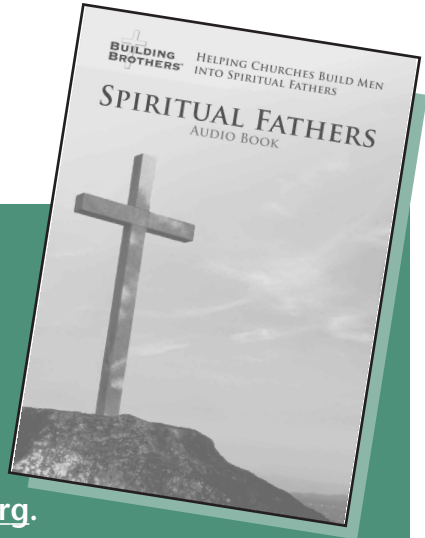


# BUILDING BROTHERS™

PMB 337 • 11757 W. Ken Caryl Ave., #F  
Littleton, Colorado 80127



## Exciting News!

We now have Dan Schaffer's book "Spiritual Fathers—Restoring the Reproductive Church" in audio format.

To purchase, go to our website, [www.buildingbrothers.org](http://www.buildingbrothers.org).

## Ministry Update

### Building Brothers Update

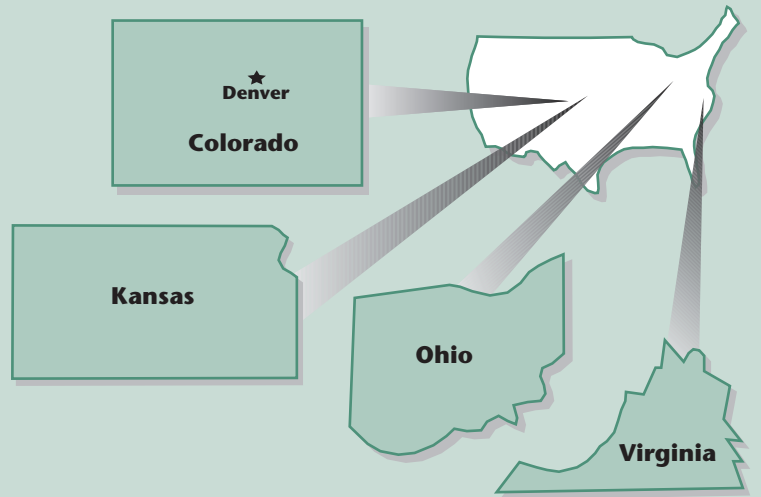
#### Nationally: Churches in the Process

**Denver churches** - in 2nd and 3rd generations.

**Kansas United Methodists** - churches starting the 4th generation.

**Ohio, Hartville Mennonite Church** - in Phase IV with a multi-denomination & multi-church launch to follow.

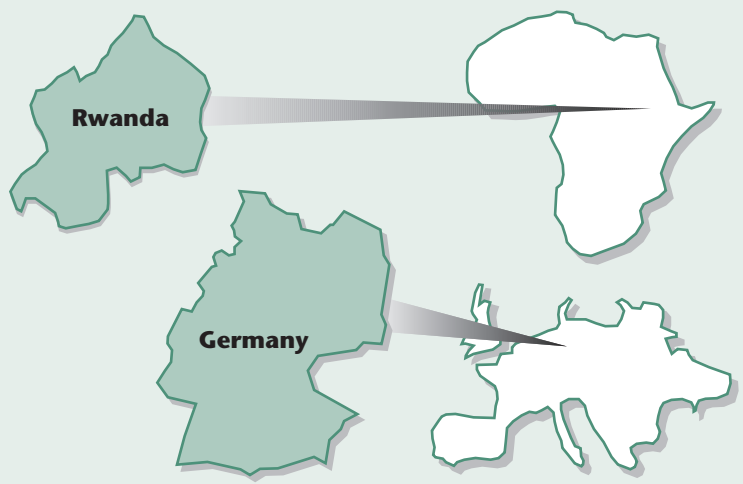
**Virginia United Methodist churches** - in Phase IV with more generations to follow.



#### Internationally

**Rwanda** – 9 pastors in Phase II; 1st generation is committed to launching a 2nd generation in their churches.

**Germany** – four groups in Phase II; four groups in Phase I; these 1st generations will be launching other groups across Germany in November of 2010.



