



# men's NETWORK



...a ministry of The Salvation Army British Columbia Division

FALL 2020

## A Few Thoughts from Dr. Tom Iwama

(committee member of the Men's Network)



Dr. Tom Iwama

With the Covid pandemic turning the world upside down, we mourn the loss of what used to "normal". But amidst the chaos and confusion, there is an opportunity to shift our perspective. Even though we cannot meet in the way we are used to and the profound absence of close mass gatherings like Men's Camp or the Gatherings, I believe we are placed in a position where we can sincerely ask the Holy Spirit how to move forward and emerge stronger and connected deeper to each other.

We have our mission statement: "Calling and equipping every man to be a transforming influence in their family, church and community."

Allow me to dissect this statement in the background of our efforts to live through this pandemic.

### Calling every man:

Many times, we tend to leave it to the leaders to arise amidst the ashes to lead us forward. But I deeply believe that God is gently awakening every man in every corps or ministry unit to Rise Up and start to walk as an authentic man of God.

You don't need a theological degree or be a perfect example of a Godly man to answer the call. You just need to have a desire:

To walk closer to God,

To have deeper relationships with your family,

To cultivate meaningful connections with others and

To have the willingness to listen and be led by the Holy Spirit.

But how do we do that?

### Equipping every man:

Start by calling another man or a group of men in your corps or ministry unit who share this same desire to walk as Godly men.

(Continuation on page 3)

## Our Purpose

"Calling and equipping every man to be a transforming influence in their family, church and community."

Encourage • Embrace • Equip • Engage

### ENCOURAGING:

Authentic encouragement helps people overcome fear and builds morale. It sets the example to build each other up and builds confidence to face challenges. The gift of encouragement can transform people and circumstances while creating the desire to take positive, forward thinking action. Encouragement establishes hope. When you encourage others, you encourage yourself. We believe in you and that you can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

The desired end-result would be stronger men who can influence others in doing the right thing.

### EMBRACING:

Local corps events like Monthly Men's Breakfasts, sporting events, golf outings, etc. and area and divisional events like The Gatherings, and other large men's events with a focus to embrace men in each corps/unit through multiple non-threatening portals of entry into a fellowship of men for friendship, inspiration and connections.

The desired end-result would be men connected to each other in every unit and to create avenues where men can invite their friends and co-workers to attend these events and eventually to attend church with them.

### EQUIPPING:

Using pre-existing discipling tools like "Blue Print" from Promise Keepers Canada and other available resources, the focus is to facilitate the work of the Holy Spirit to purify and transform men to pursue a life long path of Holiness. This would occur on a local corps/unit level but also in area wide gatherings for teaching.

The desired end-result would be Godly men committed to a life of purity and Holiness.

### ENGAGING:

Upon embarking on a transforming life journey, partnered with other men, the focus is to re-engage the men to be a transforming influence in their families (husband, father, grandfather, etc.) church and the communities and relationships they find themselves.

The desired end-result would be increase spiritual leadership in the home and church and an embodiment of Christ where ever these men go in their communities.

