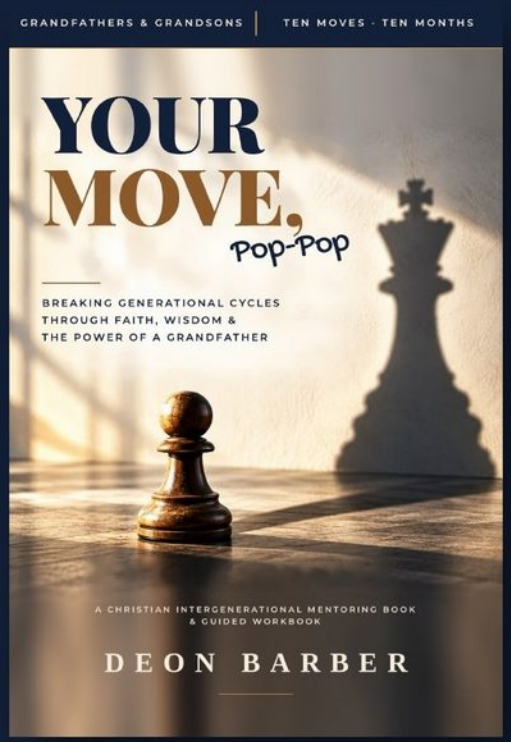
A MINISTRY PROPOSAL FOR PASTORS & MINISTRY LEADERS

Your Move, Pop-Pop



A ten-month Christian mentoring experience that puts a grandfather, dad or mentor and a young man at the same table, one Move a month, for ten months.

BY DEON BARBER, AUTHOR

A CHRISTIAN INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING BOOK & GUIDED WORKBOOK

A WORD BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Thank you for opening this.

Pastor, for twenty years I served in youth ministry while building a career in corporate America. Through all of it, I kept seeing the same gap: young men growing up without a man who would sit with them, tell the truth about his own life and point them to Christ.

This booklet shows how *Your Move, Pop-Pop* helps your church close that gap, one grandfather, dad or mentor and one young man at a time.

Deon Barber

WHAT	Not just a book about being a better grandfather: a ten-month Christian mentoring experience, with a book and guided workbook for each of them
WHO	Grandfathers, dads, stepdads, uncles, coaches and mentors, with young men ages 10 to 15
WHEN	One Move a month for ten months, starting when your church is ready
INSIDE	Ten true stories, Scripture (NKJV), chess lessons, Porch Talk and real action steps
COST	From $22.99 a copy at church pricing. Everyone gets his own book.
THE ASK	A pilot of 10 to 15 pairs, starting March 2027

THE PURPOSE

Why this book exists

> *"I was 18 years old, standing in my mom's house with everything I owned stuffed into the same bags I used to bag leaves, and nowhere to go."*

That is how the book opens. For years, people who knew Deon's story told him to write a book, and he would laugh it off. Then he saw it: God had planted a seed, and he had been living these lessons without knowing it. The coaches who pulled him aside. The grandmothers who prayed over him. The young men he coached in Baltimore. The young leaders he poured into at work. Every Pop-Pop and Little Buddy Time with his grandson.

Everywhere he looked, he saw the same gap: the lessons a young man needs early, from a man who loves him, skipping a generation.

This is a call-to-action book. It isn't meant to be read once and put back on the shelf. Every Move ends with something a grandfather and grandson do together, because reading about a better outcome for our young men doesn't change anything. Taking action does.

WHY NOW

Nearly 1 in 4 American children go home to a house with no father in it.



18M

About 18 million children live without a biological, step or adoptive father in the home.

Every gold square on this board is a child. Picture a full classroom, a full youth team, a full church pew.

32% of boys live apart from their father, up from 17% in 1960. That's nearly 12 million sons today.

14% *vs.* 35% earned a college degree by about 30, without vs. with a father at home

2× as likely to have spent time in jail by about age 30

Numbers are not destiny. A grandfather, dad, uncle, coach or mentor who keeps showing up can help change the story.

> **No condemnation.** "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1 NKJV). Keep the lessons, change the delivery, and make your move now.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Living Arrangements of Children, via National Fatherhood Initiative; Institute for Family Studies, *Life Without Father* (2022), using the 2019 American Community Survey and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (men only). Outcome figures show patterns, not causes; income, neighborhood and the other caring adults in a child's life shape every path.

THE HEART OF THE BOOK

Not condemnation. Restoration.

