

# 4BetterOr4Worse Ministry

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## Ministry Update – August 2009.

Although I've been supporting and encouraging my married friends for almost a year now, 4BetterOr4Worse Ministry is officially three months old. In that three months we've established a 3-part core ministry, put together a dynamite team of eight individuals with huge hearts for this ministry, launched a great web site, and God has brought eight men to us, looking for better ways to be men of God in their marriages. It's really exciting to look back and see how far we've come in a short period of time. Let me tell you about some of the highlights.

### Core Ministry

#### 1). Mentoring

The single most important aspect of this ministry is the impact God has on men, one-on-one, in coffee shops, over dining room tables, and under the shade of a maple tree. God has been using me to impact the lives of a handful of really great men in the last 4-5 months. What better way to tell you about this impact than to have one of the guys share in his own words:

A short time ago I was put on a journey through a very difficult family situation. With this situation I had a lot of thoughts and emotions to work through, and I needed guidance from someone who could not only look at what was happening objectively and give Biblical counsel and correction where needed, but could also be there for when I just needed someone to talk to for emotional support and encouragement as well. My mentor was introduced to me by a pastor at my Church and I can't tell you how much it has helped me through what I've been dealing with. I have deeply appreciated not only my mentor's care and concern for me, but through his guidance I have seen how deep God's love is and that He is deeply involved in taking care of me through everything that I encounter. (sic)

- Brad

#### 2). The Web Community

[www.4BetterOr4Worse.org](http://www.4BetterOr4Worse.org) is up and running strong. It supports mentoring as a clearing house for information not only for men looking for answers, but also for the men God has brought forward to lead. One of the things I'm most proud of on the web site is the Med Center page where Dr. Jeff VanWingen contributes to the ministry by helping us men understand how our physical health affects our relationships. We're really proud of this web site. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by and poke around a bit.

#### 3). Speaking / Teaching in Churches

The speaking ministry of 4BetterOr4Worse has not developed as quickly as I would like. We believe that the reason for this is because I've had no exposure as a speaker and I have no established credibility. We're hoping to change that this fall. I have the privilege of speaking on the Basics of Grace at the Family Mental Health Summit in September and October. It is my heart's desire to speak in churches and to groups of people to promote the concept and benefits of mentoring.

## Family Mental Health Summit

The Family Mental Health Summit is an event that brings support and information to families who deal with mental health issues and educates church leaders in how to support these families without shame or stigma. A lot of energy is going into this very unique event. The first hour of the night will be a large group setting that will address those two main objectives, while the second part of the event will be small groups bringing specific information to families and church leaders. We're grateful for the overwhelming support of Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in providing licensed professionals to assist us with this event. For more information on the Family Mental Health Summit visit the web site or send e-mail to [info@4BetterOr4Worse.org](mailto:info@4BetterOr4Worse.org)

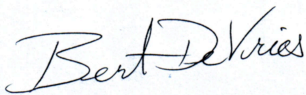
## What's Next?

4BetterOr4Worse Ministry strongly believes that an important role of men in marriages is to raise young boys to be men of God. To that end, we're piloting a program with First Lutheran Church in Fremont, Michigan that's designed to be a handshake between a church's mens ministry and their youth ministry. The men will spend an evening or two with the high school boys guiding them through 10 items in three categories; practical issues, relationship issues, and spiritual issues. Boys will learn things like how to change the oil in a car, how to resolve conflict in a relationship, and be re-affirmed in their salvation through grace. After working through the program this fall at First Lutheran Church, we plan to package it much like a VBS program and make it available to churches via the web site. It is our hope that this program will foster mentoring relationships between teen boys and the older men of the church.

## Financial Support

Once again, we'd like to thank you for your support of this ministry. Yet, to continue God's work in the area of supporting and encouraging men, we incur some financial expenses. We ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation to 4BetterOr4Worse Ministry via the **Donate** button on the web site. A gift in any amount will help us continue to come along side married Christian men and support them in their leadership role. If you have any questions about how your donation will be used, feel free to send an e-mail to [info@4BetterOr4Worse.org](mailto:info@4BetterOr4Worse.org).

In Christ,



Bert DeVries  
4BetterOr4Worse Ministry Founder