives,  
they don't know how  
to take it off.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
*can help you become honest  
about who you are.*

### ***Men need a sense of self***

- Men are seeking for physical, mental and spiritual balance...
- Men need an authentic relationship with other men...
- Men are hungry for friendship and fellowship...
- Men benefit from belonging to an accountability group...
- Men require time to get close enough to trust one another...
- Men don't talk about how they feel about things...
- Men are normally non-verbal, about 80 percent...
- Men have difficulty expressing what is inside...
- Men are slow to share their inmost thoughts and even slower to share their feelings...

### ***Men want a significant purpose***

- Men respond to a challenge...
- Men strive to achieve worthwhile goals...
- Men respond to expectations and responsibility...
- Men want to be successful in the eyes of their families, their peers, their own estimation, and in reaching their goals...
- Men measure up when they are called upon to stretch...

### ***Men must have space and time to think things through***

- Men are easily wounded...
- Men are fearful in unfamiliar settings...
- Men often abdicate responsibility when threatened or challenged...
- Men need to be forgiven when this happens...
- Men have to learn to forgive...

## **Some approaches that work**

Every leader who is successful in inspiring ministries of men keeps searching for fresh approaches to boost attendance and encourage enthusiastic participation. Sometimes even a slightly different slant on old methods will provide the spark. These qualities are almost all essential to an effective, ongoing program.

**Personal contact.** Generalized announcements in the church bulletin or newsletter will notify the congregation that the men are doing things, but such impersonal words will not get people involved. Most meetings are a month apart. A lot happens. Many other things clamor for our attention. Who can be expected to remember? Personal phone calls are more effective than cards or letters. A little effort spent in contacting a man will remind him that you are counting on him. He will make every effort not to disappoint you. You build this kind of loyalty one man at a time.

If men are to participate in church gatherings, leaders must articulate a clear reason for them to spend precious hours.

*UNITED METHODIST MEN  
can provide the reason.*

**Acceptance is paramount.** The surest way to discourage a new comer is to allow him to stand alone while others are in clusters talking and joking. Bring him into the group. Let each man be accepted for who he is, be recognized for what he does and be appreciated for just being present. This is not the place to be judgmental or critical. This is just a group of men. Here we are pretty much on the same level.

**Clear sense of purpose.** Men are busy. So much clamors for their attention. Non-essential meetings are a misuse of precious hours. If they are to participate in church gatherings for men, they must be convinced that there is ample justification for them to leave their homes and families for another evening or Saturday morning. Let the key words be Fellowship, Fun, and Focus where each man can claim ownership in some aspect of the ministry.

This means, of course, that leaders of men must articulate a clear reason for expecting participation. It is not enough just to eat (as important as that sometimes is), or to hear a speaker (unless he has something of urgent importance for men), or just to report that we had a meeting. There is of course a generalized purpose for United Methodist Men in the Book of Discipline. That's good. Each meeting, however, must have a clear purpose which speaks to a felt need of men and in which they can have some ownership.

Careful and thoughtful plans consistent with the overall goals must be obvious. One good meeting will not promote loyalty if the next is run in a haphazard manner. Each program is important. This is why it is important for the leadership to plan the entire program for the year. The theme, the emphasis, the quality has to be worth a man's time to attend. The announced purpose of United Methodist Men is to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life, to promote the spiritual growth of men through effective discipleship, and to model the servant leadership of Christ in daily life. Interesting programs each month should stress some aspect of the men to ministry around the overall theme of *"Every Man Shares—in Evangelism, Missions and Spiritual Growth."*

**Programs of Integrity.** One of the reasons for inviting men to invest time in a meeting of United Methodist Men is to help them face and think through theological questions about the meaning and purpose of what they are doing. A good reason for the pastor's involvement is to assure that programs and actions have solid Biblical integrity lest wrong lessons be implied. One major purpose of United Methodist Men is the spiritual growth of their members. This can only be done in relation to a proper understanding of scripture. Sub-groups of men who meet weekly to study the Bible and pray together add strength and cohesiveness to the ministries of men and strengthen the local church.

When men are asked to invest a morning or evening, the leaders need to be sure the program has something of substance and of spiritual value.

Let the key words  
for every meeting  
of men be  
*Fellowship,*  
*Fun,* and  
*Focus.*

Focus the emphasis of  
**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
around the theme:  
*"Every Man Shares—in Evangelism,  
Missions, and Spiritual Growth."*

**Build something.** Men are doers, not talkers. They demonstrate what they believe by what they do. An authority on reaching the 20 to 40 (second quarter) generation says that he often collects a group by telling them about a need in the community and asking if they would like to help him. For example, maybe he finds an older couple or an older woman whose porch is falling down or whose home needs some repairs; then he asks, "Would any of you like to help me fix it for them?" Seven or eight may volunteer. As they work together on the project, the individuals become a "group." Before they complete it, they are laughing and talking and enjoying themselves immensely. Conversation can easily be turned to questions about the meaning of life, the purpose of life, and even the origin of life. When the project is over, someone suggests that maybe they could get together occasionally to talk. So the work group becomes a faith group.

In the same way, men in the church can be invited to build something physically, refurbish a play ground, join in erecting a Habitat house, or spending a couple of weeks with a mission work team. When they build something, they build relationships, build trust and become a faith-group. That's the way it is with men.

**Do fun-things together.** For instance, golf-foursomes quickly get close to one another. A number have been meeting weekly for more than a quarter century. They share many men-things on the golf course. They count on one another. They trust one another.

