

THE BAND OF

**“ALL WE KNEW WAS
WE WERE IN THIS TOGETHER.”**



BROTHERS

“A vision for men from the heart of God”

Mission Statement

To Envision, Recruit, Enable, Connect and Train already established "Bands of Brothers" for the purpose of rallying them to a noble cause to fight for Justice on behalf of the oppressed poor.

To further develop a deep sense of camaraderie and brotherhood among these "Band of Brothers" whereby, through their interpersonal relationships they are a source of encouragement, edification and protection for each other.

To identify and assess potential projects that fit the "Band of Brothers" criteria for establishing Justice on behalf of the oppressed poor and to strategically link them with the right "Company" of men to take on that particular mission.

To take the phrase "I've Got Your Back" and make it a daily motto not only internally within the relationships of the "and of Brothers" but externally to those in dire need.

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Foreword



Time plays a significant role in our lives in bringing two concepts into balance. As children our focus on the future and our perspective on the past are completely askew. When we are young the future seems so far away. We fantasize on what we want to be and where we want to go but it is all wanderlust. It is virtually impossible to see clearly what life holds for us further down the road. Life seems blurry and out of focus and the horizon hidden. At the same time

because we are young, we have no history either. This means we have no perspective and therefore life has virtually no context to us. We live in the moment and are only concerned with our most immediate needs. As we journey down life's highway and grow older, our future starts coming into focus and our past brings perspective.

What you are about to read can be described in a number of words; concepts, principles, ideas, dreams, revelations, all culminating in a vision with a sense of purpose for the future. They are things that come into focus as we get older and so we can begin the process of putting our lives into perspective. While the story I tell and the words I write are mine, they are the heart and soul of my Band of Brothers – Jerry Reardon, Johannes Baratta, Noel Alexander, Mark Hendrickson and others who have joined me in this venture. They each have their own story to tell, but we are joined at the heart when it comes to the mission and purpose we have set out on together.

I suspect that as some of you read this you will identify not only with my journey but how it has changed my heart and my focus on the future. We are determined that the last half of our lives will be even more productive than the first half. That, through the grace God has granted us we can make a significant difference in someone else's life.

For inquiring minds like myself, there is always a need to know at least a minimum of three things when listening to a man's vision and deciding whether or not one wants to be a part of it:

1. **Inspiration:** which is the "where" question:

Where did your vision come from?

2. **Motivation:** which is the "why" question :

Why are you doing this?

3. **Implementation:** which is the "how" question:

How do you plan on accomplishing this?

I hope over the next few pages to adequately address each of these questions.

Bob Scott

Director
The Band of Brothers

May 2008

Section 1: Inspiration

Justice Is a Noble Cause

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9



The Justice League

People have asked me often, when did God give you this compassion for the poor and passion for justice as though it suddenly appeared out of nowhere one day? Now that I have some “perspective” I can respond to that question with some understanding.

When I was a boy I loved reading comic books but they were not permitted in the house unless they were of a non-violent nature. Archie and Disney comic books were about as adventurous as it got. My favorite comics in that vein were those about Donald Duck’s nephews; Huey, Dewy and Louie who were forever getting into all kinds of mischief. While those comics were OK, the really cool ones with the superhero characters that rescued people in trouble due to the actions of evil villains, were not allowed in the house. They were considered much too violent.



Fortunately for me, the boy next door did not have the same strict parental restrictions and had a bedroom full of these “really cool” comic books. We became good buddies and I spent many a day after school in the cold Wisconsin winters over at his house getting my fill of adventure. I loved reading about Superman, Batman, Flash and The Green Lantern. Of course there was always the absolutely gorgeous Wonder Women and we fought over who was going to marry her one day! My favorite character was Batman as he was the only one of the Superheroes that did not possess supernatural powers. Batman was an “early adapter” when it came to technology and had all the latest in high tech gadgets.

While each of these characters on their own was a force to be reckoned with, what was really impressive to me was when they banded together as a team. They had their own organization called “The Justice League” and when working together they were unstoppable. I happened to find the whole idea of the “Justice League” to be very appealing. It spoke to something deep within my soul that I did not understand until years later. As that point in my life I simply knew that there was something very right about it.

As an adult I began to understand the significance of what the word Justice meant to God. I came to realize that it is the foundation stone that the Government (Kingdom) of God is built on. Knowing what I know now as an adult, the idea of a "Justice League" still sends a chill up my spine. Can it get any better than a group of men and women united together for the purpose of enforcing justice? While I seem to have a particular passion for it, justice seems to be built into each of us. It's a part of our genetic makeup. Even as children we have an innate sense of it, even if it is selfishly motivated. I cannot think of a more noble cause than to be part of a group of people whose life goal is to enforce, enable and fight for Justice.



Justice without compassion can become law enforcement. This was the very thing that Jesus hated as He saw this as another form of oppression or slavery. As I look back with perspective, I realize that again this concept of compassion was forming in me as a child.

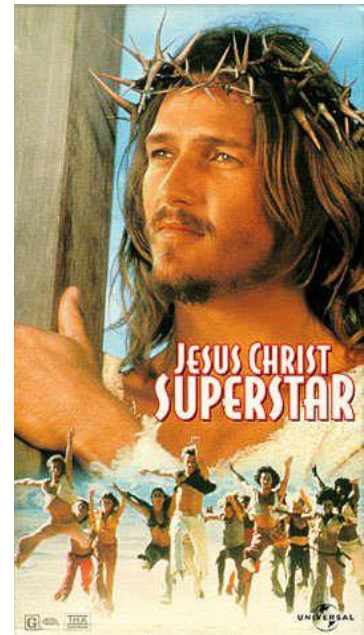
I recall years ago standing at a mall entrance between the two sets of outer doors waiting to be picked up by my parents. I observed a young blind boy walking inside the mall with his distinct white and red cane in front of him. As he probed the dark space in front of him I noticed that a few shops ahead there was a floor display of stacked goods. I do not remember what they were, only that they were stacked in the form of a pyramid. As I stood there watching between the glass, I had this knowing come over me that he was going to get disoriented and fall into the display. I was horrified at the thought of it and yet I argued with myself that there was no way I could possibly know that and did nothing. As I stood there and observed, my worst fears unfolded as I watched him become confused, trip, and then fall into the display. He was terrified as he didn't know what had happened. The more he tried to get up, the worse things became as he continued falling over more of the display. I saw the store managers running to try and rescue him. With tears streaming down my face and my feet seemingly stuck to the floor, I watched the whole thing unfold in what seemed like slow motion. I felt every emotion of his confusion, his fear and



his shame. It was like I was in his body and I was the blind boy. To this day for some reason I continue to feel other people's pain. At times it can be unbearable and make me physically ill.

