

Building a Battle Plan Ministry (BPM)

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Why Build a Battle Plan Ministry?

The mission of BPM, as introduced in my home church, was to provide a ministry of healing and restoration for men who have become ensnared in habitual sexual sin. It was also introduced to foster an atmosphere of discipleship where any man could learn to do battle with the enemy and mature as a Christian. In other words, BPM is a ministry that lets the Holy Spirit take men of God and let God shape them into Godly men. The question becomes, **"Why build a BPM?"** Well, that question really should not need much support based upon any honest appraisal of our culture. Let me ask three yes/no questions to illustrate this rather basic point.

- 1. Has there been a proliferation of sexually oriented images, businesses, and media in our culture?**
- 2. Is the body of Christ (i.e., the church) threatened by the onslaught of growing patterns of sexual sin in our culture?**
- 3. Should the church do something to combat the effects of pornography and habitual sexual sin?**

Could any intelligent Christian answer "NO" to any of these questions? If, however, you would answer these questions with an unqualified "YES," then one might ask, **"What is being done in your church to do battle with the enemy in the area of sexual sin?"** Some authorities and/or surveys have estimated that well over 50% of Christian men are heavily bogged down in some form of obsessive and/or compulsive, or maybe even addictive, sexual pursuit. Some call this "sexual addiction," but I prefer the phrase "habitual sexual sin." However, we won't split hairs on semantics here. We are talking about serious and harmful sexual pursuits that have the outcome of wrecked marriages,

dysfunctional families, ruined careers, and weakened churches. However, the most serious damage comes when any Christian man or woman becomes separated in his or her relationship with the Lord by falling into repetitive patterns of sexual sin. **This is serious business**; and the church needs to do serious business to combat this evil.

I'm not going to belabor this point. My premise is that the church needs to do more than just counsel with the victims along the road of life who've been seriously damaged by their sexual choices. Counseling is a good thing; and it's necessary. However, I call counseling "covert warfare." It has a hospital mentality. Again, it's necessary; but I think the church needs to echo God's call to arms in **Joel 3: 9**:

**Get ready for war!
Call out your best warriors!
Let all your fighting men advance for the attack !**

We need to go to war against our enemy with a frontal attack ... open warfare ... and utilizing all spiritual power available to us from our Lord and Savior. If we sit back, as a church, and let Satan infiltrate our lives, families, and churches with his insidious and powerful weapons, like pornography and the XXX businesses we find so prevalent in our communities, we are just asking for trouble.

The ultimate victory is ours! It was won on the cross; and when it comes to sexual sin, I believe Christians just haven't learned how to do battle and to claim God's victory over this type of sin. That is what ***Battle Plan Ministry*** is all about. It's a frontal attack against Satan and the world in the area of sexual behavior; and I'm ready to show you how to do serious damage against our enemy. If you're interested in setting up a successful ministry on this battlefield, read on.

What Is a "Battle Plan" Ministry?

So, let's assume that your church sees the need or has a desire to do something to stem the tide of sexual sin and its damaging effects on the men, the families, and the ministries in your church. Just what is the BPM approach to doing battle for Christ and claiming the victory He has waiting for you?

First, BPM is primarily a ministry for men. This does not exclude women or signal that women aren't important to the BPM effort. This will become obvious shortly as the building of this ministry plan is explained. However, since we know that sexual sin does far more damage in any church to the male segment of the body of Christ, the BPM approach focuses on the men of the church.

Secondly, like any ministry, BPM needs a dedicated and called leader. It is unlikely that a church pastor or an associate pastor will feel called to be the leader of a BPM effort (though this could happen). Most who are called to minister in the area of sexual sin do so because of a strong empathetic calling

imparted by the Holy Spirit. Generally, I believe this comes from having the right mix of spiritual gifts and a drawing from the Spirit like a magnet into this particular area of ministry. Often it will touch a man who has been delivered, as I was, from the pits of this hell on earth. Having felt this calling myself, it is hard for me to imagine a man being so drawn to lead a BPM-type ministry effort other than one who's experienced the ravages of habitual sexual sin and has been lifted up by the awesome healing and restoring power of God and who is walking with that power in his life.