A preacher-golfer died suddenly. His was a memorable funeral. After years of sharing deeply with one another on the greens and in the clubhouse, in a serious moment they agreed that if anything should happen to one of them, the others would speak at his funeral. In a lighter vein, they laughed that it would have to be something funny. Though the service had dignity and appropriate expressions of grief, it became a joyous celebration of life totally in keeping with their friend's exuberant, fun-filled nature.

Bring men together for fun. If they laugh together, they will keep together for more serious purposes. Even work and worship will be enhanced by laughter.

**Success builds success.** Goals should be determined by the entire group. Encourage the men to set small achievable goals in the beginning. Each goal needs to be supported by a detailed plan of implementation and the assignment of responsibility. Regular reports should be made of progress toward the goals, and each step should be celebrated. A success in one area feeds the feeling that other goals can be reached. If the General Conference approves the petition that the denomination designate a Men's Sunday, this will provide a wonderful time for the entire congregation to celebrate the ministries and success of men.

There are two kinds of goals: results and efforts. The first kind is when you set a goal to have 50 men attend a prayer breakfast. The second kind is when you set a goal of having ten men make a determined effort to invite and remind

**S**ub-groups of men who meet weekly to study the Bible, pray and reflect theologically on the issues they face, add strength and cohesiveness to the ministries of men and empower the local church.

*UNITED METHODIST MEN  
have resources for helping  
bring this about*

five men to attend the prayer breakfast. The first is a result goal; the second is an effort goal. The difference is that you cannot determine the result. That is in the hands of God. You can, however, determine the amount of effort you put into it. The farmer prepares the soil, plants the seed, and cultivates the plant. That is his part. The harvest is the result of God's benevolence and law at work.

## What Would You Like to Try

After talking about some of the ways they have found to work in challenging men, members of the Clergy Think-Tank began "blue-sky-ing"—that is, allowing their imaginations to flow freely to see what their loosened brain-storming minds could envision. As you consider them, ask your self the same question: What would I like to see my United Methodist Men try?

1. Have someone call every man in the church and remind them to come to church.
2. Contact one man whom you will invite to ride with you to a church event.
3. Put every man in the church and every man who is a prospect on a "phone tree" calling list to be called by the computer every month. Begin the recorded voice with a friendly greeting, identify who you are, and then give a special reason why the man should attend the meeting.
4. Ask men to join you in working on a needed project.
5. Be sure the men have ownership in the proposal before they are asked to invest their time and money.
6. What would happen if plans moved from the bottom up—rather than from the top down. Be sure that every man has an opportunity to express himself and to contribute his ideas.
7. Give men permission—and encourage them—to talk/testify freely. Men are reluctant to express their ideas and feelings; indeed, they really don't have much opportunity.
8. Study to see which men work well together and assign them with "affinity groups" when they are invited to participate.
9. Don't be afraid to attempt different things, even risky things, as you try to involve younger men – the "second quarter men" – between 20 and

### ***Build Something***

**M**en are doers, not talkers.  
They demonstrate what they believe by what they do!

When they build something together as a team,  
they build relationships,  
they build trust, and they build a strong faith-group!

That's the way it is with men.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
*bring them together.*

40. These men are more likely to respond to “action” and “doing” things than they are to an “eating” and “sitting” meeting. They will do unbelievable things to help somebody.
10. Some men, especially young men, are not in position to meet for a breakfast and many are reluctant to give up an evening. Could a group who work close to one another have a luncheon meeting, maybe once a week?
11. Pray for a movement of the Holy Spirit among the men. When He comes, things get exciting and men can make arrangements.
12. Teach the men about spiritual gifts and God’s plan to use them. Provide an opportunity for them to discern their spiritual gifts and claim them. Open opportunities for the men to share in ministries using their spiritual gifts.
13. Focus on Jesus, Bible study, Prayer, and Testimonies in an effort to create spiritual awareness among the men.
14. Use the three Spiritual Journey programs designed by G. Ross Freeman to launch the men into deeper involvement in their walk. (The copyright for the three programs – ***A Spiritual Journey for Men; A Transforming Journey for Men; and A Ministry Journey for Men*** – have been given to the North Georgia Conference UMM and may be ordered through the Office of United Methodist Men, at the Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center, Post Office Box 923266, Norcross, GA 30010-3266. Or they may be ordered on line from [www.sejumm.org](http://www.sejumm.org) or [www.northgeorgia-umm.com](http://www.northgeorgia-umm.com))
15. Assign a task force to investigate what training materials, what mission projects, what spiritual retreats are available which might be recommended to the men for consideration.
16. Discuss all these things with the pastor in a non-threatening way and be sure that he/she understands that the ministries of men provide a viable tool for church growth and vitality.
17. For those who have courage! Realize that most churches have only one UMM Fellowship, and these meet when it is most convenient for 20-25 men to gather. The group sort of stagnates at that number. They do a lot of good. They enjoy the fellowship. They become ingrown. Let’s keep that going, but let’s start three or four other groups meeting

*Bring men together for Fun.*

If they laugh together,  
they will keep together for  
more serious purposes.  
Even work and worship is  
enhanced by laughter.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
*gatherings should be joyous  
celebrations of life!*

at different times and for different purposes. If we started new groups, we may involve 100 or more men. The entire group could come together once a quarter for a check-up session to report to one another. All of this could be under the umbrella of United Methodist Men Ministries.