I have come to understand that God not only has given me a passion for Justice but compassion for those in need. It is not something that I have to put on; it is something that has been hard wired into my very makeup as a human being. I cannot get away from it. It surges through every corpuscle of my being. The only way I cannot feel it is to numb myself.

In 1973 when the movie "Jesus Christ Superstar" came out I went to see it. Though I was not a Christian at the time, I was a great admirer of Jesus and his compassion for the poor. It seemed to me that whenever He was moved to compassion and became emotionally engaged in a person's life they were never the same. To my surprise, I became emotionally invested in the movie. There is a scene where Jesus visits a leper colony. As He walks among the lepers who are dressed in black rags, they begin to crawl out from between the rocks and caves. Soon you notice a sea of black lepers surrounding Jesus who is dressed in all white. They were so desperate for his touch and frantically clawed at him to get healed. The camera then pans out and gives you a bird's eye view of the scene below where this ocean of black eventually swallows the one lone white figure in the middle. I was terrified and could barely breathe as the feeling of Closter phobia permeated me. I felt the whole scene. I understood Jesus compassion for the oppressed and the overwhelming need. It shook me as something was pulling at me and I was afraid that in the end it would swallow me. I did what most of us do – I ran away.



The Joseph Company

As a twenty-five year old with a year of Bible School under my belt I found myself planting a church with a friend. The learning curve was steep but the lessons invaluable. As with most young men with aspirations for ministry, I studied the scriptures long and hard to become well versed in them. I read the leading Christian authors of the ages and soon developed a clear "worldview" of the scriptures and how God interacted with mankind. Little did I understand at the time how religious and overly spiritualized my perspective had become.



It was an unusual encounter during a Sunday morning service that would shift my paradigm significantly. I had fallen into the religious trap of "over estimation of self", otherwise called arrogance. I began to see myself as a full time minister of God and on another plain than the congregation. It was clear to me that if one was truly committed to the establishment of the Kingdom of God one would need to be in full time

ministry. As I closed my eyes for worship I had no idea that when I would next open them everything would look different. As I stood there entering into the sweet melodies of worship, I was interrupted by an inner voice that told me to open my eyes and "tell me what you see." After doing a quick inventory of my mental faculties to see if I was in fact lucid, I slowly opened one eye to make sure I was still at church, awake and not dreaming. Then, with both eyes opened, I saw something that I had never noticed before; we had two very distinct groups of people in the church. They were spread out in front of me in a half circle and I discerned an inner circle of about one-third of the congregation. These were the "die-hards" the most committed, aspiring to the noble pursuit of ministry and already involved in some capacity of leadership at the church. Outside of them making up the remaining two-thirds were those that simply attended church, and for the most part were pursuing less noble ambitions such as a business career. Of course I knew very few of these people. It was then I heard a charge from this voice.

"The people you see on the outside are vital to my divine purposes and none of them will ever be on staff at a church. Now go and find them and teach them My ways."



I was speechless for two reasons. First, I had just had a very strong voice speak to me and that was in itself unnerving. Second, it was very clear from this encounter that I had no idea what God's way was, as He just blew my religious paradigm away. How could people not in full time ministry be as important as those of us that were? After all, were we not the committed ones?

I was dazed and confused but insatiably curious as to what this all meant. The next thing I did was head back to the instruction manual to re-read it. I started in Genesis and from the first few pages onward I began to see for the first time that the "Heroes of the Faith" were not priests or in the full time ministry. They would have never been on staff at any church. In fact most of them would not have even qualified as home group leaders and yet God used them in significant ways. At first I was surprised and then inspired to the point I had to share this with others and went in pursuit of these fringe dwellers to share what I had discovered with them. Many of these relationships have remained friendships to this day and I am grateful for each and every one as it has been quite a journey.

As time went on, it became clear to me that something more was going on. While we were discovering a new perspective on God's way, it was how we were doing it that touched my heart. It was together as a group of men. I decided to give it a name and called it the "Joseph Company." My reasoning was that I found myself personally identifying with the biblical character of Joseph. Many of the experiences he went through seemed to parallel my own life and the men I was meeting with. Over the years those parallels have continued on in ways that have deeply and profoundly affected me.



The problem that I continually ran into back then was that people kept focusing on the "Joseph" part of the name and not the "Company" part. If they did focus on the "Company" part they got the meaning all wrong. There was so much pressure put on me to start a ministry or an organization called the "Joseph Company" which of course I resisted, because it did not feel right to

me. It seemed that people wanted the focus to be on the external form and what that looked like versus what I thought was the more important or significant component, which was the heart of it.

For me personally, the “Company” piece was not a business entity or a ministry but the men who banded together to fulfill God’s purpose for their lives. It was not the “how” that was the focus but the “whom and what.” Whom had God brought together in friendship and out of that relationship what purpose did they have together? In hindsight, I still hold to this as being **the most significant piece of the equation** and have no regrets about dragging my feet because it never felt right.



In fact, to use a word picture, I was concerned that the “Joseph Company” would turn out to be the “Tin Man” character of Frank Baum’s “Wizard of Oz” story and have no heart. Without God’s heart of compassion focused outward on others in need, the focus turns inward and it all becomes about me. Men become consumed with God’s blessing and prosperity as a means of increasing their own empire, and what looks so good on the outside is on the inside so insidiously self centered.

In time because of my own inability to get the message out of my heart, I ended up just laying it down and walking away from it. Over the years others have courageously stepped in to carry the “Joseph Company” torch and my hat is off to them. They have endeavored to try and encourage and inspire people to see their careers as callings, which is a good thing. As for me I have been stubbornly holding out for the thing that resonates within my own soul. I am not always confident that I know what it looks like, but I definitely know what it feels like. Over the last few years I have started to feel it rising up again in the hearts of the men that I have been getting together with for fellowship.

As we meet over lunch or breakfast, they each have asked with genuine heartfelt concern about others. I have been asking myself, why now after all these years do I sense this depth of love and concern for one another? I have a few theories and all of them have to do with age. It seems to me that as young men we tend to be focused on the “what and how” as we are so driven to achieve and gain status. We struggle so hard to try and figure out who we are. We need to accomplish significant feats so that we feel that we are significant.

