



YOUR WORLD NEEDS A HERO

# KNIGHTS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Program Summary and Whitepaper

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## Building Modern Day Heroes

Any of us can be a hero at any given moment in time because heroes are simply ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Heroes do not seek recognition, but instead merely rise to the occasion out of humility to do what is right. And this is the one common characteristic that all heroes possess; they willingly set aside their own personal often self-centered interests to brave self-sacrifice for the good of humanity.

### *THE KNIGHTS CURRICULUM CREATES HEROES*

The Knights curriculum creates environments where men become who they were designed to be, a hero to their families and in their communities.

### *HEROES ARE MADE, NOT BORN*

Through a combination of solid teaching and interaction with other men, a man learns what it takes to be a hero in a world that desperately needs authentic men.

### *THE LONE RANGER MAN IS A MYTH*

In earlier times, cowboys had the campfire where they came together to be challenged and encouraged. With the Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program, men are called up to take heroic actions and are strengthened through authentic relationships with other men who are pursuing similar goals.

### *THE NEXT PAGE WILL BE WRITTEN*

Men are reminded that each day they start with a new page in a book we call life. Each man decides how well he finishes each day, and the rest of his life. The knights exist to help a man write the best story he can.

We know how effective this program is. We believe that every man will benefit from joining the Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and we constantly remind ourselves that we want no man to be left behind.

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*“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”*  
~ Christopher Reeve (American Actor and Film Director 1952-2004.)

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*OUR MISSION*

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A man always needs a place to meet with other men to talk honestly about himself and life. The speed of daily activities is such that a man can easily make life into a list, himself into a machine to do the list, and the people around him evaluated in relationship to the list that must be done.

Men who gather for fun, a teaching challenge, and a campfire time of sharing encourage each other to move beyond this style of living. A time for growth, self-reflection, and relationship support helps men to hold each other accountable, fulfill their potential at a higher level, and lead themselves. Men who lead themselves better are then able to lead those they love, and more positively affect the culture in which they live. Let us commit together right now, to become the heroic men who make a difference in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## HOW TO GET STARTED

There is a great need for men to gather, grow, and make a difference in their world.

### *DO WE AGREE...?*

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- (1) That life, as we know it, is difficult and yet filled with many possibilities.
- (2) That there are significant world problems we are reminded of daily, crying out for solutions.
- (3) That the cause behind many of these issues can be traced to males choosing to act immaturely, violently, unethically, irresponsibly and callously.
- (4) That a chief solution to our problems is for males to learn to become men and live up to both their potential and calling.
- (5) That the church can demonstrate the power of its Savior's message in practical ways by helping males become the men God intended.
- (6) That the individual change in a man's life will not only help him and his family, but serve to transform the church and the culture in which he resides.

### *OUR PROGRAM*

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The Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program has been designed to help males of any age learn to appreciate and be confident in achieving their manhood.

The message presented is one of hope and optimism to confront the years of cultural negativity toward men and lack of good role models and a way presented for a man to both understand and respect the Creator and His creation.

Males need men to challenge themselves to higher levels of manhood performance and this Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program does so in several ways.

- (1) It presents a new manhood language in order to make men work at grasping this view of life. When men discover and use new words, their internal dialogue changes and eventually their actions.

- (2) It encourages a view of men that describes their complexity in terms of the knight metaphor. Men are initially attracted by the nobility and positive nature of this manhood description and willing to delve more deeply into who they really are internally.
- (3) The challenging nature of the material leads the men to deeper understanding of themselves, as they progress along in the program and the excitement of self-discovery becomes itself a powerful motivation.
- (4) Men increase their level of participation and grow when they begin to understand more fully, how their past history affected their present, how their natural defensiveness fits within their nature, how their emotional worlds can be felt and utilized, how their relationships can be improved, how their potential can be further developed, how their thinking can be sharpened and how their life purpose can be clarified.
- (5) It includes a 15 minute warm-up or hosting time, where relaxation, laughter and friendship are emphasized, which is then follow by a live or DVD presentation of the Knights material.
- (6) Campfire or discussion groups follow each program lesson where men are given the opportunity to wrestle with, internalize and apply the presented material. The practical support of a campfire group encourages the application of these new language principles and concepts.