18. Let's recover the power of the Cell Groups—the authenticity of the John Wesley Class Meetings which launched the Methodist Societies through the British Isles, the American Colonies and around the world. Think of this pattern. Ideally the pastor would initiate the movement and train the first group. But the one who emerges, who might be a pastor or who might be a spiritually mature man blessed of God with leadership gifts, who would select ten or twelve to pray for God to reveal others who would respond to a special call. These would search for the will of God in their lives, following the kinds of questions that guided the Wesley Class Meetings and pray for God to raise up other leaders for men. As they pray, God will identify those from the original group who could create another group. As spiritually healthy Cells matured, they could divide and multiply. Others would be added to the original Cell. Eventually all ten or twelve of the men who began would be leading Cells of their own. The concept needs to be fleshed out, but is anyone courageous enough to start.

The SEJ Leadership Award class of 2003



**Recipients of the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award at Hinton Rural Life Center**  
Front Row L-R: Lee C. Bines, Richard Soper, John T. "Jack" deJarnette, A. Frank Gordon, Jr..  
Back Row L-R: Joe B. Royal, R. Allen Stewart, David Adams, Thomas E. Farmer.

**T**he Purpose shall be to create supportive fellowships of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek his will daily.

UNITED METHODIST MEN  
Book of Discipline

## Action Ministries For Men

**Since the Eight** were from different conferences and not familiar with each other, one of the first exercises paired them to interview one another and then present what they learned to the group. That ice breaker unlocked a relaxed atmosphere and stimulated a free-flowing vigorous sharing.

The purpose of the time at the Hinton Rural Life Center was explained as a time to share their stories and experiences with ministries with men in their churches. Out of our time together, it was hoped that we could design a six hour visioning session to inspire local church fellowships of men.

Another hope was that these creative pastors could help design a website to spread ideas and resources for ministries of men to be sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation. It could contain useful information about the work of United Methodist Men in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the Leadership Awards.

To bring all of this into focus, three Teams were asked to spend major time generating the results of the SEJ Clergy Think-Tank number 2.

Each Team had five members. A leader was designated who addressed the entire group and led a discussion afterward. Then the Teams spent time digesting the information and sifting it through their assignment. Feed back helped each Team sharpen its assignment.

### THE EVANGELISM TEAM

*Allen Stewart, Leader*  
*Lee Bines*  
*Larry Bryant, Reporter*  
*Ken Harper*  
*Roy Lifsey*

**Allen Stewart began** the Team session by applauding Lee Bines' address about "The Place of Men in God's Plan." Men, Bines said, have a significant place as a Part of God's campaign in presenting, witnessing and demonstrating the work of God in creating, sustaining and re-creating the world, according to H. Richard Niebuhr.

This is a theological rephrasing of the Old Testament prophet to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. He reminded us of the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer who paid the ultimate price for his Christian convictions and died in Hitler's prison. Bonhoeffer said that there is no such thing as "Cheap Grace. The price was set by Jesus Christ on the Cross." It demands total commitment.

**M**en whose  
**Personal Objectives**  
**are to**

*Engage daily in  
Bible Study and Prayer*

*Bear witness to Christ's way  
in daily work and contacts*

*Engage in some definite,  
intentional Christ service*

Need the encouragement  
and support of

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
**Fellowships**

***How does this fit into evangelism and move men into a relationship with Jesus Christ?***

**Focus on Christ.** The Spirit of Christ has to be the center for United Methodist Men. Men are pulled in many directions. Get quickly to the core. They won't spend time playing games around the edges. Don't ask them to waste time. Men want to know what is real. How does this affect their relationship with Christ and enable them to live in harmony with God's will. Ken Harper says "To win men to Christ, make it simple. The bottom line is Jesus." Enable them to feel the warmth of fellowship with men whose lives have been transformed by being with a group of Christian men.

**Pay attention to Men.** Look at every man through the eyes of Jesus. Lee Bines calls this the "divine imperative." Some men are socially aggressive, outgoing personalities; they need little help in finding a place. Others are introverted, hesitant to push themselves forward; they need help in being accepted. Seek them out. Never let a man sit quietly in a pew for weeks waiting for someone to speak to him. Take the initiative. Strike up a conversation. Suggest a cup of coffee. (One is never very far in any church.) Introduce him to some other men. Spend a little time to guide him through the facilities. Invite him to a suitable class, probably the one you attend, and plan to meet him there the next Sunday. Don't leave him to stumble around trying to find the place. Above all ask him to be your guest to the next meeting of United Methodist Men. Remind him several times of the date. Then pick him up, or arrange to meet him in the parking lot, so that he does not have to walk alone into to a group of strangers. See that he gets connected to at least one man who works where he works, or is in the same line of work, or has something in common with him. Draw him in by the warmth of your invitation; capture him by the genuine fellowship; he can be taught and led deeper later as knowledge of God is imparted.

**UMM welcome.** Be sure that every man who comes is assured of a welcome. It is not ours to judge or condemn. That is God's responsibility. "Judgment is mine, saith the Lord." We are to invite, to receive, to welcome.

Lee Bines told of a man who wandered in drunk.

"Aren't you going to ask about my soul?" he finally blurted out after some embarrassment.

"Tell us," one of the men encouraged.

"If I die, I will bust hell wide open," the man said.

The pastor turned to the men and invited, "Come up and help me deal with this." A number came to surround them.