We need to impress others. Relationships are important only in that they help us gain the significance that we so desperately seek. It is hard to admit, but we Christians use people as much as anyone else to get what we want. We live in a consumer driven culture and we are trained from childhood to consume relationships as well. So what has changed now?



As we get older we begin to suffer the pain of loss. We have lost parents, siblings, wives, children and friends. We have learned the pain of losing those we love and faced our own frail humanity as some of us have faced death ourselves. Our priorities have significantly changed, our values been restructured, and how we see life has taken a huge paradigm shift. We are less interested in show and more interested in substance. We are more thoughtful and introspective looking for answers on how we plan to spend the rest of our days.

We find ourselves asking these types of questions...

- What do I want to leave behind?
- What do I want my legacy to be?
- Have I made a real difference in someone else's life?
- Have I fought the good fight?
- Who and what have I fought for?
- Does my life matter?
- What have I done with it?

Even though we are bruised and battered and may feel our age, in some aspects we are actually in a better place. We have certainly added perspective to the mix. We are entering into a potentially wonderful time of our lives. Our children are grown and most have left the nest. While we may have less energy, we do have more time and resources. So what are we doing then? Are we building castles for ourselves with a custom moat included to protect ourselves from the big bad world?

I also think that failure has had a huge impact on shaping us as men. We have come face to face with our weaknesses. Being a father and raising children is at times a terribly humiliating experience in failure that has shaped all of us. Business failures, church failures and relational failures are all seen in the rearview mirror of our lives. These failures of course were virtually non-existent when we were in our twenty's. Later when we started to experience failure we were convinced it could not possibly be our fault so we blamed it on everyone else.

We have now all come to the painful realization that we are in fact fallible and very human. We are men with clay feet. We have discovered that we are downright terrible at some things but then that is OK too. We have hurt people (even the ones we love) and done some really stupid things. For most of us we have gone from thinking how lucky God was to have us on His side, to just hoping we have not screwed it all up! This is called humility, and it takes a good thirty years to even begin to understand it.

If you have been misunderstood, thrown into a pit in life, been falsely accused, punished for having integrity and after doing a favor been forgotten, then you are a Joseph. If this is your journey, then like Joseph you understand humility and when your brothers are starving and come asking for food, your heart cannot help but be moved to compassion.



The Historical Legacy

Although there was public perception that I did not want anything further to do with the Joseph Company concept, in actual fact it never left my heart. I was just not prepared to carry it on in the way the public was putting pressure on me to build it. I was not interested in getting a few guys together so that we could all get rich. My heart had a very different longing. In fact, it was going in the opposite direction towards a whole different group of people.

Over the course of the next few years I wondered if God's interaction with what



I will call "career executives" was limited to the dispensation of the Old Testament. Had anything happened since the formation of the Church after Jesus' resurrection? Did this new emerging model do away with God using men and women in the marketplace? Was it now up to full time pastors and ministers to fulfill this roll? Many of these people reassured me that it was, but I wasn't so sure. Soon I realized that I had the answer to my own question. Why would God have asked me to go find them if

He didn't intend on using them? This was all the motivation I needed to go in search of these types of men through modern history. I was convinced that God was still using them, but where were they and who were they?

You would have thought I was mining for gold as I poured over hundreds of books in search of people with this type of calling. Each book had the same story; it was the preachers and their messages that made the difference. However, one day while reading a book on revival, the author referenced a group of businessmen by name that worked hand in hand with the revivalist Charles Finney. That was the key I needed to unlock the door. From there I discovered that the last 200 years of history has left us today with an enormous legacy. Something has been handed down to us. A torch or baton has been passed on. I would like to highlight two groups that exemplify what I am talking about.



The Clapham Sect

This was a group ("Company") of English friends and colleagues, "brothers" who worked together from around 1790 -1830 to take up various causes they felt central to establishing the Government of God on earth. They were men who believed in the cause of the Justice of God and looked for ways to see it established in England. They were bankers, lawyers, businessmen, politicians, playwrights and authors, many who initially never saw themselves as the type of material God could use to make a difference. In their case they felt the call from God to take on the issue of the injustice of slavery.

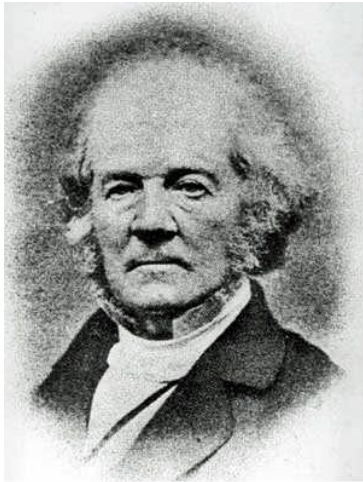
Clapham was a small town just south of London where the two most prominent members resided. Henry Thornton was a highly successful merchant banker. William Wilberforce was the parliamentarian that championed their cause in the British Government. Through their efforts and those of their "company of brothers," in 1807 the Slave Trade Act was passed in England abolishing slavery. They continued on with the battle and after many more years of campaigning, they were victorious with the total emancipation of British slaves with the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. They also campaigned vigorously for Britain to use its influence to eradicate slavery throughout the world. As a "Company" of men they also took up such causes as Penal Reform and evangelizing India.



The recently released movie "Amazing Grace" recalls the story of the life of William Wilberforce as he struggles with his own frail humanity. He has to overcome his own inner demons but in the end decides to take a stand on God's side on this issue. John Newton the ex-slave trader and author of the now famous hymn "Amazing Grace" was a Rector in the City of London and was a huge influence on Wilberforce. While Wilberforce's name is associated with the victory, it was a team effort as each of the "Company of Brothers" played a key role in building the case that eventually set the captive free.

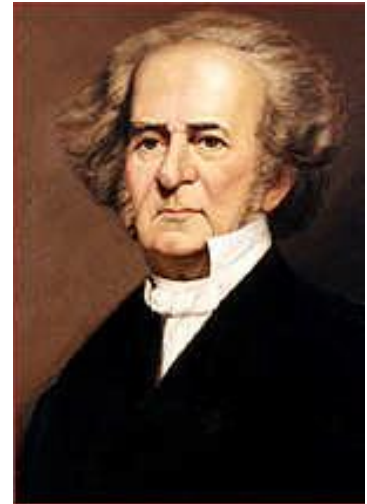


The Association of Gentlemen



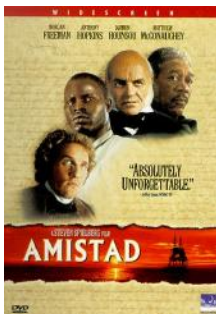
Arthur Tappan

In the United States, brothers Arthur & Louis Tappan who were dry goods and silk merchants during the 1820-30's in New York City rallied their "Company of Brothers" in business together. They took on a variety of causes including; abolishing slavery, the sex trade and chemical dependency. They were men of such integrity that they refused to do business in the generally accepted custom of the day which was



to have different prices for different customers depending on their status. The Tappan's on the principle of integrity advertised "One Price for All." Due to their unwavering commitment to integrity; they became the most trusted merchants on the east coast. Even those that hated their religious philosophy on various social issues did business with them as they knew they could be trusted.

