

NOTES FROM MISSION WEST YOUTH MEETING

SATURDAY 5-10-14

CHALICE ABBEY, AMARILLO, TX 79109

INTRODUCTIONS:

CEA: TJ York FCC Midland, Paula Brooks FCC Midland, Jonna Russell FCC San Angelo, Brody Russell FCC San Angelo, Chesna Riley Brook Hollow CC Abilene.

TRA: Regina Erwin FCC Odessa, Leslie Denton West Mesa CC Albuquerque, Miranda Denton West Mesa CC Albuquerque, Bob Aburey Monte Vista CC Albuquerque, Sharri Aubrey Monte Vista CC Albuquerque

HPA: Randa Reeves FCC Brownfield, Heather Reed FCC Amarillo, Dan Kovaly FCC Spearman, Chad Dollar Chalice Abbey Amarillo, Dick Synder FCC Amarillo & HPA Executive Committee Moderator

MW Staff Karakay S. Kovaly

MEDITATION MOMENT – LECTIO DEVINA LUKE 5:27 - 6:6 (CEB)

²⁷Afterward, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.”

²⁸Levi got up, left everything behind, and followed him. ²⁹Then Levi threw a great banquet for Jesus in his home. A large number of tax collectors and others sat down to eat with them. ³⁰The Pharisees and their legal experts grumbled against his disciples. They said, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

³¹Jesus answered, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do. ³²I didn’t come to call righteous people but sinners to change their hearts and lives.”

³³Some people said to Jesus, “The disciples of John fast often and pray frequently. The disciples of the Pharisees do the same, but your disciples are always eating and drinking.”

³⁴Jesus replied, “You can’t make the wedding guests fast while the groom is with them, can you? ³⁵The days will come when the groom will be taken from them, and then they will fast.”

³⁶Then he told them a parable. “No one tears a patch from a new garment to patch an old garment. Otherwise, the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t match the old garment. ³⁷Nobody pours new wine into old wineskins. If they did, the new wine would burst the wineskins, the wine would spill, and the wineskins would be ruined. ³⁸Instead, new wine must be put into new wineskins. ³⁹No one who drinks a well-aged wine wants new wine, but says, ‘The well-aged wine is better.’”

6 One Sabbath, as Jesus was going through the wheat fields, his disciples were picking the heads of wheat, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them. ²Some Pharisees said, “Why are you breaking the Sabbath law?”

³Jesus replied, “Haven’t you read what David and his companions did when they were hungry? ⁴He broke the Law by going into God’s house and eating the bread of the presence, which only the priests can eat. He also gave some of the bread to his companions.” ⁵Then he said to them, “The Human One^[a] is Lord of the Sabbath.”

⁶On another Sabbath, Jesus entered a synagogue to teach. A man was there whose right hand was withered.

Footnotes: [Luke 6:5](#) Or *Son of Man*

Meditation is discussed about it is taking parts of old and new and packaging it together. Not necessary to always lose all of the old but need to make sure we honor both.

PRAYER

COOPERATIVE MINISTRY DREAMS AND GOALS

Look at and passed around the Cooperative ministry dreams and goals worksheet. (Can be downloaded at www.missionwestccsw.org/#/youth/info) Each individual, church, and area is asked to complete a list of their ministries dreams and goals and send back to the office. By completing this activity we will have a clear understanding of what focus & attention should be at camps as well as what we would like to try to accomplish with camps in the future.

POSSIBILITIES IN CAMPING/OUTDOOR MINISTRY

TRIPLE CAMP: COMBINE JYF, CHI RHO, AND CYF

- Talked about what that might look like with small groups, games, and other gathering times.
- Discussion points
 - Time we are away from our home churches and family would be reduced
 - Gathering of volunteers and staff for camp could be easier
 - Logistics of getting everyone there could be difficult
 - Ages together could be difficult if we did not make sure there was enough separation
 - How would the quality of the camp be affected or enhanced?
 - Would it be better if we combine all camps and maybe do new/grand beginnings/JYF and Chi Rho/CYF together instead of triple camp?
 - Staffing might be an opportunity to recruit more parents and people outside of our traditional camping program.
- Agreed to consider it more with others and get back to Karakay.
 - She is going to go see a Triple Camp in the Oklahoma Region the first part of June and will report back to us what she discovers.

