

David's Mighty Men IX Introduction 2008 - 2009

Vision and Purpose

The vision for DMM was born out of a desire to challenge the men of Loudonville Community Church to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. More specifically, the vision is to equip men to be spiritual leaders in their homes, their church, their community and their world.

Introduction and History

DMM is uniquely LCC! Since its beginning in 1999, we have developed our own identity and style. Through the years we have focused on different topics of study.

- **David's Mighty Men I (2000-2001)**
Various subjects related to a man's spiritual development (spiritual disciplines, personal holiness, family, leadership, evangelism, etc.).
- **David's Mighty Men II (2001-2002)**
A systematic theology book by Dr. Wayne Grudem titled *Bible Doctrine*.
- **David's Mighty Men III (2002-2003)**
The life of David as presented in the Scriptures.
- **David's Mighty Men IV (2003-2004)**
A book on spiritual growth by Dr. Henry Cloud and John Townsend titled *How People Grow*. Also the eight character qualities outlined in II Peter 1:5-7.
- **David's Mighty Men V (2004-2005)**
The Book of Romans using John Stott's commentary as supplemental material.
- **David's Mighty Men VI (2005 -2006)**
A book on personal revival by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Tim Grissom titled *Seeking Him*. Also Acts 1-12.
- **David's Mighty Men VII (2006-2007)**
Moses: The Humblest Man on Earth! Our Bible study focused on the Book of Exodus, Numbers (chapters 10-27) and Deuteronomy (chapters 29-34).
- **David's Mighty Men VIII (2007-2008)**
The Life of Paul: A Serendipitous Journey. We examined Paul's surprising discoveries, as spelled out in some of his letters.

The Original Version of David's Mighty Men

Three thousand years ago, King David organized the original group of *David's Mighty Men*. Read about this in II Samuel 23:8-39. To be included in this elite band of men, one had to:

1. Join the King's army

A decision was required. Will I choose to identify my interests with those of King David... or not? Originally, those soldiers who signed on to fight with David were a group of "losers." *All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him (David), and he became their leader. (I Sam. 22:2)*. Over time, however, these "losers" became "winners." The King was able to take "nobodies" and turn them in to "somebodies"... mighty men of God.

2. Imitate the King's character

David had a heart like God's heart (I Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). To be one of his *mighty men* meant that you had a heart that beat for the same things his beat for: the glory of God, mercy, godliness, worship, justice, the Word of God.

3. Trust the King's resources

David trusted in God and God delivered him from all his enemies. *I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies (Psalm 18:2)*. To be a mighty man of David, you too had to learn to trust in the resources of the king's King!

4. Do Exploits!

Membership in the original band of *David's Mighty Men* had nothing to do with education, finances, family ties, popularity or talents. To be enrolled in this most elite group, one had to do exploits (heroic acts). One had to accomplish a God-sized mission for the sake of the kingdom. David was a giant-killer (I Sam. 17). To be a *mighty man*, you had to be a giant-killer, too!

Look at some of the exploits of this original DMM:

- Josheb-Basshebeth (II Sam. 23:8). *...he raised his spear against 800 men, whom he killed in one encounter.*
- Eleazar (II Sam. 23:9-10). *...he was with David when they taunted the Philistines... The men of Israel retreated, but he stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword...*
- Shammah (II Sam. 23:11-12). *...he took his stand in the middle of the field (of lentils). He defended it and struck the Philistines down....*
- Abishai (II Sam. 23:18-19). *...he raised his spear against 300 men, whom he killed...*
- Benaiah (II Sam. 23:20-23). *...he struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. And he struck down a huge Egyptian. Although the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear....*

The Profile of a "Mighty Man"

The success of our men's ministry at LCC should never be measured by mere attendance or whether or not men "like" what we do here. Success, rather, will be achieved when those involved excel in the following areas:

1. Knowledge (What he knows...)

A "mighty man" will be someone who has a sound working knowledge of:

- The Bible
- The Gospel
- Who God is
- Himself
- The will of God
- A Christian worldview

2. Character (Who he is....)

A "mighty man" will be someone who reflects the very image of God:

- Christlike
- Holiness of heart and life
- Man of integrity
- Moral purity
- Practices spiritual disciplines
- Manifests the fruits of the Spirit
- Growing in grace

3. Service (What he does....)

A "mighty man" will be someone who manifests the authenticity of his faith by his actions at home, at work, at church, in the world:

- A family man
- A witness for Jesus Christ
- A servant
- Knows and uses his spiritual gift(s)
- Makes disciples
- Active member of Christ's body
- Obedient to the voice of God
- Involved in ministry

4. Community (Who he is in relationship with....)

A "mighty man" realizes he cannot live in isolation from other "mighty men." He seeks to build deep interpersonal relationships with others that reflect:

- Mutual accountability
- Unity
- Team ministry
- Corporate worship, Bible study, prayer
- Deep friendships

Table Talk

Look again at the profile of a Mighty Man: Knowledge (What he knows), Character (Who he is), Service (What he does), Community (Who he is in relationship with).