They built churches for the poor and turned the established religious thinking of the day upside down. They abolished the "pew tax" that allowed people to come to church for free. Can you imagine it? What a radical idea! They formed not-for-profit organizations, founded newspapers and built universities all in an effort to establish the Government of God on Earth. This "Company" of men grew increasingly more frustrated with the church politics of the day. They felt that they needed a spokesman as radical and open minded as they were and recruited Charles Finney. They built his churches and financed his revivals. When they felt he was out of line by segregating his congregation as was the custom of the day, they confronted him on it and made him change.



After the acclaimed 1993 success of "Schindlers' List," Stephen Spielberg produced a movie in 1997 called "Amistad." It is the story of a group of African slaves who revolted on their slave ship and were later captured drifting off the northern coast of the United States. Stellan Skarsgard plays Louis Tappan who not only financed the slave's defense but was instrumental in recruiting ex-President John Quincy Adams to argue the case before the US Supreme Court.

The Band of Brothers

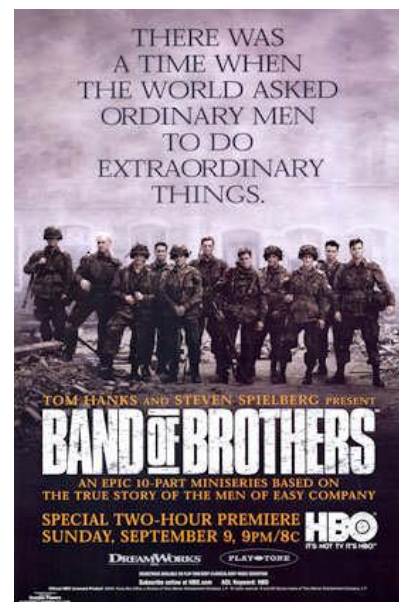


It was in 2001 after watching the HBO mini-series "Band of Brothers" that many of the principles, concepts and feelings that I had over the years started to come together. They began to form a more comprehensive picture of what I wanted my life to be about. A vision began to emerge about what legacy I wanted to leave behind for future generations, and who I wanted to do it with. The story from this "Band of Brothers" series is about a group of men called "Easy Company" and all they went through together during the Second World War. It got me thinking again about so many of these things stored away in my own heart. It would be another seven years before God would finally indicate to me that it was the right time to share this with others. If I am right, then many of you that

read this will feel a tugging or burning in your own heart as this is not exclusive. In fact, just the opposite as I believe it to be inclusive of many of us who have reached middle age and are at another crossroads in our lives. We have important choices to make and what I am about to suggest is one of them.

There seems to me to be a number of key correlations between all that the men of "Easy Company" went through in the battle for the liberation of Europe, and the battle we the Christian Community currently wage on earth for the establishment of the Kingdom of God. The word "Kingdom" seems like such an archaic word so every once in awhile I like inserting the word "Government." I think it is more culturally relevant today.

So what is it that makes the concept of the Band of Brothers so appealing to me? At the core is the idea of a group of ordinary men, called on to do extraordinary things together, in order to reach a common goal. I see this same theme in the group or "company" of men that Jesus chose to have at His side. They too were ordinary guys brought together from different backgrounds to fulfill a common purpose. This is such an interesting group of family



members, business associates and men looking for a cause worth fighting for. The fervent ones we know as "Zealots" which a number of the men in the group were. It is clear by their nicknames and their actions that they were all passionate men. They were all looking for a cause and Jesus knew it and gave them one much bigger than they had ever imagined. They spent three years with Jesus on an incredible high, watching Him gather crowds, do miracles and share profound words of insight only to be left feeling abandoned and confused by His death. Then, encouraged by His resurrection but still not sure what to do, they hid out together in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit united their hearts and opened their eyes to a cause worth laying their lives down for. These were ordinary men called on to do extraordinary things and because of their faith they did!

Jesus must have seen something deep within them at the very core of their heart. It is interesting to note that it's possible half of the group was related to someone else in the group. In other words, they had a bond that pre-existed before Jesus brought them together to fulfill a common purpose. It certainly wasn't just their personal wealth that Jesus was after or their skill sets, as there were others wealthier and more talented. I suspect He saw something in their hearts that caused Him to trust them with the Keys of His Kingdom.



What were those keys? I believe them to be the values and principles that God's Government is built on. To know and understand these values and principles is to know God's heart as this is where they are kept. Have you ever thought about what the Government of God would look like on earth? I imagine that while we may not know exactly the form it would take, we do know that it would be built on a number of key principles, none less important than that of Justice. Wasn't this also what the "Band of Brothers" in Easy Company was fighting for? To fight back the armies of tyranny and destroy the oppressor so that Justice was established and the downtrodden and captive could be set free.

This whole concept of the Band of Brothers really touches something at the core of my soul as I see myself as very ordinary and yet my heart wants to do something extraordinary alongside other ordinary guys.

Personally, I am bored with normal and ordinary. Mundane is getting old. I am tired of solely pursuing after a business career and accumulating material

goods. For what end I ask myself? What is the point or purpose of it all? I cannot take anything with me and in the end what will I have to show for it all? Solomon, the great and wealthy Jewish King summed it all up rather succinctly as vanity. "It is all vanity" he proclaimed in the later years of his life. Vanity is not how I want my life to be summed up.

Is God giving me pats on the back for all the great business deals I am doing or how much wealth I'm accumulating? Does He really care about my portfolio or my retirement plan? Or, is He observing what I have done with what He entrusted to me? How does what I do everyday build His Government here on earth? Am I building "Heaven on Earth" like I pray for daily in the "Lord's Prayer"? These are the questions that fill my thoughts and make me re-evaluate where my heart is. As the scriptures remind me of what Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will follow" I ask myself, what then is really important to me, where is my heart?

