

THE GOSPEL

MESSENGER

FALL 2023 | VOL 98 NO 4



**MEN'S
MINISTRIES**

CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

SPECIAL MEN'S MINISTRY EDITION



MODEL MAN

MEN OF GOD

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When the term “Man of God” is used, we often think directly of preachers, pastors, and evangelists who preach the gospel, but “men of God” are simply men who love and serve the Lord in their manhood. Men and women have roles designed by and responsibilities given by God. Some of these roles and callings may intersect where a man or woman can accomplish the given calling based on whom God called. But there are other roles and calling designed by God to be specifically for men or women, and we must not only accept these roles but also embrace them as a part of our daily lives. Society is working hard to erase these specific roles, especially the role of a man, in the name of equality. God explicitly instructs in His word on the roles of men and women (Genesis 2; Ephesians 5; 1 Peter 3; 1 Corinthians 7) while stating that neither is higher in status, but each is equal (Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 3:1; Ephesians 5:21) in God’s sight. As men, we must embrace the roles before us, not looking to be rulers but instead looking to serve our families and community as God’s leaders.

One of the best books I have read about being a man of God is *Model Man: From Integrity to Legacy*, written by Larry Stockstill. (I encourage every men’s group to use this study for promoting and building godly men.) This book is a candid look at the issue of godly manhood needed in our homes, churches, and society. It challenges every man to accept the godly role God has designed for him. Pastor Stockstill has listed several characteristics that men of godliness and integrity models and displays. While not exhaustive, this list speaks to us to challenge us to accept the role of a Model Man.

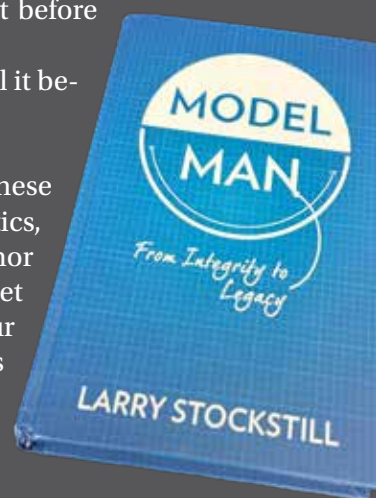
Found on pages 30-31, here is the list[1]

Today more than ever, we need model men who stand out from the common run of humanity as men of godliness and integrity.

- Model men honor their wives.
- Model men pay their bills and keep their word.
- Model men take responsibility.
- Model men vote their conscience.
- Model men tell the truth.
- Model men function as examples for the next generation.
- Model men pray for revival.
- Model men drive in traffic jams and wait in frustrating Walmart checkout lines with a sense of being watched by others as an example.
- Model men shun pornographic filth and flirting Facebook fans.
- Model men live it before they say it.
- Model men model it before they demand it.

When we display these godly characteristics, we not only honor God, but we also set an example for our sons and daughters as to what a Model Man should be. If we want the next generation to follow God, we must be Men of God to lead the way.

[1] Stockstill, Larry. *Model Man: From Integrity to Legacy*. Bethany Publishing. Kindle Edition.





Recently my sister shared this photo taken in 1968 or 1969 with me. When I first looked at the photo, in my mind, I began to replay the times when I had interactions with each of these men that impacted my life. These are the men that I grew up around.

These men were not perfect, but even the ones who were not serving the Lord knew what a godly man was supposed to be. I was significantly influenced by the two men in the center back. In the far back, my father, Wallace. Next to him on the right is my brother Marty. Both of these men exemplified what it was like to be a leader in the family and how to extend a hand to friends and neighbors in their time of need. They poured so much into my life that I cannot write it all. They accepted the role that God gave them and walked into it not thinking they were impacting the next generation, but because of their walk and lifestyle, the next generation (me and others) were influenced to be more. All of these men, in one form or another, affected my life.