"Aren't you going to pray with me?" the drunk man asked.

"No. First tell us why you will bust hell wide open."

## Major Concerns

*To encourage knowledge of and support for the total mission of the United Methodist Church*

*To engage in evangelism by sharing the fullness of the gospel in its personal and social dimensions*

*To clarify and speak to the identity and role of men in contemporary society*

*To seek commitment to Christian discipleship*

*To study and become familiar with the United Methodist organization, doctrines and practices*

*To cooperate with all units of United Methodist Men in obtaining these objectives through district, conference, jurisdiction and church-wide goals.*

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
The Book of Discipline of  
The United Methodist Church

The man started crying. And confessing. Tears were in other eyes; then they began praying.

The man who had wandered in from the street was converted. It was just the beginning of his journey. But suppose the men had turned him away.

**Relationships.** Men come to Christ primarily through relationships. The one on the inside has to take the initiative; reach out to the one outside. Keep reaching. Involve them as soon as possible in small sharing groups. As men come to trust one another in small groups, they frequently reveal personal struggles they are having but are too proud to ask for help. An opportunity to trust men is rare. Bonding friendship is the result.

**Testimonies.** We have found that the quickest way to move men into a relationship with Jesus Christ is through the testimony of others. Most testimonies become the story of relationships. When a man shares his faith, other men listen. Often they are moved to ask questions, or even to talk about their struggles to find peace with God. This opens the door to deeper discussion about the faith. Timid men, reluctant to speak about such personal matters, sometimes join the conversation. They may even find words to express what they believe. Sharing what we believe, witnessing to a group of men or in church, often leads to total and deeper commitment. Such open sharing encourages others to share

**Rock Eagle.** “Rock Eagle” is the word used by men of the North Georgia Conference to describe the life transforming experience of the annual retreat. Other conferences have similar retreats, but few register as many for one weekend or have such impact on local churches. A spiritual atmosphere is apparent as a group walks on the campus. The event is well planned with great music, powerful sermons, unbelievable workshops, and ringing testimonies. With an auditorium filled with 1,000 to 1,200 men who are caught up in the sense of God at work, men respond to the invitation. Every year men are converted, lives are transformed, and they return to their local churches burning with new zeal.

That’s what happened when a new pastor moved to Bascomb United Methodist Church in a growing community of North Georgia. Four of his men urged him to go with them to Rock Eagle. He did. From that moment on, Rock Eagle became the focal point of his ministry with men at Bascomb. He talked about the experience all year, personally urged men to register as they came out of church. At first four were converted. They were so much on fire that it was easier to sign people up for the next Rock Eagle. Their testimonies sparked new ventures.

Rock Eagle has become the high point of the year for the men. While they are there in September, they install officers for the coming year, they make plans, they are energized for ministry, and their evangelistic zeal glows brighter.

## ***Men are tired***

Of wading in the shallows;  
they want to plunge  
into the ocean-depths  
of spiritual experience, and  
be a part of  
what God is doing  
in the world.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN  
will help.**

**Training is essential.** Allen Stewart confessed, “I did everything in my former church because I did not see the need for training laymen. It was a mistake. Training is essential if United Methodist Men are to be effective in evangelism.”

The pastor and one of the men began training new converts from Rock Eagle in ways to sharpen their witness. Over time, more than 20 were trained, with more waiting to be trained. Now a surprising turn of events released a new spiritual force. Some of these men were invited to other churches to share their testimony. A program was devised in response to such invitations. The Team has gone to 150 churches with this spirit-filled innovation. Witnesses promote Rock Eagle as the place where men are converted. Gradually the emphasis shifted from “what happened to me at Rock Eagle” to a teaching program based on the ***Faith Sharing New Testament*** by George Morris and Eddie Fox. This provided a dimension based on understanding more than emotion with a more far reaching evangelistic appeal. The men from Bascomb have had a profound influence on men of these churches in North Georgia.

**A Spiritual Journey for Men.** In the two years of research and testing which went into the preparation of this ten-week experience for men, one over-riding discovery stands above the other important learnings: *Men are tired of wading in the shallows; they want to plunge into the ocean depths of spiritual experiences and be a part of what God is doing in the world.*

The Twi-nite Retreat flows into the Ten-week Journey with four or five men agreeing to meet one hour a week for ten weeks. In these small groups they help one another begin the disciplines of growing in Christ and charting their spiritual roadmaps. Larry Bryant told how the program impacted the men of his church. At the end of the Ten-Week Journey, the men in his small group decided to continue meeting for two years and to commit themselves to working to improve the spiritual condition of the church. That commitment made them accountable to and for one another. They continued faithfully. He then acknowledged that he went through some tough personal experiences during that two year period, but the support of these five men enabled him to withstand the storms without wavering.

This testimony can be multiplied many times. Men gain strength from one another in small faith-groups.

**Affirming the Pastor.** Lee Bines pointed out that when he was invited to walk down the aisle of the Annual Conference to receive the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award, he was surprised by the standing ovation, the waves and the shouts that he received. All at once, he confessed, he felt ten feet tall as he acknowledged their greeting and realized what was happening. Then it occurred to him, “The G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award was so powerful in my conference because ***it was men affirming a pastor!***”

## *There is a difference*

Between BEING  
in Mission

and GOING  
on Mission Trips.