As I have pondered these questions I have come to a number of important conclusions about myself:

- 1) I care about the plight of the **Oppressed Poor** and would like to see what I can do to help alleviate their suffering. It seems that God is doing a work in my heart that must be expressed in a tangible way.
- 2) I want to build something for them that will make a significant difference in their lives. I think it is in the nature of all men to build in some form or fashion. With the understanding I now have, it must be built on the principle or foundation of **Justice**. I want to return to the innocence of my childhood and right the wrongs.
- 3) I also want to do it with my long time friends who are my **Band of Brothers**. I believe that God is not done with us, and we may in fact just be getting started.
- 4) I want to do it from a right heart; the heart of **Compassion**, as this is genuine and brings Life for all involved.

It is essential if we are to go on this journey together, that you understand the heart of God when it comes to the oppressed poor and those that fight on their behalf.

Section 2: Motivation

The Heart of the Matter

“Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?” declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 22:15-16



The Significance of Relationships & Purpose



In this current season of my life, I have been on a very significant personal journey. As I have shared, it is one that has me thinking a lot about who I am, what I want to do with the remaining years of my life and how I want to be remembered.

I have been making a point of reconnecting with many dear friends that go back through the years. As men, I have come to see how we tend to let our relationships drift away from us if they aren't functionally relevant. In the process I've discovered something profound and meaningful. After all this time, even with years in between of not seeing each other, I still have a deep sense of love, respect and connection with each and every man. As I sit in their presence this deep sense of "brotherhood" sweeps over my soul. Some of these relationships go back as far as 1977.

As we catch up and share the journeys of our lives, we all have in common "glorious victories and humiliating defeats." We have all raised families, had careers, and struggled to find our place in God's divine plan. While we were together in our younger years, we tried to do something significant for God by fulfilling the visions and purposes of others. While most of it was good, it wasn't always fulfilling, as often it was not based on the values and principles that resonated within our own hearts. In some cases it led to disillusionment and left us discouraged. Then, over the years, we have scattered to various places trying to find our own destiny, and in many cases lost touch with each other or have had very little interaction.

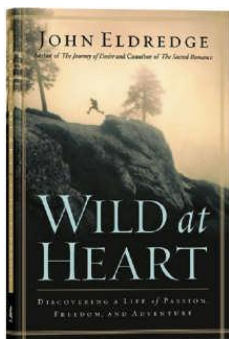
The interesting thing I have discovered recently is that there is still a deep heartfelt bond that connects many of us. Why? Each of these friends has asked about the other, as I believe they still feel the unspoken bond as well. Each have lamented that they do not see enough of their old friends. As I listened I heard something calling out from deep inside of each man. Not only is there the longing for camaraderie, there is also a wondering of what still lies ahead for us all. Was our history together a thing of the past or is there still some destiny to fulfill as a group? Are we past our "use by date" or is there something still left for us to do together? I think each and every man has asked these questions and

wondered what does any of it mean? We are all in that stage of life that naturally tends to shift our inner focus from offense to defense. We realize that most of our life is behind us and that we may have at best twenty years left in the marketplace. Retirement becomes our priority and IRA's, 401k's and other investments become increasingly more important. We start erecting our castle with moat and prepare to defend ourselves



against the forces of nature that want to take it all away from us. Fear can often be the driving force behind our decisions. We tend to want to isolate and insulate ourselves from much that is going on out there in the world, as most of it is out of our control. The more I thought about it, the more it dawned on me how self centered and self serving this all feels. Not that those things are not important, but they could very well dominate a man's soul to the point where he turns himself into a self centered Scrooge and not even realize it. It would be very easy for us all to find ourselves increasingly more relationally isolated, as we focus our energies on building the nest egg.

It is my contention that there is a healthy balance to keep oneself from falling too far down the well of self centeredness, and that is to find ways to serve and help others. I think it is also helpful to keep ourselves exposed to the global big picture that 95% of the world has no concept of retirement. Retirement is the result of the prosperity of our western culture and like so many things, a product that our self centered consumer driven world has sold us. This does not make it wrong, but it does raise some interesting questions about how one wants to spend the later years of their life and with whom they want to spend it.



In 2001, around the same time as the "Band of Brothers" mini series came out, a Christian counselor, John Eldredge, published his book "Wild at Heart." While the book has had its share of critics over John's use of scripture to make his points, I think there is little doubt the book's wild popularity is due to the fact that it struck cords of truth in men's hearts. Across the world it touched them at the core of their soul as they each identified and got back in touch with their God created nature. Instead of feeling guilty or ashamed about it, they celebrated it!

In summarizing John's book he states that men need to find three things in order to find fulfillment:

1. **A battle to fight:**

A cause outside of themselves to fight for – something noble and on behalf of others who have need of them.

2. **An adventure to live for:**

This cause must have the sense of adventure and danger – it cannot be easy to accomplish or too safe.

3. **A beauty to fight for:** T

There must be someone worth fighting for – who can appreciate the sacrifice made.

To quote from the book...

"If a man is ever to find out who he is and what he is here for, he has got to take that journey for himself. He has got to get his heart back."

I think there are a lot of middle aged men out there that still need to take that journey. There is a world of battles to fight, adventures to go on and beauties to rescue but in the most unexpected places. I can think of nothing more exciting or noble then putting men in need of battles together, with people that need rescuing. The personal reward would be life changing and I believe in the end they would get their hearts back.



The Significance of Justice in His Own Words



A few years ago, in an effort to get a grasp on the significance to God of the principle of Justice, I set out to do a bible study. I was hoping to find a few choice nuggets from which to glean some understanding of the issue. What I soon discovered was that those nuggets were not hard to find, in fact there was a whole gold mine of material. There were hundreds of verses that clearly stated God's thoughts on the matter.

What became resoundingly clear when I completed the study was that this issue of Justice was no secondary matter to God. In fact it was of utmost priority to Him. Surprisingly, He not only had a lot to say on the matter, He was committed to action on behalf of not only those who were victims of injustice, but those that chose to fight on behalf of the victims.

After some thought I decided to put a little booklet together that compiled all of these scripture nuggets I had found. I called it "**The Ministry of Compassion**" which I felt embodied itself in the only human example we have of God the Father, which was Jesus. There is no narrative in the booklet as I thought it important for these scriptures to speak for themselves. I simply compiled them all together in one place and sorted them into groups that address the various facets of God's heart.

For the sake of booklet size, I have chosen to include just a few of these scriptures for you. I think you will find as I did, that God has a lot of emotional energy in His heart concerning the poor. They need Justice. They need it dispensed through our efforts. If we choose to take up the cause we will have in our corner someone who has more invested in this mission than we do.