These were not Model men because they were hunters (they were); they were not Model men because they were

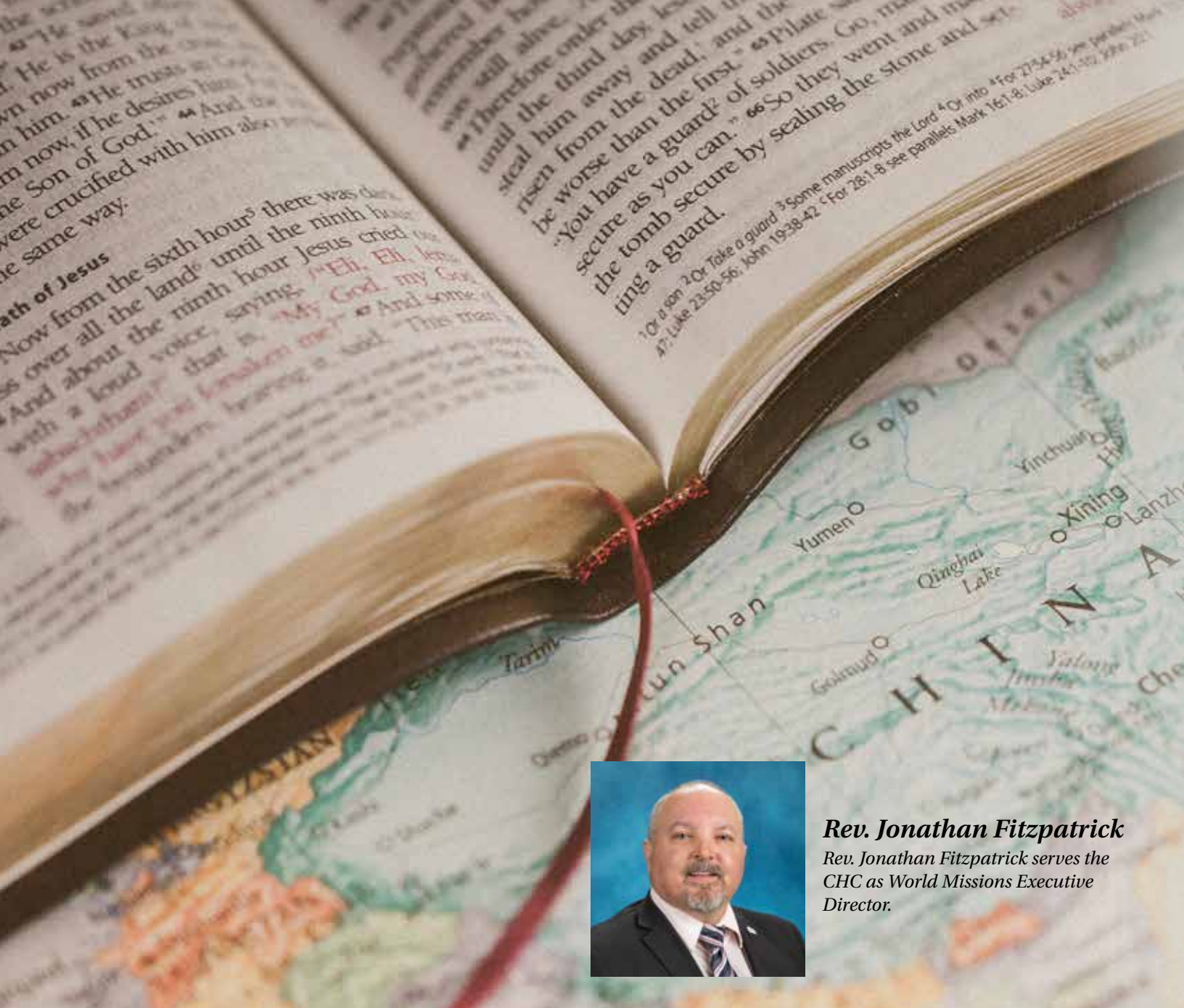
macho (they were). They were and are Model Men because they followed the Lord while being everything God made a man be. They were/are leaders in home, family, community, and church. You see, every man in this photo served the Lord, some later in life than others, but they are all recognized to be a Model Man for they are Men of God.

In this photo are four preachers/pastors, two or three deacons, and the rest are servants of God. Many have gone on to be with the Lord, but they left their mark as Men of God in my and others' lives because they were Model Men.



Bishop Scotty Poole

Bishop Poole serves the CHC as the General Superintendent



Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick

Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick serves the CHC as World Missions Executive Director.

**FEAST OF
INGATHERING
OFFERING
MONTH**



CHC WORLD MISSIONS



**NOVEMBER
2023**



Bro. Billy and Bro. Jonathan with Superintendent Roberto and wife Mirna Campo in El Salvador, April 2009.

