

Baptist Men's Day



JANUARY 28, 2018

IDEAS FOR PLANNING BAPTIST MEN'S DAY IN YOUR CHURCH

The fourth Sunday in January is the designated day each year for Baptist Men's Day. Churches use this day to remind their entire congregation of the importance of Baptist Men's ministry within the church, community, and the world. The 84rd observance of Baptist Men's Day this year falls on January 28. But if January 28 is not a convenient date for Baptist Men's Day in your church, please feel free to plan it for any another Sunday.

Here are some tips to help you prepare for this important day in your church:

- ◇ Form a planning team. This team should reflect the size of your church and Baptist Men's group. Those who comprise the team might include the church Baptist Men's director, the Men's Ministries director, the pastor or assigned staff member, and any other men as deemed necessary.
- ◇ Your planning team should begin meeting at least two months before Baptist Men's Day. Look toward accomplishment of the following:
 - Coordinate the date on church calendar.
 - Determine what you hope to accomplish.
 - Plan activities related to these goals.
 - Determine who will carry out each activity.
 - Make assignments.
 - Secure needed materials.
 - Keep track of the progress.

Six Weeks Before...

- ◇ Select a special ministry project to be completed in conjunction with Baptist Men's Day. (see special section on p. 2)

Visit our website at www.baptistsonmission.org for more Men's Ministry resources. Go to "Church Programs/Men's Ministry/ Baptist Men's Day".

"Open Handed"

Psalm 63: 2-4

- ◇ Plan a Sunday morning prayer breakfast along with Baptist Men's Day. (See p. 2)
- ◇ Consult with your pastor about the Sunday morning service. Ask your pastor about adopting the ideas - or similar ideas - suggested on page 3. If your men do not participate in the service, ask your pastor to bring a challenging message to men or to suggest a guest speaker to do so.
- ◇ Plan a recognition time during the morning or evening service for men involved in missions and ministries through your local Baptist Men. Sample certificates are available from NCBM—mabernathy@ncbaptist.org.
- ◇ Select men to share testimonies of missions and ministry involvement in each adult Sunday School class.
- ◇ Select men to share during the worship service a testimony of how they have experienced God at work in their life.

One Month Before...

- ◇ Place announcements of BMD activities in the church bulletin and newsletter.
- ◇ Have a display of Men's Ministries materials and photos of your activities over the past year ready for display in the church foyer.
- ◇ Enlist men to make announcements about BMD activities in all adult Sunday School classes for each of the next four Sundays.
- ◇ Begin practice for men's choir.
- ◇ Begin creation of a short PowerPoint of the past year's Baptist Men's activities to be shown during the worship service.
- ◇ Confirm with those responsible for all activities you have decided upon.
- ◇ Check progress of all plans and correct anything not progressing as scheduled.

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

Plan a special event for the Saturday before Baptist Men's Day. Some suggestions are listed below. There may be other activities appropriate to your church and community as well.

Conduct a **"Handyman Ministry Day"** dedicated to helping those who may not be physically able to do simple household chores. This can be for church members, and/or as an outreach to the community.

Conduct an **Outdoor Ministry event** (skeet, archery, etc.) and/or wild game supper, incorporated with a men's worship rally Saturday night.

Plan a **Men's Golf tournament** or other outing that unchurched men could be invited to.

Plan a showing of **Session One of "The Real Win" DVD** (all six sessions available for download at Lifeway.com for only \$3.99 per.) for the night before Baptist Men's Day. Plan a meal (wild game?) and invite unchurched men. Incorporate worshipful singing, small group discussion (guide available) and a prayer time. Use this as a kick-off to doing the rest of this six session hunting and fishing series.

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY SUNDAY GATHERING

If you did not plan Saturday events, a Sunday morning men's breakfast gathering would be an excellent way to start your Baptist Men's Day celebration. It allows men to gather for fellowship, a spiritual challenge, and prayer before the activities of the day.

This gathering can serve three purposes: it calls men together to discover what God is doing in their lives and the life of the church; it is a good way to encourage ongoing relationship-building among men; and it can be used as a challenge to begin small groups (prayer or book study) if they do not already exist in your church.

If your church does not currently have a Baptist Men's Ministry, perhaps this would be a good time to discuss beginning one. Call the NCBM Office for starter information. 919-459-5596

Some churches ask the church hostess to prepare a breakfast for this. In others, men prepare the food themselves or meet in a local restaurant.

Suggested Schedule:

- ◇ **25 minutes:** Breakfast and fellowship.
- ◇ **3 minutes:** Welcome & opening prayer.
- ◇ **5 minutes:** Promote opportunities for your men, including: Disaster Relief Training, Local, State, National, or International Mission Projects. Go to our website for ideas.

Also Promote:

Special Baptist Men's Day Offering. Consider taking up a special offering to help in one of several on-going ministry needs. To learn more, go to www.baptistsonmission.org. Click on "Giving/Least of These" to see a list of possibilities. You can give online or make checks payable to NCBM, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512. Put the name of the particular ministry you wish to give to in the memo of the check.