He identifies with the suffering of the oppressed. He feels their pain, their aloneness and their feeling of hopelessness.



Ecclesiastes 4:1

Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed – and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors.

Job 19:7

Though I cry, 'I've been wronged!' I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.

Job 35:9

Men cry out under a load of oppression; they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful.

Psalms 142:4

Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

Proverbs 13:23

A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.

Isaiah 10:1-2

Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

Ezekiel 16:49

Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

Amos 2:6-7

This is what the Lord says: "For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. They trample on the heads of the poor as upon the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed.

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

He issues a rallying call to action for a cause worth fighting for on behalf of a people who cannot fight for themselves.

**Psalm 12:5**

"Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, now I will arise," says the Lord; "I will set him in the safety for which he longs."

Psalm 68:5-6

A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows is God in His holy habitation. God makes a home for the lonely.

Psalm 146:9

The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow; but He thwarts the way of the wicked.

Proverbs 14:31

He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

Proverbs 22:22-23

Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the Lord will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

Isaiah 41:17

The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

Isaiah 56:1

This is what the Lord says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed."

Isaiah 58:6-7

"Is this not the fast which I chose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke? Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"

Ezekiel 34:15-16

I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

Matthew 9:36

When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Luke 11:39-41

Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But give what is inside the dish to the poor, and everything will be clean for you."

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

James 1:27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

He is committed to those that take up the cause of Justice and defend the oppressed. He will fight for them as well.

**Psalm 37:5-6**

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Proverbs 14:21

...blessed is he who is kind to the needy

Proverbs 19:17

He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverbs 22:9

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

Proverbs 28:27

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

Psalms 41:1-3

Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness.

Daniel 4:27

Therefore, O King, be pleased to accept my advice; Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It might be that your prosperity will continue.

Acts 10:4

Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God."

Hebrews 6:10

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.



The Significance of Justice as a Calling



There can be no denying that Justice is supremely important to God. It is equally imperative that we understand there is a very big difference between Civil Law and Biblical Justice. Howard Zehr, a Mennonite author wrote in his book, "Changing Lenses"...

"The test of justice in the biblical view is not whether the right rules are applied in the right way." Instead, "Justice is tested by the outcome. The tree is tested by its fruit... Does the outcome work to make things right? Are things being made right for the poor and the least powerful, the least 'deserving'? Biblical justice focuses on right relationships, not right rules."

I was struck by his use of the word "relationships" as this speaks directly to one of the core values of the Band of Brothers. We clearly see here again the emphasis when it comes to God, is on having a "right heart" and not just having "right form."

We have all experienced the frustration of seeing a judgment passed down in our United States Judicial System, whereby someone that was by their behavior obviously guilty of a crime, but due to a legal technicality the court was forced to find them not guilty. This just gets under our skin and makes us very angry. Everything inside us screams that this is not justice. We are sure that Lady Justice certainly is blind. This is Legal Justice not Biblical Justice.



In order to understand God's heart for the oppressed poor one has to understand that it is based on the principle of Justice which is a part of His "genetic code" and expressed through the writings of the Scriptures. In the dispensation of the Old Testament, the writer of the Psalms declared:

(The Lord) executes justice for the oppressed; (He) gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind (Psalm 146:7-8).

In other words when it comes to the dispensing of Justice, God is proactive. This is an issue that is preeminent in His heart, foremost in His mind and must be expressed continually in His body. It is who He is. When He introduced himself to Moses as "I Am" He could have added the word Justice among many others. "I Am Justice."

Hundreds of years later, Jesus characterized or defined His own earthly ministry by service to the poor, the outcasts, and the downtrodden thereby establishing justice. Early in his public ministry, Jesus entered the synagogue and read from the prophet Isaiah to describe his ministry:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

I have seen this quote spiritualized to the point that it is unrecognizable. It has been used to justify so many self serving fund raising programs within the church. I don't think it needs interpretation, I think it means exactly what it says, Jesus came for the poor and those in need. He came to let the oppressed go free.



The “Oppressed Poor” Defined

“The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



I really want to be on God's side of this battle for Justice. For me personally, I have a particular burden that occupies my heart, one that I think defines the motivation and heart of the Band of Brothers. It is my desire and the desire of my brothers to fight on behalf of the “oppressed poor.”

It is not that I do not have compassion on all the poor because I most certainly do. For me though something rises up in my heart when I see powerful forces taking advantage of the weak and desperate situations of the poor in order to fulfill their own agenda. Honestly, it makes me angry as I see it as a great injustice. I find myself wanting to be an active participant in seeing that Justice is established on behalf of those people too weak to fight for themselves.

So that there is no misunderstanding, I define the “oppressed poor” or as the Bible sometimes refers to them; “the downtrodden”, as those whose plight is not a choice of their own making. Nor is it a consequence of their actions or attitudes, but the result of being up against forces much too powerful for them to overcome on their own.

I have a great deal of admiration for those who work with the poor who are often homeless, due to battling mental illness or drug addiction. I believe that God smiles on them as they serve these people with a great deal of compassion. However, I believe the mission of the Band of Brothers is to focus their energies on a different battlefield. Our battle is to go to war on behalf of a different group of people – the Oppressed Poor.

In my mind the strong forces that oppress the poor could be summarized in the following five groups;

Political:



In these situations, governments, political dissidents, rebels or warlords are in conflict with each other for control of a country or region. This often results in innocent people (uninterested in the politics of it all) who are just trying to survive, getting caught in the crossfire. The outcome is that they lose their homes, their livelihood and life itself. I personally witnessed in the country of Guatemala in the 1980's hundreds of women being left widowed after their innocent husbands were killed by political dissidents coming over the border from southern Mexico trying to stir up trouble. Africa too has seen its share of political struggles in Rwanda, Liberia and today in Darfur. In 1987 I buried sixteen friends who were massacred in Zimbabwe by political dissidents unhappy that these amazing people were helping their own countrymen!

Economic:



These are difficult situations where people are living under economies where the country's infrastructure has been destroyed by incompetent, greedy or corrupt leaders so they cannot make a living or put food on the table. Their lands, companies and livelihoods are often taken by repressive regimes and given away as political favors. Robert Mugabe the President of Zimbabwe would be a case in point. He has destroyed one of Africa's most prosperous countries within a decade. Economic turmoil often sadly results in women being forced into prostitution to survive. Currently the sex slave trade of Eastern Europe and Asia is imprisoning and shipping overseas young women who rarely reach the age of 30 before dying of disease, drug overdose or are murdered. Women are often the worst victims of economic oppression.

