

THE CONNECTING WIRE June 27, 2008
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THE CONNECTING WIRE

The Men's Ministry e-mail newsletter of **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KETTERING**
www.Histask.org

THE CONNECTING WIRE is the opt-in newsletter for the men of **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KETTERING**. It's a periodic service that helps connect you with God and with other men at **FBK**. If you'd like its delivery to your email address stopped, scroll down and follow the instructions at the end of this message. Also let me know if you change your email address and want to keep subscribing to **THE CONNECTING WIRE**.

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1

CONSIDER

"If you lose your temper, it is a sign that you have wrong on your side." Chinese proverb

THE EXPEDITIONARY MAN: THE ADVENTURE A MAN WANTS, THE LEADER HIS FAMILY NEEDS

by Rich Wagner

When I began brainstorming with my wife and 3 boys on the best way to reach out to men and families about my new book, The Expeditionary Man, we decided that it had to be something in line with the spirit and energy of the book itself.

"How about climbing Mount Everest as a family?" I asked. With more than a little understatement they responded, "No, Everest is probably not too 'family friendly.'" "Ok, what about a multi-city author tour?", I suggested. "No, too solo. Too expected, dad," they said.

"Hey, what about a cross-country bike tour?"

The Expeditionary Man focuses on how a man discovers his true adventure and purpose, not out in the world, but by becoming the hands-on leader of his family. As a result, a transcontinental, family-oriented bike tour seemed like the right combo. It symbolized a true adventure, a unified family, and a common biblical purpose.

Everyone signed on.

Our family's motto for the tour became *ad alta simul*, which is Latin for "to the summit together." We would go as one team, one family. Jared (my middle son) and I would ride the

whole distance. Jordan and Justus (my oldest and youngest sons) would ride part of each day, and my wife would drive the support vehicle. Along the way, I would talk with men and families in churches across the country about the core messages of the book. The tour began June 28.

We invite you to join with us for the duration of the tour on whythebike.com. Each day, we'll be updating our tour blog with videos, pictures, and interesting stories of adventure from the road. And, if you are in any of the route cities we are passing through, we'd love to stop and talk with you.

<http://whythebike.com/blog/>

A SAMPLE FROM THE EXPEDITIONARY MAN

by Rich Wagner

A man is hardwired for adventure. I see evidence of this truth everywhere. It's found in the films men love to watch and the sports they pursue. I spot it in the gleam of my friend's eye as he talks about his career change. And, more personally, I see it in the exploits that are written on my heart.

The question every Christian man wrestles with, however, is what to do with these desires. Is it possible for a man to pursue a life of adventure when he is married, raising kids, and paying a mortgage? How do I prioritize, a man asks himself, what I am driven to do with what I am responsible for?

Some men choose to live out their dreams, no matter the cost. Others stifle them in order to be a good family man. Many attempt to balance their pursuits with their responsibilities as husband and father. The problem is that when you look at the lives of men in the church today, nothing seems balanced at all. Too many Christian homes are falling apart. Too many youth are abandoning their faith as they hit college campuses. Too many Christian men are leading unfulfilled, mundane lives.

This battle of "adventure vs. duty" is brilliantly depicted in the Pixar film *The Incredibles*. The film chronicles the struggle of Bob Parr, a man who reluctantly gives up his livelihood as superhero Mr. Incredible and settles down into a normal suburban life. But after fifteen years, Parr's life has become one of monotony, boredom, and purposelessness. Working as an insurance agent, he spends his days cramped in a tiny cubicle, lost inside a faceless bureaucracy. Parr goes through the motions at work and zones out at home. In his glory days as Mr. Incredible, Bob Parr saved the world by capturing evil criminals. Now, in the words of his wife, his humdrum charge is to "save the world, one policy at a time."

Bob's thirst for adventure, however, can't be stomped out entirely, and it eventually surfaces again. Bob and his buddy Lucius (ex-superhero Frozone) go out every Tuesday night together. Their wives think they go bowling, but the two are actually listening to the police scanner so they can go fight criminals or help out in an emergency. Over time, Bob's "recreational" crime fighting ends up becoming his all-consuming focus when behind his wife's back he takes on a

new assignment as a superhero. But when the mission goes awry, his family is nearly destroyed in the process.

Bob Parr tried to live a normal, quiet life. It was a life that his family and others expected of him. But, just like the real world, a man cannot live forever inside the walls of expectation. Adventure inevitably springs from the soul of a man.

Let's face it: adventure just isn't the same nowadays. For nearly all of human history, this word signified real risk, genuine danger, and life-or-death competition. Uncharted lands were explored. A family's survival depended upon defeating enemies. And hard work was essential to surviving in a hostile environment. While most men wouldn't want to turn back the clock on the comfort and conveniences of the 21st century, they do grieve over what has been lost in a tame world. In fact, our situation today is reminiscent of a scene in the Jim Carrey film *The Truman Show*, when a young Truman eagerly tells his teacher that he wants to be another Magellan. Dousing all of his enthusiasm, she responds, "Oh, you're too late! There's nothing left to explore!" Like Truman, a man can feel as if he was born too late, that there's nothing left but a giant "Been There, Done That" sticker slapped on the earth.