NC Missions Conference. Plan to attend the NC Baptist Missions Conference, which will be held April 6-7 2018 at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte. Call the NCBM office at 919-459-5596 or visit our website at www.baptistsonmission.org for information.

- ◇ **10 minutes:** Explanation and highlight of the Men's Ministries program in your church or a challenge to begin one. Go to the website at www.baptistsonmission.org to view information about how to have a well-rounded ministry to men in your church on a consistent basis. Cast a vision for your men of how this might look in your church. Download any number of Men's Ministry handouts, including the manual "Men's Ministries: A Resource for Starting and Strengthening Men's Ministries In Your Church" or show a Men's Ministry Power-Point presentation. [Click on Church Programs/Men's Ministry and go to the Events and Resources page]
- ◇ **5 minutes:** Show a NCBM video segment. NCBM has a YouTube channel. Mission video segments can be found on this channel, depicting a variety of mission opportunities—such as Disaster Relief, International and National Missions, Mission Camps, Handyman, and much more. Go to our website at www.baptistsonmission.org. Click on the YouTube icon at the top of the page. You can stream the video from the site, or call the Baptist Men's office to see about receiving one of these videos on DVD (according to availability): 1-800-395-5102, x 5596.
- ◇ **7 minutes:** Singing of praise choruses

10 minutes: Scripture & Theme Interpretation

Theme: Open Hands
Scripture: Psalm 63: 2-4

When you get a group of men together, small-talk does not usually come easily. The “safe” topics seem to be sports, the weather, hunting/fishing, etc. At some point the question “So, what do you do?” is usually asked. For most of us, the question ‘what do you do?’ is interpreted as ‘who are you?’, because most of us identify what we do with who we are. We allow our work to define us. Likewise, most men like to stay busy, and therefore, to fill their hands. Some fill their hands with various kinds of tools that are used to make or fix things. Some hands are filled with a steering wheel as they drive heavy machinery or long-distant transportation. Others fill their hands with delicate surgical or dental instruments. Still others fill their hands with a keyboard as they communicate and facilitate business. On and on it goes. You fill in the blank as to what keeps your hands busy.

In Psalm 63: 2-4 we are called to empty our hands and to lift up open hands in praise and honor to our glorious God. (Read the verses again out loud). Recall times when you have been in worship and seen someone lift up their hands in praise. For those who grew up more “reserved” in worship, this posture may be uncomfortable. For others, it is liberating and refreshing. This passage—and others—make it clear that we are to raise our hands to God—if not literally, then at least figuratively. At some point in my life it was suggested to me that a proper position for prayer is to sit with your arms resting on your legs, hands up and open. Not only is this a sign of openness to God, but also one of acceptance—that is, being willing to accept what He has for me. (I highly encourage you to try it!) Raising open hands to God also suggests that we give up our control over the things in our life and trust Him to be in control. This is seldom an easy thing for most men, who are taught to remain “in control” of their lives.

Physical actions such as literally lifting open hands to God, can be powerful—even life-changing. More importantly, though, is that we learn to adopt an “open handedness” in our thinking about and overall attitude toward, God. The truth is that what we do is NOT who we are. Who we are is defined by our relationship to Christ. If we hold on to those things that we believe keep us in control of our lives, the abundant life that God wants for us will remain just beyond our grasp. If we learn to let go of our control, lift open hands to God, and trust that His plan for our lives is perfect, we will experience peace, fulfillment, and purpose. Let’s learn to empty our hands and raise open ones to God!

10 minutes: Discussion

Ask men to gather in small groups of three to discuss the following questions:

- ◆ Why do you think men in our society tend to define themselves by what they do?
- ◆ How does it make you feel when you see someone raise their hands during worship?
- ◆ Sit for just one minute in silence with your hands open toward God. When a minute is up—how does this posture make you feel?
- ◆ How might we become more “open-handed” in our daily relationship with Christ?

10 minutes: Prayer time in small groups.

Divide men into groups of three. Encourage them to share one specific prayer request. Team members will then pray for these requests in their small group, as well as asking God to help them to be more “open-handed” in their relationship with Him. The leader should then close the session with prayer at around the nine-minute mark.

BAPTIST MEN’S DAY SERVICES

Baptist Men’s Day is an opportunity to highlight the contributions of the laymen of the church. Make this a special day for them. By doing so, the family is strengthened. There is great need in our society for strong Christian male role models. Recognizing the contributions of the men of the church, make those role models visible.

Work with your pastor to plan the service. Recognize one or two outstanding members of the Baptist Men. Present them with a certificate of appreciation. (Sample certificates are available from NCBM—mabernathy@ncbaptist.org)

Enlist men to hand out bulletins, take up the offering, and sing in a men’s choir. You may also want to enlist men to read Scripture, give a short testimony, or share a meaningful song.

