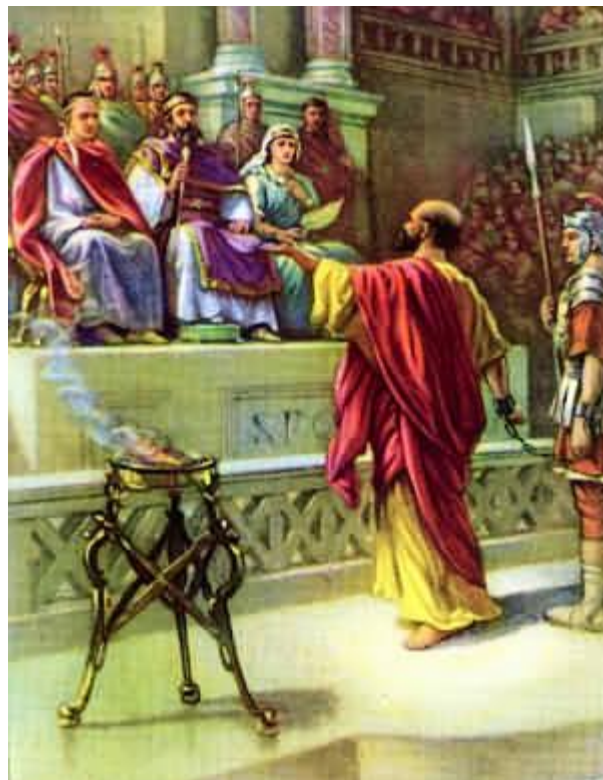




## Prayer Breakfast Planning Guide

*Stir Up, Stand Up, Speak Up*



## **PLANNING YOUR ABMEN & BOYS' PRAYER BREAKFAST**

1. Most churches observe this event with a breakfast prepared by the men and boys of the church and a time of praying together as a whole or in groups. Some areas of our ministry combine with other churches, or observe an association-wide event. The following steps will simplify your planning procedure.
2. ABMen leaders need to discuss the Prayer Breakfast with their pastor and appropriate church leadership body. Be sure to keep the focus of the event on prayer.
3. Select at least two men to coordinate the Prayer Breakfast. Make sure the coordinators represent different age or demographic groups within your church. The more variety in the program, the more balanced it will be and the more likely the entire group will benefit. Consider joining with a sister church of a different cultural background. Be sure to make the event attractive to boys and young men through exciting music, use of video, computer slide presentations and an energetic program.
4. The coordinators should plan the Prayer Breakfast to allow participants to use their spiritual gifts. Include teens and boys in as many different aspects as possible. Invite them to write out "my prayer for my church," or "my prayer for my community," or some similar theme.
5. Select a publicity team to:
  - a. Prepare and submit announcements to the pastor for the church bulletin and newsletter, local radio and TV stations (including cable), community bulletin board and local newspapers. Involve the youth and boys in making posters and gathering photos of ABMen and Boys' activities.
  - b. Organize a plan to personally invite every man, young man and boy. Face-to-face contact is ideal, but a telephone call, fax or e-mail may be the most efficient.
  - c. Prepare a booth or other designated place of public view (narthex, etc.) to display the ministries of ABMen and ABBoys & Young Men. Include photos of the men and boys of your church.
6. Prepare the physical space and leadership. If your Prayer breakfast will be at a restaurant make sure the menu is affordable to all. If it will be at the church, prepare for seating, cooking, cleanup and so on. Carefully select a worship leader and provide him with adequate time and resources. If you plan to provide nursery and child care, make those arrangements. Finally, prepare the area for prayer. You

may wish to divide into table groups for prayer, or use various rooms around the church or the sanctuary. In any case, double check for room temperatures and availability. Encourage men and boys to pray together as one group, instead of in separate groups.

7. Follow-up:

- a. Have committee leaders and the pastor evaluate the effectiveness of the event. Some factors to consider might include: information distribution, church-wide participation, publicity, offerings and enthusiasm. Discuss how your Prayer Breakfast could be improved next year.
- b. Complete the Prayer Breakfast Follow-up Form and return it with your offering.
- c. Select at least two men who will coordinate next year's Prayer Breakfast. Again, be sure to include individuals who represent the demographic of your church. Early planning is the key to a successful event next year!

**CHECKLIST FOR ABMEN & BOYS' PRAYER BREAKFAST**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gather the men and boys of the church to pray for the ABMen & Boys' Prayer Breakfast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secure the support of the pastor and church leadership body.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Select the coordinators and contact your state ABMen Prayer Breakfast Coordinator or a member of the Executive Board.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Study the ABMen & Boys' Prayer Breakfast resource materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirm participants, such as leaders, special music, cooks, servers and clean-up crew.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Organize and begin the publicity, such as announcements and a display area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Double check the physical arrangements for your display area, breakfast, worship/prayer service, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post the service evaluation and select next year's coordinators.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete and return the prayer breakfast follow-up form to the Prayer Breakfast Coordinator at the address indicated on the form.