Let me preface my article by saying that I had a lot of choices to pick from of men who have influenced me over the years so it was indeed a difficult task. My choice is a result of a compilation of experiences with a person whose impact on my life has been for a number of years from the time I started in ministry to where I am today. I have gleaned much from many over the years, but only one person has influenced me in every stage of my life in ministry, and that person is Billy Anderson.

Brother Billy Anderson was the World Missions Director for the CHC in the mid 90's when I became active in ministry. The first time I met him in person was around 1997 when he preached the Piedmont Springs Camp Meeting in North Alabama. Previously I only knew him by name and that he was well respected in the CHC.

In 2005 I moved to North Georgia to pastor the Bethel Temple CHC. During VBS we would invite general officials to come each night to share from their wisdom and experiences. The offering we received during VBS usually went to support World Missions so we would ask Brother Billy to come on the last night to present it to him which allowed me an opportunity to get to know him on a more personal level. In the spring of 2008, I asked him to come and minister and he encouraged the church to send me on a mission trip with him. I was blessed to travel to Nicaragua and Cuba later that year as well as other trips in the future. Little did we know at the time, but Brother Billy was introducing me to a way of life that I would one day live.

During these trips I was able to visit several churches and meet pastors along with people who attended the churches. This experience changed my idea of World Missions altogether. As a pastor, I had always been taught to support missions which I did, but my experience on these trips took this to another level. It's one thing to raise money to sup-

port missions and see pictures, but it's another thing entirely to see first hand how the lives of people are transformed by this support.

I was also able to observe how Brother Billy interacted with people which helped me to understand how valuable our relationships are with our brothers and sisters from other tribes, tongues, and nations and how important it is to help them. Brother Billy demonstrated the compassion a World Missions Director must have and this is evidenced in his accomplishments in our foreign works over the span of several years. This compassion for others was the catalyst which motivated him to make things happen during the years he served. Today, countless people I meet around the world still hold Brother Billy in high esteem after nearly fifteen years of being retired from being the World Missions Executive Director because of the impact he had on them. Thankfully I have been able to observe and learn first hand from him and his compassion has rubbed off on me and enabled me to be more successful than I would have been otherwise.

There are many ideas today about masculinity. Terms such as "toxic masculinity" assert that a definition of masculinity in which men should suppress their emotions can be "toxic" which may have some merit. The Biblical view of masculinity seems to be one that is centered around strength. In 1 Corinthians 16:13, Paul said, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." In other words, "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." Other views aside from Scripture also suggest that strength is a key to masculinity. Wikipedia said that, "traits traditionally viewed as masculine in Western society include strength, courage, independence, leadership, and assertiveness."

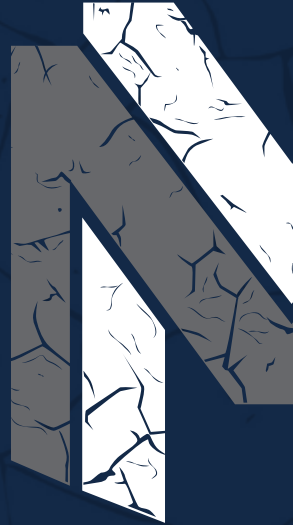
In an opinion article in Liberty University's student newspaper The Liberty Champion titled, "THE TENSION BETWEEN BIBLICAL MASCULINITY AND TOXIC MASCULINITY," Justin Bower writes, "According to the Bible and by the example of Christ, masculinity is humble leadership. It is sacrificial love and incredible meekness."

Humility, sacrifice, and meekness are evident in someone who has great strength of character and I have observed this strength in Brother Billy Anderson for nearly 30 years. Authentic Manhood produced several videos in "The 33 Series" which aimed to help develop men in their walk with the Lord. These videos teach that, "Strong, authentic men build strong families, churches and communities". Brother Billy Anderson has certainly been a "builder" of all three of these for many years and I am honored that the influence of such a great man of God still has an impact on myself and others today. Thank you Brother Billy for allowing God to use you to make many of us better men!



Bro. Billy speaking with the pastor and church members at a church in Morales, Guatemala, April 2009.