### *HOW DO I START?*

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- (1) It begins with you! Are you sure you want this? Unless you feel a strong passion to change yourself first as you attempt to lead men toward growth, this program is not for you. We are looking for leaders who are willing to make their own development a priority and face the hardships such personal strengthening requires. We ask you, in this way, to model the material presented.
  - a. You must become a servant leader to your group and delay meeting some of your own needs for the good of others.
  - b. You must view yourself in an optimistic manner, seeing the depth of the problems to be solved, while determining to be a difference maker in them.

- c. (c) You must accept that there are no easy answers for you or the men you lead. It is up to you to do the hard work that makes change possible.
- d. You must understand that choice and taking responsibility are important themes in this program. One's faith choice is presented not as a pre-determined conclusion but as a serious act of turning one's will over to God. The implications of this important decision are even clearer when a male becomes a man, and with full understanding makes a God-man relationship decision.
- e. You must learn to relate to the men you lead in a complete manner, as you not only think but feel together with them in the journey. You should model the attributes of what it means to have supportive relationships.
- f. You must be ready to hear some rough stories as men open up about their lives, on the way to becoming what they want to become. At times, some men will be encouraged to seek further assistance as their long ignored pain becomes more apparent to them.
- g. You must create a team to help lead the men as opposed to trying to lead them on your own, which is less likely to succeed. Diverse groups of men need diverse leadership so that all types of personalities can feel valued and be heard. You need help with hosting, audio-visual, lay prayer or counseling, refreshments, publicity, and other organizational functions. Including others in these responsibilities will deepen their commitment to their own personal growth, the men's movement in general and provide you as the leader with a sense of support.

(2) You can begin by:

- a. Introducing these new materials to groups you know.
- b. Inviting men in a church or from a civil group to join you in a manhood journey with other men. Determine the level of interest and whether they desire to be their own group or part of a larger gathering of men. Some groups will seek permission from a local prison in order to make this material available to these hurting males who similarly need to learn how to become men.
- c. Starting with a small group of friends you already know, begin growing together and the natural hunger in these men can take the few and turn it into a mighty army. Men will naturally share with their friends

what excites them and where they are receiving help for their lives. Simply start the process where you are and watch it grow.

- d. Embarking on the journey yourself or with your wife. It is important for accountability and relationship reasons that you try to include others in your growth process. We all need others to achieve our highest potential.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** As personal growth is a series of stages similar to an onion with layer after layer being pulled back to reveal the core, so also is the development of this material. The five year program is designed to build on the steps established by the previous year's material. Our goal is to layer a man's growth, so that each year takes him deeper and deeper in his manhood development and journey. However, it is possible for men to join at any stage or level of the program as there is enough repetition and review of the main concepts that they will not be lost or confused. Veterans of the program or certain levels are expected to help new men gain a grasp of the material, in a way that solidifies their own growth and leadership progress.

### *OUR VIEWPOINT*

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The Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century material is written based on several basic life assumptions. Those who participate in this program are encouraged to evaluate their beliefs, decide their beliefs if they have been previously ignored, and become aware of how their beliefs underlie many of the choices a man will make regarding his life. If a basic tenant of this material is that males have great potential if they become men by choice, then developing positive expectations of how a man is defined, is an important key to achieving manhood. Life (or the forest) will throw issue after issue, experience after experience, and numerous types of relationships at the average man on his journey. Many males crumble, take numerous wasteful detours, dumb themselves down, and choose to get involved in some fairly negative activities as a result of not knowing and living by good healthy principles. A man, in contrast has taken the time to reflect and acquire certainty regarding the foundational elements of his thinking. The man learns, as the weight of the world crushes in on him, to utilize the depth of this basic understanding of his beliefs to assist him in choosing to walk the manhood journey. Fifteen (15) Manhood Principles have been offered as the place for the manhood journey to begin, but it is recommended that principles of a more personal nature be developed by each man. Some of the



foundational thinking that underlies this material can best be understood by reading the five assumptions upon which this material is based. It is hoped that these thoughts can stimulate your thinking regarding the ideas that are an essential part of your manhood journey.

**Assumption 1:** The world has numerous seemingly unsolvable issues that support deteriorating relationships, aggression and an abundance of negative news coverage. These problems are a result of the choices of many of the male gender that refuse to leave their simplistic boyish ways and choose to ignore their manhood calling.