So, let's assume that a Godly man comes forward to your Church leadership reporting God's calling on his heart to lead a "BPM." What are the qualities that a church would look for to select the leader of their BPM? Personally, and from experience again, I strongly recommend a church look to those attributes spelled out by Paul to his protégé Timothy in **1Timothy 3: 8-13**, the qualities outlined for a "diakonos" (Greek for "servant leader", which is often translated "deacon"). If it is confirmed by the leadership of his church that a man has these leadership attributes and he has a peace from God about his calling to serve in this capacity, I think you've found your man. Not many will be called for this type of warfare who have the 1Timothy qualities and who are trained and ready to serve. So, if you find such a leader, encourage him, give him leadership support and resources, and let God use him.

Finally, a BPM needs a Battle Plan, a structured framework for ministry. Some years ago, God led me to develop such a plan. At that time, my ministry efforts were primarily directed toward ministry for men dealing with sexual sin involving the world wide web, the internet, where pornography has proliferated to epidemic proportions. God's success in using this approach to minister to men on the web led me, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to author a website that has become "The Battle Plan" approach to ministry as defined by this presentation. If this framework for ministry is used for your BPM efforts, I believe you will find that it has heavy ammunition behind it ... the power of God's word and His promises. Could anything be more powerful?

The website which outlines this approach is located at this web address/link: <http://www.battleplanministries.org/thebattleplan>. It can be printed or downloaded for your use, and then it should be used as the backbone of any BPM-like ministry undertaken by your church. You will note that the plan is laced with God's word. It was built on God's truth; and it was based on the experience of its author, yours truly. I know it's a successful plan because I lived it. Since God helped me write this plan, the BPM approach has yielded scores of men who have found God's victory with His power. The plan claims, in the title, that it "works;" and it does ... if - and only if - it is worked. So, that provides the firepower for a BPM in your church. Now we look at how to build a Battle Plan Ministry.

How Do You Build a Battle Plan Ministry?

STEP ONE: *LEADERSHIP*

I'm going to assume that a Leader, as described above, has come forward or has been identified, ... a man who is strongly called and who has the leadership abilities and spiritual gifts that would lend themselves to victory as defined by 1Timothy 3.

With this man in place, the church leadership must give their blessing and provide what it takes to implement your church's BPM effort. A planning group (I hate the name "committee") needs to be recruited by the BPM leader with the help of church staff, your Elders [if that be your church government], and your senior Pastor. These also should be men who see the need to take action and who have a record for being movers/shakers in the congregation ... recognized Godly men.

But another, underground group of "leaders" is even more essential and must predate the above "planning group." This is **a cohort of prayer warriors**. Here is where the real hardcore warriors in the church need to be found; and it's been my experience that women in any church form the front lines of battle for prayer. Women, especially mothers, will see and feel deeply the need for a BPM-type ministry, and these warriors need to be identified and asked to pray for a number of things:

- For the planning of the ministry;
- For a hedge of protection around the church leaders and those who will come forward to lead and participate in BPM;
- For staunch servant leaders ("diakonos") to come forward to lead into battle;
- For God's clear wisdom and direction for all involved;
- For God's word to be the Sword of the Spirit that will do damage to the enemy;
- And for the victory that God has waiting that will give Him all the glory.

There's NOTHING more important than these proactive prayer storm troopers, women and men who are powerfully gifted and willing to pray fervently for your BPM ministry effort.

Once volleys of prayer are being offered up daily for BPM, the planning cohort can be called together to set the plans for action into motion. These key leaders will need to meet regularly for several weeks to do several things:

1. To identify a list of men they feel might respond to a "call to arms;" men who are strong in the church and who have a record of being doers of the word;
2. To identify a place and time for a "D-day" effort, a ministry kickoff where BPM will be introduced to the men of the church (probably some weeks in the future);
3. To prepare for the training of Accountability Group leaders to be described later), who will lead these small accountability groups after the introduction of BPM to the congregation;
4. And to recruit these group leaders as soon as possible, scheduling their training well in advance of the "D-day program."

A recruitment letter must be drafted and sent to the potential leaders, scheduling a "leader's" meeting where as many of the men as possible can be called together for refreshments (maybe even a breakfast), fellowship, and serious planning. At this meeting, the need for BPM and the proposed ministry will be outlined. This training effort would best be given by the identified ministry leader; however, if the pastor, an Elder, or a recognized church leader has better speaking skills to make this "pitch," a good speaker should be doing this recruiting. BPM or yours truly would be available to help in this process if so needed. A presentation should be made that outlines the need for small groups of men [generally 5 – 10] to come forward and be involved as "Battalion Groups."