We could spend a whole book condemning the men who walked away. Plenty of people already do. But when the shouting is over, what has it done for the kid standing by himself after the game, looking up at the stands for someone who isn't there? **Condemnation doesn't fill an empty seat. A man showing up does.**

When a grandfather, a stepdad, an uncle or a man from the church fills that seat, a young man sees a different pattern, and he decides the cycle stops with him. Sometimes the father who left is drawn back, too. That is reconciliation, and it can change a man for the rest of his life.

If God only condemned, where would any of us be? He came so that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Our job is to be salt and light.

John 3:17 · John 10:10 · Romans 5:8 · Matthew 5:16 · Malachi 4:6 · Psalm 68:5–6

> **To every mom.** Reconciliation is never something this book asks of her. She decides who sits at the table. Restoration doesn't mean opening a door she has closed for good reason. The book is about the man who shows up, and the cycle that ends with her son.

WHY TEN MONTHS?

Because we're tired of books that get read and put on a shelf.

Real change takes time to show. Ten months gives a grandfather and a young man time to build trust, to put each lesson into practice, and to see the progress for themselves.

By the last Move, the whole church sees it too: on the Scoreboard, in the letters they write each other, and in a young man standing a little taller.

> *One conversation can inspire a young man. Ten months of showing up can change the direction of his life, and break a cycle in a family for generations.*

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only." JAMES 1:22 NKJV

WHO IT'S FOR

The man who wants to show up, and doesn't know where to start

He's often a grandfather in his 50s or 60s, but he may be a dad, a stepdad, an uncle, a coach or a man in the church. There's a kid in his life between 10 and 15, often in a single-parent home, who is becoming a young man faster than anyone is ready for. He sees the pull of the phone, the wrong crowd and the streets, and he knows he should be doing more than asking "How's school?" on the way to the car. He may carry regret, too, about the father he was to his own children.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

> *"I want to be there for him. I just don't know what to say."*

> *"I wasn't there like I should have been for my own kids. Is it too late?"*

> *"He's on that phone all day. I can't get two words out of him."*

It also serves moms and grandmothers raising sons who want to understand what a young man needs from the men around him, and youth ministries looking for a ten-month mentoring plan.

WHO IT'S FOR

When a man hesitates

"I'm not a Bible teacher."	You don't have to be. Every Move follows the same simple rhythm, and the book tells you what to do next.
"He won't open up to me."	Porch Talk questions are answered by both of you, and the chess game gives you something to do while you talk.
"I don't know chess."	The book teaches the basics in one page, with a link to free lessons.
"We live far apart."	Every Sit-Down works by phone or video.
"It's too late for me."	No condemnation. If you're still here, it's still your move.
"How much time is it?"	One intentional hour a week, one Move a month.

"The stories are so helpful, the Scripture is woven into each lesson so well, and the conversation starters are awesome. It will remove the awkward silence."

Juliette Barber · early reader

THE STORY LINE

A pawn's journey across the board

> *"The pawn begins with limitations, but not without possibilities."*

A pawn moves only forward, one square at a time. But when it reaches the other side, it is promoted, and it gains new options, power and influence. Each Move pairs a true story from Deon's life with Scripture, a chess lesson and one quality a young man needs for what comes next.

PART ONE · THE OPENING

Who you are, the lines you won't cross, the word you keep.

PART TWO · THE MIDDLE GAME

Finding your gift, sharpening it, daily habits, and how to follow and lead.

PART THREE · THE ENDGAME

Choosing God, getting back up, and passing it on.

"I've shown you the moves that helped shape my life. Now the board is in front of you. It's your move."

Pop-Pop

THE STORY LINE

Ten Moves, ten qualities

	MOVE	A TRUE STORY INSIDE
1	**Who You Are Before They Tell You** *Identity*	The first fastball, and the day he listened to the wrong voice
2	**The Lines You Don't Cross** *Boundaries*	Mom at the car window outside the billiards store
3	**Your Word Is Your Name** *Integrity*	His name in dry-erase marker at the bottom of the depth chart
4	**Find the Hidden Gift** *Vision*	A saxophone, and a music store that never sent a bill
5	**Sharpen the Blade, Choose Your Circle** *Initiative*	The front-yard football camp at building 6905
6	**More Than Just Enough** *Discipline*	Mr. Meyers, the honor roll, and giving God his first eyes
7	**Follow Well, Lead Well** *Humility*	"I can't stand your husband, but I respect him"
8	**Choose This Day** *Faith*	Walking the aisle at 12, with three generations watching
9	**Fall Seven, Rise Eight** *Resilience*	Losing 14–12, and starting over alone in Irvine
10	**It's Your Move Now** *Purpose*	The day his grandson named him, and the pawn promoted

THE ACTION

One Move a month, on your church's calendar

Each grandfather and grandson get their own book. Every Move follows the same four-week rhythm, so a man always knows what to do next, even if he has never led a Bible study.