Religious:



Historically, this has been the most common source of war and oppression and continues today in many countries. More people have died in the "Name of God" than any of us can imagine. Sadly, the Church has historically more often been a "prophet of oppression" than a liberator of the poor. It has sided with political leaders and

ideologies that have enslaved people. One needs to go no further than Apartheid. We continue to see the age old battles in the Middle East. We've witnessed the brutality of the Taliban in Afghanistan as they attempt to enslave whole people groups to their religion. It was just a few years ago that we saw the mass graves from the Genocide going on in Eastern Europe that was called "Ethnic Cleansing" which was really a cover up for "Religious Cleansing."

Cultural:



The historical cultural prejudices of the cast system in India while technically illegal, is still very much alive. There is a whole group of people whose whole value is nothing more than cleaning up after everyone else. In many cultures there is rejection because of gender. Widows or single mothers are not allowed in the marketplace. This has lead to wide spread poverty. Children are often casualties in these situations. In Guatemala, we worked very hard to balance the "Scales of Justice" by building homes for widowed families living in caves and sewer pipes because the women were not allowed to work and provide for their children. It was like the culture banished them and sentenced them to death.

Natural:



The force of natural disasters such as Earthquakes, Floods, Hurricanes, Tornadoes and Droughts that have destroyed everything in their path leaving people homeless and starving are a huge problem. In the United States we have recently witnessed the devastation that a storm like Katrina can do. In the case of Indonesia one earthquake in the ocean released a Tsunami that killed nearly 300,000 people within a few hours. That is the population of a large city! In Africa, drought and the lack of water lead to widespread starvation and disease. Often the water is just under their feet but they cannot reach it or they can't afford to build the dams to catch it and store it in the rainy season.

I believe that God has invited us to the battle; it is now simply a matter of responding.

The Orphan & Widow



It seems clear that in God's heart under the general heading of the "Oppressed Poor," there are two groups of people that are a priority to Him. They are addressed countless times in the scriptures and nothing gets his ire up more than people who take advantage of them. On the other side of the equation, I also think that nothing touches His heart more deeply than those who take up their cause and seek Justice on their behalf.

Obviously, I am referring to the Orphan and Widow. These two people groups of society are the weakest and most vulnerable under oppression.

Orphans were brought into the world without a say in the matter. Whether their parents were the victims of war, starvation, AIDS or they have been abandoned, they are powerless to fight for themselves. Unless someone else does, they have a death sentence hanging over their heads.

The same could be said of widows, in that they too are in a situation not by their own choice. Often in the later years of their lives without the physical strength to work, or unable to work due to cultural prejudices, they are abandoned and alone. They are seen as a liability and not a productive member of the community.



The scriptures are very straightforward about how God sees them and their situation and leaves little to question. In fact our actions towards these two groups significantly define how God views the reality of our faith;

This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 1:27

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: *Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.*

Isaiah 1:17



In looking at this quote further, I noticed that he actually laid out a great strategy for taking up their cause:

learn to: In others words get proactive and learn about the plight of the orphan and the widow. Do your research.

do good/right: Pretty straightforward and again get proactive. Do something about it, no room for passivity here.

seek justice: This is another proactive action...seeking. This is not waiting for it to come to you, look for ways to establish justice.

encourage the oppressed: Again be proactive and do not keep your mouth shut.

defend the orphan or “defend the fatherless”: Get proactive and fight on behalf of the orphan.

plead for the widow: I think it is clear, that as God is proactive so we should be too - plead for the widow.

The Dream in My Heart

... is that God would once again unite the hearts of the Band of Brothers and bring them together for a **Noble** cause.

... is that God would re-ignite the hearts of the Band of Brothers and give them back the **Passion** and **Vision** that has grown dim or lost.

... is that the Bands of Brothers all over the world will come together and form a group or "Company" to do at God's bidding, something **Significant** for someone else in need.

... is that the Band of Brothers take up a **Cause**, saddle themselves up for an adventure and rescue someone in real distress.

When I dream of making a significant impact, I do not mean that it is necessarily a large scale cause. What I mean is that it has an impact on someone's life that makes a significant difference to them personally. It needs to be something meaningful, something of substance that changes a person's life forever, something they will never forget.

I believe that all over the world there are Bands of Brothers that God has tied together at the heart. They are natural God ordained relationships that have come together for a purpose yet discovered. I think for most of us we have thought of them selfishly as though they were created for our personal benefit or gain, but what if that's not the case?

Could there be an untapped potential to fulfill a bigger purpose? Maybe God has been orchestrating these relationships so that one day these ordinary men, in these ordinary relationships, could band together to do something extraordinary in someone else's life? God knows the real need that's out there for men like us to band together, to fight on the side of justice on behalf of the oppressed.



Section 3: Implementation

Where Do We Go From Here

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18



The Band of Brothers Strategy Overview



It is our contention that God has already begun the work and that there are in fact thousands of already “naturally” established “Bands of Brothers” across the globe in various states of relationship. Some of them may already be functioning as a unit and engaged in some form of work for the Kingdom of God. Knowing men, we suspect though that the vast majority of these Bands of Brothers are either doing business or recreational activities together. They have never seen themselves as possible instruments of God to take up a cause **together as a “Company” of men**, on behalf of the “Oppressed Poor.” We believe that they need to be envisioned with the sense of adventure and purpose.

We believe that not only is taking up a cause together as a group on behalf of the orphan and widow a litmus test of the genuineness of our faith, but it is essential to our maintaining a well balanced Christian walk. It takes the focus off what do we get out of this and refocuses it on what can we do for others. In fact we need them as much as they need us. As President John Kennedy boldly proclaimed *“Ask not what your country (Kingdom) can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country (Kingdom).”*

Once identifying and recruiting the Bands of Brothers to God's war on oppression, the next step must be connecting them with specific battles to fight. These need to be particular projects that as a team or “Company” they can gather together strategize on and be a part of implementing a solution. They need to be spiritually drawn, emotionally engaged and physically involved. We strongly recommend that as a “Company” they visit their projects and meet the people they are fighting for. This will necessitate strategic partnerships with credible organizations that are already on the front lines in the action, and in need of reinforcements. This will also require excellent administrative skills mixed with communication skills to ensure the success of each project and the integration of the various pieces.

The Organization's Purpose

When we originally came together to discuss what was in our hearts, we debated the need for an organization. The last thing we wanted to do was “reinvent the wheel” or to try and control what God wants to do. We are a good deal more interested in the oppressed poor being helped than building up an organization.