LOCAL MEN'S



SANDERSON CHC

Few churches rival the commitment to community outreach possessed by the men of Sanderson CHC. Led by Pastor Oral Lyons and Men's Ministries directors Bobby Muncy and Robbie Taylor, the men of Sanderson make an enormous impact on the lives of hundreds of local citizens. From taking free meals to needy children to delivering Christmas gifts to the less fortunate to assisting the sick and shut-in, Sanderson is dedicated to making a difference. Over the years, the men of Sanderson have completed dozens of building projects on foreign mission fields. Each month, this local chapter meets to share the word over a good meal. Their motto? "We don't meet unless we eat!"

S MINISTRIES



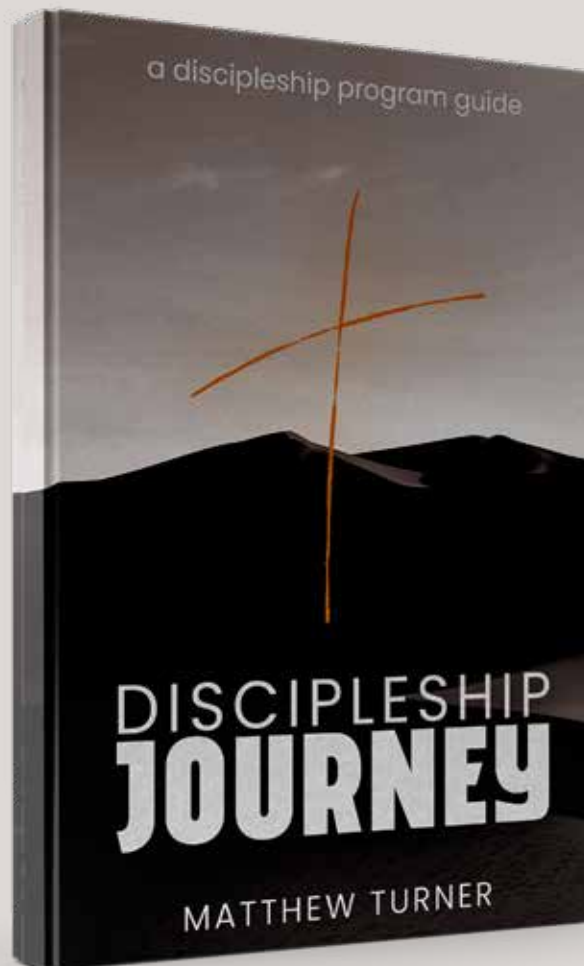
BRASWELL CHC

In the small community of Good Hope just outside of Athens, Georgia, the men of Braswell CHC shine bright! Led by Pastor Jeremy Farmer and Men's Ministries Director Josh Bugg, Braswell's impact can be felt across the CHC. It all started when a young man by the name of Jamie Reece got a burden for the men of his church. After noticing that the women had regular meetings, Jamie started a men's ministry group at Braswell. Today, this group of men still sets the standard for local men's ministries groups across the North Georgia District and across our denomination. In October 2022, Braswell received the Local Chapter of the Year award in recognition of their stellar commitment to ministry and service!

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Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

Matthew 28:19



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In ministry, there are so many men who have made an impact on my life. I could write a great many pages about many men who have spoken into my life, encouraged me, and blessed me in ministry. However, when I sat down to write, one pastor, Rev. Glen Studdard, whose ministry completely changed my life, came to mind. He took a chance on me, or at least that is how I felt. When I was eighteen, he took a chance and asked me to go on staff with him as his youth pastor. There is no doubt in my mind that his decision to take a chance on me set into motion a chain of events that led me to where I am today.

My time at the Centre CH Church was filled with incredible moments. I learned so much about leadership, church administration, church finances, and so much more. However, more than any of that, I learned how to care for people from an excellent example of a pastor. I am so grateful for every lesson, correction, and encouragement from Pastor Studdard. I love and miss him a great deal.

I share my experience with you because I want to encourage you, the reader, to take a chance on someone around you. I don't mean to do something foolish. But, to allow the Lord to speak to you about someone in your life that you could pour into them the lessons and time that someone poured into you. I am sure that as I was sharing about Pastor Studdard, someone perhaps came to your mind that has helped you and mentored you. We are all standing on the shoulders of those who have come before us.