# Inside Story

with Derek de Weerd



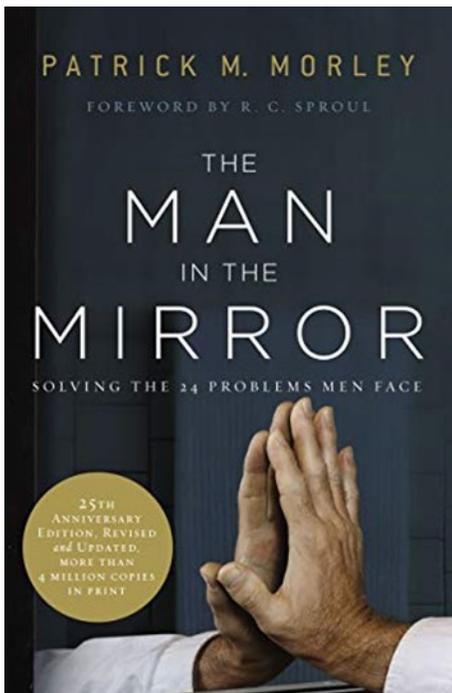
*Derek de Weerd*

My name is Derek de Weerd  
I'm a believer and a Salvation Army Soldier at New Westminster Citadel, British Columbia, Canada  
"Just When" is the first song I wrote for my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ  
It's a brief testimony to share with others – a snapshot of my life and how I was led to Him...  
By November 2007, the things that were most important to me in my life were gone – my parents, businesses, relationships, money, love, all my possessions, HOPE...  
I was homeless again in Toronto at age 39, and AGAIN in Vancouver at age 41. I had completely lost the will to live...  
I felt like the loneliest man in the world, the saddest man in the world...BUT...  
Just when you think that it's all over...  
Just when you think you're so alone...  
Just when you think that you're too far gone...  
Jesus Christ will save your soul!  
I was very close to taking my own life on MANY occasions...  
But something, someone kept stopping me – somehow, there seemed to be a flicker of hope  
I was admitted into Salvation Army shelter and program in October of 2008...  
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" – Jeremiah 29:11

It's NEVER too late...  
God has always been, and will always be. You are NEVER truly alone...  
You are NEVER too far gone!!!  
You will be saved if you surrender your life to Jesus...  
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life – John 3:16  
God loves each and every one of us with all of His heart – no matter what!  
You will be saved IF you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour  
and allow Him to come into your heart  
I surrender my life to Him on October 27, 2008, 8:34 pm...  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him  
– 1 Corinthians 2:9  
I became a Soldier in the Salvation Army in June of 2010...  
I lead musical worship at Salvation Army churches & ministries – I play & sing for the Lord everyday!  
On September 14, 2013, I was married to the most wonderful lady in the world  
I am surrounded by people who love me, regardless of my past, my challenges, & my faults...  
I have a place to live, clothes to wear, food on my table, a purpose, a reason for living...  
To help others, to spread the love and word of Jesus Christ, to share my story and my music with the world...  
I no longer feel like the loneliest and saddest man in the world...  
I feel like the most blessed...  
I am forever so truly grateful and humbled  
"With men, this is impossible, but with God, ALL things are possible" – Matthew 19:26

Check out Derek's story with song at...  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-KIWF3lsp4>  
Facebook: [facebook.com/tsamensnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/tsamensnetwork)  
Web page: <https://salvationarmy.ca/britishcolumbia/home/>

*"I was very close to taking my own life on MANY occasions...  
But something, someone kept stopping me – somehow, there seemed to be a flicker of hope"*



## A Note from Captain Kevin Elsasser...

The men at Comox Valley Community Church have been going through a twenty four week video series based on *The Man in the Mirror*, written by Patrick Morley. These videos are easily accessed on You Tube. Let me share with you why I am so excited about this study Here is what Amazon Book Review says about the book

More than four million copies in print!

This book, called by some the best book for men ever written, helps men overcome common roadblocks to spiritual and personal growth and chart a path forward to becoming better leaders in their home, workplace, and community. Winner of the prestigious Gold Medallion Award and appearing on the bestseller list eighteen times, this book is popular for a reason. In it, award-winning author Patrick Morley invites men to look in the mirror, identify the problem areas, and make the changes necessary to love God, themselves, and others better.

With relevant, practical, and thoughtful advice, this book discusses twenty-four different topics that men face, including:

- Identity questions and discovering significance and purpose
- Relationship problems and fixing broken relationships
- Money problems and establishing financial strength
- Time problems and how to decide what's important
- Temperament problems and battling pride, fear, and anger
- Integrity problems and establishing accountability

If life's demands are constantly pressuring you to run faster and jump higher, this book is for you. Rich in anecdotes, thought-provoking questions, biblical insights, and featuring focus questions in each chapter suitable for personal or group use, *The Man in the Mirror* offers a life-changing look at how to trade the rat race for the rewards of godly manhood.