WEEK 1

Study the Board

Read Pop-Pop's story and the Scripture together, then talk on the porch.

WEEK 2

Make Your Move

Do one real-life action step together during the month.

WEEK 3

Your Turn

He talks through a real-life situation, the grandfather tells his own story, then a game of chess.

WEEK 4

Review the Game

Write what was learned, affirm him, and pray over him.

Made for ages 10 to 15. Every Move includes a *What Would You Do?* situation with one prompt for ages 10 to 12 and a harder one for ages 13 to 15, plus *At Your Age* notes that connect the grown-up stories to school, teams and friendships.

THE ACTION

From pilot to a full church year

DECEMBER 2026

Plan your pilot

Talk with Deon, choose a ministry leader and start inviting pairs

JANUARY 2027

Preorder

Preorders open January 1. Pilot books at church pricing

FEBRUARY 2027

Books arrive

Books ship in early February. Leaders finish recruiting 10 to 15 pairs

MARCH 2027

Pilot begins

Move 1, with Deon supporting your leaders

YOUR CHURCH'S NEXT YEAR

Covenant Sunday

Men's Day kickoff for the whole church, one Move a month

TEN MONTHS LATER

Commencement

Certificates and a blessing before the church

A full church year is one option. Churches can also run it in youth church, small groups or as special events.

THE ACTION

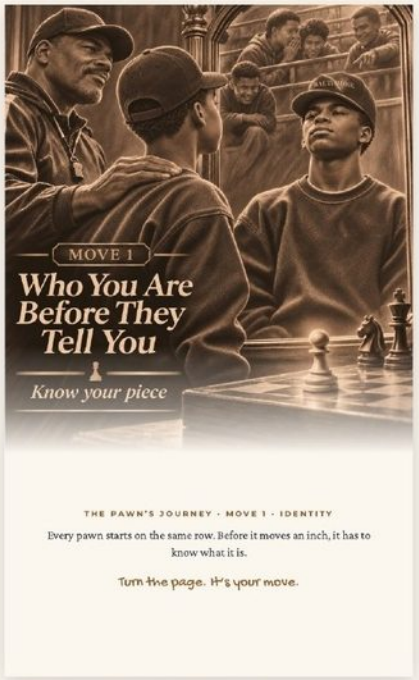
What's inside every book

- **A letter to the grandson** before Move 1, so he knows this isn't schoolwork
- **The Covenant and Covenant Cards** signed, exchanged and hung on the refrigerator
- **Ten true stories** with sepia illustrations a young man will actually look at
- **Porch Talk questions** both of them answer
- **What Would You Do?** situations, with prompts for ages 10–12 and 13–15
- **"Your Turn" prompts** so every grandfather, dad or mentor tells his own story, not just Deon's
- **Memory Verses** said together all month
- **Make Your Move steps** that get them out of the chair
- **Monthly review pages** with space to affirm and pray, plus a Notes page and a quote card for every Move
- **The Scoreboard** to track all ten Moves and the monthly chess games
- **Learn the Board**, a one-page chess guide with free lessons
- **Keeping Him Safe**, safeguarding basics for mentors and churches
- **Help for families who live far apart** by phone and video
- **A Certificate and a letter** to his grandson, to keep for a lifetime

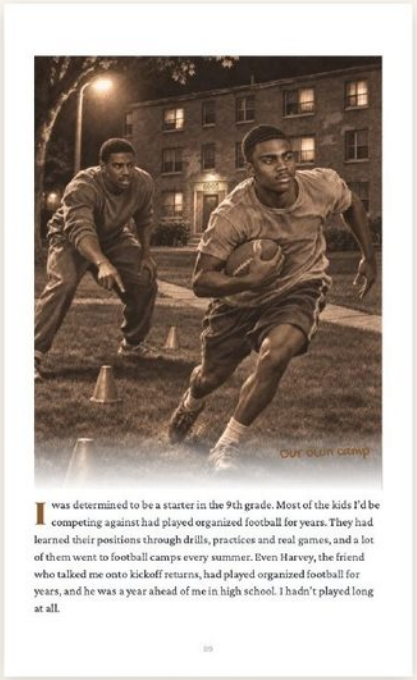
THE MANUSCRIPT

Inside the book

Your Move, Pop-Pop is a **Christian intergenerational mentoring book and guided workbook**. Every Move opens with an illustrated divider, and every story has a sepia pencil picture of the moment it happened.



