

Meeting Plan

October 10, 2009

Gathering men for fellowship, food, and focus.



Scripture Focus

“Now you, man of God, run from these things; but pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness” (1 Timothy 6:11, HCSB).

Monthly Mission Focus

Churches and communities want and need Christian men to mentor younger men and boys in the missional dimensions of the Christian faith while modeling the attributes of a righteous man.

Before the meeting: Planning

For October, Baptist Men are encouraged to adjust their normal meeting plans to gather on Saturday, October 10, 2009, to join men across the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada for The Bigger Breakfast.

If you've not already done so, please register your church's intention to join The Bigger Breakfast at www.bmen.net/tbb. This will facilitate the North American Mission Board's ability to gather a head count to determine the size of the event.

By promoting an event called The Bigger Breakfast, it's likely that men who gather will expect a big breakfast! Please plan your breakfast meal accordingly. Also, remember that there may be special dietary considerations, so please take these into account.

Should you charge men for The Bigger Breakfast? Yes, it's reasonable to set a small fee to cover the cost of the meal. However, please don't let that fee stand in the way of a man participating or bringing other men or boys.

The Bigger Breakfast can easily be a multi-generational event. Plan to include Royal Ambassadors (RAs) to help with promotion, set up, food collection and distribution, and any mission project that your church or association might plan for the day. For more information on Royal Ambassadors, visit www.royalambassadors.org.

For churches using the 40-Day Baptist Men's Prayer Plan for Spiritual Awakening, be sure to download and copy the PDF version of this prayer plan at www.bmen.net/prayer. Each man attending the breakfast will need a copy to take home. Your church may choose to use The Bigger Breakfast as a launch event for a ministry to and with the men in your congregation. Asking men to join the 40-Day Baptist Men's Prayer Plan for Spiritual Awakening will help your church maintain emphasis on the potential of what God can do through your men.

Ongoing missions learning is critical for the spiritual growth of every man. The Bigger Breakfast offers your church or association a great opportunity to invite men to register for BMEN Online, a weekly missions e-Newsletter for Baptist Men. The 40-Day Baptist Men's Prayer Plan handout includes the Web address for BMEN Online (www.bmen.net/online).

Baptist Men's leaders can enhance the gathering time of fellowship with a missions fair that includes special interest displays. Besides promoting missions efforts by your church, please invite your association and state Baptist convention to have representation. It could be a display or a selection of brochures and flyers that indicate how God is at work through those entities.

Promotional resources from the North American Mission Board are available via e-mail request at bmen@namb.net. Our recommendation includes copies of the Mission Education brochure, the Acts 1:8 brochure, and the God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) brochure. For more information on GPS, visit www.nei2020.com. Because The Bigger Breakfast will promote Southern Baptists' annual World Hunger Fund offering (www.namb.net/hunger), please include a display and information about this important initiative. Promotional resources from the International Mission Board are available via e-mail request at imb@imb.org.

An option would be to couple The Bigger Breakfast with an Outdoor Expo that follows the meal and lasts much of the day. An Outdoor Expo is an event where hunting and fishing enthusiasts gather to learn about new equipment, techniques, and skills related to the outdoors while hearing a gospel presentation. Event sponsors could invite local vendors to bring boats and fishing gear, host gun safety classes, and conduct contests including casting skills.

A second option would be to follow the breakfast with a missions workday. This would be an initiative meant to meet needs within your community and create evangelism opportunities. Options include doing minor home repairs for needy homeowners, hosting a pit stop event, or distributing the food collected at the morning breakfast. Information about conducting these and other initiatives is available from Leading Baptist Men.

The Sunday following The Bigger Breakfast is World Hunger Day in Southern Baptist churches. Promotional materials for World Hunger day are available at www.namb.net/hunger. Baptist Men's leaders may encourage The Bigger Breakfast participants to bring a canned or boxed food item to their event as a donation to a local food pantry. Part of the closing challenge will be for men to participate financially on Sunday, October 11, as Southern Baptist churches across the U.S. and Canada collect for the World Hunger Fund.

Enlist a male speaker for this event. This needs to be someone who is comfortable speaking to men's groups. Please recommend that they use the Speaker's Outline downloadable from www.bmen.net/breakfast. Among the potential speakers would be your state or national convention's evangelism or ministry evangelism director, an evangelist, associational director of missions, area pastor, or layman.

Day of the meeting: Fellowship

Men enjoy the camaraderie of one another's company. Plan to welcome each man and boy who arrives and encourage them for participating in The Bigger Breakfast. Invite the men and boys to get a cup of coffee or other refreshment and meet other men and boys while waiting for breakfast to be served. Invite the men and boys to visit any missions displays that might be in the room.

During the meeting: Food

Call the men to order, welcome them to The Bigger Breakfast, and thank them for choosing to participate.

Pray a blessing over the fellowship, food, and focus of The Bigger Breakfast.

During the meeting: Focus

As men finish their meal, the Baptist Men's leader or event organizer can call the meeting to order by thanking men for their participation and reminding them that they are one of potentially thousands of churches in the U.K., U.S. and Canada that are gathering that day for The Bigger Breakfast.

Pray and ask God to reveal Himself to Baptist Men in a powerful way during this special day of gathering across two continents. Ask that Baptist Men would gain a vision for how God can use them in His Acts 1:8 mission.

Announce the 40-Day Baptist Men's Prayer Plan for Spiritual Awakening and encourage men to take a copy of the plan home that you've printed beforehand and to make this a part of their daily devotion.

Invite participants to register for BMEN Online, a weekly e-Newsletter that brings important missions learning and information to their inbox. Delivered each Wednesday, this e-Newsletter will include a mission focus article, personal development article, missions in the news, mission prayer requests, urgent missions needs, and links to current missions videos and podcasts. Men can register at www.bmen.net/online. That address is included in their prayer plan handout.

Announce that tomorrow, Sunday, October 11, is World Hunger Day in Southern Baptist churches. Thank the men who brought canned or boxed goods and tell them how the church or association will distribute the items to needy people. If your church has Royal Ambassadors, this would be a good way to involve RAs as they collect the goods that men bring to The Bigger Breakfast. Remind the men that there are hunger needs around the world than can be met better with cash donations and the purchase of bulk foods. They can donate monetarily to the World Hunger Fund on Sunday.

Introduce your event speaker. Invite a pastor, evangelist, missionary, or layman who is comfortable speaking before men's groups. The Speaker's Outline will assist your speaker in his preparation.

Closing

After the speaker has concluded, the Baptist Men's leader or event sponsor will once again thank men for their participation while challenging them to engage more fully in their church's men's organization. Take this time to share the plans for ministry to and with men in your church and how each man present can plug into these opportunities. Remind them about the World Hunger Fund emphasis on Sunday, then close in prayer.

After the Meeting

Please e-mail bmen@namb.net by Monday, October 12, 2009, with a report from your church's or association's The Big-Breakfast. Please include a head count with breakouts for adults, children, and guests plus any professions of faith. We would welcome stories about your event, particularly your church's response to the World Hunger Day emphasis on Sunday, October 11, 2009.