

A CALL TO
MANHOOD

*IN A
FATHERLESS
SOCIETY*

DAVID E. LONG

A Call to
Manhood:
In a
Fatherless
Society

by David E. Long

HUNTINGTON HOUSE PUBLISHERS

Copyright © 1994

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without permission from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review; nor may any part of this book be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or copied by mechanical photocopying, recording or other means, without permission from the publisher.

Huntington House Publishers
P.O. Box 53788
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505

Library of Congress Card Catalog Number 93-78464
ISBN 1-56384-047-2

Printed in Bogota, Colombia

Dedication

To my earthly father, William George Long, Jr.,
who laid the foundation in my life;
To my father in the faith, Pastor William David Young,
who helped me build upon that foundation;
and
To my heavenly Father,
Who called me into His glorious presence.

FOUR	Accepting the Call to Sonship	73
FIVE	Finding a Father	87
SIX	Ruling the Inner Kingdom	99
EPILOGUE TO PART II	Serving the King	111

PART III

Turning the Hearts

SEVEN	Declaring a Kingdom Gospel	115
EIGHT	Embracing the Call to Fatherhood— The Leadership Mandate	131
NINE	Fostering the Revolution	151
EPILOGUE	Coming to Our Theological Senses	173
NOTES		187
BIBLIOGRAPHY		195
OTHER RESOURCES		201

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
INTRODUCTION	ix

PART I

Where Are All the King's Men?

ONE	Man of the Year	15
TWO	Rufio Is Dead	27
EPILOGUE TO PART I	Accepting the Call	49

PART II

Journey to Manhood

THREE	In Search of the King	53
--------------	------------------------------	-----------

Acknowledgments

Special thanks are due my faithful and brilliant wife, Diana, who was the initial voice that encouraged me to write the book you now hold in your hands and whose patience and servant heart made it possible to meet our deadlines;

my children, Jennifer, Angela, Jeremiah (and the yet unnamed one still in the hopper), who showed great patience and understanding during the intense months of writing;

my good friend, Randall Terry (I knew him when he was still “Randy.”), whose enthusiasm, insight, and obnoxious optimism pushed me over the edge in making the decision to write;

Mike Bagwell, Mary Dain, Scott Dawson, Jerry Tallo, and David Young, whose editorial assistance and input was a tremendous help in fine-tuning the language and sharpening the message;

Mark Brown, Mary Lou Mikel, and Jeanine Richardson, who assisted me in the research;

Kristen Renz and Francine Helligam, whose help in the final stages and review process kept us on course;

the many men whose stories have enriched my under-

standing and taught me perhaps more about the struggles of modern manhood than I could have learned any other way;

Peter Monacelli, Jim Moore, and Dennis Peacocke, who loved me enough to invest themselves as “uncles” and mentors in the process of fleshing out this message;

Bob, Dan, Doug, Jeff, John, Mark, and Steve, for courageously and patiently exploring the Journey to Manhood with me;

and, my editor, Mark Anthony, and the outstanding team at Huntington House, whose encouragement and Kingdom skill have made this book possible.

Introduction

The day had been long . . . meetings with staff . . . reviewing notes for a news conference . . . preparations for an upcoming radio show . . . finishing touches on an article for a national publication . . . a batch of phone calls . . . last minute arrangements for a quick trip to Wichita . . . a newsletter deadline.

It'd been another day in the life of a small-town, pro-life organization.

Climbing into bed, I reached for something to read while I waited for my wife. I was contemplating inviting Dr. Anthony Evans, president of the Urban Alternative, to be our guest speaker at an upcoming pro-life banquet; and I had picked up his recent book, *America's Only Hope*, to see what the man had to say about changing the culture. After setting the slip cover aside and glancing briefly at the table of contents, I leafed forward to page 11. And then I saw it, his prologue to chapter 1—the fateful nursery rhyme:

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the king's horses,

*And all the king's men,
Couldn't put Humpty together again.
Life changing, isn't it? Well, it was for me.*

For nearly a year, I had been studying the crisis in American manhood and was developing new teaching material for men along the lines of what I was referring to as the principles of "Kingdom Manhood." Dr. Evans' use of the Humpty Dumpty metaphor helped put things into focus for me.

You see, in Dr. Evans' apologue, Mr. Dumpty symbolizes our modern Western society, and the "king's men" are the guys in Washington, D.C., who are attempting to put Humpty back together again. Because of our culture's orientation toward secular humanism, many Americans have progressively elevated the government, and particularly the president, to the place of "king." That is to say, most have begun to look to the institution and people of government as our nation's lord and savior.