As you look around, you may be tempted to see reasons why you should not take the time to mentor someone. However, I beg you to remember that we all have faults. We all need to learn and be taught. You can be the one who changes the life of someone by simply taking a chance on someone and pouring wisdom into their lives. Remember that God



Dr. Matthew Turner
The Turner Family: Matthew, Anna, Elia, Edyth, and Ephraim. Matthew serves as the Mission USA Administrator for the CHC.

has chosen you and blessed you despite all of your failures. You should stop reading right here and thank the Lord for loving you and choosing you when you did not deserve it.

When Jesus spoke to Simon Peter to follow Him, there were plenty of reasons why Simon was a "bad" choice. However, Jesus looked beyond all of Simon's faults and saw a young man who had great potential but needed time to learn. As a potter shapes clay into a vessel that is pleasing to him, so Jesus molded Peter; so Jesus is forming you and me.

Find someone around you, take a chance, and love someone enough to spend time with them.



Rev. Glen and Frankie Studdard



Rev. Brian Willingham

Rev. Brian Willingham serves as the Men's Ministry Executive Director for the CHC.

“What does it mean to be a man?” That line from the movie *Courageous* sums up the question that looms large across today's effeminate culture. Long gone are the days when men were seen as the priests and rulers of the home. In our modern-day confusion regarding the roles of men and women, I am thankful to belong to a church that still celebrates the traditional calling of manhood.

Despite Hollywood's lies, God still calls us to love our wives, provide for our families, and set the standard of Godliness for our homes. As I grow older, I become increasingly thankful for the men of God who shaped me as boy. I am often broken-hearted when I hear of children who never had the Godly leadership of a Christian man. Perhaps that is why I am especially thankful for my Dad.

The highest compliment I could have received as a child was that I looked like Bother Mark. My father was not a loud man. He never sought the spotlight. Still, his reserved demeanor and quiet spirit filled every room he entered. Men both young and old grew silent when my Dad showed up. Daddy didn't talk much. He didn't have too. His strong but gentle character always spoke for him.

As I have attempted to navigate the winding roads of ministry, marriage, and fatherhood, his example guides me much like a ship directed by the beams of a lighthouse on a dark night. This October, we will celebrate the men of our denomination. Men, who like my father, have chosen to build a Godly heritage for those who will come behind them. Today, more than ever, we need the influence of Godly men. Men who are kind and gentle yet strong and determined. Men who are not ashamed to pray. Men who stand for the truth. Men who would lay-down their lives for those they love!

As the Director of our Men's Ministries Department, my heart is warmed by the hundreds of men who have already made this commitment! Today, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal savior, then you can never become the man he has called you to be! However, if you surrender your life to Him, then you can become a great man!

To all our CHC men who make a difference: we are thankful for you! My prayer is that you continue to grow stronger every day until Jesus comes!



Bro. Brian and Rev. Llewellyn Widender who served as the General Men's Ministry Director from 1983-1985.

LEAVE A *Legacy*



Rev. Micah Messer

Rev. Micah Messer and his father Rev. Dollas Messer. Rev. Micah serves the CHC as the National Royal Rangers Commander.

Biblical manhood is under attack in American culture. Theological masculinity in our society is now labeled “toxic masculinity” by professors on college campuses and politicians on Capitol Hill. Men are rarely portrayed as role models in music and movies from Nashville and Hollywood. Godly manhood is sadly an endangered species in the classroom and in the conference room. Men are abdicating their responsibilities as fathers and husbands in the home. We desperately need Christian leadership in our churches, our community, and our culture; leaders like Ezra in the Old Testament.

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments (Ezra 7:10). First, he loved the Word with his heart. Second, he learned the Word with his head. Third, he lived the Word with his hands. And finally, he left the Word with his heritage. Thankfully, I have a man in my life who exemplifies this verse, my dad, Dollas Messer. He is the best preacher I have ever heard. He was the best man at my wedding. He is my best friend. He is my father, my hero, and my mentor. He was saved at age 10, filled with the Holy Ghost at age 11, and called to preach at age 14. He loves the Bible with a Psalm 119 love. He knows more about the Bible than anyone I know. He’s often said, “I wanted to master the Bible, but it mastered me.” He lives according to Biblical principles. The sermons he preached every Sunday; he practiced daily as a husband and father. He has spent his entire life studying and obeying the Bible and teaching it to others for over 60 years as a church

planter, pastor, missionary, evangelist, and Bible college teacher.

