Igniting an Effective Men's Ministry in Your Church

Our churches have a 'man problem': fewer men attend church and those who do are often less committed and involved. In this workshop we will explore specific approaches focused on addressing some of the underlying issues, and think strategically about how to encourage a 'whole church' response. Our main focus will be practical: how to ignite and sustain a men's ministry that will enable Christian men to flourish in the Gospel.

Glynn Harrison is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bristol, UK, where he was a practising consultant psychiatrist and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry. He preaches locally and speaks widely on issues of faith and psychology, neuroscience, and psychiatry. He is especially focused on supporting men's ministries and fostering the development of Christian leaders and pastors.

Alin Padureanu grew up in an Orthodox Christian family in Timisoara Romania, and came to faith at the age of 16. After serving as worship leader and church planter in several churches in Timisoara, he stepped in to the role of pioneering men's ministry in Romania in 2002. Alin is the head of ABC, the Christian Men's Association in Romania, which is active in promoting men's small groups in churches, summer camps for dads and kids, social involvement as a way of fulfilling Christ's call, and evangelism in prisons and the local community. He is married to Madi and has three children Raluca, Hannah and Filip.

- 1. The Problem: Men
 - A. The gender gap: nature and causes

B. The commitment gap

C. The cultural gap

2. Some solutions: Men
Do these patterns ring true in your church setting?
What local cultural factors apply in your case?
What could you do in your situation to address these issues?
What are the blockages locally to taking effective action?
What resources would you need to address this further?
3. The Plan: Men A. Vision and leadership

B. Whole Church sign up

- C. Igniting a men's ministry in your Church
 - a. Ministry based on relationships, not meetings
 - b. Accountability, mentoring, recreational
 - c. Teaching and discussion specific to men's hearts
 - d. Developing leaders: modelling, mentoring, coaching

Resources:

Morrow, D (2004) 'Why Men Hate Going to Church'. Thomas Nelson, US

Downer, P (2001) 'Effective Men's Ministry'. Zondervan, US

Cross, G (2008) 'Men and Boys: The Making of Modern Immaturity'. Columbia

Hoff Sommers, C (2000) 'The War against Boys'. Touchstone

Bradford Wilcox, W (2004) 'Soft Patriarchs, New Men: how Christianity shapes husbands and fathers' Univ Chicago Press

Brown, Callum. G (2001) 'The Death of Christian Britain'. Routledge