Let me explain the "Battalion Groups."

Battalion Groups are small, accountability groups (3-10 men) who will meet weekly once the BPM is kicked off on "D-day (explained below)." The leaders of these groups should be pre-trained and ready to lead. Each group should also have a pre-trained and identified co-leader [if at all possible] to assist the leader. The Battalion Groups are formed from men who want to make BPM successful. They may be men who are strong in Christ and have no sexual problems but who feel that BPM needs men who are strong and stand for the goals of BPM. The groups will obviously involve some men who need accountability in the area of sexual sin, men who've likely tripped into this sin pattern in the past or who have sexual weaknesses. They may even be men who've struggled with lustful fantasy even though acting on those fantasies may not be a current problem. Certainly, the groups are for men who are deeply involved in struggling with sexual sin, ... even those who may be labeled as "addicted." Finally, the groups are also for men who are confused about sexual sin or feel vulnerable and want to do everything they can to prevent it from damaging their own lives, their families, or the church.

These groups form the heart of the ministry against the enemy; and the dedication and ability of those who lead these groups will have everything to do with success or failure for your church's BPM [or whatever you call your ministry]. The criteria for those who are interested in small group leadership can also be evaluated by using 1 Timothy 3: 8-13. If a prospective volunteer group leader meets these criteria or at least is moving toward the attainment of these elements of Christian leadership; and that one feels called and has skills to lead groups in this way, such a man will likely be a solid Battalion Group Leader. Once a cohort of potential Battalion Group leaders is recruited by the Lay Leader and church staff [especially the leader of the men's ministry], they will need to be trained and provided with group meeting resources (meeting format, ministry support, resources, etc.) so that the group leaders can conduct the meetings using a suggested format [see below]. The overall BPM leader/shepherd can provide some materials upon request that are not copyright protected and may be duplicated and edited if desired. However, the meetings are primarily a place for sharing and personal spiritual growth and will not require any special materials. Battalion group leaders are encouraged to use devotional topics that come from their own devotionals to model the need for a strong devotional life and to bring God's word into the spotlight as God's Sword of the Spirit for this spiritual warfare (see Eph. 6: 17). If materials are needed by the group leaders [e.g., small group study or devotional materials, including study guides] the church should provide these resources for the leaders.

STEP TWO: ORGANIZATIONAL

Some of the organizational aspects of the ministry are already described above in terms of the mission, vision, and leadership structure of a ministry like BPM. However, it would be of some advantage for your church leaders to be able to read how such a ministry is conceptualized and organized. [Please know that these are merely suggestions from our experience.] For this reason, BPM at Central Church prepared a separate handout to explain this for church leaders and other interested parties. This handout, which contains the primary discussion concerning the organizational aspects of BPM at Central Church in Memphis, TN can be found in **Appendix A** attached to this document. It is understood that this was the organizational structure developed by the BPM leadership task group at Central Church in Collierville, TN; and it may or not be compatible with the reader's church (i.e., size, available staff, etc.). Therefore, [Appendix A](#) should be viewed as set of blue prints that can be altered to fit the church dynamics of the congregation which you, the reader, know as your church home.

So, let's say that your church recognizes the need to go to war against Satan in the area of sexual sin, ... to make direct frontal attacks against the enemy and claim the victory that God has waiting for those who stand on God's promises. With this in mind we proceed directly to the developmental stages of a BPM for any church.

STEP THREE: DEVELOPMENT

A Battle Plan Ministry is a faith-building developmental exercise. A BPM certainly has the best of the best for a foundation. It must be built on **“THE Rock,”** ... Jesus Christ. The called person who leads your BPM development, as well as the existing leaders of your church might make some mistakes; and you may alter the organizational structure dramatically from the blue print presented in **Appendix A**; but if you build on “THE Rock,” your BPM, no matter what the developmental structure, will succeed, and lives will be transformed (see **Rom. 12: 1-2**).

So, **THE focus**, as with all ministries in your church, **must be on Jesus Christ**. It may sound simplistic; but it's a “WWJD” approach, asking continually, “What do we do, Lord?” If the man who comes forward to lead this effort feels called by Jesus; and the leaders who join to build a BPM keep the eyes of that man on the Savior in all he does; and then, if they join him in following Christ, the development of a BPM effort will get off on the right foot, and the Lord will use your BPM for His glory. Then by continually following God's word and seeking His way, the group who sets the organizational elements in place cannot go wrong.