One is a life time  
commitment.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
*can show you.*

How do men affirm their pastor, Larry Bryant wanted to know? Then he answered. At Bascomb, the men took their pastor to Rock Eagle. He didn't want to go, but they signed him up, paid the registration fee, and took him. It changed his ministry and was part of their evangelistic ministry. They have continued affirming him by praying with him, praying for him, praying before the sermon, and praying during worship. There is nothing wrong with having a group of men praying in a corner of the sanctuary before the service. It is a good thing.

In many churches men have exited the church. Many men feel that the clergy claim the church as their domain. When this situation prevails, men walk away. But there is life and vitality in a congregation where men partner with the pastor.

### **THE MISSION TEAM**

*Tom Farmer, Leader*  
*David Adams*  
*Richard Soper*  
*Gene Hammer, Reporter*  
*Bill Smith*

**There is a difference** between *BEING* in Mission and *GOING* on Mission Trips. The latter represents a short term involvement. These are rewarding and frequently life-changing experiences. *Being* in Mission is a total commitment growing out of an understanding of what Jesus Christ has done for you and what he expects from you. Whatever a Christian man does, he is In Mission.

This is the sense of Paul's appeal to the new Christians of Thessalonica in his first letter. "*We urge you... to love more and more... to aspire to live quietly... to mind your own affairs...to work with your*

*hands... to behave properly toward outsiders...and to be dependent on no one.*" (1 Thess. 4:11-12) Following these exhortations from the Apostle to the Gentiles will release Christian men to be *In Mission*.

Dr. Thomas E. Farmer, leader of this Team, 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. He said the following acronym empowers men to offer Christ to the world through Service:

- M** – men
- I** – involved in
- S** – spirit-filled
- S** – servant-ministry
- I** – intentionally
- O** – obedient to Jesus
- N** – nourished by the Holy Spirit
- S** – sharing faith by word and deed

"Whatever we do to involve men in missions, we have to get beyond the pastor's desk," Farmer said. Stuff sent to him is so voluminous that it is hard for

## *Equip Men*

To know  
and  
how  
to share  
their faith—

then  
*Mission*  
*Will happen!*

UNITED METHODIST MEN  
can teach them

him to even open it all. Just know that demands for his attention are great and the paper work multiplies. “Whatever is sent may easily be piled up to examine later, like it is on mine, until the accumulation is so deep that after two or three months, if it not clamoring for attention, I just brush it all in the trash,” said Tom.

We have got to break down the wall between the pastor’s office and the president of United Methodist Men. The two have to be a team. The purpose is not to get the pastor to do things for the men. On the contrary. It is to let the men know how they can do things for the pastor to ease his/her load and enhance his/her ministry.

**The Mission Team** would like to suggest these basic steps for your consideration to involve United Methodist Men in Missions. Be sure that men in your church are kept aware of the missions thrust with other churches in the community, with other men in the district, with the outreach projects of men in the conference, and with the major mission efforts of the General Commission and the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men. It is not easy to stay connected. But what we do is multiplied in this way.

Keep your men informed about our vast program in Scouting, our involvement with the Living Prayer Center at the Upper Room in Nashville, our partnership with the Society of Saint Andrew which has led to our commitment to help feed millions of hungry people in the United States for one cent a meal, and our opportunities for service in Third World countries and especially in countries of the former Communist block through the resources of Volunteers in Mission. (Check our [www.sejumm.org](http://www.sejumm.org) website for links to these ministries and opportunities.)

**Make the foundation spiritual.** Never let us be seen as just another dinner club or civic organization. We are not just another meeting where somebody has to be responsible for a program. Men spend enough time in meetings they are required to attend; let’s not add to the list. Neither are we just a fund raising organization to finance projects suggested by others and which have nothing to do with the essential purpose of United Methodist Men. Our purpose is written large in the United Methodist Book of Discipline: “*United Methodist Men shall be a creative supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek his will daily. Our primary purpose is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships...*” The commitment includes reading the scripture, praying, witnessing, and engaging in definite service to Christ. This is the secret of successful meetings and retreats!

**Equip Men for Missions.** Regular reports from men who are involved in missions should be kept before the congregation and especially the regular meetings of United Methodist Men. It is not enough for our meetings to entertain the men. Nor is our purpose just to inspire them. They have to be given specific directions and tools for serving. It is not enough just to have a desire.

## *In Christian Fellowship*

Men can help  
one another  
Find the Ministry  
which they are  
Called to do for Jesus  
and Gifted by the  
Holy Spirit  
to fulfill..

*UNITED METHODIST MEN  
can provide the atmosphere  
through Prayer and Worship  
and Bible study and earnestly  
Seeking for their ministry.*

Work in spreading the good news of the kingdom requires our very best preparation and effort. For example, persons accepted for short term mission assignments overseas are briefed about the customs and language and how the volunteers are to conduct themselves. Many medical people, for example, give generously of their time and education and skill to serve in the Third World where the need is so great; but they need something more than being willing. Unprepared persons, no matter how well intentioned, may do a lot of damage to the cause of Christ in a different culture. The same is true for work in soup kitchens, or among the homeless, or in trying to win converts.

### ***God will lead into Mission***

- Men who pray. Men who listen in prayer are more likely to hear the call to be In Mission.

It was while Paul was praying in Asia Minor that he saw the vision and heard the man from Macedonia call, "Come over to help us." For men who are willing to be In Mission prayer has to be a priority. Isn't it interesting that the disciples only asked Jesus to teach them one thing. They didn't ask him to teach them how to restore sight to the blind, how to heal the paralyzed, or how to raise the dead. The only thing recorded in the Gospels that they asked him to do was to teach them to pray. They must have realized that prayer was the source.