MOVE 1 DIVIDER · IDENTITY

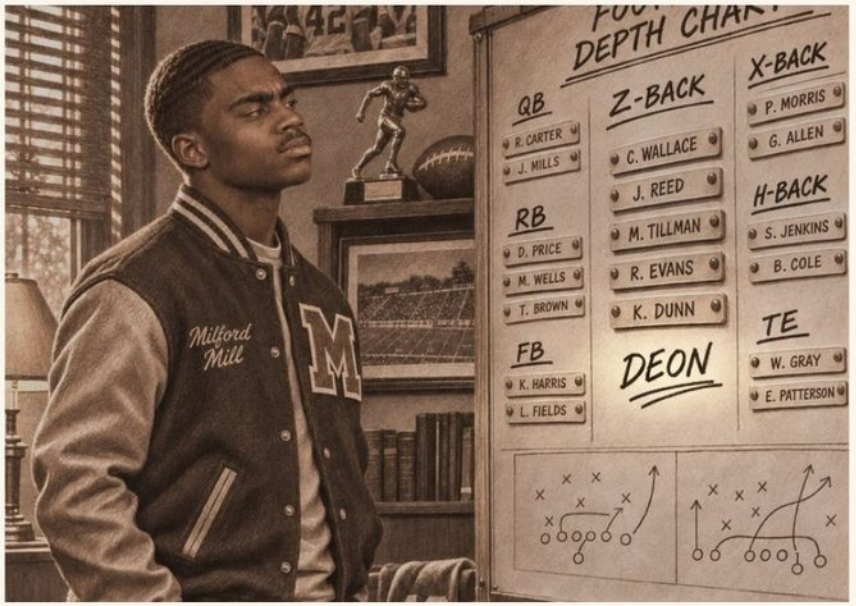


MOVE 5 · OUR OWN CAMP

Want to read Move 1 in full? Scan the code on page 23 to request the sample.

FROM MOVE 3 · YOUR WORD IS YOUR NAME

> My name wasn't on a magnet. It was handwritten at the very bottom, in dry-erase marker.
>
> Grandson, a magnet can be moved. Dry-erase marker wipes right off. That's what a broken promise looks like. It was easy to say, and it was easy to erase.
>
> That day I decided my word would never be written in dry-erase marker.



10 of 10
Moves written; the manuscript is now in copyediting

200+
pages, 6 × 9 workbook

Jan 1
preorders open at yourmovepoppop.com

NKJV
Scripture throughout

THE AUTHOR

Deon Barber



"I've spent more than 30 years helping companies develop their people. Now I'm investing the next chapter of my life in helping young men develop their future."

Deon Barber has spent more than 30 years leading in corporate America, including twenty years working bivocationally as a youth minister. During an unexpected career transition in the fall of 2026, he heard God clearly: make finishing this book the priority. "He wakes me up in the middle of the night with the material, the structure, even the images for the book."

WHERE IT STARTED

Deon grew up in a single-parent home in Baltimore, shaped by sports, church, a praying grandmother and a mother who kept speaking over him who he would become. He was a catcher from age 7 through college, a two-sport varsity athlete at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College), and completed the Advanced Religious Studies Program at Howard University.

He and his wife, Juliette, live in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a proud girl dad to two daughters and Pop-Pop to the Little Buddy who inspired this book.

THE AUTHOR

The climb and the calling

Deon started as an entry-level recruiter and rose to senior executive roles, at companies ranging from start-ups to billion-dollar public and private companies. Along the way, beginning at age 20, he gave twenty years to youth ministry:

- President of the Youth Ministry and Youth Advisor, **Zion Baptist Church**, Baltimore
- Youth Minister, **Brown's Memorial Baptist Church**, Baltimore
- Youth Minister, **Mt. Olive Baptist Church**, Centreville, Virginia, where he founded *Keeping It Real* sessions for teenagers
- Co-Founder of a Baltimore nonprofit for at-risk youth, coaching two basketball teams ages 12–18
- Founder of **Abundant Life**, a 501(c)(3) outreach ministry in Katy, Texas

A global leader

- Global Vice President, building a 24-hour recruiting center in the Philippines
- Business Unit President at **The Bartech Group**, the nation's largest minority-owned staffing firm
- Vice President at **Korn Ferry**, building a new business from the ground up
- Senior Vice President and Interim President at one of the top healthcare executive search firms in the country and its RPO division
- Executive Vice President at one of the five largest physician and advanced practice staffing firms in the U.S., as ranked by Staffing Industry Analysts

FOR THE YOUNG MEN · CHESS

Chess at the center of the table

Chess is more than the book's picture of life. It's something every man and young man actually do together, at least one full game every Move, logged on the Scoreboard.