So, the development of a BPM is an exercise in faith, focusing on Christ throughout, never taking a step unless those who build your BPM-type ministry are in accord and in tune with Christ. It's like the word picture painted by the Apostle John in John 15. As long as the branches (the church members) are plugged into the Vine (Christ), they will become fruitful. But when they are not abiding in the Vine, they will wither up and produce no fruit. Hopefully, this principle will be the ultimate guide to anyone desiring to build a Battle Plan Ministry.

What, then, will happen if your Battle Plan Ministry is successful and is led by God in the way Joshua's trek across the Jordan was? God promised Joshua success as long as old Josh kept his mind/heart in God's word. And that (Joshua 1: 1-9, especially verse 8) is God's promise to anyone who builds a BPM to God's glory. So, if you do it God's way and a BPM is developed with God's called leaders, what can your church expect from that Vine in the way of fruit? I'll review this fruitfulness for you below; but first, let's talk about staging the battles toward this success.

First, you will have to plan for and execute a D-Day type invasion.

Lighting the Fire Under the Project: A D-Day to Hit the Beaches!

With the leadership of BPM selected and in accord; and with your prayer cohort undergirding the efforts with persistent/powerful prayer, you're ready to get started. Assuming that the Battalion Group Leaders are ready and trained, your war-planning group is ready to plan and implement a D-Day frontal attack, ... that is, a kickoff of BPM in your church. A day should be selected, maybe a Saturday morning breakfast or evening dinner, when as many men of the church can be gathered as possible. Again I say that you must have the advanced troops, the prayer warriors who are praying for BPM, to be alerted to shell the beaches with prayer daily until the ministry is launched and then regularly thereafter for fire cover.

The day being selected, a tactic of scheduling a hearty men's meal is always good to draw a bunch of guys together to kickoff a project. If you want to promote the event, a flier should be put in the church bulletin a couple of weeks before "D-Day," with the Pastor promoting the event from the pulpit, indicating his strong support for the event. We, at Central Church actually called our kick-off our "D-Day for Battle Plan Ministry," and we had a nifty brochure to draw attention to the event. **Appendix D** shows a letter that we sent out to selected men, considered to be leaders of our church, announcing/explaining the event. We wanted to insure that as many of our church leaders would be there, talking up the event ahead of time, to draw those who might "need" this ministry who might otherwise shy away from an event highlighting the problem at the heart of their life. Where the leaders go, others will follow.

The actual kickoff should feature a presentation, likely a testimony, by the called leader of your BPM effort, who will also outline the need for a BPM and why the church simply **MUST** go to war against the enemy. Then your BPM leader should outline what will be available through the ministry for **ALL TYPES OF MEN** in the church. This latter point is key! BPM should not just be seen as a restoration ministry. Of course, it will be that; but it needs to be a ministry to allow strong men of God, men who have no current sexual sin habits, to come along side those who do to do battle against the enemy.

When we kicked BPM off at our church, we a brief segment from the movie ***The Saving of Private Ryan***, where the men were in the troop transport boat headed up to Omaha Beach. In that boat, all together, were strong men and weak men, older men and younger men, ... all types of men. No one knew at that point who were the courageous ones and who were the scared ones. They were all going to war together. And that's what needs to be seen by the men of YOUR church as YOUR BPM is launched.

Also it may be a good idea to survey those in attendance at your kickoff meal as to their needs from a Battle Plan Ministry. When we presented our D-Day kickoff, we had the men fill out the form found in **Attachment E**. At the end of the leader presentation, we had the men sign the form and put them in a box, voluntarily of course, as an altar call showing support of our new BPM. Then we had

information to follow up on later to contact men relative to their needs for support or involvement in the ministry.

Okay, let's assume you have launched your church's BPM-like ministry [whatever you're calling it – feel free to use **Battle Plan Ministry**, it's not copyrighted]. What's next? The answer is a logical one. Delegated men from your leadership group should be assigned by the BPM Leader to contact those filling out surveys to see about their involvement in the ministry. And those who express interest in joining a small accountability group should be given that opportunity by dividing up the interested men into one, two, or whatever number of groups are needed to get started. Obviously scheduling and/or geographic issues will need to be considered in the formation of these groups. However, the groups should be launched as soon as possible after the D-Day to maintain momentum from the kickoff effort.