## **WORSHIP HELPS**

Please read the following suggestions *before* you begin working on the worship service:

1. Adjust the format for maximum impact. Place an emphasis on brevity. Devote as much time as possible to prayer.
2. Print the *Order of Worship*.
3. Keep the pace brisk and to the point. Set times to end the meal, begin prayer and bring things to a close.
4. Provide a "safe" atmosphere where men and boys can be themselves. This is a rare opportunity to affirm them as man and boys, made in God's own image.
5. Involve the ABBoys and Young Men of the church as much as possible. Include them in every part of the event process, from planning to execution.
6. Above all, point to Christ! Although this event aims to bring men and boys to prayer, the ultimate purpose of American Baptist Men is to reach men and boys for Christ. Do not glorify American Baptist Men; direct people to Christ.

## **SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Meal

Breakfast

Words of Welcome

Special Music

Responsive Prayer

Scripture Reading

Presentation

Offering

Prayer Groups

Hymn

Benediction

## **WORSHIP PRAYERS**

## **SERVICE PRAYERS**

### **Invocation**

Dear Lord, servant Jesus, we come to you seeking guidance. Help us Lord to be the servants that you want us to be. We know the path of selfishness is the easy way and the path of selflessness is the difficult and narrow way. May we be like you, Lord. Help us, as witnesses to your servant hood, that we might be moved to share you with others in lives of true service, loving you by loving all.

### **Offertory Prayer**

Father in heaven, giver of gifts, we present these offerings to be used in service to others. We thank you for the special gift of your son Jesus, our example to follow, to be a servant leader. May we grow in our giving and live our lives for the benefit of others.

### **Benediction (Responsive):**

Leader: God wants us to introduce Him to the unsaved.

Congregation: We leave here praying for guidance of how we can serve.

Leader: God wants us to be stirred up; He wants us to stand up; and, He wants us to speak up.

Congregation: May God grant us a burning desire to be His witness.

Leader: May God grant you the gifts, skills and desires of your heart, so that you may be stirred up, wanting to stand up and speak up; thereby demonstrating the love of Christ to others.

## **POSSIBLE HYMNS**

- † We Are One in The Spirit
- † Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed
- † Take My Life and Let It Be
- † Revive us Again
- † I Will Serve Thee
- † Blest Be The Tie
- † He Did It All For Me
- † Blessed Assurance
- † Footsteps of Jesus
- † There Is A Name
- † What A Friend
- † Where He Leads

## ABMEN PRAYER BREAKFAST 2010

### "STIR UP, STAND UP, SPEAK UP"

(2 TIMOTHY 1:6-12, EPHESIANS 4:12)

#### Bible Study/Presentation

The world just gets crazier and crazier, doesn't it? It seems like majority doesn't mean much anymore. We are constantly reminded to be tolerant of everybody else's views, but we as Christians are supposed to keep our faith to ourselves. Actually, that may be what we have been doing for far too long.

There is an internet website called [www.cybersalt.org](http://www.cybersalt.org) which offers a lot of Christian humor. There is a section that supposes what the news headlines would be like for Biblical stories when written by a perceived liberal media. Some headlines would be like the following:

On the Red Sea crossing---a liberal media headline might read;  
***Wetlands Trampled in Labor Strike***  
*Pursuing environmentalists were killed.*

On Elijah on Mt Carmel---a liberal media headline might read;  
***Fire Sends Religious Right Extremist Into Frenzy***  
*400 Killed*

On healing the 10 Lepers—a liberal media headline might read;  
***Local Doctor's Practice Ruined***  
*Faith healer causes bankruptcy*

Or you could see this—

On healing the Gadarene Demonic—a liberal media headline might read;  
***Madman's Friend Causes Stampede***  
*Local farmer's investment lost*

Men, it is time for us to **stir up, stand up and speak up.** Our faith has been under attack for over 2,000 years. Our meekness has been perceived as weakness. We, the church, have been silent and non-committal for too long. Now, in these days, we must re-energize our faith, be strong in spirit and do what Christ commanded us to do so long ago. We must not let others identify who we are. We need to be in serious prayer for our faith, our right to assemble with like minded people, our families and for our country.

