



From Boys2Men

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

THE PROGRAM (PASSAGE) IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP DISCIPLINES AND QUALITIES IN YOUNG MEN THAT WILL PREPARE THEM FOR ADOLESCENCE AND THE FUTURE. OUR AIM IS TO HELP OUR YOUNG MEN RECOGNIZE THAT THEY ARE SOMEBODY AND CAN BE ANYTHING THEY ASPIRE TO BE. WE SEEK TO HELP THEM AVOID PITFALLS THAT WILL BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, WHILE REINFORCING THEIR FOUNDATION IN THE FAITH, RESPECT FOR FAMILY VALUES AND BUILDING STRENGTH AND CHARACTER!

THE PASSAGE IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH FATHERS, MOTHERS OR OTHER IMPORTANT ADULTS IN THE CANDIDATES' LIVES. WE INVITE MEN WHO ALREADY HAVE SIGNIFICANT ROLES IN THE LIVES OF THE CANDIDATES TO PARTICIPATE INCLUDING; FATHERS, STEP-FATHERS, OLDER BROTHERS, UNCLES, GRANDFATHERS AND TEACHERS.

FROM BOYS TO MEN:

THE PASSAGE IS A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE OVERCOMER AND A "RITES OF PASSAGE" PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR YOUNG MALES AGES 12 TO 19. THE BOYS ARE "CANDIDATES" UNTIL THE "CROSSING CEREMONY" AT WHICH TIME THEY EARN THE TITLE "MR.". THE PROGRAM USES DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE LESSONS REFERRED TO AS "RITES" TO GUIDE CANDIDATES AT LEAST 12 YEARS OF AGE, GENERALLY THE PERIOD OF PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRANSITION, THROUGH THE "PASSAGE" FROM ADOLESCENCE TO MANHOOD. THE PROGRAM PAIRS CANDIDATES WITH MENTORS WHO SERVE AS WISE AND TRUSTED FRIENDS AND GUIDES.

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MENTORS SEEK TO ESTABLISH A POSITIVE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CANDIDATE WHILE PROVIDING SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, ASSISTING IN DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS AND THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN RESOURCES WHILE HELPING TO INCREASE THE CANDIDATES' ABILITY TO INTERACT WITH OTHER SOCIAL AND CULTURAL GROUPS. THE CANDIDATE -TO-MENTOR RATIO SHALL NOT EXCEED 2:1.

THE PASSAGE CONSISTS OF FOUR PHASES, ORIENTATION, RELATIONAL PHASE, INSTRUCTIONAL PHASE AND A CROSSING CEREMONY DESIGNED BY MENTORS, WITH YOUTH INPUT. ALL DESIGNED TO GUIDE AND ASSIST CANDIDATES IN IDENTIFYING THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD, THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES AT-LARGE.

ORIENTATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL MENTORS, PARENTS AND CANDIDATES. ATTENDEES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR TESTIMONIALS FROM PARENTS AND GRADUATES OF THE PROGRAM IN ADDITION TO LEARNING WHAT'S EXPECTED FOLLOWED BY A QUESTION AND ANSWER FORUM.

THE RELATIONAL PHASE PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL MENTORS TO SHADOW EXISTING MENTORS AND OBSERVE MENTOR/CANDIDATE INTERACTION, RE-ENGAGE PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS, FACILITATE RELATIONSHIP (TRUST) BUILDING. DURING THE RELATIONAL PHASE, SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ **TAKING A CANDIDATE TO WORK (FOR A DAY) AND NICE LUNCH**
- ✓ **ATTENDING OTHER CHURCH OF THE OVERCOMER YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES WIT THE CANDIDATES**
- ✓ **INVITING CANDIDATE TO ATTEND SCHEDULED FAMILY ACTIVITIES WITH MENTORS' FAMILY.**
THE GOAL IS TO ALLOW THE CANDIDATE TO SEE HEALTHY AND ENCOURAGING, YET REAL, FAMILY INTERACTION. IN ADDITION, CANDIDATE WILL INVITE MENTOR TO ATTEND SCHEDULED FAMILY ACTIVITY. NOTE: THIS SHOULD OCCUR TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF THE PROGRAM
- ✓ **ATTENDING TICKETED EVENTS PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH MENTORING PROGRAM**
- ✓ **INTRODUCING CANDIDATES TO JOURNALS AND ENCOURAGING PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNAL ENTRIES**

THE INSTRUCTIONAL PHASE CONSIST OF: THE SPIRITUAL RITE; THE RITE OF PURPOSE; THE GENEALOGICAL RITE; THE RITE OF MANHOOD; THE PERSONAL RITE; THE HISTORICAL RITE; THE RITE OF CITIZENSHIP; THE FINANCIAL RITE; TRIPS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES. EACH OF THESE RITES HAVE A WELL-DEFINED AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE DESIGNED TO HELP THE

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CANDIDATE DEVELOP AWARENESS, RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WHILE DEFINING WHO THEY ARE AND WHY THEY ARE HERE.

THE **CROSSING CEREMONY IS A CULMINATING EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE END OF THE PASSAGE TRAINING AND MARKS THE CEREMONIAL THRESHOLD TO THE COMMUNITY OF ADULthood. CANDIDATES MUST MEET PASSAGE REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR THE CROSSING. DURING THE CEREMONY, CANDIDATES WILL DEMONSTRATE SOME EXPERIENCE,**

PRODUCT OR OUTCOME RESULTING FROM THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PASSAGE. CANDIDATES ARE CALLED FORTH, ADDRESSED AS MR., FOR THE FIRST TIME BY THEIR MENTORS, AND PERSONALLY ROBED WITH A SPECIAL PIECE OF CULTURAL MEMORABILIA. THIS SIGNIFIES THE CROSSING OVER TO A RESPONSIBLE AND PREPARED CANDIDATE READY FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE LARGER COMMUNITY OF ADULTS.