1. Which of these areas do you think men today struggle with the most?
2. Which do you struggle with the most?
3. Are you in a small group? How could your small group help men to resemble more the ideal of a true Mighty Man?

David's Mighty Men IX

The format of this year's program will be familiar to those who have participated before:

- monthly large group meetings on Saturday mornings.
- participation in a men's small group that meets weekly.
- daily quiet time that includes material we are studying.
- do "exploits" (mighty deeds).
- encouragement to be involved in other men's events:
 - in the church (prayer ministries, service opportunities, classes, conferences, etc.)
 - beyond the church (retreats, special outings, etc.)
 - in the region (area conferences, etc.)

This year we intend to focus on three priorities:

- I. Introduction to Christian apologetics (*A Reasonable Hope*).
- II. Getting more men involved in small groups and encouraging each group to go deep in fellowship, faith and accountability.
- III. Outreach, evangelism, service, etc. (*Pass It On*).

I. Intro to Christian Apologetics (*A Reasonable Hope*).

This year the content of DMM teaching will focus on the subject of apologetics (defending the faith). The material will be communicated in two manners:

A. Monthly Meetings.

Each month Pastor Stan will be teaching on one of the great intellectual questions of our day. A notebook will be provided and each month notes will be prepared for each participant. Each topic will basically be a single, stand-alone unit. The schedule looks like this:

1) September 13, 2008	Mind Matters (Intro to Apologetics).
2) November 1, 2008	Does God Exist?
3) December 13, 2008	Can We Trust the Bible?
4) January 10, 2009	Where Did It All Begin?
5) February 21, 2009	Why Pain?
6) March 21, 2009	One Way?
7) May 16, 2009	What About Other Religions?

B. Small Groups.

Small groups will study the book *What's So Great About Christianity?* written by Dinesh D'Souza? There has been no attempt to synchronize the monthly teachings by Stan with the chapter studies in our small groups. However, you will discover overlap of themes at many points during the year. A *Weekly Schedule (in the front pocket of this notebook)* has been provided to help the small groups cover the contents of the book during the next nine-month period. Notice that extra weeks have been built into the schedule so that topics can be discussed in greater detail.

NOTE – A Word of Explanation About Our Textbook.

The author has written his book “not only for believers but also for unbelievers” (xv). Therefore, we should not expect D’Souza to present his arguments as if he were speaking to Christians alone. He is having a conversation with our culture! This is perhaps the primary reason the book was chosen for DMM.

D’Souza paints with a broad brush. Rather than treating a few subjects deeply, he treats many subjects rapidly. This is another reason why the book was chosen. It gives us a big picture of the intellectual challenges before the church today.

Specifically, D’Souza writes in response to “the anti-religious arguments of prominent atheists like Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, and...others...” (xvi). As such, his book is more of a contemporary counterattack in the current debate than a formal introduction to Apologetics.

In choosing this book, Pastor Stan in no way intends to endorse everything D’Souza is saying. Indeed, readers may find themselves in disagreement with the author at numerous points. Good! (For example, D’Souza promotes theistic evolution). The purpose in studying this book is to challenge us to engage the issues of our day and learn to think for ourselves!

There is no Study Guide and no prepared questions. Therefore, the one teaching a given chapter from the book for his small group is encouraged to:

- Ensure that each member of the small group has read the chapter in advance.
- Prepare his own set of questions to use for discussion with his small group.
- Make sure that Scripture is incorporated into the discussion.
- Work to enable the group to conclude each study with some strong affirmations and conclusions . . . not just unanswered questions.

II. Getting more men involved in small groups and encouraging each group to go deep in fellowship, faith and accountability.

Many men at LCC are not currently in a small group. Therefore we want to see more men involved. We recognize that there are other small group opportunities at LCC, notably couples groups and ministry groups. However, as men, we know the importance of men relating to men.

Further, we recognize that some of our small groups have become more “good-ole-boy” gatherings than places for serious discipleship. We hope to encourage our small groups this year to go deeper with God and with one another.

III. Outreach, evangelism, service, etc. (Pass It On).

As in recent years, we will continue to look for creative and effective ways to help men become involved in service to others (witness, ministries, disaster assistance, service projects, etc.). We want to be givers... not just takers. Throughout the year, we plan to highlight various ministry opportunities and encourage men to get involved.