**Assumption 2:** Men who choose to follow the arduous path that is necessary to achieve their manhood potential are, in reality, all heroes. They have accepted their calling and developed the strengths needed to succeed at it. It is only through such heroic efforts and wise choices that a man can choose not to take the less easy route of simply staying a boy. The man, who chooses to exercise himself, can become the man this world needs. Heroic men can make a difference both in others' lives as well as in the forest.

**Assumption 3:** The authors believe that one of the best explanations of human life, as we understand it is described in the Bible. The Biblical faith choice allows the individual to recognize the problems associated with the very foundations of human experience, and at the same time, it provides the man with a hopeful and adequate solution. As the Bible teaches, the world, as a result of human choice, has left God's original design, become chaotic and is filled with negative experiences. Instead of a big governmental or corporate solution, the Bible teaches that, for the world to change it must be changed by one valuable human life at a time, each one choosing to turn over the direction of their ongoing existence to God's loving purpose for them.

**Assumption 4:** The Bible tells us that God states that the only way to have an ongoing relationship with God is through a spiritual rebirth experience. This occurs when a man accepts Christ's death on the cross as a way to spiritually deal with his ongoing choice of imperfection. Man's sin or shadow not only harms him, but also violates the attributes of holiness and justice that are part of God's personhood. Thus, Christ is the ultimate manhood example, as He fulfilled His potential, sacrificed Himself for the good of others, and demonstrated His strength during various life challenges.

**Assumption 5:** You need to make a choice regarding your involvement with God and the nature of this choice means that belief alternatives must be present. God loves all humans, gives them great potential, and offers them the

ability to choose or reject Him. Thus, this material respects you if you choose not to believe, while attempting to be Biblically consistent with those who choose to believe.

Material is provided to the believer in Appendices E and F, to assist him in his own faith development, while also encouraging the non-believer to grow in his manhood as well. It is our belief that all of life is a result of God's original gift and human potential is not an exception to God's grace.

It is recognized that a man's faith choices may change as a result of hearing these lessons and thinking more deeply about life. We attempt to honor our hero, Christ, by helping males who are not yet heroes take advantage of God's gift by building up their manhood potential, helping the world change for good, and learning to feel Christ's love for them. As a result of the diversity of the faith systems of the men taking this manhood course and the author's belief that all truth is God's truth, some individuals will be quoted who may individually differ from the author's Biblical viewpoint. Truth when expressed by someone with a different faith system cannot differ from God's truth, and is used to help better understand the world in which we live, as well as how to deal nobly with its challenges.

### *THE CHURCH*

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The church is called to represent God's people within a needy world. Its message of redemption, love, service, and human value is transforming as the head of the church, Christ, is understood and accepted. Unfortunately, the big C Church, has often chosen to leave its noble heritage and instead become a small c church, as its members have chosen to leave their narrow faith walk for the power and control of a sight walk. (2 Cor. 5:7) History has shown us that even the growth of new age spirituality has been assisted as a result of the small c church, choosing to redefine and turn Christ's message of love into one of judgment. A man struggling with an addiction of any type, who chose to attend church, soon learned in the small c church that to share or confess what was really going on in his life led to massive amounts of condemnation and ostracism. He therefore left the ineffective church and in order to survive and receive help, Alcohol Anonymous was created out of some of the same Biblical principles the church chose not to apply. This was done while extracting the Biblical God from the personal growth process. People presently come to the fellowship or AA for help, but without a discussion of the relationship with Christ upon which the original Biblical principles were founded.

### *THE CHURCH'S SECOND CHANCE*

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It is our belief, that the small c church gets a second chance to rise to the challenge of helping with this deep cultural deficit and demonstrate its ability to reflect God's love. Males are in great need of role models, self-understanding and a way to develop their manhood potential. The culture's numerous negative influences can be clearly traced to males that have chosen to leave their original design and purpose by choosing to live one of control and power. As a result, many males do not live a satisfying existence and because of some of their actions, many women and children live in fear of what the next day will bring from these males.

