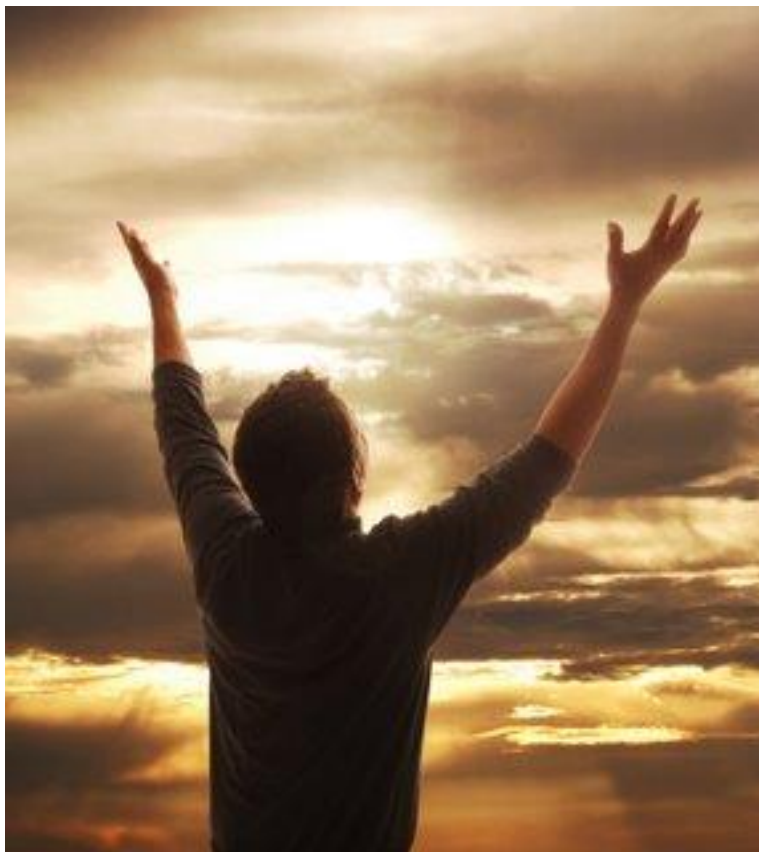




Prayer Breakfast Planning Guide

“Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ”



Matthew 25:21

²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord

PLANNING YOUR 2023 ABMEN 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 for your church to display the ministries of AB Men and AB Boys & Young Men of West Virginia. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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 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 2023

“Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ”

(MATTHEW 25:21)

Bible Study/Presentation

Matthew 25:21 - A Servants Trust

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

Matthew 25:21 - A Servants Trust

[Matthew 25:21](#) "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

Being a servant of God is quite prestigious. It is not something to be taken lightly or half-heartedly. In our final look at what is involved with being a servant of Christ, we look at the authority and responsibility given to us as bond servants.

A bond servants, special and dedicated entirely to the master, speaks with the full authority of his master when on his masters business. He has the ability to make and fulfill binding contracts on his master's behalf, and what the servant says in the master's name was fully and legally binding on the master. For an example we look at Joseph, a slave in the house of Potiphar. Joseph was so obedient and open to the will of Potiphar, his master, that "Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned....So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph I charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate." ([Genesis 39:4b,6a](#)) Joseph was entrusted with the responsibility

and the authority to act in Potiphar's stead. Later on, we find that after Potiphar's wife's accusations and Joseph's jail time, he took those same skills he had honed and learned running Potiphar's - household and put them to further use running the entire kingdom of Egypt ([Genesis 41:41-45](#))!

Another good example of a servant is Elisha's servant Gehazi. ([2 Kings 5](#)) Gehazi had all the responsibility and trust that Joseph had, and yet his greed was his downfall. He had the stewardship of everything Elisha had, and his job was to ensure that Elisha could spend all of his time doing God's work and studying and spending time with God. Yet when Gehazi saw that Elisha was not taking anything from Naaman, he snuck away and lied to Naaman in the name of Elisha! He exceeded the authority he had been given by stepping out of Elisha's will, and then he further compounded it by trespassing on Elisha's authority outside of that will. The result of that was that Gehazi received Naaman's leprosy.

To be a good servant, one must always be aware of what needs to be done, and to do it as quickly and efficiently as possible; but one must be knowledgeable and have a great understanding of the master's will and desires in order to do this. One must be responsible and a good steward, ensuring the stability of the master's lifestyle; yet one must have learned the basics of stewardship and care-taking before taking such a job. One must also not be afraid of using and standing in the master's authority; but one must never abuse the trust involved with it. It is difficult, but very rewarding. A servant of such caliber is of unmentionable value to his master!

This week, let's focus on becoming the best servant of Christ we can be, allowing Him to trust us with everything. Are we ready for such a challenge? If you are like me, probably not, but we can certainly learn and grow our skills so that when the greater challenge and responsibility is ready, we are too. Right now we have been entrusted with little, but soon, very soon, much is coming!

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, Rev. Frank Miller, at Parchment Valley Conference Center, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road Ripley, WV. or call (304) 372.3675