- Men who worship. Often they hear the missionary call as they worship, but the worship has to be authentic and real, not ritual. A part of the appeal that attracts around 2,000 men to the Leesburg retreats every fall in Florida is the unabashed worship of God in music and witness and preaching of the word. Men are hungry to experience transformation and experience it as hundreds of men surrender to praise and the excitement of being in the presence of God. In this atmosphere, men can feel the call to missions. One member of the Team quoted a noted authority as saying that there is no such thing as secret discipleship. Either secrecy will kill discipleship, or discipleship will kill the secrecy!
- Men who read God's Word. One way to nourish the seedbed out of which a passion for missions can grow is to form small groups among men for Bible study. In such settings men are not afraid to ask questions, express doubts, or tell what they believe. They are not ashamed to let their real needs show. Meeting week after week with the same men, they learn to trust and to count on one another. As they probe more deeply in the Word of God, they find answers to questions they didn't even know they had. Thus they grow in the ways of God. They catch the vision of what it means to be in servant ministry, and they begin to ask what they can do for Jesus.

***“If you haven’t read***

*A JOURNEY BEYOND,*  
by G. Ross Freeman,  
you ought to read it.

He has been trying all his life  
to get the church to do what  
we are trying to get the men to  
do right now.

Especially read Chapter Seven  
on “*Encouraging Men*”  
(pages 129-146.)

**DR. THOMAS E. FARMER**  
*St. Paul United Methodist Church*  
*Largo, FL*

- Men who seek their mission. The church has not done a lot to help men discover places where God wants them to serve. We leave it up to their initiative, and leaders are surprised when they do not find a place of service. Little is done to acquaint them with opportunities. Even less is done to help them discover their passion. Seldom do we spend time guiding men to discover their spiritual gifts or in finding the place where God is calling them to use these gifts.

When they are led to believe that God has a place for them, it is surprising what results follow. Take another look at what God has been able to do with a group of ordinary men at the Bascomb Church.

***One of the major functions*** of the United Methodist Men in a local church is to equip men to Share the Faith. Read what happened at Bascomb when 20 men were trained to give their witness and have gone to over 80 churches since.

It is good to be part of a work team which does construction on the mission field, but it is more important to share the faith as you work. We demonstrate our faith when we build or rebuild; but we also need to tell the story of what we believe and why we are doing this.

Dr. Farmer told how he criticized the Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses who went from door to door spreading their faith. One day he realized that “they are beating the pants off of us in winning converts. They are trained to knock on doors, to graciously give their witness, and to share what they believe with any who will hear.”

Remember. People are not coming to the church building or to church people to learn about Christianity. We have to go to them.

Jesus did not say in the Great Commission that we were to sit down within our church walls and wait for the people to come to us.

Our Lord instructed us to go to them! He has not rescinded the Great Commission. It is still operative.

We are to take the Good News into all the world... to teach what he has given us... to heal and to convert and to make disciples...

When United Methodist Men get to the basics, mission happens.

## *A flourishing Realtor confided*

*“If the men are not going to do anything important at the Saturday breakfast, I’ll be out selling houses.”*

*Busy men cannot afford to waste time.*

*A good, spirit-filled, top-quality program is indispensable each time.*

*Big men need to be challenged to do big projects.*

## **THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM**

*Joe Royal, Leader*

*Jack deJarnette*

*Frank Gordon*

*John Dowell, Recorder*

*Walter Johnson*

**EMS has become** the symbol around which the Ministries of Men are organized. We really believe that whatever men do can fit under that banner. The letters stand for “**Every Man Shares** – in **E**vangeli**S**m in **M**issions and in **S**piritual Growth.”

Perhaps it would be better to have the emphasis on Spiritual Growth first. But we actually find that when we share our faith in Evangelism and when we share what we have with others as the people of God in Missions, we then hunger more for Spiritual Growth as God leads us deeper. So, it seems the men have the correct order after all. As a matter of fact, new converts make the best evangelistic witnesses; they are on fire. As understanding and faith matures, these new Christians become men with a Mission. So we come now to see what the Spiritual Growth Team has to offer the church.

***Spirit-filled Meetings.*** In summarizing some of the ideas from this Team, Joe Royal described what goes on during the monthly Saturday morning breakfast at the Good Shepherd church where he works with the men. They begin with a good breakfast. The kitchen is just off the fellowship hall where they meet. The fellowship hall opens to the sanctuary. This is convenient for the way they have come to close the meeting.

A good program is indispensable. One man, a flourishing realtor, says frankly that he cannot afford to waste time on Saturday morning. There has to be something worth his time going on, or he won’t come. If the men are not going to do anything important, he will be out selling houses.

For some time now, the men of Good Shepherd have found that one of the video-taped programs from the General Commission of United Methodist Men provides a solid program which is open-ended to promote discussion. The first series they used was called “Man to Man.” It was followed with “The Ministry Journey of Men,” one of the trilogy in the Spiritual Journey series prepared by G. Ross Freeman (Others in the series are available now). After the presentation of the program, the men are divided into groups to discuss questions raised by the video. Leaders are prepared in advance so that the meetings are kept lively and on focus.

