

“The Village Elders”

*To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – **not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being **examples to the flock.*****

1 Peter 5:1-3

“The Village Elders of the Rites of Passage Ministry” are the servant leaders of the organization. The village elders have been called and anointed by God for this assignment. The village elders have been commissioned by the Bishop and the Family of Champions for this work in the ministry.

At the present time there are 9 active village elders, who operate similarly to the board of elders at the church. The Board Chairman is Elder Irving Tolbert and the Vice Chairman is Deacon Eddie J. Scales, MD. The Board meets every month, to strategize and plan the goals and operation of the ministry. God has brought together a collection of men whose professional expertise, education and talents cover the spectrum. The list includes a physician, a banker, a writer, a producer, a construction manager, an engineer and a facilities director. At least two of the village elders own their own business. Most of the village elders have raised, are raising, or will be raising their own children. All of us have a strong sense of community and family. All of us share the same goals: 1) to see our boys (who we call initiates) develop into Godly men, 2) to be Christ-like examples both to the Champions and the initiates, 3) to support and encourage the parents of the initiates, and 4) to support, exhort, challenge and hold each other accountable.

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed to be under the leadership of our shepherd, Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer. He trusts that the same Spirit that leads him also leads us, as we lead the ministry. I am humbled by the faith in God, demonstrated by the parents (mothers) who entrust their sons to us. I am encouraged by the potential of every boy that God has allowed us to touch through the Rites of Passage ministry. I am honored to be allowed to serve God with such mighty men of valor... “The Village Elders of the Rites of Passage Ministry”-- willing, and faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Elder David Medley
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