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FEATURE STORY

‘No More Christian Nice Guy’ author Will challenges men to lives of Love, strength, courage

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BOISE -- Paul Coughlin is fighting a disease. It's a sickness that began years ago and has crept into almost every avenue of life. It affects the young and old, the healthy and the ill. And it has ravaged modern men.

He calls it, "a disease to please." It's the desire to appease, not rock the boat, go-along-to-get-along mentality that allows injustice to flourish, potential go unrealized and substitutes life for living. It's based on shame and robs people, families and communities.

Coughlin, who admits suffering from this disease himself, is fighting back, leading a rebellion against something that robbed him of a life worth living. He is taking that fight to the Treasure Valley as the featured speaker at "Mars Madness," a one-day event for men 18 years and older, **Saturday, March 15, 2008, at Boise's Capital High School (8055 Goddard Road)**. For more information, see www.searchboise.org.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes a dodge ball tournament for the first 16 teams to register. Admission is \$20 per person and \$100 for a team and/or group of eight. Search Boise, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Athletes in Action and Brown & Patrick Law Offices sponsor the event.

Coughlin is the author of three books, most notably "No More Christian Nice Guy," which **features a forward by Dr. Laura Schlessinger**. His other books are "Married ... But Not Engaged" and "No More Jellyfish, Chickens or Wimps."

All three are aimed at helping men live more effective and passionate lives while becoming better husbands and fathers.

"There are three forces that hinder men," Coughlin explained. "First, there is a cultural prejudice against men. What's wrong with the world? Men. It's like masculinity is a 'Scarlet M.'"

"There is also a dangerous caricature that Jesus was meek and mild. And then there is what I call, 'a disease to please.'"

“Being a Christian man does not mean being the world’s doormat. Some nice people are that way, not because they are virtuous, but because they lack virtue. That’s where we learn to live small lives. The thinking is, ‘if I live small, my problems will be small.’”

Make no mistake; Coughlin is not advocating an overbearing, caveman picture of men. Rather, he promotes a life of love – consisting of equal elements of strength and compassion that results in positive results for individuals and society. He attacks the misconception that a ‘nice guy’ and a ‘good man’ are the same thing.

“My message is about love ... a much more muscular love,” said Coughlin, who credits Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dr. Elton Trueblood (a Quaker author of the *Humor of Christ*) as having the most profound impact on his ministry.

“In regard to Martin Luther King’s example: Shouldn’t Christianity be useful? We should be taking some hills, fighting for people who can’t fight for themselves ... We create people without courage and then expects them to be courageous.”

King’s example was Coughlin’s inspiration for “The Protectors,” a faith-based response to school-based bullying. (See <http://www.theprotectors.org>)

To Coughlin, masculinity is not an over-the-top display of machismo. He disdains the example set by popular culture of entertainment, such as professional wrestling, and even writes a stirring defense of the late Fred Rogers (a.k.a., Mr. Rogers), praising him for his courage to reach children regardless of the criticism and caricatures that lampooned him throughout much of his career.

Coughlin challenges men to love and protect their family, friends and community by using their natural strengths in constructive ways.

“I call it ‘The Good Guy Rebellion’”, he says. “There is a culture that says, ‘Men, just don’t do any more damage’ ... Masculinity is neither good nor bad. It is whatever it is developed to be.”

Mars Madness Facts

- **Format:** One-day seminar for men age 18 and up and includes a 16-team dodge ball tournament (8 players per team).
- **Speaker:** Author Paul Coughlin (“No More Christian Nice Guy”, “Married ... but not Engaged” and “No More Jellyfish, Chickens or Wimps”)
- **Date:** March 15, 2008.
- **Location:** Capital High School, 8055 Goddard Road, Boise, ID.
- **Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Cost:** \$20 per person or \$100 for a team / group of 8.
- **Website:** www.searchboise.org.