#### Coming Soon

**Des Moines, Iowa** – to begin the transformational process



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## Summer 2010 Newsletter

Volume 11 • Issue 2

# BUILDING BROTHERS™



by Dan Schaffer

# What is the Foundation of Unity and Trust?

**W**e Christians spend a great deal of energy and effort trying to create or maintain “unity and trust,” often focused on our vision, mission, and purpose. We carefully teach biblical principles and yet the church is awash with conflict and misunderstanding. Why? There are many causes. Our own woundedness and sin can easily interfere with unity and trust. Our “Kingly” leadership models are a big factor. But even in the best of circumstances we experience great difficulty in maintaining unity and trust.

I recently have had an experience where this issue was heavy on my mind and I believe that God brought me some enlightenment.

Over two years ago a group of men I know well, desired to join with Building Brothers to help bring the Building Brothers message and process to other men. I had a sense that even though they had been through the Building Brothers Leadership Training, they were missing a vital piece. We had not shared together a common God centered experience... of the Building Brothers Four Phase, year long, transformational process. I shared that with the men, and made it clear that the Four Phase Process must be experienced before they could authentically share the Building Brothers process or make any changes in the process or materials. However, I didn't mandate this vital and first step. This was a clear mistake on my part. As things moved forward there was a commitment to unity and trust but there were continual conflicts. Ultimately some of those men who started the process were being shut out and opportunities to move the ministry forward were being missed. I knew that I was missing something and that there was a lack of clear understanding as to what the mission, vision, and purpose really were. I confronted the issues in writing and that brought an unexpected response from some of the leaders of anger and hurt. I was a little puzzled by that and scheduled a personal trip to listen and understand what was going on. I was beginning to understand that we were far apart and that their focus had been placed on a program and building an “expert leadership” approach. That type of approach is very far from the shared experience of an interactive, relational, question based transformational process created through the year long Four Phase Process. After I returned home, I requested position papers that were being circulated by the leadership team so that I could clearly understand what the truth was. It was clear that we had been on tangential paths from the moment we started to move forward in 2007 – but why?

Dealing with this situation and moving the ministry forward has brought me back to the leadership team 3 times since September of 2009. As I was returning from the last trip in June of 2010, the cause of our

misunderstanding became crystal clear. It is the journey together or shared experience that allows us to develop a common understanding and common terms. That common understanding and language enables us to understand and commit to a common mission, vision, and purpose. When we didn't enter into the Four Phase Process together we guaranteed that we would be on paths going different directions and the longer the time the farther apart we would be.

**The Four Phase Building Brothers Process serves to give this common spiritual experience by:**

- 1** *Filling the “Father Vacuum” and thus allowing each man to experience God as the loving Father that He is.*
- 2** *Finding a “safe place” for men so that we can be open and ask the right questions.*
- 3** *Becoming “Servant leaders” and building unity and trust.*
- 4** *“Pursuing and knowing God” together, which is the source of what we desire in the Christian life.*

It is this Four Phase relational process where we ask the right questions that lead to the questions that only God can answer!! This process gives the common definitions of spiritual terms that allow us to have a common language that clarifies the mission, vision and purpose that God has for us. Only with this common commitment to God's mission can we be on the same path going in the same direction.

I believe most churches experience this same phenomena. When we come together as Christians we come from many varied experiences and even the core terms of the faith mean different things to each one of us. That guarantees that unless we intentionally move into a shared experience we will misunderstand each other

and be going in directions that are tangential without even knowing it. That shared experience must be in an environment that is safe, where we can ask the deep personal questions and move to deep corporate questions that lead to the questions that only God can answer. In that process we begin to know God in a deeper way and to be unified in our language and understanding. With that common language we can understand the mission, vision and purpose and maintain unity and trust.

As you look at your relationships in the Christian community, have you had a shared experience that allows you to communicate clearly, understand and commit to God's mission for

all of us? If not, would you enter into that experience with a group of fellow believers so that you can move forward in unity?

*I encourage Church leadership to take the year long journey through the Building Brothers Four Phase Process and build true unity and trust within their church.*

**“Only with this common commitment to God's mission can we be on the same path going in the same direction.”**