Others, who are not interested at this time in getting into small groups may be interested in other aspects of the ministry, prayer support, mentoring, etc. Whoever comes forward to be "a warrior" in your BPM should be given the opportunity to serve in some capacity. And the war council of leaders for BPM should also meet regularly (at least quarterly) thereafter to keep things together. But as all of this is going on, all in charge should be in a submissive posture to let the real Leader take charge, ... **The Holy Spirit** ... because with Him leading into battle, things will happen.

One IMPORTANT NOTE: Don't be discouraged if you only get enough men for one or two initial groups. In this area of guilt/shame associated with habitual sexual sin, it's culturally normal for men to hide what's going on. But with an open ministry, like BPM, in your church, God will do His convicting and directing to the ones who are ready to come forward for accountability, restoration, and/or renewal.

But you might ask, "What will be the result of our efforts to build this BPM?"

The Projected Results of a Battle Plan Ministry !

Before presenting the fruit of the Spirit when it comes to a Battle Plan Ministry, let me remind the reader of the alternative. It's like Paul's comparison in Galatians 5, where he presented the results of the works in the flesh, which go unchecked (versus 19-21), as compared to the walk in the Spirit, which produces God's fruit (versus 22-23). In the former passage we read the horrible list of the outcomes of the flesh; but in the latter we read of love, joy, peace, etc., ... the fruit of the Spirit. In short, here you have a word picture of why you simply must build a BPM ministry in your church. **To leave the tap root of sexual sin unchecked in your church is to allow the enemy to have a deep foothold of the flesh in the men of your Church.**

Personally, having experienced both in my life, I choose the latter; and that's what your church will be choosing if you take on the enemy to defeat the incredible onslaught of evil that is being perpetrated by such forces as homosexuality, pornography, and Satan's newer super-weapon, porn on the Internet. To leave your church open to these forces, I believe, is choosing to walk in the flesh and reap the whirlwind of evil that will result ... broken marriages ... fatherless children ... and leaderless churches.

However, a properly built and Spirit-led effort with a Battle Plan Ministry can result in God's fruit from Godly men, fathers, and church leaders. We simply cannot ignore the survey data that are telling us that over 50% of our male Christians are now either addicted to sexual sin or are to some degree hindered by the siren call of this evil force. So, if a church, your church let's say, chooses another form of attack besides a BPM-like ministry against this powerful crippler of our Christian men, then fine. But I say, **do something!**

Battle Plan Ministry, as I've said above, will work because it's based on God's word, His principles, and His desire for men of God to be obedient to His will and to become the fruit of His Vine (John 15). We need more men of God who have the stability and leadership to become Godly men; and I propose that BPM, or some ministry effort like it, could make a big difference in our churches and our families. I've written more about ***The Results of Battle Plan Living*** [go to <http://www.battleplanministries.org/men> to download] on our ministry website, which you can print and use to show your church leadership what can result when men get committed and accountable in a discipleship ministry like ours.

I pray that the reader will consider promoting BPM for his or her church home. In fact, let me close by doing just that:

Heavenly Father, as You have given me the format of this Battle Plan to rid my mind and behavior of habitual sexual sin for my own life. I pray that you will use this reader's mind and/or this church's heart to foster a Battle Plan Ministry for those in your church who need it. Furthermore, I pray that You, Lord, would call this reader to do battle against the enemy, to claim the victory that you have waiting for his life, and for You to be honored and glorified in the process. You know that this plan works Lord, because it was taken from Your word; so infuse it with Your power and allow it to be a force for good and for Your glory. And I pray these things in the matchless and wonderful Name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Appendix A: Organizational Development

Battle Plan Ministry (BPM) at YOUR Church

Mission: ___[your]___ Church provides a ministry of restoration for men who have become ensnared in habitual sexual sin; it also is an atmosphere of discipleship where **any man** can learn to do battle with the enemy and grow in Christ.

Components: Battle Plan Ministries (BPM) will provide Christian men with a restoration and/or discipleship ministry that entails three areas of emphasis: **PREVENTION ... EXTRACTION ... INTERVENTION**. It is understood that most men who are ensnared in sexual sin find it oppressive to come forward to confess, repent, and submit to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. With this in mind, BPM will be an oasis and/or fortress ministry. Men can feel free to come forward without the stigma of labels like "porn addict" or "pervert." They will be protected for a period of time so that they can become effective soldiers in the war against our enemy, the devil, who wants to use sexual sin to damage the testimonies of Christian men. No one will know into which phase of the program (see below) any man has come forward to participate. Since the first, or "prevention" phase, will have very positive emotional loading attached to it, other men, who are in the other phases of the ministry, can be shielded from stereotyping.

