

## RELIGION

# MEN'S Fraternity: a quest for true manhood

BY BILL SHERMAN  
World Religion Writer

At 6:30 a.m. Thursday, with scenes from "Braveheart" playing on a large projection screen, 200 men filed into First Baptist Church in Broken Arrow on a three-year quest to discover authentic manhood.

First Baptist and several other Tulsa-area churches are hosting Men's Fraternity, a program with 15,000 chapters that meet weekly around the globe.

"We've got a problem. Manhood is in crisis," said Robbie Evans, young adults pastor at First Baptist.

"This is about defining manhood, what does it mean to be a man," he said.

"We've lost that." The Bible has helpful insights to clarify these issues, he said.

Participants over the course of

## What is Men's Fraternity?

Men's Fraternity was started in 1990 by Pastor Robert Lewis with 30 men at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Ark., as a way to connect with men in his church, and to challenge them.

Over the years it developed into three, one-year-long studies: The Quest for Authentic Manhood; Authentic Manhood: Winning at Work and Home; and The Great Adventure.

More than 15,000 groups of men around the globe now attend a weekly Men's Fraternity.

Lewis is the author of "Raising a Modern Day Knight."

The program will get a clear definition of manhood, develop language to understand manhood, discover things about themselves, make new friends and receive a personalized "manhood plan," he said.

Men of any faith, or no faith, are welcome, and can benefit from the program, he said, although they will be exposed to biblical principles of manhood.

"We want to engage men. We want to see men's lives changed, to become better men," Evans said.

"This is not a church meeting, and not a religious event," he said. There was coffee and doughnuts, and no singing or prayer.

Pastor Nick Garland explained the four faces of manhood — king, warrior, lover and friend — and then the men divided into small groups and discussed it.

After the session, participant Greg Freeman said Men's Fraternity gives "practical how-to's on how to improve your life."

He said men receive training for

many areas of business and life, but, "Where's the playbook for how to resolve conflict with your wife?"

Participant Stephen Mitchell said the program helps men "get in touch with every aspect of themselves, and be true to themselves."

Both have been through the program in recent years.

First Church of the Nazarene in Broken Arrow and Bethel Baptist in Owasso will begin a Men's Fraternity program next week.

Michael Jordan, pastor of stu-

dents and mission strategy at Bethel Baptist, went through the program with other church leaders in preparation for launching it.

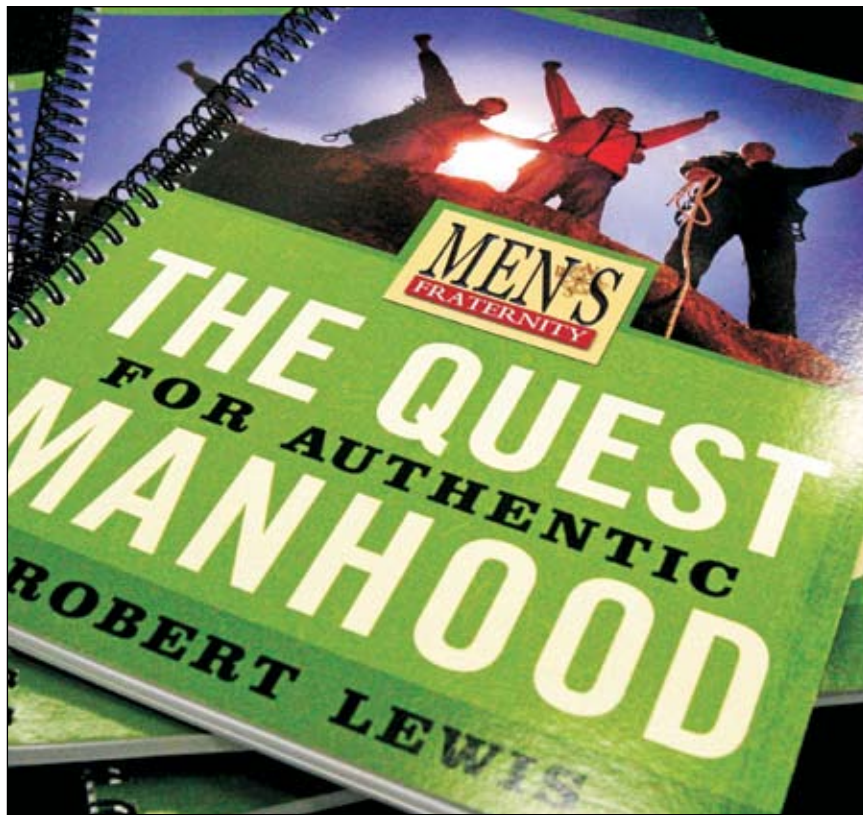
"It turned out to be a life-changing experience," he said.

"The first 14 weeks is a journey to understand how things in your past affect your behavior toward your wife, your children, and other people ... things like a father who was gone a lot, or an over-protective mother."

The last 10 weeks are about "rejecting passivity, accepting responsibility, leading courageously and expecting God's greater reward," he said.

Jordan said man's role in society has been confused by the industrial revolution, which took men out of the home to work, and made them more of a playmate to their children than a leader; by the two world wars, which hardened men, and made them more reclusive; and by feminism, which made it easy for them to relinquish their role as leaders, and devote themselves to golf, fishing and building things.

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Above, about 200 men attend the Men's Fraternity at the First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow. At left, those attending received a workbook titled, "The Quest for Authentic Manhood" by Robert Lewis. Photos by SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World



Rob McKnight (center) listens to the Rev. Nick Garland, minister of the First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, at the Men's Fraternity.

