



October 2011 eNewsletter

Key Items:

- [Western Conference Leadership Event](#)
- [Sponsorship](#)
- [Reminder Reminder Reminder](#)
- [Key Contacts and Websites](#)

Come to the Gatherings!

Community makes it special!



Western Region Leadership Development Event

On Friday and Saturday, August 26th and 27th, the Western Region for Emmaus/Chrysalis held a Leadership Event in Powell, WY hosted by the Big Horn Basin Walk to Emmaus organization. The Friday training focused on clergy members that had an interest in serving as Spiritual Directors. The Saturday event was geared toward lay members. Jim Taylor and I had the opportunity to attend lay leadership training on Saturday August 27th.

The first session on Saturday addressed Servant Leadership. The discussion was based on numerous scriptures to get our minds and hearts in tune as to why we serve. The short message is to Glorify God but the discussion that occurred enlightened all who were in attendance about the responsibilities involved in being God's servant. Sharing God's love and grace is why all of us hope we are serving.

The second talk was on Board of Director responsibilities and issues. This was followed by a discussion on the 4th Day and the Next Steps which reminded us that our Walk never ends if we pursue our 4th days as suggested. The last session was on Table Dynamics for Team Members which emphasized the role of the table leader.

The session I thought had the most important message was on Sponsorship; a role all of us should be committed to. The importance of Sponsorship is so critical to the goal of sharing God's love and grace that I have included the key points from the session in a separate article in this newsletter.

Everyone that attended the leadership event left with a sense of God's spirit within us and a better understanding of how we can be His servant. We cannot thank the Big Horn Basin group for hosting the event and making it such a success.

Blessings - Mark Stevens

[top](#)

Sponsorship

SPONSORSHIP IS TRULY THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB OF ALL! If we are not God's servant in spreading his message of love and grace through sponsoring people then who will be? Being a sponsor involves much much more than asking someone to fill out a piece of paper and then turning it in with a check enclosed. The recent leadership development event challenged all of us to rethink the role of sponsorship.

Here are the key points covered by the sponsorship session:

- A sponsor is one who takes responsibility for another. It begins before the weekend, it continues during the weekend, and it continues after the weekend. It is all about supporting the new 4th dayer in their faith journey. Sponsorship is the skill of taking responsibility for another.
- Sponsorship is a commitment to invite, guide, and support. It represents God working person to person. It is a tool for recruiting strong leaders to strengthen the local church and a strong Emmaus/Chrysalis community for future generations.
- When considering Sponsorship follow three key spiritual principles. The first is prayer. Prayer is the first step in sponsorship (start here when consider a perspective candidate). The second is an openness to God which enables us to become God's instrument in furthering His divine will through the W2E or Chrysalis. The last is calling by name "an" an important aspect of sponsorship.
- Purposeful Sponsorship involves careful consideration toward those that are sponsored. Potential candidates come from a wide range of places: church leaders, dependable church members, Christians hungry for something more, Christians who want to grow spiritually, members and leaders representing a cross section of the church and society, and respected lay persons and clergy persons.
- Questionable Sponsorship can be difficult due to friendships, working relationships, and a desire to help those in need. People that may not be ready for sponsorship include: non Christians and person with no relationship with Jesus Christ, persons undergoing emotional crisis or who are psychologically unstable, persons who decide not to attend after being presented the opportunity, Christians whose theology and practice is notably different or incompatible, Church hoppers and Soap boxers, and persons who are always looking for another spiritual high or experience to help them arrive.

- Wise Sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful and provide a balanced, theologically-centered movement of the Holy Spirit. Unwise Sponsorship comes from being haphazard and undiscerning when selecting candidates, tends to produce harvest that is a burden for the church, and it may benefit the individual BUT not have positive impact on the church.
- The Sponsorship Process
 1. Pray - Pray - Pray
 2. Make an appointment with the one(s) your are considering
 3. Extend an invitation
 4. Seek a commitment "ask for a decision by a defined date
 5. Continue to pray, prepare agape, enlist pastoral support (their pastor)
 6. Support the weekend and participant
 7. Help participant in the 4th day/Next Steps
 8. Help participant re-enter the church
 9. Help participant serve the community
 - 10 .Help pilgrim sponsor others
- Sponsorship has many challenges. If you are a Team Members can you arrange for other sponsors. If you sponsor multitle candidates can you fulfill the sponsorship responsibilities for of each one. Do you know potential participants well enough to sponsor them or should you co-sponsor with someone who does.

Sponsorship is truly a demonstration of of agape love. It is not to be entered lightly. It involves making onesâ€™ self an instrument of Godâ€™s Prevenient Grace, and it further involves the skill required for taking responsibility for another. IT TRULY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB OF ALL!

I do have the Power Point presentations from this training. If you would like a copy contact me and I will forward them to you. My email address is mvstevens@msn.com

Blessings and Joy, Mark Stevens

[top](#)

Key Contacts

- [W2E Website - Tena Taylor](#)
- [Emmaus Database - Jim Taylor](#)
- [Emmaus Database - Jeff Day](#)
- [Chrysalis Database - Gordon Escene](#)
- [Chrysalis - Becky Moyes](#)
- [Chrysalis - John Goodheart](#)
- [W2E eNewsletter - Rick Stiles](#)

REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER

Board Meetings and Gatherings Begin In October

Don't forget: Thursday, October 13th, will be the first Board Meeting, followed by a walk community gathering. Mark it on your calendar!

[top](#)

W2E Websites

- [Billings Walk to Emmaus Website](#)
- [Chrysalis Website](#)
- [2010-2011 Board Members](#)

[top](#)

This eNewsletter is a publication of the Greater Billings Area 'Walk 2 Emmaus' organization.

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