



YOUR WORLD NEEDS A HERO

KNIGHTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

How the Knights Program Can
Positively Impact Men in Prison

Contents

How the Knights Program Can Positively Impact Men in Prison..... 1

Contents 2

THE PROBLEM..... 3

A SOLUTION 4

MENTORING CONCEPTS 5

WHAT CAN YOU DO? 6

METHODOLOGY..... 7

CONCERNS 8

THE PROBLEM

No one begins their life saying: “Someday I want to end up in prison.” Yet despite this, our prisons are filled and overflowing with males who have failed to achieve their potential. The culture continues to struggle with this waste of human potential as the cost of housing males, who do minimal to contribute to their stay escalates. As long-term mental health facilities close, the prison system is asked to do more, while overcrowding makes rehabilitation even more subservient to the need to maintain control.

As the expansion of the prison system continues to exact its toll on society’s resources, we offer a program that teaches males how to become men. No one enters the prison as an act of manhood, despite what one’s distorted self-image or thought processes may claim. One’s honor, self-control and choices are never subject to what other people do and males often allow themselves to blame others for their weakened position. Prisons in a reasonably fair society are filled with immature males not men.

A SOLUTION

A male working to become a man needs manly elders in his life to show him how to guide his aggressive instincts and develop his unique potential within. He must learn to exercise his strength through life's hardships, make well thought-through choices, take responsibility, and value himself. The immature options of alcohol abuse, drug addiction, sexual obsession, domestic violence, physical domination, not providing for one's children, gang membership, and theft are not in keeping with what a man has been called to be. It is the lack of men teaching males how to become men that has been a major contributing factor to our prison emphasis of today. Our present communities have failed to point the way in relevant education and in principled leadership, as they no longer provide a safety net to catch the young males, without a man's influence, who are spiraling out of control and making numerous wrong choices.

The material of the Knights of the 21st Century attempts to change this depressing picture by providing a male the option to achieve his manhood instead of just pretending to be one. It presents the male with a high view of what is expected of a man and attempts to get the male to find a reason to believe in his calling for self-value and nobility of action. This material portrays the belief that there is an underlying inner voice within all males that points the way toward manhood, and with that, what a person says he is, he becomes. The male is taught how to hear his voice and to accept the manhood changes that are required of him. The material challenges the male to take responsibility and develop a new choice pattern so that he can optimistically define his future. It accurately helps him understand his previous life (referred to as the "forest") experience and teaches him inner skills so that he no longer has to view himself as a victim within it. In other words, this program mentors males into manhood.

MENTORING CONCEPTS

The following issues are part of the 21st Century Knights' material that helps males become mentored into manhood:

- (1) Males must learn the positive definition of what a man is.
- (2) One's past must be overcome and dealt with by establishing new beliefs.
- (3) Manhood is a continuum, and thus one is never done his self-development.
- (4) Self-awareness of the six core elements of an individual is the key to responsible choice.
- (5) There are 15 manhood principles that define life experience and how to deal with it.
- (6) Sober living doesn't occur by accident, but by a male learning manly ways of coping.
- (7) Healthy relationships are where true life satisfaction comes from.
- (8) It is healthy – at times – to be defensive, but for real men, this is both a controlled and a conscious choice.
- (9) Men are both emotional and thoughtful and need to learn how to integrate these two aspects.
- (10) A realistic overview of the immature man inside and the self-destructive force within must always be recognized as potentially present.
- (11) Relationship skills found in friendship and love can be learned.
- (12) A man's faith system is a resource for long-term sobriety, growth, and positive living.
- (13) A man learns to grow stronger in his sense of self by giving to those around him.
- (14) This material teaches an awareness and guidance of one's instincts as well as the acceptance and the use of one's gifts and genetic capabilities.
- (15) The program also describes a healthy view of sexuality, crisis management and conflict resolution.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- (1) Ask for a sample program and show it to a local prison official in your area.
- (2) Develop a fundraising program, to get each male in your local prison their own book to learn from, and purchase the DVD series.
- (3) Agree to volunteer time to lead discussions in the prison on the material presented and assist the males in internalizing these new principles.
- (4) Understand that personal change is slow, and that those you mentor will have to test your motivations and purity of purpose first.
- (5) Recognize that although this program respects and encourages spiritual development, meeting and accepting males where they are at must come first.
- (6) Accept that this material and manhood process changes one life at a time, and that one male becoming a man is quite successful if not miraculous.
- (7) Let us know how you are doing on your knightly quest to make a specific difference in the prison world. We want to both be a resource for specific issues you may discover as well as celebrate your achievements.

METHODOLOGY

A DVD program utilizes the inherent positive perspective of a knight to encourage a male to reach out beyond his old self-definition to a new way of being. Through the use of new words such as “armor”, “chain mail”, and “core,” concepts are introduced that help a male understand the difference between what he is supposed to be versus who he is. This program guides the male, step-by-step, in an act of courageous self-restoration, as he learns to redefine life’s hardships as an opportunity to strengthen himself. Through the use of new language, a male understands the various structures that form his identity and is encouraged to utilize this information to live a life of self-control and positive choices. Through the use of group discussion, he is encouraged to explore his preconceptions regarding a manhood process, so that he interacts with the material more honestly. These “campfire groups” also give him an opportunity to practice the skills he is being taught within a relationship setting.

CONCERNS

It is important in a prison setting to develop ground rules that create a positive atmosphere and a good learning environment. It is perfectly understandable that some males may not be ready for this type of program and it is important to not allow these individuals to harm the overall group process. Thus it should be clear that certain immature male behaviors will not be tolerated as the first choice of action required of anyone's manhood achievement.

- (1) Each individual must be respected for their diversity of culture and belief and that ridicule and condemnation is not tolerated.
- (2) Participants must feel safe and free to share their inner thoughts and feelings. Those who cannot respect the process and choose to utilize the information shared during this time for power later, have decided to remain a male. Thus, confidentiality is both expected and demanded.
- (3) The proper size of the group should be considered for environmental control and the security of the various participants utilizing this growth opportunity. Thus, personal security for each member is highly valued.
- (4) It takes time for a male to become a man, thus care should be taken to try to include the right members in the group to create the best chemistry for the maturing process. Growth is a process and expecting too much too soon is unrealistic and is the leader's problem, not theirs.
- (5) At higher levels of manhood functioning, internal leadership should be sought to better apply the material and help with material assimilation. As a result these internal leaders will naturally emerge and lead the process forward. At this time, the facilitator should choose to become less verbally active.
- (6) Although those who are motivated to help may do so as a result of what they consider a spiritual call, it is important to accept the material's openness to spiritual choice. Faith must be taken to allow God to naturally work in the hearts of the males that are part of this program beyond your immediate personal influence.
- (7) Some males have such difficult mental health issues that their inclusion will limit the success of the program. In these cases, a more individualized program should be instituted when possible.