

State Sunday School Director's Association Annual May Meeting
New York/New Jersey
May 13-15, 2009

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 (Professional Development/Lifeway Dialogue)

At 8:30 a.m. Bob Mayfield called the meeting to order and prayed for our time ahead.

Mark Miller (Tennessee) shared a devotional from Mark 10:46-52, "How to be Great for God:"

1. Passion to know Christ
2. Ministry of Service
3. Characterized by being Obedient to Him
4. Results in Courage
5. Faith
6. Choose to Follow Him

Let's Build Something Together

Daryl Eldridge, facilitator

Types of Training over the Years

1894	Kind Words – brochure	
1920s	Church Study Course – All small churches	- No curriculum choices
	- No Christian Ed staff	- Systematic – on your own
	- No choice of resources	- Discipline
1940s	Conference Centers- More travel/auto	- Sense of family
	- New adventures	- Vacations/old friends
	- Bigger venues/learning together	
1950s	Role of Discipleship Training	
	State/Regional Training	- Level of expertise in leadership
		- Accessibility
	Local Church Training	- Bigger % of churches/leaders involved
		- Raised up local leaders
1960s	Seminaries	
1990s	Contribution from Professional Organization	
	Other Players – Saddleback; Willow Creek – Leadership Summit	
	Leadership Network Innovations; C3; Catalyst	
	TED – technology education design	

What do we do? As state leaders, we tend to change things (creating an idea and implementing a change). We make change by leading!

Tribes - - leading people and connecting ideas

3 Questions

- Who are you upsetting?
- Who are you connecting?
- Who are you leading?

Leaders

Challenge status quo

Build a culture

Curiosity

Connect people to one another

Connect to the cause/tribe

3 Things that apply to our work:

- Churches don't need us - - Are we relevant?
 - We need to have something they want
 - We have institutionalized the SS movement!
 - We need to be a connector of tribes . . . networker/resourcer
 - Heretic - - embraced it as good thing - - radical - - be like Jesus?
- Catholic church understands this heretic concept the best - - bringing the heretics in to help churn things up.

Post Modern Ethos - - Training in a Post Modern World

Daryl Eldridge, facilitator

What are characteristics of this new generation of workers?

What are the implications for training?

Characteristics of the new generation of workers

- Experience trumps science
- Stories trump statistics
- Dialogical
- Discovery over presentation
- Instant
- Questioning
- Relational
- Involvement
- Spontaneous/Organic
- Risk Taking
- Entrepreneur
- Heretic
- Non Linear
- Anti Establishment, Anti Authority

Leonard Sweet said, "If a post modern you need to be

- Experiential
- Participatory
- Image Based (Interactive)
- Communal”

Other areas of discussion and feedback:

Abraham Mazlow – Hierarchy of Needs (see DE: Handout)

Ehow.com

AONC Site – Art of Non-Conformity

LifeWay Dialogue
David Francis, facilitator

David gave a brief promo on the new book, “Connect3.” It is going well and it has had some great feedback.

Class Level depends on prayer requests

Class: general, safe

Community: Our needs

Commission: Lost people

Lifeway continues to look for new ways to serve the churches. Introduction of the You curriculum – multi cultural.

David is now overseeing Network Partnerships. This transition is just beginning.

Thursday, May 14, 2009 (Cross Learning and Sharing)

At 8:30 a.m. Bob Mayfield reconvened the meeting and introduced our devotional speaker, Dr. Terry Robertson, Executive Director of New York.

Dr. Terry Robertson shared a devotional thought from Luke 15 (the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the Parable of the Lost Coin and the Parable of the Lost Son) about the need to move away from “business as usual” and move toward “urgency.” If we are going to make an impact for New York or any other convention (city), we must be willing to allow the Lord to give us the desire to go after the sense of urgency and to move out of our “business as usual” state of mind.

Learning through Blogs
Daryl Wilson (Kentucky), facilitator

Blogs (general thoughts)

- A big void for general leadership
- Starts conversations
- Easier to maintain than websites
- No special software
- There are safeguards
- Can supplement your website and events
- Another audience

Daryl noted that Kentucky Baptists are hosting 14 blogs (13 outside blogs and 1 internal blog). He said that Kentucky invited someone to come in and train the staff about blogs. This was an eight hour training.

Reflections

- Easy to start; hard to maintain
- Creativity (or ideas about what to write) can take the most time
- Without controversy; comments will not be as frequent
- The more you post, the more search engines like Google will be able to find you
- Leaving comments on other blogs will link back to your blog
- More frequent posts usually leads to more frequent page views
- Try not to write more than what people can read in five minutes or one scroll down the screen
- Began including links to other blog posts and saw a dramatic jump in page views (hits) because of multiple page views
- Regular discipline to write makes you a better writer
- It makes you read more and reflect more on experience
- It helps clarify issues...especially during times of change
- Handy reference to help in planning conferences and events
- Find out what they are searching for
- Resulted in calls, emails and questions
- Able to provide help when it is needed...no travel required
- Requests for conferences and consultations
- In three years, people in every state and in 140 countries have visited the blog

Resources for blogging

- The blogging church by Ed Young, Jr
- Rssreader
- Wordpress

Facebook/Twitter

- Facebook and Twitter add a bit more of the approachable side to blogging
- Another outlet for announcing postings for blogs and events
- Allowing postings from Blackberry and lead to creative nuggets for blog posts
- Ideas for more ideas for writing topics
- About a 10 hour per week investment of time – but reaching 50,000 people in 3 years is a good trade off

Coaching Strategy

Sean Keith (Louisiana), facilitator

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

1. Partner a personal coach with Pastor-Staff to prepare for growth
2. Teaches each Sunday School leader how to develop their own STRATEGIC plan to grow their class
Process is simple, but it does take hard work... some not willing to do the work!!

