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**HOW TO GET HEALTHY MEN INTO OUR CHURCHES**

**By Kris Swiatocho, Director, The Singles Network Ministries**

PRAY FOR THEM

You can host many fun events designed to reach men, but I have found the best method is something very simple—prayer. Prayer that you commit to each day involving every man and woman in your church and ministry. Prayer that is intentional and strategic. Prayer that waits and expects results. In my own ministry, we have almost as many men attend as we do women. Why? Because each of the leaders and volunteers commits to pray every day.

GROW THEM

When men do arrive, we cannot settle for just being happy they are there! I work with my leaders to intentionally involve new arrivals in our activities and invest in their growth in Christ. The enemy has done much to confuse men about who they are in the Lord and their rolls in the church and home as designed by Him. Sometimes even well-meaning women can add to this identity issue.

Therefore, I believe it’s important to affirm positive behavior such as helping, serving, teaching, sharing, etc. I get men involved from the first day I meet them, often asking them to help me set up or clean up.

I have 3 levels of serving:

1. “Voluntold:” A person who has been told how to help in the moment. If asked on the spot, what is he willing to do? Is he available? Does he listen? Is he teachable?
2. Volunteer: Someone who serves at each meeting or when he is available. Of course, those faithful to serve at each meeting or commit to a schedule are ideal, but a willing volunteer is a leader in training.
3. Leader: A person who has reached level of spiritual maturity showing his walk is consistent. Likewise, his serving and volunteering are consistent, and he has taken ownership in being an active part of the ministry.

The process of growing men into leadership roles often begins with small steps, such as inviting them to share short testimonials, saying the announcements, or opening/closing the meeting in prayer. We have our guys walk the women to their cars and open doors. We also teach men how to lead a study or preach by first encouraging them to share their own stories.

**We do this in 4 ways:**

1. Write his story, and we will read it for him.
2. Write his story, and he shares it.
3. Write his story, and he reads it.
4. Write his story, and we will interview him. The story should be no longer than 10 minutes.

If his story is polished and he is able to share it in front of the group, we will have him share an extended testimonial. The goal is to get them serving and leading then duplicating—investing what they have learned in raising up others.

MULTIPLY THEM

We teach duplication by going to dinner, coffee, sports, etc. Encourage men to invite their friends to events and host their own outreaches tailored to their interests. We teach duplication by mentoring. Leaders grow leaders. Challenge each leader to mentor one other guy and keep track of the progress.

This process never stops. And all of these steps work for engaging women and growing them into leadership roles as well.

OUTREACH IDEAS FOR MEN

* Host a “Mancation” a fun day out—hunting, golfing, fishing, attending a sporting event—and encourage participants to bring a friend.
* Gather a group to help a single mom, widow, or family in need of a “fix it” day or yard clean up.
* Challenge men to invest in their own development by offering a leadership course.
* Coordinate a weekend camping trip or outdoor retreat—include team building challenges.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1874559694/disconnected-why-men-unplug-and-what-can-be-done-a><http://www.thesinglesnetwork.org/uploads/4/6/4/9/4649501/men.pdf>

<http://www.thesinglesnetwork.org/kriss-blog/pray-for-our-men>

<http://www.thesinglesnetwork.org/kriss-blog/fatherless-generation-happy-fathers-day>

[http://www.churchformen.com](http://www.churchformen.com/)

<http://www.thesinglesnetwork.org/kriss-blog/i-love-men>

<http://pastors.com/7-actions-engage-men-church/>

<http://www.maninthemirror.org/a-look-in-the-mirror/60-attracting-men-back-to-church>

<http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/ChurchAndMinistry/menhatingchurch.aspx>

<http://pastors.com/men-are-you-passing-a-torch-or-a-baton/>