After some prayerful reflection and wise input, it became clear that due to the organic nature of the Band of Brothers it could easily lose direction and focus as it grows out further from the root. For us the single biggest concern is that it does not lose its heart, which is absolutely vital to its success. The establishment of an organization to insure this does not happen seems to be the course of wisdom. We want to ensure the “Band of Brothers” principles and concepts stay true to the vision and do not get diluted or distorted.

We see the Band of Brothers organization as filling the following roles:

Recruiting

- **Speaking Engagements**

We are available to speak at any gathering of people who are interested in hearing more about our vision or would like to join us on this great adventure for a Noble Cause.

- **Publications**

We will be using Books, White Papers and Pamphlets to communicate our message.

- **Web site**

Through the use of our web site we will communicate our message to the general public as well as using it as an “Intranet” for internal communication.

Research

Potential projects or “Missions” will need to be identified and properly assessed. Much like one would require the use of a CPA or Legal expert to proceed with a business deal, each potential project needs to be thoroughly researched by the organization to see if it meets the Band of Brothers criteria. Once “certified” each opportunity needs a “Mission Report” produced, which will then be

submitted to the various “Companies” so they can choose which particular cause they will take up.

Networking

- **Partner Organizations**

Band of Brothers will take the primary responsibility for networking with potential mission partners. This again is to insure that there is a “joining at the heart” and the organization has the same values and goals. If a “Company” has a pre-existing relationship with a partner we welcome the opportunity to expand our relationships. We only ask that we get an opportunity to meet with the potential partner before proceeding on any “Missions.”

- **Companies**

Band of Brothers will be responsible for recruiting and certifying each “Company.” It will also be responsible for getting out “Mission Reports” to the field.

Management

Once a Mission and Company have been matched up, Band of Brothers wants to ensure that the Company’s “Strategic Action Plan” is in place and stays on schedule. Continual communication will need to take place between our team, the Mission Manager on site and the Company leader to ensure we all meet our goals. The organization will be responsible for overseeing that the Company/Mission funds are being collected and disbursed properly to the correct organizations and specific projects.



Components of a Band of Brothers Company

At the core of Band of Brothers there are really only a few basic fundamental concepts. Like so many things in life, the more complicated they become, the less we tend to want to do them. Often we end up with “paralysis by analysis.” We want to avoid those pitfalls if at all possible and keep this whole thing real simple.

Do you need?

1. A battle to fight
2. An adventure to live for
3. A beauty to fight for

Do you understand?

1. God identifies with the suffering of the oppressed
2. God calls out to us to help Him fight for their justice
3. God will defend us as we defend them

Do you agree?

1. God is calling out to me personally
2. God is calling out to my group of friends
3. God is asking us be proactive and do something

If you answer “affirmative” to these questions then welcome to the Band of Brothers as we all feel exactly the same.

Here’s what we are looking for:

1. Already established organic groups of friends (5-10 men) that ideally have a long term history together.
2. As a group, the Band of Brothers message has struck a cord in your hearts and you have a longing for a cause, the need for adventure and the desire to bring a smile to someone in need.
3. You as a “Company” are willing, ready and able to commit to taking on the responsibilities for specific missions, with measurable goals and seeing them through to completion.

Here's what we will be requesting from each "Company";

1. Your "story" in writing and what has kept you together as friends. Why are you a Company?
2. A Company name"(i.e. "Easy Company")
3. Submitting a roster of Company members with contact information and brief Bio's
4. The group has a mutually agreed upon Company leader that will be the primary "Point of Contact" (POC)
5. Scheduling regular Company events for getting together for camaraderie, fellowship, updates and strategic planning. This of course will depend largely on where your Company members are located.
6. Regular communication with the Band of Brothers leadership on Company and Mission status
7. A minimum of a once a year Company event with your wives, as each of us understands the key role they play in our success
8. A commitment to visit your Missions as a Company at least once per year, to personally touch the people you are helping



Potential Partners & Missions

Each potential organizational partner that is requesting either input or assistance must first develop a “bridge of friendship” with the leadership of Band of Brothers. We are insistent that our partners are “banded” to us by relationship before purpose. Once we are joined at the heart first, we can then proceed with confidence that what we are doing together is both sincere and genuine and will last.

Once a relationship is established we request that each Partner submit a project specific report called a “**Mission Briefing**.” This briefing will be used to match “Missions” with “Company’s.” Each Mission Briefing that is submitted must be project specific. We are looking for projects that have a start date, a stated cost/budget and a completion date.

For consideration, the Mission Briefing must be submitted in the following format:

1) Country Background

a) General History:

- What is the history of the country politically and economically?
- What historic role has the church played in the current prevailing attitudes in the country?

b) Current Political Situation:

- Who is currently running the country?
- What type of government is currently in place?
- What is the current role of the military?
- How stable is the overall current situation?
- Are there any potential dangers?

c) Current Economic Situation:

- How stable is the countries economy?
- What is the exchange rate/
- Can we get “more bang for our buck?” with creative financing?

d) Current Ecological Situation:

- What has been general climate of the country?
- Is land good for agriculture?

2) Mission's Village or Local Area Background

a) Location:

- Where is the Mission project located within the country?
- What major cities or landmarks are located by it?

b) General History:

- What is the history of that region or village in context to the rest of the country?

b) Current Political Situation:

- What do those that live in the area feel about the current government?
-

c) Current Economic Situation:

- What types of existing commerce are there in the area?
- Is there any industry, agriculture or is it non-existent?
- What about local markets?

d) Current Ecological Situation:

- What is the current status of the land?
- Does it need to be reclaimed?
- What is the quality and quantity of water?

3) Mission/Project

a) Name:

- What is the name of the project?

b) General Overview:

- What is the history surrounding this project?
- What is the need that you are trying to meet?
- Who are the people you are trying to help?
- What is your long term goal for this project?

c) Implementation Strategy:

- What is your plan (blueprint) to see this project is completed and operational?
- What is your time frame for launch and completion?

4) **Budget**

- What are the costs associated with this project
- Can it be completed in phases?

5) **Photos**

- **Of** the current status of the land or location
- Other completed similar projects

6) **Project Managing Organization**

a) **History:**

- What is the history behind your organization?

b) **Background on Key Personnel**

- Who are key decision makers with brief bios?
- Who is the specific Project Manager?

c) **Contact Information**

- How do we keep in contact with the organization?
- How do we keep in contact with the Project Manager?

Band of Brothers Contact Information

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"The Band of Brothers" is a ministry of Compassionate Justice International a not-for profit organization.