REFLECTION: Be intensive on the front end--- six month

The PROCESS:

1. Establish the baseline
2. Determine the Action Plan
3. Accountability and Evaluation

Questions to Leaders:

1. Where are you now?
2. Where do you want to be?
3. What are you willing to do to get there?
4. Did you do it and how did it go?

Implementation

Conduct Coaching Strategy – inspire/ practical information to help the church
Lead the church in fulfilling its commitment by establishing an accountability process
Establish an accountability group with the Pastor and leaders

Accountability

Leader turns in monthly reports

Sunday School leadership meets monthly to ask each leader:

What has God done in your class this month?

Did you do what you said that you would do and how did it go?

What will you do next month and how do you expect it to happen?

Reflections

- Need more training for age group workers about how to grow
- Shorten the accountability time to keep from intimidating leaders
- Use Power Up as a tool for the first six weeks
- More closely monitor the process to follow through

We cannot:

Give Up – our cause is right and our plan is simple

Loose Hope – our world needs us more than ever

What is our Legacy of Faith???

Oklahoma Report

Bob Mayfield, (Oklahoma), facilitator

One Day emphasis

Created to decentralize and customize training. Developed conference plans so that churches can provide the training themselves. The goal has been to ask all churches to be a One Day church. Bob gave each director a copy of the One Day disk with the conference plans

Other ideas/questions:

Myron (Dakotas) Four questions:

1. What wins can we celebrate?
2. What is working?
3. What is not working?
4. What's next?

This then leads to the question: WHY??

Spiritual Formation? What are we doing to help believers in the spiritual walk? We do great skill development... but how can we address spiritual formation? (Sandy Coelho, New England)

Needs for Children? (Kiely Young, Mississippi)

Friday, May 15, 2009 (Business Meeting)

At 8:30 a.m. Richard Nations (Iowa) called the meeting to order and introduced our devotional speaker, Dale Davenport (Illinois).

Dale shared a devotional thought from 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10, "Role Model of Believers."

1. Compelling Mission – Christ working in us. Hope working within us. Need to have a right relationship with the Father. Genuine labor and love for the people. Spiritual disciplines: faith, hope and love.
2. Clear Message – It is Jesus and Jesus alone. Jesus is real in me..I am living for Jesus...and comes through the POWER of the Holy Spirit.
3. Consistent Model – Really imitating Jesus—leave the idols that ensnare us. What do people see in us? Do they see the consistency because of the Spirit of God.

May we all be ROLE MODEL BELIEVERS!!!

Prayer Request—Richard led in a time of prayer for the following needs:

- Iowa tornado

- Bruce Morrison – recovering from a stroke
- Steve Sallis – travelling to Louisiana with daughter and grandson over the weekend
- Bob Wood – one of the military shot in Iraq came from Texas and had a personal connection.

Sandy Coelho presented the Treasurer's Report and 2009/2010 Budget with a few notes. Darryl Wilson (Kentucky) motioned to accept the report. Seconded by Marvin Owen (Wyoming). Motion approved.

Richard Nations presented the Officer's Recommendation for Officers for the coming year. (see attached) Marie Clark (Kansas-Nebraska) motioned to approve the recommendation. Seconded by John Boone (Florida). Recommendation approved.

Richard Nations gave a brief report about the progress of the sundayschooldirector.com website. It is in great shape and there is some need for new content. Sandy is going to update the information that she got the last few days about updated websites, blogs, etc. Sandy is also in the process of transitioning the ssdf.net website and she will let everyone know when the new one is up. In the meantime, the old site is still operative.

New Business

Steve Sallis (New York) motioned that we authorize Sandy Coelho to send thank you cards to her Ministry Assistants for the work they did with the meeting and the websites. Seconded by Belinda Jolley (South Carolina). Motioned carried.

Mark Miller (Tennessee) asked about the appropriateness of sending a plaque from the SSSDA for the upcoming retirement of Tim Holcomb. With a show of agreement, Mark Miller motioned that the association send Tim Holcomb a plaque of appreciation for his service. Seconded by Marie Clark (Kansas-Nebraska). Motion carried.

Richard announced that the 2010 May meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. We will be looking at locations near the airport and downtown St. Louis. We will be careful about the contracts due to the economic times.

Richard spent a few moments taking suggestions for topics for the Professional Development time in 2010. Suggestions included:

- Steve Parr (Georgia) writing a new book
- Sandy Coelho (New England) spiritual formation/discipleship
- Marie Clark (Kansas-Nebraska) practical/cutting edge Sunday School
- Transformation Discipleship from Lifeway

At 9:46 a.m., Bob Wood (Michigan) motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Marie Clark (Kansas-Nebraska). Motion carried.

Sonny Tucker (Arkansas) closed the meeting in prayer.