

FOCUS 2013-14

(March 2014)

THEME: *Shape the Future*

RETREAT GOAL: To launch *The Identity Initiative* through a short retreat that encourages us to explore, create and commit to a cluster of shared ministry values that will guide us as we engage in discussions about how to express our identity, values and doctrinal convictions in ways that are meaningful for 2015 and beyond...

PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

Monday

- 3:00 Registration
- 4:00 Session #1 – *Why We Care*
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Session #2 – *Celebrating the Gift of Multigenerational Leadership*

Tuesday

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Session #3 – *Learning About Values from a Veteran Leader*
- 10:30 Session #4 – *A Life Worth Imitating – Passing Along My Ministry Values*
- 12:00 Lunch (on your own)
Afternoon options include Hiking, Relaxing, Talking, Praying, Golfing
- 6:00 Dinner (back at the retreat center)
- 7:30 Session #5 – *Toward Creating a Shared Set of GBC Values*

Wednesday

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Session #6 – *Learning to Play in the Same Sandbox*
- 10:30 Session #7 – *Where to We Go From Here?*

[Please note the variety of session material and foci. There are no preaching sessions, and multiple opportunities for individual reflection, small group discussion and large group sharing. Also, we will be asking all participants to read 2 Timothy multiple times before the retreat, as well as assigning a set of questions to reflect upon before arrival.]

GENERATIONS will be defined as *young* (20---39), *middle* (40---59) and *mature* (60+)

SESSIONS:

Monday

Session One: *Why We Care*

Goal: To encourage open, cross---generational dialogue about *why we belong* the FGBC tribe, and *what we value* in our tribe, and *our hopes and fears* as we move together into the future.

Session elements:

Worship (15 minutes) including Avey Welcome

Video (10 minutes): Snippets from interviews with tribal leaders representing three generations, in which they answer short questions about why they joined the FGBC, what they most appreciate about the FGBC, what they fear and their reasons for optimism as we move into the future.

Small Group Sharing (20 minutes): Having primed the pump with the video, we will break into small groups where participants will have the opportunity to answer the same questions addressed in the video.

Large Group Sharing (10 minutes): The goal is to have a broad sampling of responses from the small groups, perhaps most effectively obtained by having men share the best comment that *someone else* in their group provided.

Short Message (Bartley Sawatski --- 15 minutes): Based upon the video and responses, summarize *why this discussion matters, and its importance as we move together into the future.*

Overview of Retreat (Dave Guiles --- 10 minutes): Setting the context and clarifying expectations for the next 48 hours.

Session Two: *Celebrating the Gift of Multigenerational Leadership*

Goal: To foster trans---generational leadership fraternity by encouraging leaders from all three generations to get better acquainted by sharing their stories.

Session elements:

Worship (10 minutes)

Devotional (10 minutes) Select a middle generation leader to read and complete the *A Life Worth Imitating Letter – A Final Letter to My Timothy*, along with his key life verse.

Worship (10 minutes)

Small Group Sharing (45 minutes) As much as is practical, attempt to create 'groups of three' with leaders representing the three generations who do not already know each other well. Each member will have fifteen minutes to share his/her 'story.' Groups MUST appoint a time---keeper to ensure that all members have an equal opportunity to share.

Tuesday

Session Three: *Learning About Values from a Veteran Leader*

Goal: To allow Paul's final letter to Timothy to lay a foundation for our discussion about the values we most want others to see in us and that we want to pass along to the next generation.

Session elements:

Worship (10 minutes)

Devotional (10 minutes): Select a mature generation leader to read and complete the *A Life Worth Imitating Letter – A Final Letter to My Timothy*, along with his key life verse.

Small Groups (40 minutes): Using the *Questions for Meditation* supplied BEFORE the retreat, the same small groups (from Monday night) will discuss their ideas.

Session Four: *A Life Worth Imitating – Sharing My Ministry Values*

Goal: Arising from the earlier discussions, we want to provide space for participants to reflect upon their personal ministry values, and to summarize those values in their own *A Life Worth Living – A Final Letter to My Timothy*.

Session elements:

Worship (10 minutes)

Devotional (10 minutes): Select a younger generation leader to read and complete the *A Life Worth Imitating Letter* along with his key life verse.