1 Play every month

One full game during every Move, checked off on the Scoreboard.

2 Learn together

No experience needed. A one-page guide teaches how every piece moves, with a link to free lessons.

3 Celebrate their moves

Consider hosting your own church chess day, so young men can show what they've learned and celebrate what God has done.



COMING SOON · THE YOUR MOVE SERIES

Your move. *Who's next?*

A grandfather is only one of the people who shape a young life. The grandmother who prays over him. The mom who never gives up. The pastor, the coach, the teacher who sees something in him first. Every one of them has a move to make.

Your Move, Pop-Pop · *Your Move, Grandma* · *Your Move, Mom* · *Your Move, Coach* · *Your Move, Pastor* · *Your Move, Teacher*

A church that starts with Pop-Pop is ready for every book that follows.

FOR CHURCHES

Ways a church can use the book

Think of it as a ministry, not a book purchase. Your church isn't buying a book about being a better grandfather. It's launching a ten-month Christian mentoring experience, with a monthly rhythm, a Covenant Sunday start, a Commencement celebration, and a book in every man's and every young man's hands.

1 **A pilot group, starting March 2027**
10 to 15 pairs (a grandfather, dad or mentor with a young man) work through the book and share what they learn.

2 **A Men's Day or full church year**
A Covenant Sunday kickoff, one Move a month for ten months, and a Commencement before the church.

3 **Youth ministry: your church supplies the Pop-Pop**
Pair each young man without a grandfather in the picture with a man from the congregation, following your child-safety policy, including background checks.

4 **Small groups and families**
Men's Bible studies, moms' and grandmothers' groups, or one grandfather and grandson at home.

FOR CHURCHES

Group pricing

Every man and every young man gets his own copy. Prices are per copy, plus shipping. Pilot pricing available for first-year churches.

1–9 COPIES	10–24 COPIES
$29.99	$24.99
Single copy	Small Group · 17% off

25–99 COPIES · MOST CHURCHES	100+ COPIES
$23.99	$22.99
Men's Ministry · 20% off	Church-Wide · 23% off

MY ASK

Read this booklet, share your honest feedback, and start a pilot with **10 to 15 pairs in March 2027.**

Preorders open in January and books ship in early February, giving your leaders time to recruit pairs. A pilot of 10 to 15 pairs is 20 to 30 books, about $500 to $720 at church pricing.

I'll work with your ministry leaders as requested to launch and support the pilot. I'm also available to speak at a Men's Day or Covenant Sunday, and consulting services are available on request.

QUESTIONS PASTORS ASK

Before you say yes

Do our men need training to lead it?

No. Every Move follows the same four-week rhythm, and the book tells each man what to do next. A ministry leader checking in monthly is all most pilots need.

What if a young man has no grandfather?

Pair him with his dad or stepdad, an uncle, a coach or a man from the congregation. The book's Keeping Him Safe page covers guardian consent, meeting in open places, open communication and background checks.

Is it right for a 10-year-old and a 15-year-old?

Yes. It's written for upper elementary through early high school, with prompts for ages 10–12 and 13–15 in every Move.

Do they need to know chess?

No. A one-page guide teaches how every piece moves, with a link to free lessons online.

Which Bible translation?

The New King James Version (NKJV), with a Memory Verse for every Move.

What if they live far apart?

Every Sit-Down works by phone or video, and the book includes a guide for long-distance pairs.

NEXT STEPS

Three steps to a March pilot

1 **Connect online**

Scan the code below to request the full Move 1 sample, ask a question or set up a 20-minute call with Deon.

2 **Name a leader and pick your pairs**

Choose a ministry leader and invite 10 to 15 pairs: grandfathers, dads, stepdads, uncles, coaches and mentors with young men ages 10 to 15.

3 **Preorder in January**

Preorders open January 1. Order one book for every man and every young man; books ship in early February, in time for Move 1 in March.

Let's talk.

Scan to connect. I would welcome 20 minutes to hear what your ministry needs and how this book can serve it.

Deon Barber
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469-615-1676

YOUR MOVE, POP-POP

It’s your move.

A CHRISTIAN INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING BOOK & GUIDED WORKBOOK

Some lessons skip a generation. Not this one. Preorders open January 1 for the grandfathers, dads, uncles, coaches and mentors in your church, and the young men in their corner.

SCAN TO ORDER

www.yourmovepoppop.com/order

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10–24 $24.99 · 25–99 $23.99 · 100+ $22.99

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