Operations: The **three operational phases of BPM** are described:

- **Prevention:** **Any man** who desires to shield himself from the possibility of falling prey to Satan's ploys in sexual temptation should respond to the call of this phase. "Prevention" is for the soldier who wants to learn how to use the full armor of God to provide hedges against sin, **which** could be damaging to his marriage, or to promote a healthy relationship with a Christian woman, or for a father to learn how to prevent sexual sin from damaging his children. What man in Christ would not want to stand with those commitments?
- **Extraction:** BPM recognizes that Christian men sin; and that sexual sin can be a very lethal form of sin in our culture, used by Satan to separate a man from his relationship with Christ, or damage him as a husband, father, or as an effective Christian witness/leader. So, when a man chooses (and it is a choice!) to sin against God in the sexual arena of behavior, BPM is there to allow him to see that restoration is not only possible in Christ, but is feasible. The extraction phase will allow any man who is involved in some form of sexual addiction or habitual sin to choose Christ and find the power to battle and defeat the enemy.
- **Intervention:** This phase is the most serious and challenging phase of BPM. It is recognized that some men are weaker than others, and may find it more difficult than the average Christian soldier to come out of habitual sin patterns and learn effective battle skills. These men need a remedial phase where they can be in a more structured and protective environment of care, which will disciple them to a place where they can respond to the extraction and prevention phases at a later time. This phase is quite simply competent Christian counseling, which will be provided when appropriate, individually or in a group setting, to prepare a weaker, fallen man for the opportunity that the extraction and prevention phases afford. Obviously, the intervention phase is a well-fortified place with more protection and guidance than the other, more open-ended, phases. It also requires competent, Christian counseling, either provided by appropriately trained church staff or by referral to a counseling program that works in conjunction with your ministry efforts.

Appendix A: Organizational Development ... cont.

Organization:

Supervision and Direction: BPM is a men's ministry of the Body of Christ at __[your]__ Church. As such the Church Elders and your Senior Pastor oversee it. It should be administered and/or supervised by the Adult Ministry Staff with close cooperation from the Counseling Staff [or referral-based counseling program]. And, finally, your BPM program is implemented by the lay officers of the Men's Ministry in __[your]__ church.

Organizational Structure: BPM is subdivided into three working areas to facilitate its mission and to promote God's Kingdom.

- **BPM Encampment:** On an annual [though it could be biannual] basis, all who are involved in BPM (Elders, Staff, Leaders, and Soldiers of God) will meet for a concentrated conclave [possibly a men's breakfast] to worship God, to share war stories [i.e., testimonies], to praise God for victories, and to rally the troops for action and prayer. These special gatherings have the mission of encouraging, equipping, and convicting "the troops" in the area of sexual purity and arming the body against the enemy. Often a special speaker can be asked to give an uplifting presentation to provide inspiration, hope, and/or direction for all men in BPM. And this will be a rousing environment to have an altar call of purpose, as well as for salvation, for those who might be convicted by God to surrender to Him.
- **BPM Battalion Meetings:** Small groups (5 - 10) will be fostered, meeting weekly or biweekly to promote personal and group accountability and/or discipleship. At these 60-90 minute gatherings [generally held in the church or in homes], a group leader/facilitator will use a pre-planned meeting format [used by all groups], helping to equip the warriors in the group for battle against the enemy and to promote the personal purity goals of the members. In these more intimate meetings, testimony and sharing will be fostered as a method of utilizing the love of God in the life of the group and each member. Another goal for the leaders will be to identify and develop other battalion leaders from their group for the future, who can be used by the Holy Spirit to take on leadership of battalion meetings in the future.