Small Groups

Every participant in the DMM program will be encouraged to become involved in a weekly small group. There are enough small group options so that most men are able to find one that fits their schedule (see page 11). The small group coordinator works hard to make sure that small group leaders have enough orientation to the year's program so that all our groups are moving in the same direction. It is the responsibility of a small group leader to:

- Call and lead the meetings.
- Make sure that everyone in the group knows each other and feels welcomed.
- Follow up on those who are absent. If someone drops out, inform the small group coordinator.
- Make sure that the programmed material is covered.
- Implement any other initiatives and emphases that DMM may promote.
- Lead group discussions.
- Provide general leadership for the group.
- Make sure that DMM materials are available to all group members.
- Work to ensure that the group begins and ends on time.
- Appoint a leader when he is absent.

Weekly Plan for Small Groups

Small groups are encouraged to use the *Weekly Schedule* to help them complete the material in the time allotted. Each participant should keep this guide handy so that he can prepare at home the material being studied that week in his small group.

Each small group will determine its own approach to how each lesson is taught. Some groups may have a designated "teacher." However, most groups will want to share the teaching responsibility with various members of the group. It is important that all members come prepared and freely enter into the group discussion.

The basic format for a small group meeting should divide the time together into three (roughly) equal portions. The order may vary, but all three elements should normally be present every time the group meets: sharing, studying, and praying.

1. Sharing

During this part of your meeting, the men will gather and talk about their week. The leader will make sure that the sharing is meaningful. Are there prayer requests? Any difficult life situations? Any blessings, answers to prayer?

During this time, the group should ask accountability questions. Make sure that each member of the group has had an opportunity to share life goals for which he wants the group to hold him accountable. For example:

- Daily quiet time
- Tithing
- Personal purity
- Temptations
- Exercise
- Eating
- Family responsibilities
- Witnessing

Once these have been shared, accountability questions should be natural. Consider using the questions John Wesley urged his small groups to use over 250 years ago:

- 1) What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
- 2) What temptations have you met with?
- 3) How were you delivered?
- 4) What have you thought, said or done of which you doubt whether it be sin or not?

2. Studying

One member of the group will have been designated "teacher" for that day. He should have prepared the designated chapter from D'Souza's book (see the *Weekly Schedule*) so that he can guide the group in a study of that chapter.

3. Praying

Make sure that a good portion of time is reserved each week for prayer. Prayer should not be forced, and no one should be made to feel uncomfortable by the form of prayer used, but opportunity should be given to each man to pray. Sometimes pray as a group. Other times consider praying in pairs, or threesomes.

Materials and Costs

We believe that our Men's Ministry should not be a drain on the budget of the church. Most of us are able to cover the costs of the materials we use.

• Notebook (binder, dividers, paper)	\$15.00
• Textbook – <i>What's So Great About Christianity?</i>	<u>\$20.00</u>
Total	<u>\$35.00</u>

For those who so desire, customized clothing (shirts, vests and jackets) are available on Saturdays after DMM meetings. Other costs that may be involved include:

- Freewill donation for the cost of breakfast once a month
- Men's Retreat
- Iron Sharpens Iron
- Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Can Others Attend?

Yes! The DMM large group monthly meeting is meant to be an "entry point" for any man who wants connection with other men in the Body of Christ. Although there is an overall plan to what is being taught this year, Stan's monthly teachings are individual units that can be understood alone. Therefore, visitors are always welcome. Those who attend a large group meeting will be urged to join a small group.

Monthly Meetings

The basic schedule for our monthly Saturday meetings will be as follows:

7:00 – 7:45 AM	Prayer in the Prayer Garden (optional)
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 – 8:50 AM	Worship and Praise
8:50 – 9:05 AM	Exploits/Testimonies/Ministry Reports
9:05 – 10:30 AM	Bible Study and Table Discussions

Special Events Schedule 2008 – 2009

Beyond the monthly large group meetings on Saturday, other special events have been planned for the coming year. Mark your calendars now for these special activities. The costs of these events will be communicated as they become available.