CAMP ADULT TO STUDENT RATIO

What do we consider/what is our standard for a good ratio for Mission West Camps? 1:5, 1:7, ?

CAMP FRIENDSHIP:

- This is a camp which is provided for at risk kids and are recruited through local churches and school systems. Usually for kids who have completed 4th and 5th grades.
 - Everyone really like the idea of doing this camp.
 - Central Area has provided this camp in the past.
 - This camp is based more on activities and not as much small group time. This really is an introductory of faith and love to many of the campers. It is a safe place to have fun.
 - We decided a long weekend during the school year would be more beneficial to what we are trying to accomplish with our time.
 - 25-30 kids is the size of the camp that Central had when they provided it to the community.
 - Discussion was held about doing more than just one so we could reach more age groups.
 - This would be a good camp to get our Elders and Deacons involved with also.

GAP CAMP:

- Reconnect people from graduation up to the age of thirtyish or beyond.
- Would be very laid back
- Getting the ones involved that seem to have lost what they loved with church, camps and community centered around God.
- Jesus seminar coming up Oct 10-12—good place for a gap event
- Our church should be trained on how to handle young adult ministry
- Take advantage of situations and evaluate this further and keep thinking about ways to involve this missing group in our churches.

FAMILY CAMP:

- Talked about in Lubbock at Oct 2013 meeting
- not programming it is really just spending time together.
- Community experienced in another place

DISCUSSIONS OF CAMP STOPPED FOR A FEW MINUTES WHILE WE CLARIFIED WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS MEETING.

- This is to bring into light what we want for our mission. What can we do to make it progress? What does camp look like in the postmodern age? What we have in front of us are a few examples of all the different options we could provide and to see what is of interest to individuals, churches, areas and Mission West. That is why it is so important that each individual, church, and area completes the **Cooperative Ministry Dreams and Goals** (Can be downloaded at www.missionwestccsw.org/#/youth/info) and returns them to the office. We must uncover what is important in ministry and work together to honor our mutual goals.
- We would like to also see us concentrating on equipping our lay leaders.
- Equipping our smaller churches with knowledge and training
- Equipping ourselves with more youth ministry geared training
- Discovering and networking with likeminded people who can work together with other denominations, ecumenical participation is import.
- Equipping one another
- Whatever we end up building consensus around, we will need to make a 3 year commitment to this decision and if things are challenging, work on finding the solution. Everyone acknowledges that time will assist us in gaining a rhythm of ministry.
- Challenges include: Fewer and fewer people at camps (some have combined outdoor ministries/youth ministries to work with this challenge.)

WILDERNESS CAMPS

- Maybe something like the DSM programming for mission trips? Could we integrate wilderness camp with a service project?
- Eastland camp
- Brook Hollow CC in Abilene has a wilderness/camping trip yearly. Look into their program if interested.
- Bill Harrod, pastor at Los Alots CC in ABQ is a leader in Wilderness Camp in Kansas. He is fulfilling previous commitments in Kansas this summer but would be glad to help Mission West implement this type of outdoor ministry in the future.
- Maybe at some of our smaller churches and areas would be well served by this ministry?

SPECIALTY CAMPS

- Water, Sports, or Arts/Music/Worship

- Instead of recreating the wheel on camps working within things that already exist may be our best bet. What if we created the chance to scholarship kids to the camps offered by schools and other secular organizations?
- How do we teach kids how to use their talents and gifts for ministry?
- Maybe merge specialty camps with family camp?

SABBATH/SKI/MISSION FOR THE WHOLE CONGREGATION

- Dec 26-Dec 30 "The Gospel According to Frozen"
 - Glorieta, NM service will happen at campgrounds
 - Worship every evening
 - Maybe Cook common meals=communion ministry?
 - Sabbath, Worship, Connecting to our families and one another, ski, do mission either at Camp ground or in Santa Fe or Pecos.
 - Congregation wide
 - Gap Folks
 - Randa, Heather, Dan Kovaly, Rob Frantz, and Douglas Anne Cartwright are working together to provide this event. Please let the office know if you are interested in being on the planning team.

