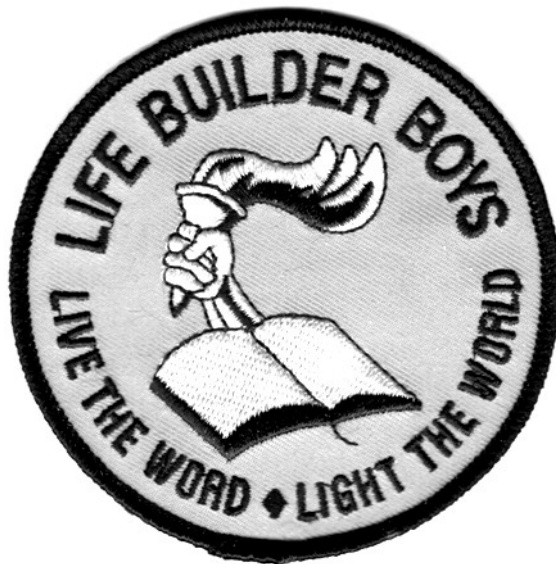


Manpower Needed

The courage and character of
those called to lead



Guiding boys from Calvary to Christian service

Needed: Good Men To Do Good Things

We live in a rapidly changing time, where “*iniquity abounds*” and the “*love of many wax cold*” just as Jesus said it would be (Mat 24:12). Our young men are at even greater risk than we were at their age. Each one of us must determine to put our “shoulder to the plow, not looking back”, and (thus) be “*fit for the Kingdom of God*.” (Luke 9:62) With a determined attitude we must use the many opportunities the Lord will make available to us. This can be a great time for men of God to march toward their greatest achievement – winning of our sons for Christ. It doesn’t take many to make a difference! Gideon had only three hundred and defeated a massive army! Jesus had only twelve and began His global church! And in Ezekiel 22:30 God says He is looking for at least one “*man among them, that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap*”! Will you be one of those men??



Called and Committed

Near the end of His ministry, Jesus gathered his disciples to give them some final encouragement and instruction. There was a world to be reached, lives to be changed, a church to be built, and His men had a decision to make. And thus came our Lord’s charge: “*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...*” (John 15:16)

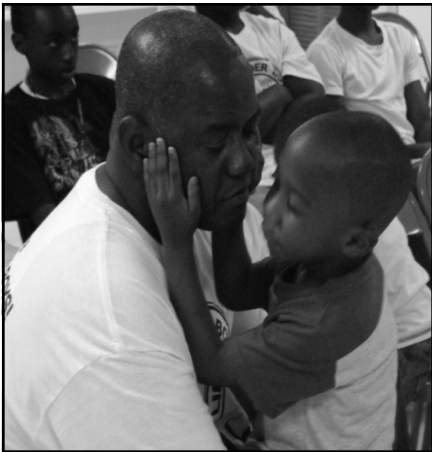
Service to and for the Lord is not our choice – it is His calling. Of the many folks around us, (some seemingly more suitable than we) God chooses us to complete the ‘construction’ for which He laid the ‘foundation’ (Read 1Cor 3:10-15). We should feel both honored and humbled. There is something God sees in our heart. It is rarely some brilliant talent or special skill, or anything considered remarkable by others. Does He see that we believe the Lord deserves our best (so do others) and that we will do whatever it takes to get His job done? If you feel Him calling you, it is because He knows your heart. But, do you know your own heart? Men often don’t!!

Men are easily steered by a sense of obligation or duty (“Well, there’s a gap – I’m a man – guess I should stand in it”) But this is not reason enough to engage in this important ministry! Ask yourself, “For what do I have passion and compassion: what drives me, what stirs my heart?” More specifically ask, “Am I moved by concern for the well-being of young men, making me want to mentor them, protect them, encourage them – to steer them from life’s dangers and into our Lord’s hands?” If your answer is “Yes!!”, then a calling to serve in Life Builder Boys seems certain. However, “calling” does not automatically result in commitment! Calling is invited to begin - your Commitment will see it through to the end. No matter what!! For this reason, you are asked to prayerfully search your heart, consider your motives, seek the Lord’s confirmation, and then resolve in yourself that **this will be your most important, and most rewarding, life adventure.**

Check Yourself Out Before Checking In

Some men may want to (but should not) be a leader in a boy's ministry! We know the Lord calls whom He wills. But there are also times when some will 'call themselves'!! These boys are God's prized possessions. Please consider the following concerns as you evaluate yourself for this Christian service before trying to work so closely with boys and young men.