Personal Reflection: Participants will be provided time to complete the following letter. Perhaps most will chose to do this on their laptops and can mail their responses to us, while others will complete handwritten copies:

Create a one---page letter to your spiritual son, your final words of what you most value and hope he has learned from your example.

My dear son,

I realize you will be serving Christ in a world far different than the one where I was trained and first released into ministry. Your methods, your dress, your vocabulary, the technologies you use and even the problems you face may have little in common with the world I knew, or even the world in which we both minister today. You will be a faithful servant of Christ not because you mimic my words or imitate my ministry style, but because you live out the timeless values we share – values that come to us from the Word of God and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

So while I still have the opportunity, I want to take a few minutes to summarize in writing the values and life lessons I have attempted to live out before you and most want to pass on to you...

Session Five: *Toward Creating a Shared Set of GBC Values*

Goal: To allow Paul's final letter to Timothy to lead us in creating a series of 'tribal values' that we believe should guide our relationships in multiple arenas, including how we relate to our peers, how we relate inter---generationally, how we relate to the majority GBC family, how we relate to the global evangelical community and how we relate to the non---believing world.

Worship (15 minutes)

Large Group Presentation (40 minutes): *Toward Creating a Cluster of Tribal Values.*

Prayer: Close out the day with small groups praying for one another to succeed in BOTH passing along their ministry values to the next generation AND living according to those values today.

Wednesday

Session Six: *Learning to Play in the Same Sandbox (putting our values into practice)*

Goal: Through a series of case studies, we will provide the opportunity put into practice how our values should influence the manner in which we act and react in real---life situations.

Worship (10 minutes)

Small Group Discussion: A series of thorny case studies designed to force us to face uncomfortable leadership situations and consider how our values should shape our responses to those situations. We will go immediate to discussion of Case Studies.

Session Seven: *Where to We Go From Here?*

Goal: To reflect upon the degree to which our stated values actually impact the way in which we handle thorny interpersonal and intergenerational leadership issues, and to transition from a discussion of values to a discussion of The Identity Project.

Session elements:

Worship (15 minutes)

Group Sharing (15 minutes): What the Case Studies exercise taught us about ourselves. As we prepare to tackle issues related to our common identity (including doctrine), do we have reason to be optimistic? Pessimistic? Why?

Process Overview (15 minutes): Outlining the goals of Charis International and The Identity Initiative (USA).

Small Group Dialogue and Prayer (15 minutes): What might be our individual responsibilities in helping move forward The Identity Initiative? How must our personal and group values guide the way this Initiative moves forward?

Group Sharing and Final Thoughts (15 minutes)

PRE---RETREAT ASSIGNMENTS

In preparation for the Focus Retreat, we are requesting that you read 2 Timothy at least three times, and begin to form your answers to the following discussion questions. During the Retreat, you will have time to share your insights and develop your answers more fully with several other participants.

1. As we look to the next generation, what evidences might help us know if they are characterized by “a sincere faith?”
2. What can we do to create an environment where they are encouraged to “fan into flame the gift of God” which is in them? (1:5---6)
3. How can we model a faith in God before the next generation that encourages them to “testify about our Lord” without shame and to suffer willingly for the gospel? (1:8---12)
4. What is a “pattern of sound teaching” and how do we “keep” it? (1:13)
5. What is the “good deposit” and how does one “guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit that lives within us?” (1:14)
6. How do we discern who are the “reliable men” and how do we effectively “entrust” them (2:2)
7. What is the gospel we preach (2:8) and how do we help ensure it stays as simple and pure as it was for Paul?
8. What is “quarreling about words” and why is it such a serious offense? (2:14) How should we as men of God and leaders in the FGBC respond to those who commit this offense? (2:23---26)
9. What ‘space’ must we create so that the next generation can ‘learn and become convinced’ of these things? (3:14)
10. What does a “man of God who is thoroughly equipped for every good work” look like today? What will he look like tomorrow? (3:16)
11. How do we model before the next generation a commitment to “preach the Word ... in season and out of season?” (4:2ff)
12. What specific evidences might help us come to the end of our ministries and know that we have “fought the good fight ... finished the race ... and kept the faith?” (4:7)