5TH QUARTERS OR DAY EVENTS

- Two 5th quarters a year One in Fall and one in Spring
 - Each at your own facilities. Maybe and join together using Skype/Google+ video chat?
 - Cluster system
 - Use same material in each church or cluster
- Come together at Rock the Desert?
- Local Churches provide facilities and invite kids to come for one full day of events
- Mission West Rally 1 or 2, Mission West CYF camp 1, 2, Mission West JYF 1, 2, 3, etc.
- Suggestions for 2016- By January 2015 establish a common council for camps and we start building our relationships.

CONTINUED CONVERSATION

- How do we combine leadership?
- Take steps to start this process at the Aug 23 meeting at Westmont CC
- Working together and coming to the common council will help join us together across the board it also might help make the transition easier.
- Themes are carried for a whole year across the board. We must consider how we approach our material together and work together.
- Important for CYF to plan intentional time together at CYLS
- Use same lingo, same language, same terms for everything, council names, camp names, curriculum, etc. Many are already using the **Inside Out Chalice Press curriculum**.
- Figure out how to work together, maybe the Inside Out Chalice Press curriculum becomes our unifying factor to draw us closer to one another?
- Have a rotation of focus each year
 - God
 - Jesus
 - Spirituality & Sexuality
 - Holy Spirit
 - Church

8ERS

- Everyone agrees Kids need Spirituality and Sexuality information earlier and earlier.
- CLER has age appropriate materials that are used in a congregational setting. Linda has sent an idea of how to provide Spirituality and Sexuality camp experience from 4th grade to 12th Grade. She is working with the CLER board to see if this can be a reality; it might take 2 years or more to get it implemented.
 - 4th-6th grade must have parents attend with them
 - 7th-9th grades would camp together
 - 10th-12th grades would camp together
- The Methodist also have a curriculum focusing on Spirituality and Sexuality
 - Training is more Intensive than what we currently experience
- Create our own-? Let's not recreate the wheel! We have good options within our denomination and ecumenically.
- This is a high level of priority for Mission West
- Look at hosting a Mission West 8ers at Black River in 2015? There is not much in this part of the World and inviting Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arizona might help us attract more folks.
- Revisit this conversation at the August 23rd meeting at Westmont after this summer's experience at Disciples Crossing.

REGISTRATION

ONLINE

- Cost for registration through www.CampBrain.com (one of the best projects out there) is \$2,800 per year. This would add an additional \$5 to \$15 dollars to each registration which is too expensive for us currently.
- Passionate volunteers are needed to find our best online registration option. Other options could include google forms, wufoo, CDM+, suggestions are welcome.

PAPER/CURRENT FORMS

- Forms to long
- TJ from CEA and Randa from HPA volunteered to work on next year's forms. Need one person from TRA to help with this endeavor.
- Background checks
 - Each campground does different background check procedures
 - How can we streamline?

PROJECTOR CONVERSATION

Central needs one for this June

You can get one for between 750.00 to 1500.00 and up to \$10,000. Karakay, TJ, and Charlotte will work to find one before camp begins.

Rotation is going to have to be done by intentional planning

Some areas have already planned on using church projectors and we may look at continuing that or utilize each other to move the projector around instead of paying for shipping costs

BEST PRACTICES

Our directors manuals are outdated

Laws in states are different how do we handle the different variations

Do not recreate the wheel, we need one central document for all to use

Simple and concise

Utilize what does work and get rid of what does not, and have a common manual across Mission West

Randa from HPA, Bob from TRA, and Chesna from CEA will work together to have a proposed manual to present at the Aug 23rd meeting

Needs to be best practices instead of a set in stone document so it can be changed if need be

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

If general assemblies are close we should support the assembly. We need to encourage our churches take part.

Ad hoc committee. Maybe not Mission West Youth

Maybe several things we have talked about will evolve into adhoc committees but it will depend on what turns into what someone is passionate about.

What is the Mission West mission statement?

CLOSING PRAYER

SEE YOU AT CAMPS AND ON AUGUST 23RD AT WESTMONT CC FROM 10AM TO 2PM