PRIDE. Men are attracted to positions of authority for a variety of reasons – some are good, some are not! We receive great satisfaction in helping others and in seeing through our ambitious goals. But never should this be done at another's expense! As more than one brother-in-Christ has had to be reminded, **the end does not justify the means!** (2Tim 3:5 says "*And if a man strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully*", alluding to Olympic competitions where shortcuts don't count!) No matter how noble your goal, don't break the 'rules' (or the 'spirits') of those entrusted to you !!



You are being asked to serve and, as a "*servant of the Lord*", you must be "*gentle...apt to teach, patient*", helping others in "*meekness*" (from 2Tim 2:24-26.) In this passage Paul says we "*must not strive*" (no 'heavy-handed leadership'.) Frankly, some men are attracted to leading boys for no better reason than to just be the 'biggest guy in the room'. For some men their life has not yet given them a chance to be 'head and shoulders above others' and now they finally have some little fellas to look down at.! This is sad when you consider that our boys need the right kind of role models to look up to! Men in this ministry need to

have the boys' needs at heart, not their own!

PATIENCE is the quality of knowing that things are happening, even when they don't seem to be. This ministry to boys is a spiritual work, as important on the inside as anything visible on the outside. Some men are too impatient: they want results – NOW! But God's progress on all of us is usually subtle, though steady. Men leading boys need confidence that what is on the inside will eventually reach the surface. Gardeners know that some of the most important development in a young seedling's life occurs before the first sprout pierces the ground!

After speaking about trials and tribulations (something every leader of boys may feel they are experiencing in weekly meetings – said in humor, of course) the Apostle James admonishes us to "*let patience have her perfect work...*" (Jas 2:4) Why? So we may be "*perfect and entire, wanting nothing*"!! Perfect here means complete – you're not whole until you can handle the whole thing! Always remember that your participation in a boy's ministry is just as beneficial ('blessing filled') for you as it is for them. Grow along with your boys!



PRIORITIES. Let it be plainly said: DISCIPLING REQUIRES DISCIPLINE! To “*go into all the world and make disciples of all nations*” will require us to do just this – get up and go!! To do that requires of us self-discipline. When you decide to participate in a ministry with boys, leading them to Jesus and down the exciting path to Christian maturity, it will be a **life-changer for you as well as for them!** The order-of-things in your life, how you apply any spare time (or spare coins) may need to change as well. For those with an already busy schedule, something will have to ‘give’. This is where prayer plays a very important role. Seek the Lord’s decision over this and let His will become your want to. He will make it work for you if you will work with Him!

An important note: this ministry with boys requires a variety of involved men (some helping every week, some monthly, and some on occasions when their special skills are needed.) Whatever measure of time and commitment you can make, the above words on ‘priorities’ are an appeal to give, when it is your turn, your best to the boys “*as unto the Lord.*”

PURITY. The importance of being a right role model is emphasized throughout the scriptures. The boys under your charge need your good example to follow. Paul told the Corinthians that they were his “*epistles...known and read of all men*” (2Cor 3:2) **Your life becomes the lesson!!** Paul gives us his personal example “*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*” (1Cor 11:1) No man can hope to inspire young lives to faith, courage, and holiness unless he is willing to “*keep*” himself “*into subjection*” (self control, purity) “*...lest that by any means, when (he) have preached to others (he himself) should be a castaway.*” (1Cor 9:27) **Don’t risk backsliding!!** Paul did not take his position in Christ (nor his eternal hope) for granted. Thus, he explained “*...every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.*” (v.25) Purity does not always mean ‘perfection’. But what is in your heart will always find its way out and, unfortunately, sometimes in front of the very ones who count the most on you. Prayer changes people as well as problems. Pray about this if you are having reservations about it.

Finally, it will be said in as few words as possible that, in this Christian ministry to young men, there is no place for anyone who has an inappropriate affection toward males which substitutes for the Biblical model of male with female relationships. This is not referring to anyone who is just more at ease with those of their own gender, or who have not yet established themselves in a relationship of the Biblical model. But, as a serious caution, we must always strive to keep ourselves, and our activities, above reproach! Absolutely NEVER should we risk subjecting our young boys to the “*iniquity*” which is “*abounding*” in this present time (Mat 24:12. See also Romans 1) Please withdraw yourself if you have any personal uncertainties about your emotions as presented here. More helpful, discuss this with your pastor or trusted spiritual friend.

Copyright 2019

This manual and all related printed materials, which constitute the literature of the **Life Builder Boys** ministry program, as well as all original terms and ideas, are protected under the copyright laws of the United States. Reproduction is authorized for the express purpose of conducting such youth ministry as is intended by said content, wherein that the source is appropriately identified.

Literature and illustrations of this manual created by: Rev. David A. Goodrum www.sailingservant.org