The general group format might look something like this:

- See Attachment B for Meeting Format
- **BPM Mentoring:** Special leaders, whom God will bring forward, will become personal mentors for front-line troops who have made a covenant to join God's army of sanctified soldiers. The cohort of mentors will be identified for the soldiers, who will be asked to pray toward and let God lead them to a personal trainer/mentor. The BPM participants who seek out mentors will meet on a regular basis and develop a Spirit-led relationship in Christ. Mentor-Leaders will be encouraged and directed to help the soldiers arm themselves and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their soldier counterpart against the enemy and the call of the flesh. Mentors can be Elders, Deacons, or active church leaders; but they should definitely be able to affirm 1Tim. 3 [1-7; and/or 8-13] to be able to serve in this capacity.
- **BPM Remedial Training:** No warrior's needs will go unattended. Therefore, for group members with unhealed wounds too serious for the battalion meetings and/or mentoring, special, remedial training [i.e., counseling] will be offered by the Counseling Ministry at the church. This group encounter ministry will be overseen by specially trained and designated counseling staff for those who need this focused healing and restoration atmosphere. Whenever it is determined that soldiers being counseled in this phase of training are ready for the other phases of BPM [i.e., accountability groups], they will be encouraged to participate in the "battalion group" and be encouraged to find a mentor.

Appendix B : Accountability Group Meeting Format

Segment One: Devotional – Emphasis on God’s Word

In this meeting segment [approximately 20 - 30 minutes], the leader opens the group to God’s word through a brief devotional topic, selected by the leader/facilitator from any small group study, personal devotional, or short Bible study which emphasizes the importance of God’s word as the Sword of the Spirit for the spiritual warfare lived out by ALL of God’s warriors. The foundation of this comes from Ephesians 6: 13 – 18, with an emphasis on verse 17. The group should be given ample opportunity to discuss the interpretation of the passage/verse highlighted by the leader for discussion as well as to see how this study applies in the personal spiritual warfare encountered by each group member. The overriding goal for the leader, choosing any devotional topic should be to show the group how/why it’s important for every soldier in God’s army to carry a ready, sharpened, and practiced Spirit-sword. The leader will also be modeling the importance of a disciplined devotional life.

Segment Two: Sharing & Accountability – Emphasis on Vulnerability

This segment [approximately 30 – 45 minutes] asks one over-arching question: **“How was your week?”** However, underlying this very benign-sounding question is a series of very probing, personal, and at times, testing questions. [Appendix C](#) presents these questions, which the reader will see can be very convicting, often times leading to the need for open confession and/or brokenness. This segment of the Battalion Meetings can become quite emotional and requires sensitivity and an openness to allow God’s Spirit to work His presence and power. This is a time to promote vulnerability and honest sharing; and when it occurs, God should be allowed to work, both individually and in the group. All in the group need to be given the opportunity to share; and it will be discovered that groups larger than 6 may take some extra time (maybe as much as an hour to let God do His work). If the group is 8 or more, it is encouraged to let a co-leader or sub-leader take half of the participants to a separate room to cover this segment, coming back with the larger group for Segment Three (see below).

Segment Three: Prayer – A Round of Closing Prayer

Segment three [about 20 minutes] emphasizes the need to go to the high ground in battle, which is envisioned, from Eph. 6: 18 as the vantage point of prayer. Every army tries to secure the high ground in battle, where the enemy can be visualized more easily and held at bay; and that high ground is prayer in spiritual warfare. Hence, the group members are encouraged to voice at least one (no more than two) prioritized/personalized prayer requests. In the original BPM model @ Central Church, each “soldier” voices his prayer request, going around the circle of men in the room (the entire group reassembled if necessary from Segment Two). Each man is asked to remember the prayer request of the man on his left. If men want to write down the requests for all the men for later prayer, this is encouraged. However, the primary assignment for the group circle of prayer will be to focus on the prayer request of the soldier on the left of each man. After all have voiced their prayer requests, the men are gathered into a standing circle, with their right fists [right hands] touching one another in the center of the circle. This signifies the strength of the group. In this “ritual,” anyone feeling they have need of the strength of the group lays his open palm on the top of the group of fists in the center, signifying, “I need your help.” With left hands on the right shoulder of the man to the left, the leader begins and ends the prayer circle, first praying for the request of the “soldier” to his left. When the conversational prayer circle has been completed, the leader closes with prayer for those who might have been absent and for the group and ministry as God leads. When the prayer circle is spent, the meeting is completed.

Appendix C : Sharing and Accountability Questions

"How was your week?"