(from page 1...Dr. Tom Iwama)

Plan to meet over a phone call or virtually through Facetime or another platform or meet in person with safe distancing.

Find out how each of your friends are managing life, not just the triumphs but also the pain and failures and challenges. You will be surprised how many of you share the same challenges n one way or another. Be the initiator by opening your life up and admitting to some of the challenges you are personally facing. This may be the key to unlock other men's hearts to deeply share their burdens with each other.

Set a time for the next connection time and don't just leave it to chance.

Agree to check in on each other, especially if there is a challenge facing a friend in the next week. Agree to work together through a book on what it means to become a man of God. There are many resources to look through such as Promise Keepers Canada or the *Man in the Mirror*.

# Fishing Trip

Ah, the good, old fishing trip. I've had many of these over the years, some with an old friend, and some with a group of friends and some with my wife, who by the way also loves fishing. After one of the men makes a suggestion of going fishing, the fun begins. It is usually a few days or weeks beforehand. We decide where to go, when to go, how to get there, who will come with us, what to bring and what to eat. When the day comes we eagerly set out, usually around sunup. We may bring a boat or fish from shore. We have lunch, around a campfire if possible. And we may catch some fish. But the big bonus is the fellowship and the strengthening of bonds between like-minded persons.

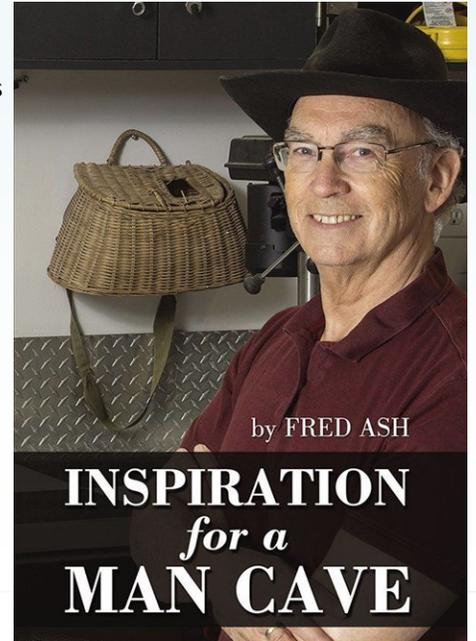
In the Church this fellowship and bonding often happen around a project that the church members undertake together. While Sunday worship is spiritually beneficial, and Bible studies build up our faith, nothing quite matches the experience of a group of like-minded believers working together to accomplish something for the Kingdom. I remember working with a group of men from the church, cutting trees and bringing firewood to a man who was disabled. I recall working with men renovating a church, cutting trees and bringing firewood to a man who was disabled. I recall working with men renovating a church – the sound of hammers and saws and good-natured teasing being more inspiring than some sermons. Perhaps now is the time for you to call some of your Christian friends and plan such a project. You'll be blessed as you bless others.

1 John 3:18 (NKIV)

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

Reference: Inspiration for a Man Cave by Fred Ash

Available at [Indigo.ca](http://Indigo.ca) (paperback) and [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com) (e-book)



## MEN'S NETWORK PLANNING COMMITTEE

### Chair:

David Woodland, DSSS

### Committee Members:

Dr. Tom Iwama, PKC

Major Paul Trickett, Penticton Corps

Major Bill Blackman, Cariboo Hill Temple

Major Robin Borrows, Nanaimo Corps

Captain Darryl Burry, Kelowna Corps

Lieutenant Dave McFadden, The Willows

John Polkii, Vancouver Harbour Light

Major David Macpherson, Area Commander

Captain Sharon Tidd, Area Commander

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEN'S CAMP

CAMP MOUNTAINVIEW

FALL 2021

CAMP SUNRISE

FALL 2021

### REGIONAL GATHERING EVENTS

To be announced  
(post-COVID)

Web page:

<https://salvationarmy.ca/britishcolumbia/home/mensnetwork/>

Facebook page:

[facebook.com/tsamensnetwork](https://facebook.com/tsamensnetwork)



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