



**Title: Beyond the norm I – friends forever**  
**Speaker: André Kruger**  
**Date: 23 Aug 2009**  
**Time: 17:00**

**Athlete 20 years practice, biggest 100 meter track event ever...**

**Friendship is a gift.**

People and relationships are the very things that gives meaning to life. **Remove people** from our lives... remove the very meaning to our lives.

**Beyond the norm: A parable – the flatlands and the mountain of destiny**

**Philippians 3:12-15 (NKJV) – “a man who went beyond the norm”**

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the **upward call of God** in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

**The snag: The mountain of God is designed in such a way that none of us could reach the top alone nor in our own strength.** No man could reach the pinnacle alone. We will need friends. Not just any type of friendship. DMFs “Destiny minded friendships”.

**Friendship is a gift that enables us to go beyond the norm.**

<b>The norm</b>	<b>Beyond the norm</b>
Selfish / self-focused – what can I get?	Unselfish / friends focused – <b>what can I give?</b>
Merely for fun, no purpose	Destiny focused while having lots of fun
<b>Wasted opportunities:</b>	<b>Investing every opportunity:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelors</li> </ul>

**Challenges of climbing the mountain of destiny**

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

**1: Supermen stumble – we all fail at times**

*Mountain climbing is a dangerous hobby, and so is living life.*

**Encouraging friend (there are no supermen!)**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup> Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. <sup>10</sup> If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

**Friendship is a gift that enables us to go beyond the norm.**

**2: Icy Storms – it gets windy and cold on the mountain**

*The higher we go the greater the storms will be. It can get extremely cold on top of the mountain of life.*

**Climbing Mt Everest:** Maurice Wilson + three halfhearted porters.

**Getting warm: Ecclesiastes 4:11 (NLT)** <sup>11</sup> Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?

**Fire-making friend**

**True friendship** is to be honest and direct when needed. **Proverbs 27:6 (NLT)** <sup>6</sup> *Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.*

**Friendship is a gift that enables us to go beyond the norm.**

### **3: enemy attack – we are in a war for our relationships**

**Warfare...**

**Soldier buddy – with prayer support.**

**Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)** <sup>12</sup> *A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer.*

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### **4: seduction of “success” – alone at the top**

**Driven for the summit and storming out ahead from everyone – and so we lose our way:**

- *We weren't designed to reach the summit on our own.*
- *The goal is never more important than the friendships. Both are equally important.*
- *Your life depends on making quality friends now*

**Covering friend:**

**Jeremiah 31:22 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup> .... *The LORD will create a new thing on earth— a woman will surround a man.*

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### **5: dangerous friends – A lion and a springbok – can they be friends?**

**Amos 3:3 (NLT)**

<sup>3</sup> *Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?*

**How many Christians** have lost the plot after dating or marrying somebody that pulled them down and away from God?

**Don't fall for the trap of the enemy!** Always ask: will this person draw me closer to God or away? Away, well then don't date them. Away, well then don't marry them. *Our love for people should never be at the expense of our obedience to God.*

**With whom can I be friends then?** Different levels.

**Friendship is a gift that enables us to go beyond the norm. The wrong friends can cause us to go below the norm.**

**Friends forever** – those with whom we climb the mountain.... these friendships we are taking into eternity.

1. Pray for the right friendships - ask for insight.
2. Get a common cause – get together in the trenches of life.
3. Invest time and effort.
4. Practical things: next week.
5. Question: What price would you pay to have friendships like these, that take you beyond the norm?

**6: Closest friend** – “expert mountain climber and guide

**Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> *...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

Jesus is the ultimate friend. He will never fail us.