## Girl tour focuses on modesty

Program is designed to be fun, informative for mothers and daughters.

BY BILL SHERMAN  
World Religion Writer

The Secret Keeper Girl Tour will make a stop at the Mabee Center next weekend, wrapping a message of modesty and abstinence in a package of fashion, music and fun.

"Our heart, our goal is to teach moms and their daughters the value of modesty," said Dannah Gresh, founder of the faith-based program.

Singles are welcomed, but the two-hour program is designed as a mother-daughter event.

Gresh said she became involved with the issue a few years ago when she found she was uncomfortable with the fashion choices and social pressures facing her pre-teen daughter.

"Moms have this internal sixth sense," she said.

When she looked into the research, she found that psychological studies confirmed her fears.



### CRITICAL ISSUE

**Dannah Gresh:** "Our heart, our goal is to teach moms and their daughters the value of modesty."

Age compression, pushing pre-teen girls into dress and behavior appropriate to older girls, has been linked to depression, boy craziness, eating disorders and difficulty developing a healthy sexuality as adults, she said.

"It's a critical issue," she said. "If you desire to raise a strong, healthy woman, you need to start talking to her about these things between the ages of 8 and 10."

She said modern American society is conflicted, agreeing that young girls should not get pregnant or infected with sexually transmitted diseases, but at the same time marketing movies, television and fashion that encourage sexuality to pre-teens.

The top television show among pre-teen girls 20 years ago was "Care Bears."

Two years ago it was "Desperate Housewives," and last year it was "America's Next Top Model," she said.

Constantly viewing skinny models gives girls a false self-image, she said. A recent Harvard study found that two-thirds of underweight 12-year-olds thought they were fat.

Eating-disorder clinics are seeing younger and younger girls, she said.

Gresh co-wrote a best-selling book, "Lies Young Women Believe."

Interviews with 1,200 teenage girls a few years ago showed that of all the lies they believed — that they were of no value, fat or ugly — the No. 1 lie is that they need to have a boyfriend to be of value, she said.

The Secret Keeper Girl Tour is set for 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Mabee Center.

The tour does not talk directly about sex, but it gives mothers tools that will help them discuss the matter with their daughters.

Gresh will not be there, but a team of young women will conduct the program. Admission is \$10.

For more: [tulsaworld.com/purefreedom](http://tulsaworld.com/purefreedom)

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## RELIGION

### Jewish High Holy Days observance begins Friday

The Tulsa Jewish community is preparing for High Holy Days, the holiest days on the Jewish calendar.

High Holy Days is a 10-day period beginning with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, at sunset Friday, and ending with Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, Sept. 28.

Rosh Hashanah is a time of family gatherings, special meals and sweets.

Yom Kippur is the most solemn day of the Jewish year, a day of fasting, reflection and prayers.

### Author to speak at new senior pastor's installation

The Rev. Kent Hughes, author of the modern Christian classic, "Disciplines of a Godly Man," will speak at the installation service for the new senior pastor of Tulsa Bible Church, 5838 S. Sheridan Road.

The Rev. Jim Johnston will be installed at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Johnston was Hughes' associate pastor at College Church in Wheaton, Ill., for 10 years.

Hughes also will speak at 6 p.m. Sunday.

### Wife of the Rev. Carlton Pearson to speak

Gina Pearson, wife of the Rev. Carlton Pearson, will speak at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Unity Center, 1830 S. Boston Ave.

Her topic will be "The Gift of Goodbye." After the service, she will sign a book, "The Queen's Legacy," to which she was a contributor.

Carlton Pearson is the former pastor of Higher Di-

mensions Family Church in Tulsa. He now pastors Christ Universal Temple in Chicago.

### First Presbyterian Church to open new youth center

First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the grand opening of its new Powerhouse youth facility at 223 E.

Eighth St. with a concert at 8 p.m. Saturday and a community Rally Day at 9 a.m. Sunday.

The concert will be the first event in the renovated facility, which provides expanded meeting and worship space for middle school and high school students.

Nashville recording artist Amy Stroup will sing.

## First Presbyterian Church

7th & Boston, Downtown Tulsa

918.584.4701 • [www.firstchurchtulsa.org](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org)

### RALLY DAY!

THIS SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Join us for family fun: Music | Dunk Tank | Pony Rides | Coffee | Fellowship  
All at the Powerhouse, 8th and Cincinnati

This Sunday's Sermon:

### Vital Signs!

Rev. Terry Buxton of Agape Bible Fellowship, Preaching

We Welcome You in Worship!  
8:00 am Kerr Chapel  
11:00 am Sanctuary

Televised Services  
Sun, 11 am (live)  
and 5 pm, Cox 3  
Sat, 6 pm, KWHB 47/Cox 7

Signature Symphony at TCC

Tulsa's First Annual

# Festival of Hymns

In Memoriam Larry Dalton

Sunday, September 20, 2009  
7:00 p.m.

Come and sing the great old hymns of faith!

The program will feature the 150 voice Festival Choir representing churches and singers of different denominations across the city of Tulsa performing the great hymns of the church accompanied by the Signature Symphony at TCC musicians.

Asbury United Methodist Church

6767 S Mingo Rd

General Admission \$10.00

For ticket information:

Call 918-595-7777 or visit the VanTrece PACE Ticket Office  
81st Street and Hwy 169 at TCC Southeast Campus.

Tickets also may be purchased at the door the evening of the event.

[www.signaturesymphonyattcc.org](http://www.signaturesymphonyattcc.org)