How long has it been since you really thanked Jesus for your salvation? Do you remember that feeling, that sigh of relief, that rush of excitement you had when you

just knew everything was going to be all right, because you repented of your sins and received Jesus into your heart? What has happened since then? Are you now so busy working **for** the Lord that you have forgotten **why**? But, "...faith without deeds is dead..." you say. Perhaps, but what are those "deeds"; adding another title to your list or being on another committee? Busy work is busy work. Do not rejoice in service alone.

There was a committed and faithful brother in a local church. He was very active in ABMen, serving on the regional board as well as president of his local church fellowship. In addition, during his years at this particular church he served as a Deacon and Deacon Board Chair, Trustee and Trustee Board Chair, pulpit committees, Sunday school teacher, Director of Vacation Bible School, sang in the choir, and on and on and on, etc. After a number of years this brother began questioning himself and examining his commitment and his work. It occurred to him that while he had done wonderful works at the church, it had been three years since he had spoken to anyone about Jesus; even longer since he had shared his personal testimony outside of the church. He discovered that he was extremely busy "playing church" and not so busy being about his Heavenly Father's business; the work of introducing people to Jesus; he wasn't truly serving Christ.

Does this brother sound like you? Are you working at the church, but not necessarily in it? Are you doing more work for the church than you are for Jesus; allowing the church's work to distract you from your true calling? The end goal should not be happiness nor health, but holiness. Our faith brings us into a right relationship with God. We should not go through life merely enjoying his blessings. Work with a passion, a goal and a sense of accomplishment for the greater good is productive work. Are you producing saints? 1 Corinthians 3:12 says, "...*his (your) work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work...*"

How many lost souls have you personally helped to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Have you tried? How many young people have you mentored? When someone asks for prayer, do you pray or do you feel that you have done enough by saying, "I will pray for you"? When did Jesus say, "*It is finished*"? Yes, at the cross, of course. So, no matter how old you are or how long you have served The Lord, your work is not done until your last breath.

Paul, in 2 Timothy chapter 1, is in Rome and he is very well aware of his fate. He writes this letter to Timothy to encourage him to continue his work in spreading the Gospel. Paul tells us he is an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. Timothy is encouraged to move forward, not fearing for his life because it is guaranteed in Christ. Paul says he is aware of Timothy's strong faith and offers his prayers for continued strength. He tells Timothy to be bold. God gives us the strength, confidence and self discipline we need to be bold. Although the plan of salvation was in the scriptures,

people were not aware of it until Christ Himself came to explain it and then He left that task to us. Paul cautions Timothy to not change the message and it hasn't changed. God loves you. It's that simple.

In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul is reminded of Timothy's faith and then in verse 6, Paul says, "...I remind **you** to fan into flame the gift of God..." Paul says that we need to rekindle that ember that still exists in the heart of those who love Jesus, but who for many reasons, have become weary, disoriented or have lost their focus. It is time for us as Christians to take stock, re-examine what we are doing in our Christian walk. It is time to stop **doing** so much that we are not **sharing** our faith. We need to "fan the flame" of our redemption and **stir up** those embers. We need to remember **why** we serve a risen Lord and **feel** the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

Continuing in 2 Timothy 1, verse 7, Paul says, "*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self discipline.*" He did not give us these attributes for our own sake, but for us to use to help others. Because we are chosen, we are set apart. Yes, God gave us great power and love through the Holy Spirit which allows us to forgive others for what they say and for what they may do to us because of our faith. With this same power and love, however, we must **stand up** for our faith and for what is right. Political correctness and tolerance of others should never inhibit our duty and our desire to be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ. Because we follow Christ's example, we too must **stand up** against those who are intolerant of us and how we live.

Christ did not tell us to go **find** some people willing to listen to His message of salvation. He told us to go and **tell** them, all of them. Perhaps you have been so busy "doing the Lord's work", that you have no time to read the Word, or to recall that in Matthew 28:18, the *Great Commission* says that "...**All** authority...", not just a little, but all authority "...in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." You go, I go, we all are **required** to go and make disciples. You cannot do that unless you have that "fire in the belly". If it is just a spark or a few embers, rekindle it, fan the flames, **stir up** the coals and **stand up, stand up** for Jesus, **stand up** for whom you are. Remember, we have been given a "*spirit of power, of love and of self discipline*". We should not be afraid of those who seek to have us to fail. "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" He is the rock of our salvation and the rock under which His enemies are crushed.

So, dare to be bold in your witness. Do not let the laws of man prevent you from following the laws of God. Remember that Jesus died for you. You cannot out give or outdo God. Do not concentrate so hard on deeds that your faith begins to suffer and the flame begins to die. **Stir up** those ashes, feel the passion you once had, **stand up** for Jesus and do not fear what mortal man might do to you, but remember

what Christ has done **for** you. **Stand up** to those who would speak ill of your Lord and Savior.