Why not draw hurting males who have also hurt others into the church and not just leave them where they are presently, but give them the gift of God's general revelation or principles so they can begin to become men. As these males start to benefit from growing into manhood, it would be quite natural for them to reconsider God's more specific intervention into human history. The church as a result of ministry to those in need through this program, could reflect itself differently than when it handled alcoholics with judgment, and show God's grace and ability to meet males where they are so they can have the privilege of knowing what it's like to live a life of a man. As churches have begun to use this program and others similar to it, many men have returned to the challenge of growing in their potential, becoming better husbands and fathers, while at the same time reconsidering their spiritual choices. In this way the church can again be the positive cultural influence God originally intended. Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century feels honored to offer a church a program that can help it achieve God's mandate in this lost world.

### *OUR CHALLENGE*

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We believe that not only are men extremely valuable, but they also love metaphors and stories as well because of the tendency to remember concepts portrayed this way it often makes application more likely. These avenues of presenting ideas combine thinking with feeling and often lead to a level of insight that is necessary for personal change. Some men are more naturally bent toward appreciating this style of expression, while others are not. We realize that for some individual's we may overplay a metaphor or chose one that may not meet their personal taste. However, we do believe men learning in this way or from this form of instruction as with all the Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century material, increase their emotional I.Q.s and therefore we are willing to create some discomfort if it leads to a greater good for the men.

### *OUR CHIEF METAPHOR*

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The Knight is the chief metaphor that is built upon throughout this material. This metaphor defines a man as noble and sets forth his complexity in an understandable way. A man's armor is how he defends himself and his chainmail is how his past filters and beliefs set up present expectations. These two protective systems are used to make secure the deepest aspects of a man found at his core. The core of a man is broken down into body, soul, shadow, spirit, mind and self. As a man continues into the program further, he will discover even smaller aspects of his core's elements. This assists the man in understanding the many levels of choices he makes on a daily basis in order to help him learn to take responsibility for that which influences him in his life. This knowledge allows a man to grasp his complexity and along with the 15 Manhood Principles provided, helps him create a future that fulfills his potential and calling. The Knight metaphor provides a teaching mechanism for a man to appreciate his basic nature, while being challenged to develop each element of himself into something even stronger.

### *MANHOOD PROCESS METAPHOR*

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The culture's effect on the male gender can be viewed as a great crater lake at the top of a mountain that overflows. The culture's message, that not much is expected of the male gender because they are all aggressive, sexual, uncaring and simple, crashes down upon the males below with great force. As its negative messages come in contact with males, many simply go with the downward flow and tumble along in its wake. Other men try to stand up against how their gender is being defined and cry out "I am not like that". As they push back, they find themselves isolated as much of what is occurring around them does not fit who they are. As a result these men end up fighting against the culture's influence as if on individualized islands, compromising enough to survive in this hostile and busy world and keeping them cut off from parts of themselves, relationships, and other like-minded men.

Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century believes that in order to help men change their present state, a new language must be used so that new learning takes place regarding how men can become even stronger. Each manhood word is like a large heavy rock that a man finds on his island. As he struggles with understanding its weights, he picks it up and throws it into the cultural flow. For example, when the rock, "you are a knight", hits the flow, the culture resists its message quickly because such a positive definition of a man seems impossible. Although not acceptable to the negative culture, a man's choice to recognize and utilize each manhood word cannot be taken from him. As he sweats and applies each new rock (word) to his solution and search, he gets stronger and it requires less effort. As he meets with other men in this

same pursuit they begin to share life together and they become bound to each other through their mutual support to change their circumstances for the good.

At some point on this journey a man looks up from his hard labors and notices with these new words, he has built a footbridge across to the other side of the cultural definition of who he is. As a result, he can grasp the guide rope of his group and step by step take each manhood word to another place in his life. He crosses what has caused him to feel divided from much of himself in life, to go a place where he can make a difference. His potential feels developed and his relationships enhanced. His view of himself is restored as positive expectations for his future and goals emerge. He discovers a land where men team up with men on a mission, to make the world better for themselves and others. He discovers his Maker's call and loving support as he chooses spiritual commitment. As the miracle of men's growth occurs and more islands are joined, men become unified in a positive manner, the cultural flow gets slowed and even pushed back with enough men heeding their call.

It is our dream that Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century be used to help men become whole who feel, in so many ways, divided.

