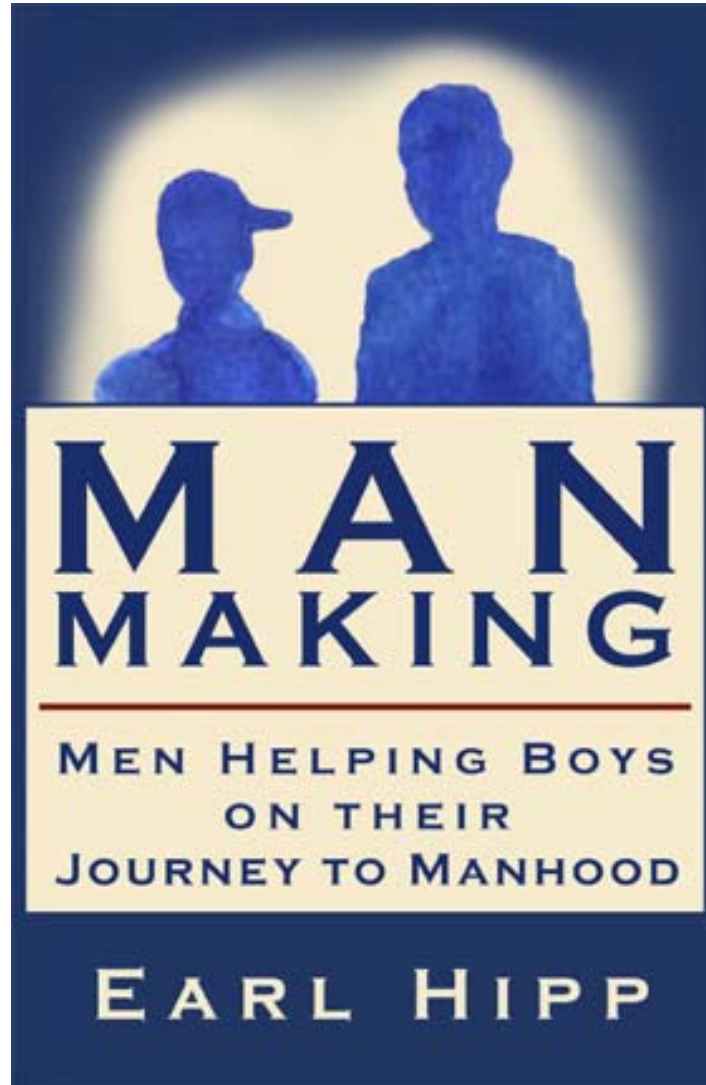


Man-Making
Men Helping Boys on their
Journey to Manhood



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Background

For thousands of years, it was the custom. It began with drums beating in the distance, softly at first and then louder. Then, when the time was right, the men of the village charged in, fearsome, masked, yelling in the dark of the night, calling out for the adolescent boys. As the little children cried, the men wrenched the young males out of the arms of the wailing women, and then slipped away into the darkness with the stolen boys.

Then there was running in a pack through the dense bush, wild-eyed and breathless, as the men dragged their precious prey into the darkness. There was no talking, just the sound of heavy breathing, grunting, and boys crying, all surrounded by the heat of the night and the stink of male sweat. After the long march, the boys found themselves in an old, strange, and sacred male place they had only heard of. They were thrown into a cold, dark hut and told to wait in silence.

Eventually, it began. There was chanting, strange smells, and always fires and the pounding of drums. The boys endured many trials, nakedness, cold, hunger, and pain. Around the fires, the men recited old stories, male secrets were shared, and sacred dances were taught and danced. Ancient lessons required for the survival of their community were unfolded before the boys. They were required to learn masculine skills, men's language, and the duties that define a mature man. The men considered this man-making work to be sacred and took their responsibility very seriously. They knew they were shaping the future of their tribe. If the boys did not make this crossing into manhood successfully, their world would end.

*If we fail to initiate our youth into the center of our tribe,
they will burn down the village just to feel the heat.*

African Proverb

Today, except for a small army of dedicated men, the man-makers have disappeared. The boys have been left to figure out manhood on their own and the results are, and can only be, tragic.

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What I Believe

- We are currently experiencing an epidemic of under-**male**-nourished boys.
- Boys, families and our communities will continue to suffer in a multitude of tragic ways if men don't become man-makers.
- Men are hardwired for these man-making actions – but most have forgotten or don't realize it. I believe men are incomplete if they don't express their man-making potential, and that boys hold one of the keys to a man's mature masculinity.
- Once exposed to a broad menu of necessary man-making actions, **every man** will be able find something he can do to support boys on their journey to manhood.

What People Are Saying



*On behalf of the **St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference**, I want to thank you for your willingness to design, develop, and provide "Man-Making - Men Helping Boys on Their Journey to Manhood" program. It is indeed your personal initiative and dedication to quality that helped make our conference so successful.*

Here are some typical comments from your evaluations:

- *"You present good solutions and a solid call to action for a growing problem, thanks."*
- *"Excellent program. I hope we have more on this topic in the years to come!"*
- *"Great presentation...good material and lots of food for thought."*
- *"I am a mother of 3 sons and found this program to be very helpful. I will pass this information on to my husband and brother."*

Mary Bridget Lawson - Conference Chair

For more information on the Man-Making keynote program, send Earl an [email](#) now.

Go to this link for information on possible [conference breakout and workshop](#) programs.

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The Author / Presenter - Earl Hipp



Earl Hipp is a professional speaker, trainer, and author who knows a lot about man-making. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in applied psychophysiology, and a background as a clinical psychotherapist. Since 1982, he has consistently been involved with groups and organizations that focus on men's issues and development. He is a member of Mankind Project, and he has staffed a number of Boys-to-Men initiation weekends. As a direct result of his interest in men's and boys' issues, he is connected with young males who are or have been incarcerated, maintains a number of ongoing mentoring relationships, and personally sponsors boys-and-men events.

Since 1985, Earl has written seven books about and for adolescents, which together have sold more than a half-million copies. His books for adolescents are on themes such as coping with the stresses in their lives, moving through grief and loss, and understanding the violence in our communities.

As a professional speaker, Earl has spent the last 18 years delivering educational and motivational presentations. His programs are on the subjects of his books and business topics to a wide variety of audiences, including corporations, associations, teachers, parents, and youth-serving professionals.

Earl describes himself as a man who was under-fathered and under-male-mentored in adolescence. He was a man who was "left with the women and children to figure out manhood on his own." His driving passion is to do what he can to ensure fewer boys and men will be left to wander alone in the dangerous never-never land between boyhood and manhood. He intends to inspire men to turn their natural skills as man-makers into action. His driving vision is that someday all adolescent males will be surrounded by good men who will intentionally launch and support them on their journey into manhood.

Earl Hipp lives with his life partner Gwen Barker. They spend summers in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and winters in Tucson, Arizona.

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