- **Men's Breakfast with Sammy Tippit. September 30.**
On Tuesday, September 30, at 7:00 AM, all men are invited to a breakfast where Sammy Tippit will speak on the subject "Waiting to Run."
- **Men's Retreat. October 10-11 (Friday evening - Saturday late afternoon).**
Our men's retreat this year will be at Camp Pinnacle and will focus on serving others. Expect minimal comforts but maximal fellowship. We will work hard helping with various projects at the camp. Pastor Chris Gerardi (Director of Camp Pinnacle) will lead devotions for us. Cost: \$40.00 per person.
- **Iron Sharpens Iron. April 4, 2009.**
For the fifth year in a row, LCC will host the ISI regional men's conference. Last year about 900 men attended. Plenary speakers this year will be Reggie Dabbs and Ted Roberts. Numerous excellent workshops will be offered.
- **Deep Sea Fishing Trip. Date TBA (April or May).**
Plan on inviting your son, daughter or bring a friend. The fellowship is terrific!

My Commitment

To better enable me to be a Mighty Man of God, I commit myself for the following ten months to:

1. To attend the monthly meetings and the meetings of my Small Group.
2. To complete the assigned readings.
3. To establish and keep a daily personal quiet time where I can be alone with God to pray and to read His Word.
4. To keep confidential any sensitive information that others in my Small Group may share.
5. To ask God to take me out of my comfort zone this year and to truly experience growth in some specific area of my spiritual life.
6. To commit myself to action & get involved in one ministry so I can impact my world for Christ.

Signature

Date

Who's Who?

The following names will be a helpful resource if you need information about various aspects of the DMM program.

Coordinator			
Ministry	Contact	Phone	E-mail
Men's Ministries	Gordon Tucker	356-0364	gtucker1@nycap.rr.com
David's Mighty Men	Don Ossenfort	378-4751	dono-ministry@nycap.rr.com
Small Groups	Jeff Kline	456-3323	jdkline@juno.com
Worship & Praise	Joel Crimmins	283-6334	jcrimmins@capitalbank.com
Men's Retreat	Doug Petersen	784-2500	dougpetersen@skiltons.org
Regional Men's Conference	Gordon Tucker	356-0364	gtucker1@nycap.rr.com
Prayer Ministries	Don Ossenfort	446-1267	wsarnold@verizon.net
Helps Ministries	Steve Brickman	463-2606	sbrickman@nycap.rr.com
Hospitality	Gene Wang	785-7263	wangbade@msn.com
DMM Shirts	George Johnson	449-8434	
Information	Tim Gerardi	446-9494	tgerardi@localnet.com
DMM Web Site	Erich Rupprecht	286-2575	erichr@lcchurch.org
DMM Bears Fruit Food Pantry Liaison	Jeff Dugrenier	283-0879	jdugreni@nycap.rr.com
Common Ground	Sung Do	275-2279	Sungdo78@yahoo.com
College & Career	Joe Lynskey	275-1438	joel@lcchurch.org
Good Fight of Faith	Steve Hayford	482-3029	stephenhayford@juno.com
DMM Audio Taping	Chuck Stuber	785-0577	crstuber@yahoo.com
DMM Clean-up	Frank Conroy	782-7282	fconroy@nycap.rr.com
Disaster Assistance Team	Dick Tyrrell	461-9021	rtyrrell@nycap.rr.com
Pastor	Stan Key	426-0751	lcc@lcchurch.org
Pastor	Mike Conley	426-0751	mikec@lcchurch.org
Pastor	Garth Allen	426-0751	gartha@lcchurch.org

Small Group Times and Locations					
Leader	Day	Time	Frequency	Location	E-mail
Rich Marsan	Tuesday	7:00 AM	Weekly	Church Office	Rick.marsan@juno.com
Bob Houck	Thursday	7:00 PM	Weekly	116	Rhouck2@verizon.net
Don Ossenfort	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Weekly	320	Dono-ministry2@ycap.rr.com
Bill Wood	Tuesday	6:30 AM	Weekly	220 – Youth Center	wcwoodwx@yahoo.com
Paul Hayford	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Weekly	Empire State Plaza	pghayford@hotmail.com
John Graham	Thursday	6:30 AM	Weekly	Church Office	johndawn@empireone.net
Paul Ryan	Thursday	6:30 AM	Weekly	204	packerpgr@yahoo.com
Eric Nicolaisen	Thursday	7:00 PM	Weekly	Elevator Lobby	ericnic@nycap.rr.com
Bill Law	Friday	6:00 AM	Weekly	Commons	lawwi@yahoo.com
Doug Petersen	Wednesday	6:30 AM	Weekly	Denny's in E.. Greenbush	DougPetersen@skiltions.org
Gerry Winn	Saturday	After DMM	Monthly	204	winnginger@nycap.rr.com
Paul Hayford	Saturday	After DMM	Monthly	320	pghayford@hotmail.com

Please note:

Contact the small group leader to be assured of the times and places of the small group meeting.
Also, be sure to check if that small group is open to accept, new men into their group.