Almost from the moment men are born, we seek to establish our value and prove our significance. Our accomplishments—careers, sports, conquests—and our addictions are some of the things we use to evoke self-worth and demonstrate our value to others. We tend to search for significance by focusing on ourselves and hoping to create something that will last, while at the same time we fear reaching the end of our lives only to discover that our time here has been insignificant.

From childhood through adolescence and into adulthood, our desire for significance influences our decisions and actions, even though we may not be aware of it. As we approach middle age, the quest for significance becomes a conscious motivation. Many men in midlife find themselves at one of two points: either they have accomplished their goals and find themselves asking, “Is this all there is?” or they realize that they are not going to reach the goals that they set for themselves, i.e., their means of gaining significance. The first will predictably lead to a midlife crisis; the second leads to despair. What is the alternative?

Do you feel the need for significance? Do you desire to leave a legacy that will last for eternity?

We believe that the goal God has set before us is attainable and has eternal significance. He has called His men to mature in their relationship with Him and to become spiritual reproducers who are spiritual fathers. This is the legacy that we as Christian men can and must leave.

In 2001, I was in Germany speaking on the effect of the “father vacuum” in the lives of people in modern society. While I shared this message over several weeks, God began working in a very unusual way: as I spoke and prayed with the men and women whom God brought into fellowship with me, they began to view me as a spiritual father.

I was at the airport leaving Germany when I spoke with one of the men that I had been ministering to during this eventful trip. I referred to him as “brother,” and he quickly stopped me. He told me that I was more of a spiritual father than a brother. I was uncomfortable with his statement and I called him a “brother” again. He stopped me again and said that I was more of a father to him. During the flight back to the United States, I began to hear from God concerning the opportunities to be a spiritual father. I had failed to recognize the possibility, the responsibility, and the privilege of being a spiritual father. I had been so focused on establishing my value through “doing ministry” that I had failed to see the greater opportunity to build a spiritual legacy. In the months following my return home, God opened my eyes to see men and women becoming whole and growing as they experienced the love and acceptance of a spiritual father.

Do you feel the need for significance? Do you desire to leave a legacy that will last for eternity? It is only through an intimate relationship with God that we can truly leave an eternal legacy. Are you willing to progress in your relationship with God from being a spiritual child to becoming a spiritual father? You can know God intimately and begin experiencing spiritual significance by reproducing the next generation of mature spiritual fathers (1 John 2:12-14). This can be your legacy. Don’t miss it.

Levels of Maturity for Christian Men
Illustrated in 1 John 2:12-14

Spiritual Child
• Has sins forgiven
• Begins to know the Father

Spiritual Young Man
• Strong in the Word of God
• Overcomes the evil one

Spiritual Father
• Knows God intimately and is beginning to know Him in His entirety
• Reproducing spiritual children who mature to be spiritual reproducers

Ministry Prayer & Praise:
• Each of us on the team has experienced personal spiritual attack and struggle since we began concentrating our attention on completing the Building Brothers book. Please keep our families and each one of us in your prayers as we continue to battle on the front lines!
• God continues to guide us in working through the draft of this book—it is 90% completed! Your prayers are needed as we move into the editing stage and as we continue to seek finances and the appropriate avenue for publishing.
• God is “up to something” as we have male leadership from various denominations and ministries that attended the Facilitator Training in February. Pray that we will persevere in waiting for the results that God will bring about in the future.

Personal Prayer & Praise:
• Prayer for Rick and Gretchen as they go through a deep time of spiritual growth and personal struggle in their lives.
• Spiritual strength for Dan and Jan as the battle intensifies in their lives. Cancer was found in Dan’s father’s brain and he had brain surgery on February 8th. Pray for his healing and strength for Dan’s mother.
• For Dan’t and Carla as his pastoral role in Vona, Colorado will soon be ending. Pray for direction for them as they seek God’s next step in ministry for them.
• Bonnie has stepped away from work and is now home full-time with Miah. Pray for Ken as this has increased the need for financial provision in their family.
Des Moines, Iowa
On February 4-5, Dan introduced the Building Brothers process to about 50 key leaders in the community at Hope Lutheran Church. One of the men there had previously spent two years in the BB process in Ottumwa, Iowa. Over one-half of these influential leaders responded to the need for the “father’s blessing” in their lives. We see this as a great first step toward serving this large church and surrounding community in the near future.

Facilitator Training
February 22-24, the Facilitator Training took place in Denver. There were 17 pastors and leaders from around the country representing multiple denominations and ministries. There are many possibilities that can spring from this time within the Church of God (7th Day) Denomination and with churches here in the Denver area and in Arizona, Washington, Nebraska, and Texas.

Wyckoff, New Jersey
April 5, Dan will be introducing the Building Brothers process at Cornerstone Christian Church. We expect a large assembly of men, and Dan will issue a strong challenge to them to become involved in spiritual fathering. The leadership has shown a desire to possibly have us start assisting them through the year-long process in this community.

Denver, Colorado
In May, the team will be presenting Phase III Training at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Denver. There continues to be a passion from the leadership to forge ahead in the year-long process. Continue your prayer for the interaction of the men in their small groups and for this unique opportunity for growth within this denomination.

Germany in 2005
In June, Rhiner and Sibylle Osterloh, from Germany will be traveling to Denver for further interaction with the Building Brothers team and other ministries in this area. The plan is for Dan to return with them to Germany to train our Facilitator Training to leaders from northern and southern Germany. We are still working on the details of starting the four-phase process in Germany. Please continue to pray for these needs:

• For Rhiner, National Men’s Leader from Germany, and his team, as they set the groundwork for this training time in June. Over the past six months, they’ve run into some struggles that have caused the process to take longer than expected.

• The translation of our training material into German and Hungarian is complete! Pray that the $15,000 needed to print each of these will be provided.