Also consider building the service around men sharing personal testimonies of how God is working in their lives. Give at least two men five minutes each to share. Include participants of local, national and/or international mission projects, as well as individuals who have become active in men’s small groups or other spiritual development activities for men.

You might also consider allowing a time to let the men report on their activities from their Mission Action Team, small group, or prayer team during the past year. Ask the pastor to sum up these activities and to bring a challenge for the future.

2018 CALENDAR DATES—NC BAPTIST

January 2018

- 26-27 Baptist Men's Board Meeting, Caraway, Asheboro
- 27 NCBM Annual Business Meeting, Asheboro
- 28 Baptist Men's Day in the Churches

February 2018

- 12 Region 2 Missions Rally, The Memorial, Greenville
- 12 Region 8 Missions Rally, South River BC, Statesville
- 12 Region 10 Missions Rally, Marble Springs BC, Marble
- 13 Region 1 Missions Rally, Meherrin BC, Murfreesboro
- 13 Region 4 Missions Rally, Fairview BC, Apex
- 13 Region 6 Missions Rally, Highland BC, New London
- 13 Region 9 Missions Rally, Arden, First Baptist
- 15 Region 3 Missions Rally, Mount Vernon BC, Clinton
- 15 Region 5 Missions Rally, Stanleyville, First Baptist
- 15 Region 7 Missions Rally, Enon BC, East Bend

March 2018

- 2-3 Region 4 Disaster Relief Training, Durham County
- 16-17 Region 2 Disaster Relief Training, Nash County
- 17 RA Car Racer Day, Salisbury, First Baptist

April 2018

- 6-7 Baptist Missions Conference, Charlotte
- 7 Student Missions Conference, Charlotte
- 13-15 International Student Conference, Caswell
- 20-21 Region 6 Disaster Relief Training, Cabarrus County

May 2018

- 4-5 Region 8 Disaster Relief Training, Iredell County
- 4-5 Men's Outdoor Weekend, Caraway
- 5 NCBM Golf Tournament
- 18-19 Region 10 Disaster Relief Training, Jackson County
- 18-20 Deep Impact **KIDS** Weekend (Grades 1-5),
Red Springs Mission Camp

June 2018

- 14-17 Deep Impact Mini Week, Shelby
- 16-23 Deep Impact Honduras
- 18-23 Deep Impact Boone
- 24-30 Deep Impact Week Philadelphia, PA
- 22-24 Caraway Summer Father/Son Camp #1
- 25-29 Caraway Summer Camp for boys - Week 1
- 25-30 Deep Impact Nags Head

July 2018

- 1-7 Deep Impact Caswell
- 2-6 Caraway for Children Camp (Coed) #1
- 2-7 World Missions Week, Caswell

July 2018 (continued)

- 7-14 Deep Impact Week Cuba
- 9-13 Caraway Summer Camp for boys – Week 2
- 9-14 Deep Impact Shelby
- 15-18 Deep Impact **KIDS**, (Grades 1-5) Red Springs Msn Cp
- 16-20 Caraway for Children Camp (Coed) #2
- 16-21 Deep Impact Week Beulaville
- 19-22 Deep Impact **KIDS**, (Grades 1-5) Shelby Mission Camp
- 23-27 Caraway for Children Camp (Coed) #3
- 23-28 Deep Impact Week Red Springs
- 29-Aug 1 Deep Impact Mini Week Red Springs
- 30-Aug 3 Caraway for Children Camp (Coed) #4

August 2018

- 6-10 Caraway for Children Camp (Coed) #5
- 10-12 Mother/Son Camp, Caraway Conference Center
- 13 Region 2, 8, & 10 Missions Rally
- 14 Region 1, 4, 6, & 9 Missions Rally
- 16 Region 3, 5 & 7 Missions Rally
- 17-19 Father/Daughter Camp, Caraway Conference Center
- 24-25 NCBM Board of Directors Meeting, Caraway
- 25 NCBM Advisory Council & Board, CCC, Asheboro

September 2018

- 1-30 *NC Missions Offering Month*
- 7-9 Deep Impact **KIDS** Weekend, (Grades 1-5)
Shelby Mission Camp
- 8 Men's Ministry/Challenger/Royal Ambassador
Leadership Training - West
- 15 Men's Ministry/Challenger/Royal Ambassador
Leadership Training - East

October 2018

- 12-13 Men's Work & Worship Weekend,
Red Springs Mission Camp
- 19-21 Fall Father/Son Camp (Grades 1-5 & Leaders),
Caraway
- 21-23 RA Camporee

November 2018

- 8 Region 2 Men's Ministry Worship Rally
- 12 Region 4 Men's Ministry Worship Rally
- 15 Region 6 Men's Ministry Worship Rally
- 19 Region 8 Men's Ministry Worship Rally
- 29 Region 10 Men's Ministry Worship Rally

December 2018

- 13-15 Here & Now Conference
- 31 Applications Deadline for 2019 Student Summer
Ministries