

Recommendation for Broken Strength Ministry

As a fellow Free Church pastor in the North Central District, may I introduce you to a dear brother and encourage you to contact him to provide purity resources for the men whom you shepherd? Before sharing about **Broken Strength**, first, let me tell you about **Joe Smith**, who will soon become the first staff person for this ministry beginning April 1st. Joe has served so faithfully as an Elder at Grace Evangelical Free Church and as the Chair of that Board in recent years. I've witnessed "up close and personal" Joe's vibrant witness for the Lord and his zeal for advancing the Kingdom. Scriptures saturate his prayers, just as the Lord's grace permeates his life. He purposes to disciple Kingdom-minded men for Jesus Christ within the local church.

Joe and the whole team of Broken Strength are passionate about drawing alongside men who struggle especially with pornography. The study "Porn Phenomenon," published by the Barna Research Group in January 2016, revealed the pervasiveness of the porn problem in America – and in Christian circles. To ignore this issue is to leave our men, women, and children to fend for themselves. Barna's research indicates that nearly 50% of young people actively seek porn weekly. 21% of youth pastors and 14% of pastors say they currently struggle with porn. As they say in their study: "The issue is not coming; it is here already." This issue during this COVID pandemic has itself risen to pandemic proportions.

The ministry of Broken Strength desires to partner with churches to address this issue head-on. While there are some good resources available through books and videos, Broken Strength goes beyond resources and brings everything needed to the local church. Some pastors may remember the National Coalition for Purity ministry, founded by Dr. Irv Woolf, a former staff pastor at New Hope Community Church (formerly Crystal Evangelical Free). Irv has retired and signed all of his copyrighted materials over to Broken Strength.

The Broken Strength team will bring "the entire package" to the local church - the purity event, follow-up training, all materials, and a proven record of successful ministry. All the host church needs do is establish a date for a purity event, provide two faithful lay leaders who will agree to a 3-hour block of training and who will lead the "Boot Camp" that follows the week after the event. Broken Strength will make available all the manuals, books, and presentation slides. Broken Strength's commitment is to keep the costs at a minimum – they ask for no honorarium and charge the participants only for the materials' costs. Simply put, they don't want something from the local church. Instead, they desire to provide something for the men of the local church. I can personally testify to the value of hosting a purity event. I have seen lives transformed and marriages healed as a direct result of the ministry

facilitated by Broken Strength. I commend to you Joe Smith and the team with whom he partners without any reservation.

Joe would welcome the opportunity to visit via phone, zoom, face time, or in-person to discuss how Broken Strength might come alongside the local church to help men engage well in the battle against pornography. I include below Joe's contact information. Also, please visit the Broken Strength website at www.apathtopurity.org. Their goal is to facilitate at least two outreaches per month as the Lord opens doors beginning next fall. I would encourage you to open a door not only for Joe but also for the men whom you shepherd.

Blessings,

Gerald Stigall
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