#### *A CONSIDERATION*

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We are aware that many men are taking this course during different phases of their manhood journey. There will be men who have never been married and men who have become widowed or divorced. The diversity of the situations to which this material can be applied seems endless, but every effort has been made to reach out to all individuals at whatever point of growth they are in their manhood journey. As some men apply the material to their relationships with their wife or child(ren), others may be a knight to someone whom they are dating or someone with whom they are friends. All types of men are needed for the forest changing men's movement that lies ahead because heroes come from all walks of life. Men who participate in this program will vary in faith, educational status, cultural heritage, and presentation locations. Men in prisons, weekend retreats, church and business settings will all work to strengthen themselves using the Knights curriculum. The material presented often pushes the upper limits of some men's learning capacity and so permission should be given for each man to work at his own pace and in a way that makes the material useful to him. Please adjust the material or the questions to increase the relevancy of the material to you and your group. Feel free to share the adjustments you made to the material via the various feedback options (i.e. the surveys found at [21stcenturyheroes.net](http://21stcenturyheroes.net) or email [feedback@21stcenturyheroes.net](mailto:feedback@21stcenturyheroes.net). Thank you for your consideration.

## PRODUCTS

Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century 24 Lesson Package, which includes 12 studio quality DVDs with 2 manhood lessons per DVD as well as 15 minute intros for leaders prior to the lesson, 1 Leadership CD, 1 Campfire Leadership Guide, 10 Campfire Brochures and 1 Manhood Workbook.

The Campfire Brochure is four-sided and serves as a brief review for men concerning what the campfire group goals and rules are for interaction. It is designed to help reduce a man's anxiety in dealing with this important part of the growth process.

The Campfire Leadership Guide is a small guide that outlines the concepts a leader should keep in mind to assist the other campfire member's growth process. It also helps in maintaining leadership confidence and addresses how to deal with specific group problems that may occur within the group.

The Leadership CD and DVD provide the reasons behind the content chosen for each DVD lesson. They help prepare the leader for the discussions that occur within the campfire sessions regarding the areas of a man's life that are being challenged.

The Manhood Workbook encourages the participants to take notes on the lessons, fill in some of the points being made and assist the man in understanding the overall program. Likewise, it includes an instruction section on how to write a Knighthood plan as well as a place the man can journal about his week.

## THE TEAM

*THE AUTHOR: DR. ROY SMITH...* has worked for over 25 years as a psychologist/counselor to men and their families. During this time, he has come to appreciate the manhood journey, as many men have come into the counseling environment in order to better themselves. It has often been quite clear that many men would like to do what is right for themselves and their families, if they could understand the “how” and the “why” of the changes that are necessary and are coached accordingly. The Knights of the 21st Century program / organization has been developed to help men grow, lead effectively and thereby, change our culture. The tools provided through this organization are designed to help the men involved begin to see the beauty of their design, develop their giftedness, and to appreciate their Creator’s presence.

Roy’s dream is to assist the Christian church to reach out in practical ways to those who have felt unaccepted. A goal of the material that is presented demonstrates that the Bible’s truth, when applied to a life, will lead a person to greater heights of Self-fulfillment, while pointing to the necessity of a daily God-man relationship. In creating this material, Roy has relied on the learning that has come from his early history with multiple church environments that were both good and bad. As a minister’s kid, he experienced both good Bible teaching, as well as imperfection in how those who claim to be connected to God, applied it.

Roy has a Master’s of Divinity, a Master’s Degree in psychology, and a Ph.D. in psychology, all of which have provided some of the content found within this guide. He is ordained through the Evangelical Church Alliance. He has dedicated over 30 years of his growth journey to active involvement in his own personal therapy experience, being a part of his own growth group experience, and reading continually in the area of personal/spiritual growth. As a licensed psychologist, certified addictions counselor, and a certified employee professional, Roy has worked with a variety of men’s issues. He hopes this material will be as preventative as it is restorative.

Roy would describe himself as a lucky man because of his marriage to Jan, who is also a therapist, and because of the ongoing support she gives for his latest idealistic “windmill attacks”. His daughter, Kim, has taught him in many ways, while his son, Nick, in dealing with his own autism and Down Syndrome, has shown him a practical earthiness of what life can be about. Pennsylvania Counseling Services, started in Roy’s living room over 25 years ago, has allowed him to receive helpful input from thousands of clients and therapists, as they deal with a full range of life issues on an ongoing basis.