**(The Speaker should take about 5 minutes to tell about a time in his life when he was bold enough to stand up for his faith at work, at church, in the store, at a family gathering, etc, and express how he felt afterwards and did it make a difference.)**

In 2 Timothy 1, verse 8, Paul says, "*So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord...*" He encourages us to **speak up** and let the world know who we are. Do not be timid. Do not be silenced by those who hate you and who attempt to distort the truth. Preaching the Gospel awakens us to service and knowledge of our holiness. God wants holiness in us and he wants us to produce saints. God is moving through you and He will continue that task until man's purpose and His purpose become one. In 2 Timothy 1, versus 11 and 12, Paul says, "*...and of the Gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet, I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*"

C. H. Spurgeon said, "*This text is wholly taken up with three things; namely, with knowing, with believing and with the person who is known and believed; and upon both the knowing and the believing Paul is very decided. He puts in no 'if', no word of change; he does not say, 'I hope so,' or 'I trust so,' but 'I know I have believed, and I know whom I have believed.' It is all assurance, and not a shadow of doubt. Let us imitate the apostle, or ask for grace to be able to imitate him, that we may shake off the dubious phraseology which is so common among Christians nowadays, and may be able to speak with apostolic confidence upon, a matter upon which we ought to be confident if anywhere at all, namely, our own salvation.*" Spurgeon made these comments over 140 years ago. Even then he spoke about "dubious phraseology" in regards to Christians speaking about their faith. The problem still exists today.

Just as Paul suffered, we will suffer, but maybe not as much and perhaps in different ways. However, suffer we must, because we too are called to be a herald of the Gospel, a teacher of the truth, not ashamed, but honored to **speak up** about whom we have believed. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says that we are not our own. If God can break your heart and cause some temporary discomfort, and through that cause His will to be done, then thank Him for that misery you must go through. We, those who know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, must renew our commitment to be like Him. We must remember who He is and why we love Him above all else. We need to **stir up** those smoldering embers of passion, **stand up** against those who would seek to push us down and **speak up** against the intolerant, the hateful and those who wish to quench our spirit. In John 14:15, Jesus says, "*If you love me, you will obey what I command.*" We must obey the one who created us. When we obey Jesus Christ, His spirit flows through us to those who need Him.

We must continue to march forward, willing to give a testimony, pray without ceasing, *teach the unteachable, reach the unreachable and love the unloveable*. We must do this in order to fulfill our mission as written in Ephesians 4:12-13, "... *to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*" Becoming mature, working toward perfection. We must be guided into a spiritual condition acceptable to God. We, as members of God's church, do not establish our own doctrines. Each member is at a different level of growth in spirit and knowledge. The church itself must be united in speaking the same thing, unified through the authority of God. We must not merely offer salvation, but also teach and train believers to become the instruments of God's love. It is like a house under construction. It is to be a unit. It is built in stages. First the footings and the foundation; the frame and roof; electrical and plumbing; and painting and carpet. Stage by stage, step by step, the house is built up until it reaches unity, maturity and fullness. Jesus Christ is the example for us and the standard to go by. None of us measure up to His standard. Romans 3:23, says "*All...fall short of the Glory of God.*" But we must try. We must do our part. We need to **stir up, stand up and speak up.**

## **ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS**

- † Make a strong effort to have ***all*** the men and boys of your church personally invited to the ABMen and Boys' National Prayer breakfast.
- † Try unusual methods of advance publicity, such as announcements in the form of humorous skits and songs.
- † Make special efforts to reach out to those without fathers or sons. Use this as an opportunity to nurture some boy or young man that needs a father figure in his life.
- † Ask someone to share a testimony during the service of how he came to faith in Christ and the difference Jesus makes in his daily life.
- † Select an ABMan of the Year, AB Young Man of the Year and ABBoy of the Year. Present each with a certificate and take him out to lunch.
- † Prepare a booklet of daily devotions for the week preceding the ABMen & Boys' National Prayer Breakfast, written by the men and boys of your church.
- † Prepare a Bible study based on the men in the Scripture who practiced missions, evangelism, and nurturing ministries. Present it at the next ABMen & Boys' meeting or in Sunday School.
- † Appoint someone to the communications ministry of your local ABMen's fellowship group. He can provide stories for your local church newsletter, for the publication on the ABMen of WV web page, etc.
- † Consider a weekly time when the men and boys of the church can gather for prayer. Pray for your church, your pastor and the ministries in which the men and boys are engaged.
- † Be creative! Share whatever ideas have been most helpful to the men and boys of your church with other ABMen fellowship groups. Send a short story with a photo to the ABMen of WV Director of Communications, Lucky Ray, at 822 Chestnut Street, South Charleston, WV 25309.