Though the nice people on Pennsylvania Avenue may be sincere, I think it is becoming increasingly obvious that civil government will never put Humpty back together again. In fact, the way they positioned him on the wall was precarious and unbalanced to begin with. Whether they knew it or not, they set him up to fall—it was inevitable.

In reality, Mr. Dumpty does not need to be rebuilt; he needs to be *reborn*. Even if we could "fix" him, which we cannot, were we to put him back up on the wall, he would eventually fall off again.

Over two hundred years ago, a professor by the name of Alexander Tytler suggested that societies built squarely upon the unrestrained democratic will of the people are destined to run their course in about two hundred years. Thus he says:

A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has

been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependence; from dependence back again into bondage.¹

Has the clock simply run out on this experiment we call Western culture. Perhaps Humpty is on the ground in a million pieces. Perhaps the idol is broken, and it cannot be repaired.

Nevertheless, all is not lost, for the true "King's men" are not the ones found in the halls of Congress; they are the ones found in the church, and they have yet to emerge on the scene. When they do, things will look very different.

* * * * *

This is a book about the unfolding cultural crisis in America. From the angry Feminist movement to the anti-war pacifists, from the Oval Office to the television and radio talk-show circuit, from the pastoral study to the Federal Reserve Board, from the arts community to the world of commerce, from nearly every sector of society, people are beginning to admit the obvious—Mr. Dumpty has fallen off the wall. Most would also readily admit that the men who are trying to put him back together again are failing at the task.

The progressive collapse of Western culture is fundamentally a collapse in American leadership on every level. Moreover, because men have been appointed by God to provide servant leadership to the three primary spheres of society—the church, the state, and the family—and because, whether we like it or not, men are still the predominant leaders in these three realms, the crisis we face is ultimately the manifestation of a crisis in American manhood. Therefore, this is a book about men.

But it is not about all men. It is about men who are increasingly aware of an inner longing to find and serve the true King. It is about men who yearn to discover and walk in a genuine definition of virility. It is about men who are tired

of living in the disappointing illusion of the so-called "American Dream." It is about men who have become desperate enough to want to discover their true purpose and destiny. It is, therefore, about men destined to change the course of a nation. It is about the true King's men.

If you are a man seeking for truth, this book is about you. May you find the King.

Part I

**Where Are All
the King's Men?**

1.

Man of the Year

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Romans 8:19

Standing at the counter, waiting for my insurance agent to return with my paperwork, I noticed a recent edition of *Time* magazine sitting on the coffee table in the lobby. The bold headline leaped at me from across the room with these words, "MAN OF THE YEAR." And below the heading was the name Ted Turner (the founder and owner of Cable News Network).

Later, after reading through the article, I was shocked by what I found. Although astonishingly successful in the business world, Mr. Turner's personal life read like a tragic novel.

Marital unfaithfulness, multiple divorces, alcoholism, fits of rage and violence (mostly verbal, but sometimes physical), bouts with manic-depression, talk of suicide, and the fear of assassination were all displayed for the world to see. Psychiatric counseling and lithium finally helped “tame” the rage in Ted’s soul at about age fifty.

As I stood there reflecting on the pitiful saga of Mr. Turner’s life, our national “MAN OF THE YEAR,” I mused to myself, “Unbelievable! Unbelievable! Whom are they trying to kid?”

I began to realize that every society has its male icons, men bigger-than-life to those who are small in their own eyes. These are the men that we claim to have found in our desperate search for manhood. They embody real “manliness” according to the standards set by popular culture.

It also became apparent to me that the *Time* cover story reflects our society’s active search for these male icons, a real and dynamic undercurrent in modern culture. There seems to be an emotional need for people to discover male heroes, men we common folk can look up to. Furthermore, if real heroes are in short supply, society is often all too willing to enthrone small men in their stead. Unwittingly, we are highly committed to a historical and biblical idea—we need “real men” in our land.

Obviously, Ted Turner is one of our cultural icons, but is he a “real man”?

In Search of a Real Man

The search for genuine manhood in America is gaining fresh momentum as we near the end of the twentieth century. Innately, we all seem to know that we need real men. Occasionally, Hollywood claims to have found some. The marines are still looking. Millions of American voters watch the various political races each year in hopes of finding one or two that they can endorse, or at least tolerate, come November. We all know of countless unmarried women who are involved in the search, some desperately so. Fathers and mothers eagerly seek them among their children. At the same time, millions of fatherless boys and girls are longing for one to call dad. Everywhere we look people are anxiously seeking to find the real men.