God designed men to be resilient and adaptable creatures, however. Even if the grand discoveries of the past are now found only in history books, adventure is still alive and well in the heart of a man. In fact, the experience of the past century has shown that if a man can't find adventure in his daily life, he will manufacture it in his career, recreation, and, for Christians, a ministry....

<http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310276609>

LEADERSHIP TIPS (BUSINESS, FAMILY, LIFE)

"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." Helen Keller

VERSE TO PONDER

"The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:4-5

CONSIDER

"God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters." John Henry Jowett

SOARING MOTORCYCLE SALES SPARK FAITH OPPORTUNITIES

Motorcycle sales, like gas prices, are soaring -- and in the process churches and believers are discovering opportunities for witness and ministry.

While gasoline prices have jumped above \$4 per gallon in various states, motorcycle dealers say sales have leaped as well -- anywhere from 20% at a Triumph motorcycle dealership in Anchorage, Alaska, to 27% at a Harley-Davidson shop in East Hartford, Conn. Motorcycle enthusiasts today not only include Hells Angels and wheelie-popping sport bikers but also middle-aged recreational riders and businessmen who ride motorcycles to work.

At the same time, chapters of the F.A.I.T.H. Riders motorcycle ministry are popping up all over the country.

"It's incredible the number of motorcycles you see on the road this year, and God has just been phenomenal in the way He is orchestrating the growth of F.A.I.T.H. Riders," said Danny Moats, national chaplain for the ministry based at First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla. "Oklahoma has just blown wide open. We'll probably have 14 chapters there before the end of the summer."

Excitement about motorcycle ministries was evident at this year's Rally to Ridgecrest motorcycle rally, which drew 319 participants -- a 50% jump over the inaugural rally just 18 months earlier. Under the banner "Eternal Vigilance," bikers from 14 states gathered over the Memorial Day weekend for worship and workshops at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina -- and exhilarating rides through the Blue Ridge Mountains.... Read this in full at

<http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=28328>

COUNTERCULTURAL

“One of the most exciting of the Sabbath laws was applied every 7 years. Just like the Hebrew people were suppose to refrain from working every seventh day so that their land, animals, and servants could rest, every seventh year, the Hebrew people had a celebration called the jubilee, during which they would take the whole year off from work. During this 1-year break, all the food that continued to grow in their fields was free for the taking for families who were struggling to get by (Exodus 23:10-11). And any debt that folks had incurred during the past six years was erased. These laws ensured that those in society who were intent on getting ahead had to take a break so that the gap between the rich and the poor would be kept to a minimum. It is almost impossible for us to grasp how wildly countercultural (and difficult) this economic practice really was. God's idea for this peculiar people was that there be "no poor people among you" (Deuteronomy 15:4-5).” From Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals by Shane Claiborne

THE JOURNEY TO DEEP CONNECTION

“Dad talks need to be conversations, cover all kinds of topics (see Proverbs 23 for ideas), and take place frequently. As such, they can provoke laughter, tears, hugs, and high-fives. Father-son conversations should be lifelong dialogues, where short and simple parent-to-child check-ins mature into a delightful exchange between deeply connected men. If you have a son or know some other younger man whom you can influence for God, take a cue from Solomon.

This young man needs to know he can trust you with his heart. For that to happen, you need to trust him with your heart.” From New Men's Devotional Bible

HAPPY MARRIAGES ARE BASED ON A DEEP FRIENDSHIP

"It is not a lack of love," said Friedrich Nietzsche, "but a lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages." We tend to agree. And so do a lot of other social scientists. In fact, world-renowned marriage researcher John Gottman of the University of Washington told us one day over lunch: "Happy marriages are based on a deep friendship." And get this, Gallup's research indicates that a couple's friendship quality could account for 70% of overall marital satisfaction. In fact, the emotional intimacy a married couple shares is said to be five times more important than their physical intimacy. And, of course, your level of emotional intimacy has a lot to do with your physical intimacy. So, in a sense, if trading places can boost the quality of your friendship, that means it will, by default, ignite your love life too.” From Trading Places: The Best Move You'll Ever Make in Your Marriage by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott

FIVE SYMPTOMS MEN SHOULDN'T IGNORE

Women listen to their bodies and go to the doctor when something isn't right. Men tend to seek medical attention when they're at death's door -- or when their wives prod them into going. "I think it's a macho thing," says Dr. Barron Lerner, professor of medicine and public health at Columbia University. "Or maybe it's denial. Maybe they think if they deny a problem, it doesn't exist." While the list, according to these physicians, is endless, here are the top 5 symptoms men ignore -- sometimes until it's too late....