His long time special friends, Ruthie and Jon Davis, Becki and Don Hager, Barb and Dave Sabo, along with his new friends Keith and Lynn Walker, and Clair and Bonnie Hoover have encouraged this latest venture to help males become men. Sherri Haldeman has typed for many hours. Her work and support has been much appreciated. Lou Picchio, MD, has been a challenging and supportive mentor for over 20 years. While Nate Brosius, Mitch Davis, Mike Ernest, John Grisbacher, Matthew McBride, Alex McBride, Cody McBride, David Miller, Duane Miller, Tim Nicklas, Kerry Sabo, Derick Schoenly, Preston Schoenly, Brian Walters, and Mark Walters give him hope for the future of manhood. He would also like to thank Rich Galutia, Denny Geib, Mitch Hanna, Clair Hoover, John Kray, Steve Muller, Floyd Soule, Jim Whiteman, & Bill Zeamer from the LCBC Men's Fraternity Leadership Team for their dedication and support of this project.

Roy has had the privilege of sitting under many pastors who have taught, led, and have provided good examples of what the church should be including Chuck Swindoll formerly of First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton, Dave Martin formerly of Evangelical Free Church of Hershey, and his present pastors, Pastor Jim Whiteman and Senior Pastor David Ashcraft of Lives Changed By Christ have all taught the Bible and its application well. Last, but not least, is Pastor Stephen Sabol who offers a daily dose of free encouragement and wisdom through his "Thought for the Day" e-mails. To sign up, please e-mail Pastor Steve at [ssabol@comcast.net](mailto:ssabol@comcast.net) with "Subscribe to the Thought for the Day" in the Subject line.

*THE KEY PRESENTER: KEITH WALKER...* serves at Lives Changed By Christ (LCBC) as the lead teacher for Men's Fraternity at the weekly sessions. Over the last four years, he has taught more than 3,400 men the principles of Men's Fraternity. He serves on the Men's Frat Leadership team at LCBC as the primary presenter. His comfortable style of communication engages audiences of all ages with personal humor and creative storytelling, all while driving the hard-hitting truth home.

He has had the privilege of speaking to over one million students and adults extensively throughout the United States, as well as Canada and Mexico, in businesses, churches, camps, conferences, and schools. He has also addressed audiences in a variety of settings, including but not limited to, corporations, military installations, professional athletic clubs, community leadership events, and church meetings. Currently, he is the Director of Men's and Singles' Ministries and is on the teaching staff at Lives Changed By Christ (LCBC). He also has owned and operated several businesses. The combination of ministry experience and "real world" business experience enables Keith to effectively impact his audience at Men's Fraternity.



He has been married to his wife, Lynn, for over 34 years. They have four sons, Joshua, Joel, Caleb, and Seth, as well as a daughter-in-law, Carrene. They have lived in the Lancaster, PA area for more than 22 years.

*THE DIRECTOR OF 21ST CENTURY HEROES: JIM WEAVER...* oversees all the operations of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Heroes including the Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum. He provides assistance to pastors and men's groups who desire help in the proper preparation and presentation of the Knights material. He is available by phone and email to answer any question you may have about this material as well as to share with you some of the best practices he has observed from successful groups that are using this curriculum and program.

Jim has served as a teacher in a Christian School as well as a Human Resource Director, Safety Coordinator and Organizational Development and Training Director for several area businesses.

He has been married to his wife Marjorie for over 21 years and they have four children; Josiah, Abigail, Caleb and Luke. They are Lancaster County, PA natives.

*THE EDITOR: BARB SABO....*is a long time friend and co-worker of Roy Smith and has worked in various capacities with Pennsylvania Counseling Services for 21 years. Her gradually evolving role as an editor of the Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program materials had its beginnings on her front porch with a "pink pen" in hand. She does not attend Men's Frat, but perhaps lends a subtle female perspective, at times, to the material without the intention to do so. The men in her life are at various points of what this program defines as the journey to "Knighthood." Her father tries, at unpredictable times, to respond relationally as a Knight. Her brother, within the last 2 years at age 57, has begun the long and very difficult journey towards Knighthood, a journey for which he has had few models, but is pursuing with earnest on a daily basis. Her husband, Dave, has quite naturally and sometimes effortlessly, it seems, become the Knight to her that few men with whom she has relationships have modeled. Her son, Kerry, has the natural tenderness that women hope for from the Knights in their lives and he is gradually learning about the differences between males and men. The editing skills that are a "part of her being" belong to her Mom...and it is with love and hope that these skills are shared with all of the men who hope and aim to become Knights to the women in their lives.

