

4BetterOr4Worse Ministry

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Ministry Update Letter – January 2010

I recently heard a message on the subject of *Vision Leaking*. When we have a vision for something (like ministry) there are often many things that distract us from staying focused. The vision of 4BetterOr4Worse Ministry, simply stated, is to support and encourage men who stood in front of God and everybody and said “I do”. In 2010 we continue to focus on that vision. Any endeavor we attempt must serve that vision. I am grateful for my core ministry team who helps make sure that the vision for this ministry does not leak into unproductive activities or in any other way become diluted.

2009 was an exciting year for 4BetterOr4Worse Ministry and 2010 promises more of the same. The last year saw the official formation of the ministry and its core ministry team. We established mentoring relationships with 8 men who continue to be supported and encouraged in their lives. We have one man who is nearing the end of the mentoring process and is well on the road to becoming a mentor to someone else. We succeeded in launching the 4BetterOr4Worse Community on the web, which provides resources and information to all men as they face challenges in their lives. We sponsored the Family Mental Health Summit in two locations in the Grand Rapids area and saw the work that God did through that event.

I'd like to tell you about some new programs in the works for the coming year. I'm working on our first published small group study for men. This study will be available on our web site around the time you get the next ministry update letter. I'm excited about this study because it will put a man on the solid footing of the grace system where the Holy Spirit will empower him to handle any challenge effectively from that position. What's more, it will bring a small group of men together in a brotherhood where they can support and encourage each other.

Also, we will be piloting our new youth program, *10 Things Every Man Should Know* during the month of March. Ed Wosinski, from our core ministry team, is working with me on this project along with some very talented youth leaders. This program will bring the men's ministry together with the boys in the Jr. High youth program to teach life skills, strengthen faith, and foster mentoring relationships. It will be ready for release in May so that it can be available for fall programming. These two programs will be the first of a group of tools that 4BetterOr4Worse Ministry can use to support itself as the ministry continues to grow.

I get an amazing amount of prayer requests that come from the men we mentor, our Facebook members, friends, and complete strangers. In order to handle all of these prayer requests we are in the process of building an Internet based prayer team, which will revolve around a new e-mail address specifically for this purpose. This will be a group of men dedicated to praying for men. We are going through a short list of men, looking for a leader for this prayer team.

We are still very concerned about the high demand for mentors and the very few resources available to address it. Currently, I have 3 men who have come forward and asked for help. It is very difficult for a man to ask for help in the first place and it breaks my heart to get these phone calls and e-mails and tell them that I have no one to help them right now. To that end, I will be visiting a number of churches during the first quarter to promote the benefits of mentoring and, with God's help, find one or two men who are willing to volunteer their time to be mentors to the 3 men who are waiting. If you can help set up one of these church visits or if you or anyone you know is willing to invest 2 hours per week to support and encourage these guys, please contact us at info@4BetterOr4Worse.org or call 616.272.4854.

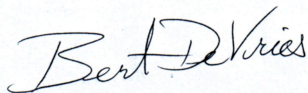
Lastly, I ask you that you prayerfully consider supporting 4BetterOr4Worse Ministry financially. Donations can be made quickly and easily using the **Donate** button on the sidebar at www.4BetterOr4Worse.org. Your donations provide a cup of coffee for one-on-one mentor meetings, support the annual costs of maintaining the web site, and help with the development of programs and materials we use in the mentoring relationships we build.

"I really look forward to meeting with my mentor. It gives me a chance to talk about things I wouldn't normally feel comfortable talking about in a small group setting. It's good to have someone who's objective to my situation and then honest with me about what I should do. I guess you would call that part of the accountability between us. Also, just knowing someone is praying for me and my situation brings peace to my life."

- Doug

Again, thank you for your support as we continue in this important ministry in the New Year.

In His service,



Bert DeVries
4BetterOr4Worse Ministry Founder