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/06/12/mens.symptoms/index.html>

BELIEFNET'S LIST OF 10 BEST FILMS ABOUT FATHERS

Some of the fathers in these classic films have to learn how important their children are to them. Others have to learn how to communicate their feelings and the values they consider most important. And others have to learn how to let go. But all of them illuminate our understanding of our own fathers and inspire us to be better parents ourselves.... Read this in full at

<http://www.beliefnet.com/gallery/fathersinfilms.html?pgIndex=0>

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN TAKES TOLL ON CHARITABLE GIVING AMONG CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Nearly half of the Christian adults in America have reduced their charitable giving because of the economic downturn, according to a recent Wilson Research Strategies survey commissioned by Dunham+Company. "This study shows that the sharp rise in fuel costs has already begun to impact giving by Christians who are the backbone of philanthropy in America," said Rick Dunham, president and CEO of Dunham+Company, which specializes in fundraising for Christian ministries. "Christian nonprofits need to understand that now, more than ever, it's crucial to be proactive in communicating the importance of their mission and

their organizational effectiveness to their donors in order to sustain the same share of donor dollars that are becoming more scarce." Read this in full at <http://christiannewswire.com/news/908836956.html>

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Little Denmark, with its 5-1/2 million people, is the happiest country in the world, says a study done by an English University. CBS News 60 Minutes Journalist Morley Safer reports why the Danes are so happy and explores why the USA is way down the list....

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/02/14/60minutes/main3833797.shtml>

CONSIDER

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

VERSE TO PONDER

"You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you." Psalm 86:5

THIS WEEK'S HYMN: DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN

Words: Fanny Crosby (1820-1915)

Music: W. Howard Doane, 1905

Onward go the sunbeams,
Shining all the day;
Looking down upon us,
Now they seem to say:
Let your smile be cheerful,
Ever warm and bright,
Make the hearts around you
Happy with its light.

Refrain

Marching on together,
Thro' this fleeting world below,
Helping one another
Onward as we go;
Think of what a blessing,

God the Father gave to man,
Try and do for others
All the good you can;
Let your smile be cheerful,
Ever warm and bright,
Make the hearts around you
Happy with its light.

Hearts and hands to Jesus,
Gladly we will give,
In the path of duty,
Walking while we live;
Cheering on the sad ones,
Lifting those that fall,
Shining like the sunbeams,
Doing good to all.

Refrain

With a loving spirit,
While the days are bright,
Let us work rejoicing,
Till the dewy night;
Grateful for the blessings
Jesus brought to man,
Let us do for others
All the good we can.

Refrain

>from CyberHymnal at
<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/d/a/g/dagyouca.htm>

ON PRAYER

“We should begin to pray before we kneel down and we should not cease when we rise up.”
C. H. Spurgeon

PRAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS TODAY

<http://christiansin crisis.net/>

PRAY

- For our Church Staff
- For the Intercessory Prayer Room Ministry
- For the follow-up visits from the *Be Real Crusade/Revival*

- For the Disciple 1 activities.
- Please pray about joining us in prayer every Sunday morning from 6:30 to 7:30 with some of the Men. It's a great way to start the Lord's Day!
- Pray about God putting someone in your path to encourage and lead to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- MFuge Summer Missions
- Project Dayton Hope: Block Parties & Street Evangelism (August 11-15)

[As you travel on business or vacation, let me know if you'd like the church guys to pray for your safety and spiritual effectiveness. I'll add your name to the list for the time you'll be away.]

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE WEBSITES

Tell us what sites you find enjoyable and why.

You Tube: Zürich Chamber Orchestra | Roller Coaster (turn your speakers on)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INyo5ctzmGo>

All links to websites are provided as a service, and do not imply endorsement by our church.

(BTW: whenever the URLs in this newsletter are too long to turn into links on your e-mail program, just copy the entire URL (two lines or more) and paste it into a temporary email message. Then delete the return in the middle of it and copy it again. Then paste it into your web browser and hit enter.)

It's the daily grind that gives a person polish.

John Guillaume

Editor

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THE CONNECTING WIRE is a periodic newsletter of announcements, news, recommendations, articles, and other information helpful to men in our spiritual growth. Thanks for welcoming **THE CONNECTING WIRE** into your in-box!

Who to contact:

Contact the following if you'd like to participate in a men's discipleship program.

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Dave Hendricks 427-7582 (H)

Kelly Malcolm 433-8184 (H)

The mission of **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KETTERING** is to honor God by equipping believers to reflect and communicate the love of Jesus in our community and beyond. The Men's Ministry Team offers a variety of activities for men to interact with other men on our journey of faith in Christ together. Large group, small group, and one-to-one events encourage relationship building and spiritual strengthening that result in maximizing the potential we all have in Christ.

The meeting place of **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KETTERING**
is 3939 Swigart Rd., Dayton, OH 45440
Tel: 937 429-1671
Visit our website at www.Histask.org

Take advantage of MensMinistryConnection.com, an alliance member of Gospelcom.net. It's on the web to help men connect with God and with each other. The site is designed to be a quality reference tool for men to use to grow personally and spiritually. Visit MensMinistryConnection.com to get the latest news from the New York Times, a daily Bible verse, men's ministry resources, and a multitude of diverse links specifically of interest to men (such as prostate cancer information, p*rnography addiction recovery help, barbecue tips, coffee sites, golf advice, and more). Also, sign up for The eMaleRoom email discussion list to share what's on your heart with other men around the world. Or participate in the site's Message Boards.
<http://www.MensMinistryConnection.com>.

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