*THE BIBLICAL TEXT CONTRIBUTOR: DR. TIM UNDHEIM....* serves as a missionary and professor in a graduate school and several seminaries in Manila, Philippines, where for more than a decade he has taught the Bible and its original languages. Men and women from all over the world have learned from his teaching, practice it in local

ministries in the Philippines, and then return to their countries, cities and villages to introduce others to the life-changing message of the Bible.

Tim has two seminary degrees as well as a Master of Philosophy and a Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and is proficient in ancient languages which he has used for research on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

He is married to Cleo, and they have one daughter, Raquel. Tim and his wife, who leads a vibrant ministry to female inmates and their families, participate in ministering in churches and other institutions around the Philippines.

Tim's participation as the Biblical Text Contributor for Knights is a perfect fit as he has worked hard to ensure that the concepts described have an accurate Biblical basis. This process has led him to personally appreciate the impact of the message in each lesson and to anticipate that his work will assist men around the world in their individual spiritual Knighthood journeys.

### *THE ORGANIZATION*

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Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is the curriculum of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Heroes, a division of Pennsylvania Counseling Services that began out of Dr. Roy Smith's home in 1983. Pennsylvania Counseling Services ([pacounseling.com](http://pacounseling.com)) provides mental health and drug and alcohol treatment in a wide variety of settings in the Central Pennsylvania Region. Pennsylvania Counseling Services' mission statement is "People are valuable, therefore PCS exists to help children and adults and families discover their greatness". Although a for-profit company, Pennsylvania Counseling Services' mission has it reaching out to as many needs of individuals as it can, while attempting to be responsible financially. The investment made in this material is to help males throughout the world understand, develop, and celebrate their manhood. Should such an initial investment break even, it is hoped that material can be provided for women, parents, teens, and children that will assist them in creating a sense of their heroism in a difficult environment.

### *OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH*

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We believe in one God, who is the Creator of all things, and in Jesus Christ, who is God's only begotten Son, by whom all things were made. He came bodily to the earth, lived among mankind, and although tempted in all ways, He alone was without sin. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified and died in payment for our sins. He rose again

and ascended into heaven, and from there he shall come to judge both the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from God and is one substance with the Father and the Son. He dwells in the believer, and operates through the church, which is the collective body of Christ. The Holy Spirit has spoken through the prophets in Holy Scripture, which is God's revelation to all people.

We believe that all people are made in the image of God, that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and that we constantly err by seeking to live independently of God. We believe that we are justified by faith through Christ's atonement for our sins on the cross of Calvary. In believing that all men and women are created in the image of God, we therefore believe all people to have inherent worth and dignity, and we strive to uphold this. Mankind is fallen, but regenerated in Christ. This is an ongoing process which has begun, yet will never be completed in this age. As such, we encourage each person towards ongoing spiritual, emotional, physical and mental development in relation to their teleological potential as they strive towards maturity within themselves, and in their relationships with others and God.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- (1) How would women benefit from this material? This material utilizes masculine images to portray life concepts that are true for both genders. Couples, Sunday School classes and other mixed gender groups can benefit from the material presented.
  
- (2) Where are the Bible verses? We have kept the Bible material in an appendix so that an individual can enjoy this special revelation from God and grow in their faith. As this material represents God's general revelation of healthy living for all, it was decided that this message's significance should be disseminated as well. In order to reach out to diversity of cultures, including men in prison, we have attempted to limit the hurdles that may hinder them from receiving the positive message of God's definition of man. It is also recognized, that some will move toward clarifying their God-man relationship if the material is presented in this way. As is stated, faith by hearing and hearing by the word of God, it is hoped that God can use this material in a man's life to first encourage healthy reflection, secondly to give him a sense of value and purpose, and thirdly to assist him in finding God's love.