Remember Our MISSION: *Battle Plan Ministry (BPM) at Central Church promotes healing, restoration, discipline, spiritual strength, and accountability for Christian men and women ensnared in or working to prevent habitual sexual sin. BPM also provides a healing outreach for women who are the silent victims of the sexual sin of the men in their life.*

"How was your week?" is a seemingly benign question; but coming in the context of the mission of BPM, it is a very loaded question, with an expectation of answers to the following sub-questions:

1. Did you walk the walk of purity/sobriety this week? If not, where were the triggers/problems; and what is your **2Tim. 2: 22** plan to avoid trouble?
2. Did you maintain a daily "quiet time" with God and/or have a time in God's word and prayer which was meaningful and facilitated your growth in Christ? (after Christ's model in **Matt. 14: 13, 23**)
3. What have you done this week to carry a ready and sharpened Spirit-Sword (i.e., **Eph. 6: 17**)?
4. Have you lived this week in order to wear God's full armor [**Eph. 6: 13-18**]?
5. Have you lived up to **1Thes. 5: 17** ... to be on God's high ground of prayer continually?
6. Have you treated your spouse (if appropriate) as God's word commands in **Eph. 5: 25** or others as dictated by **Gal. 6: 9-10**?
7. Have you been a good steward of God's time, talents, and treasures this week? [After **Matt. 25: 14-30; 2Cor. 9: 6,7; Eph. 5: 15-16**]
8. Has your goal of becoming more like Christ been enhanced or advanced this week [See **Luke 9: 23**].
9. Has Christ's mission of **Luke 4: 18-19** been realized in your walk this week in any way? If not, why not?
10. Have your priorities been Godly priorities; and are you becoming a "success" as defined by **Joshua 1: 8**?

BIGGIE BONUS QUESTION: Are you really being accountable by sharing the answers to our questions with your BPM brothers?

"So, ... how was your week?" *

* Translated for some: "How have things been since we were last together?"

Appendix D: Sample Letter to Promote Kickoff

Battle Plan Ministry

Date: [current date]

"MEN OF GOD BECOMING GODLY MEN"

Dear Men of [Your Church]:

If you have received this, you are in some leadership role in our Church: staff, elder, teacher, ministry, etc. This is a call to arms by Battle Plan Ministry (BPM)!

On Saturday morning, [date], we will launch into full battle against the enemy. It will be "D-day," and the men's ministry needs your participation. I think all rational Christians agree that the Body of Christ is under attack in the area of sexual sin. Satan has a major stronghold in our culture; and the time has come to take this beachhead back in the Name of Jesus Christ!

So, on [date] at [time], there will be a men's breakfast [or dinner], and we are asking ALL MEN OF [your church name] to attend this breakfast. The only way we can show that Battle Plan Ministry is for ALL our men (not just those who have problems in this area of habitual sin) is for our leaders [YOU] to be there, standing strong in support of BPM. So, we NEED FOR YOU to be there and stand with us.

I'm praying (as are many others) that you will respond to this call to arms. My brother, ... leaders lead! So, be there to stand with all of us as we make a living statement to the enemy that he cannot have this stronghold in our Church.

Sincerely,

Name
BPM Leader

Appendix E: D-Day Survey Battle Plan Ministry

DO YOU AGREE that ... (circle your answer)

- Sexual temptations abound in our culture (on TV, in films, in advertisements, etc) ?
 YES
 NO
- A large number of Christian men are involved in sexual sin (porn, affairs, abuse, etc.) ?
 YES
 NO
- The church needs to battle the enemy and reclaim the authority it has in Christ when it comes to sexual sin
 YES
 NO

My interests in BPM are . . . (mark as many as apply)

- _____ To keep impurity and illicit sex out of my life and away from my family.
- _____ To help my brother Christians deal with habitual sexual sin.
- _____ To help prevent an epidemic of sexual impurity in our church.
- _____ To deal with occasional, inappropriate sexual sin in my own mind/life.
- _____ To eradicate habitual sexual behavior from my life.
- _____ To deal with sexual addiction in my life.

To accomplish the above, I will . . .

- _____ Pray for and promote BPM at every opportunity.
- _____ Use my spiritual gifts to make BPM a successful ministry.
- _____ Lead or co-lead a small, accountability group.
- _____ Become a mentor to help at least one brother overcome sexual sin.
- _____ Join and participate in a small, accountability group.
- _____ Seek, with the help of church staff, a mentor.
- _____ Seek help from the counseling ministry.
- _____ Repent of my sin and ask Jesus Christ to be my Savior and Lord.

REMEMBER ... anything submitted on this form will be held in the strictest confidence.

NAME: (printed) _____

Preferred PHONE: _____

Email address: _____