Royal says he has found that in the small groups, men share things and in ways that he’s never heard before. “They feel freedom and have a confidence to share,” he said. After a few probing sessions, the men are invited to move from the discussion tables to the sanctuary where they gather around the altar. It is noteworthy that when men kneel to pray, everyone joins in. This has become a part of the regular meeting. There is not a man who does not pray aloud. They are growing spiritually.

## ***In small groups, men share things***

Sometimes after a deeply moving session, our men are invited to move from the discussion table to the sanctuary where they gather around the altar. I have found that when men kneel to pray, everyone joins in.

There is not a man who does not pray aloud.

**JOE ROYAL**  
*Good Shepherd United Methodist  
Dale City, VA*

When one of the tape series is the scheduled program, the realtor member is there every time.

Another way of providing depth for the spiritual life of men is to encourage them to take part in the small group reading and study program developed by ***The Upper Room***, "The Companions in Christ." It requires a lot; but it promises a lot. It is a 28-week resource focusing on essential elements of the Christian faith. Six weeks, for example, are spent on prayer. Other spiritual disciplines are built, one on the other.

Or if any of the men have not taken the "Disciple Bible Study" courses, recommend them. Joe Royal says he has taught the first three courses several times. There are always more men than women in the ones he teaches.

One of the most potent things you can do for the spiritual transformation of any man is to urge them to make a "Walk to Emmaus." David Adams said that he sponsored the United Methodist Men President and Vice President from his church for the "Emmaus" experience. They came back ecstatic, saying, "It was the best weekend of my life!" Their witness was confirmed by what they did in the local church after they returned.

United Methodist congregations across the nation that are growing say it is because men are being energized spiritually by the "Disciple Bible Study" and the "Walk to Emmaus."

***Other ideas*** were advanced by the Team. There is a very moving video course on "That the World May Know." People who participate in it have a clearer grasp of the roots of spiritual growth and evangelism and missions.

A Canadian group is producing a series of video Bible studies which is attracting a lot of attention and having a great impact. One team member has gone through the books of Matthew and Acts. There are 12 segments of 30 minutes each in these studies. The Gospel of John has just been released for movie houses, and it will be available soon for small group use in churches. The dialogue is nothing but scripture. The narrator and the characters all speak with a British accent. Even Jesus, a very attractive young man who exudes life and good humor, delivers his powerful lines in British tones. Much of the time he is smiling joyously. Watching this with a group opens a whole new perspective on the life and times of Jesus.

***Urge the pastor to find time*** to get away with a group of men for a retreat or whatever. This opens opportunities to help men grow spiritually. In a different setting, men are more willing to raise questions, to share their experiences, to tell what is on their minds. It was noted that often men talk about memorable things that happen while they are on a bus trip to Purdue, or to Junaluska, or to a conference retreat. Great ideas are sometimes born as four or five men travel together to a men's event. Things they discuss are often life changing.

**J**esus said, *You shall be my witnesses . . .*

The convincing power of most testimonies depends upon the trust we develop in personal relationships.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
*Develop these relationships in small groups and Teams.*

**Get men, especially young men**, together in “Convenient Groups!” That is, whenever and wherever it is convenient for five or six to get together. One pastor said that he meets with five or six men every week at Bob Evans for breakfast. It is a check-up time. Each one is asked, “How are you doing? What is going on? What have you got coming up?” This becomes almost like a John Wesley accountability group. They eat. They talk. They help one another think things through. And they walk away stronger in the faith.

**Someone else reported** that he is trying to get a Sunday night group of younger men to match what a special group has one morning every week. The morning group meets for breakfast at a restaurant. They spend time talking about man-stuff, like business, sports, community affairs, politics and such – whatever is the current topic in town. Then they all pull out their Bibles. Each man has a different translation. They begin reading and comparing the various texts for the chapter of the day. All the while they are trying to determine what the scripture says and what it means. They have deep discussions, probe spiritual matters, and nudge one another to become more Bible-centered. The restaurant table becomes an altar where a half dozen men seek to know Jesus.

**Try this on for size.** The idea is terrific. Jack deJarnette said to some of his leaders, “We are engaged in spiritual warfare. The enemy against us is strong and cunning. We have a battle to fight, so we had better prepare. Why don’t we call the men together for A Prayer Summit. Let’s ask them to identify what has to be done when we go to war. Then we can duplicate these as we prepare our own plan of battle for spiritual warfare.”

They agreed that the weapon Christians use in spiritual warfare is prayer. Word went out. Sixty-two men came to the first Summit. They were hungry to pray, hungry to know how to pray. We spent five hours that first time. The second Summit brought eighty men. Can you imagine? Some came from the Baptist church down the street. Their preacher is a retired Chaplain. He understands the language. Together we began working on a Prayer Summit for the community, but we are making it for men only. To get men together in this number to pray is one of the most powerful things I’ve seen happen in my ministry. We are finding that we can get men to come about four times a year.

**John Dowell, as Recorder, added** several points which the Team talked about. For example, men need to be encouraged to spend time with God. That’s the only way to develop an intimate relationship with the Father. Use commuting time to listen to spiritual tapes or to have a conversation with God. Involve men in doing worthwhile things. Men will help with a project if they are asked. If it’s good, they’ll do it. In the process they will grow and feel good about themselves. Invite other men in the community to join in doing something

## *Try this on for size*

When we realized that we are engaged in spiritual warfare, and that the enemy against us is strong and cunning, we called the men together for a *Prayer Summit*.