We need more Godly men in America. Godly men who love the Lord supremely and obey the Word. Godly husbands who love their wives as Christ loves the church. Godly fathers who teach their children the way of the Lord. Godly leaders who serve faithfully in their local church. Godly businessmen who work diligently as unto the Lord. We need more examples of Biblical manhood in our churches, regardless of if they are preachers or plumbers, missionaries or managers, evangelists or electricians, teachers or truck drivers.

Men who will get up before dawn to pray on their knees, not just to climb into a deer stand. Men who spend hours reading their Bible instead of scrolling on their phones. Dads who grill for their family but also fast meals for them. Men who tip generously and tithe cheerfully. Men who help with homework and housework. Fathers who play and pray with their children. Men who work hard and worship even harder. Husbands who date their wives. Men who know more about the heroes of Scripture than heroes in sports. Men who are protectors and providers. Men who work hard Monday-Friday, spend Saturdays with family, and Sundays in church.

Men, be a man of the Word.
Love it. Learn it. Live it. And leave a legacy.



Rev. Wanda Murray

Rev. Wanda Murray serves the CHC as the International Executive Director of Women's Ministry.

I have two very precious men in my life who have touched me with the Word of God.

The first man who inspired me was my Dad. He raised me in the church and has been such a blessing to me. He told me how proud he was of me because I followed the Lord. I remember one time he told me how he received the Holy Ghost. He said he could not receive Him in the church because too many people hindered him by touching him, telling him to "let go and hold on!" Then, he was praying in the barn one day, and suddenly, the Holy Ghost just fell on him. He was all by himself, so I decided that was the way I wanted to receive Him as well. Well, the Lord has a sense of humor; because I was at a campmeeting, and the place was full of people when I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost!

My husband was the second man who inspired my life. Michael was not raised in church, but he got saved shortly after we were married. Now, did he live like I thought he would? No, he did not - simply because he was not raised in the church and I was. However, he finally caught on by listening to preachers, especially Bro. Alton Chapman, who took so much time with him to help him understand what it meant to live a Christian life. Michael finally heard the call to preach and pastored several of our CH churches.



Rev. Michael and Wanda Murray

These two men will always hold a place in my heart because of their devotion to God.

CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH
GENERAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Let God Arise
RENEWAL
Conference

May 2-4, 2024
GATLINBURG
CONVENTION CENTER

MEN'S MINISTRY MONTH IS October

Men's Ministry Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate the spiritual growth and contributions of men within our local CH churches.

Here are some ways to celebrate and recognize Men's Ministry Month in October:

1. **Host Special Services or Gatherings:** Organize special worship services, prayer meetings, or small group gatherings that focus on themes related to men's spiritual growth, roles, and responsibilities in the church and family.
2. **Men's Retreat:** Plan a weekend retreat for men to bond, grow spiritually, and learn from one another. Including guest speakers who specialize in men's ministry can add value to the event.
3. **Service Projects:** Encourage men to engage in community service projects. Whether it's building a playground, assisting at a homeless shelter, or helping a neighbor in need, working together for a common cause can be fulfilling.
4. **Hold Workshops and Seminars:** Conduct workshops on topics like leadership, fatherhood, personal growth, and spiritual disciplines. Invite guest speakers who are experts in these fields.
5. **Celebrate Men's Ministry Leaders:** Recognize and honor men who have been positive role models in the community. Share their stories to inspire others.
6. **Family Events:** Plan family picnics or barbecues where men can bond with their families and other men in a relaxed atmosphere.
7. **Mentorship Programs:** Encourage older and more experienced men to mentor younger men in the congregation. This could be through one-on-one relationships or small group settings.
8. **Sports and Recreation:** Organize sports events or recreational activities that allow men to have fun and build relationships with one another.
9. **Art and Creativity Nights:** Encourage men to explore their creative sides through art, woodworking, or other crafts. Creating something together can be a rewarding experience.
10. **Prayer and Fasting:** Encourage men to commit to a period of prayer and fasting for spiritual growth and the well-being of their families and community.
11. **Health and Wellness Activities:** Organize health screenings, wellness seminars, or fitness challenges to promote physical well-being along with spiritual growth.
12. **Social Media Campaign:** Share daily or weekly inspirational quotes, stories, and teachings about men's roles, responsibilities, and spirituality.
13. **Testimonies and Story Sharing:** Invite men to share their personal stories and testimonies of faith during church services or via video.

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JANUARY 2024



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