Sixty-two men came to the first Summit. They were asked to identify what has to be done when we go to war. We wanted to be as thorough in preparing our battle plan for spiritual warfare.

They agreed that the weapon Christians use in spiritual warfare is prayer.

We took the battle against evil seriously and spent five hours in prayer that first time. We found that men were eager to pray against such an enemy. Eighty came to the Second Prayer Summit.

**JACK DEJARNETTE**  
*Perdido Bay United Methodist  
Pensacola, FL*

to improve the neighborhood. Such projects getting men to work together will strengthen interdenominational relations.

**A Demanding Project** is indispensable to spiritual growth. Men need a worthy goal to achieve... into which they can pour their energy. After all, men are doers. They can demonstrate the gospel easier than they can talk about it.

Men of the Virginia Conference have adopted *Heart Haven* as an imaginative and worthwhile project. The first goal is to establish a home in each District to provide security and enriched quality of living for mentally challenged young adults. Joe Royal, always searching for a way to involve men, suggested that the men of Good Shepherd raise money to support the project. They had never paid much attention to "Fat Tuesday" at Good Shepherd. It was not a part of their tradition. The men responded, agreed to cook a Pancake Supper and invite the congregation and community. They told about the project and left baskets for a free will offering. They raised more money than they ever dreamed possible. More importantly, they built relationships to strengthen their spiritual ties with one another in the process. They were men growing together.



**REV. DAVID ADAMS** (c) is presented the first Tennessee Conference G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award by Bishop William W. Morris and Conference President of United Methodist Men Cliff Steger in 2003. Standing around them are members of the Monterey and Bethlehem churches, who nominated Adams for the Award, and Mrs. Adams. **Adams was also given the first Southeastern Jurisdictional G. Ross Freeman Quadrennial Leadership Award** by the United Methodist Men at the Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska in July of 2004. These Awards are given by the SEJ UMM Leadership Awards Committee and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc.

## *The Spirit of Christ*

*Has to be  
Central*

*For  
United  
Methodist  
Men*

*We are not  
just  
another  
Dinner Club*

*We are  
part of  
God's  
Redemptive  
Force*

## Two Major Developments

**In addition to the wealth of information** generated by the second Clergy Think-Tank, participants gave considerable thought to the creation of two major concepts.

From the beginning the purpose of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Awards Committee was to explore possibilities for strengthening the ministries of United Methodist Men in local churches. That was the hope of the Jurisdictional Conference Presidents. So Roy Lifsey asked the eight pastors to think about designing a six-hour Visioning Session to be used by local Fellowships of United Methodist Men. George Freeman built into the agenda time for reflection and pulling together material which might be used. These data were collected. New ideas were born.

A direction was charted. Flesh began to appear on the bare-bones skeleton. We decided that the design should be supported by a power-point presentation for churches with suitable equipment, a set of transparencies for churches with access to an overhead projector, instructional material on CDs for those who would need assistance in presenting the teaching segments, and a workbook in which each man could record and keep his own notes.

This material could be produced without much trouble. It would take some creative time to bring it together. But we wanted to do more. We wanted to have some people trained in each annual conference to be available to those churches who would like to have help in getting a strong men's program going.

Then it occurred to us that some of the pastors involved in the Clergy Think-Tank might be willing to train some men and maybe some pastors, ten or twelve who could be available on an invitational basis to light the fire for the ministries of men in local churches. We are working on that.

In the midst of all that mental sweat, the name was born.

### **MENACT – A Plan of Action for Men**

Ideas for a six-hour experience for local church men

This is a plan for men. It does not depend upon the pastor. Nor does it add to his plate which is already full. Rather it may start some things which will enhance the ministries of the church and strengthen the congregation by charting a direction for the men to get busy serving God.

## *Equip Men*

*To Tell  
their story...*

*To Witness  
To their faith ...*

*To Share  
Their victories*

*By what  
They do!*

The scriptural base for the six-hour experience will come from the Book of Acts. The three major areas in which men have chosen to work is evangelism, missions, and spiritual growth. Where can you find richer inspiration for men than in the Book of Acts? We are already studying appropriate passages. The pieces are falling into place. That leads me to the second Major Concept.

**How can we spread the word around?** One major need in the church is connection and communication. How can we be connected? How can we get the word?

So the Jurisdictional Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc. has joined hands with the Communications arm of the Southeastern Jurisdiction to create the

[www.sejumm.org](http://www.sejumm.org)

Ideas for a website for men of the Southeast.

We are off to a great start. Major interest is developing in the Awards Program, the Ideas and Resources for United Methodist Men, and the projects of the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc.

This copy of the *Clergy Think-Tank* report will be on line in two or three weeks. You will be given updates on the Men/Act program and other things we are developing.

You will find Headline Stories beginning on the Home Page. [Click] under SEJUMM Presidents for the names and addresses and information about the organization of United Methodist Men in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. [Click] Pastors Honored to see the nineteen pastors who have received the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Awards from eleven Annual Conferences. [Click] Awards to obtain information about the Leadership Award and about the James Award. You can download information, nomination forms and the criteria used in selection the recipients for these awards.

Keep in touch about. This is a new day of communication.

**Visit the new website WWW. SEJUMM.ORG**

**Ideas and Resources for Ministries of Men**

*Sponsored by the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc. and  
the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men*

Send e-mail replies and suggestions to [Webmaster@sejumm.org](mailto:Webmaster@sejumm.org)