

State Sunday School Director's Association
May 12-14, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Bob Mayfield (Oklahoma), Sandy Coelho (New England), Myron Grueneich (Dakotas), Clyde Kakiuchi (Hawaii/Pacific), Phil Stone (North Carolina), Belinda Jolley (South Carolina), Marvin Owen (Wyoming), Dwayne Lee (Ohio), Daniel Edmonds (Alabama), June Holland (Maryland/Delaware), Sean Keith (Louisiana), Steve McNeil (Indiana), John Boone (Florida), Mark Donnell (Missouri), Mark Miller (Tennessee), Phil Miller (Texas), Mike Napier (New Mexico), Bob Wood (Michigan), Gary Bearce (Alaska), Steve Sallis (New York), Darryl Wilson (Kentucky), Dale Davenport (Illinois). **GUESTS:** Bruce Raley and David Francis

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Bob Mayfield, President, opened the meeting and Richard Nations shared a devotional on "Sabbath Rest" based on Genesis 2:1-3, "***1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.***" Principles of Sabbath Rest: REST AND RECOVER, REFLECTION, REJOICE, RENEW OUR TRUST IN GOD and REALIGN OUR PRIORITIES. Richard opened the meeting in prayer.

Prayer Requests:

- Marie Clark, recovering from surgery
- Sean Keith, working through the grieving process of losing his brother
- John Boone's son, Michael, has gall bladder issues
- Friends in Nashville and those along the Gulf coast who have faced disaster
- Maryland/Delaware executive director, Dr. Lee, recovering from surgery
- Steve Sallis, salvation of new son-in-law
- Myron's son, Kent, job challenges
- Church in Texas hosting a funeral that could turn volatile
- Tennessee voting on a new Executive Director in early June
- Dwayne Lee's wife and daughter traveling to Haiti

Mike Napier voiced our prayers.

Bob Mayfield introduced Bruce Raley, Director of Discipleship, who shared a presentation on "The Transformational Church." He shared seven elements of the Transformational Church:

1. Missionary mentality
2. Worship
3. Community
4. Mission
5. Vibrant leadership
6. Relational intentionality
7. Prayerful dependence

Definition of Transformational Church

- ◆ People becoming more like Jesus
- ◆ Church acting more like the body of Christ
- ◆ Communities reflecting more like the Kingdom of God

Cost: \$15.99 (trade book), 29.95 CD/DVD, \$200 Assessment (250 or less) and then it goes up from there.

Local Church steps:

1. Pastors read the trade book
2. Pastor takes church leaders through the study
3. Church takes the assessment
4. Consultant is available to take church through the preferred future
5. Pastor then becomes a trained consultant
6. Pastor out there missionally consulting

1. How is this like Willow Creek?

Lifeway is not comparing their research. Lifeway is researched based, statistically based, and doctrinally sound.

2. How often does a church need to do an assessment?

Churches should take the assessment 6 months to 1 year after the original.

Lunch provided by the State Sunday School Director's Association.

Transformational Church conversation (continued)

State partnerships for training consultants

Under 1000 churches	\$5,000
1000-1999 churches	\$7,500
Over 2000 churches	\$10,000

Bruce said he would be willing to work with small state conventions to work out getting the state directors trained.

Ridgecrest and Glorieta Sunday School weeks will be the unpacking of the Transformational Church at plenary group times. Participants will then be going to affinity groups to unpack it even more.

Sunday School training simulcast will take place on Sunday, July 11 at 4:00 p.m. Publicity is just coming out.

Issues

What does the future look like for Sunday School/ Small Groups?

1. Great Commission Resurgence: Cooperation versus Coup

Context:

- ◆ Complicates work of State Sunday School Director, becoming Cooperative Program pusher
- ◆ 55% of smaller state convention budgets will be cut
- ◆ Tighter budgets
- ◆ Lost confidence by churches
- ◆ Lifeway's response

Considerations:

- ◆ Work smarter
- ◆ Cut the fat
- ◆ Vote Early/Vote Often

Options:

How can you utilize your money better? (i.e. not paying honorariums to consultants)

Bob Mayfield encouraged prayer time around the tables. Steve McNeil closed the prayer time.

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Phil Miller, Baptist General Convention of Texas, shared a short devotional from John 4:4-14 and the importance of water:

- ◆ Porous – water needs to be able to seep in, we need to let the living water seep into our lives
- ◆ Recharge
- ◆ Works its way out – spring (gives water freely and hard to stop), artesian wells (have to be tapped), and geysers (it is hard to harness and sometimes there just for the show)

In conclusion, Phil shared John 7:38-39 and reminded us that we are in it for the long haul.

David Francis, our Lifeway representative, began the presentation of the update of Lifeway. Discussions included:

Lifeway is going to continue to work beside our partners. We are not planning any major changes based on GCR at this moment. We don't know all the impact and we will do that as needed.

Belinda's daughter-in-law, has cancer and the group gathered around and John Boone led in prayer.

Issues Continued...

2. Partnerships: strengthening our partnerships

Context:

<u>Lifeway</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff consolidations• Regional networks• More Lifeway personnel are multi-functional	<u>Conventions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCR• Budget/Economy• Downsizing• Stewardship of resources (time/finances)• Multi program demands
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Considerations:

- ◆ Expectation of partnerships (i.e. attendance, input, promotion, finances)
- ◆ How can we add value to partnership (is this worth it? -- events, resources, efforts together)
- ◆ How to maintain critical mass? (Does the SSSDF need to refocus/revision? Does our name help or hurt us?)
- ◆ Follow-through and long-term direction (Using new technology and including partners in long-term planning – state strategies)

Does the title of our organization help or hurt us?

Mike Napier: hurts us...Sunday School is transitioning to other names

How do we self define ourselves and find the commonality of our ministries? What are we going to become—looking at the future. Perhaps an opportunity for the Sunday School and Discipleship to merge?? Continuing the discussion...

3. Lack of involvement of Sunday School leaders in training opportunities

Context:

- See no value in training
- Apathy
- Been there done that
- Lack of language resources
- Time and money

Considerations:

- ◆ Internet/Blog/Webinars/SSSDF
- ◆ Whole church training
- ◆ Team training
- ◆ Equip Pastor to equip Sunday School leaders
- ◆ Transitional ROPES training model: Review (5%) Overview (5%) Presentation (35%) Experience (50%) Summary (5%)
- ◆ Once a day blog with the State Sunday School directors

Question: How do you balance the relationship with the technology?

4. Leadership Impact: Lack of a clear leadership path

Considerations:

- ◆ Big events may not have greatest impact
- ◆ Need flexibility in the path (coaching, consulting, peer learning, and other training strategies)
- ◆ Common leadership path will help tear down silos
- ◆ Invest in leaders willing to invest in others

5. Future of Sunday School/Small Groups

Context:

Home Groups

(geography)

Sunday School

Considerations:

- ◆ Sunday School/ Small Groups have become sterile due to leadership
Solution: Reinvisioning for Pastors
- ◆ Small group must work due to building cost
- ◆ Sunday school/small group convention staff must become active in church planting

Bob Mayfield noted that he would be working with incoming President, Richard Nations, to continue the discussion on some of the issues surfaced during these reports.

Afternoon free.

Friday, May 14, 2010

Sean Keith, Louisiana State Sunday School Director, opened the morning session in prayer and shared a devotion using various scriptures about the apostle Peter and the

illustration of Derek Redmond. Sean focused on three characteristics about Peter that included: PRECOSCIOUSNESS, PERSISTENCE, PASSION.

State Sunday School Director’s Association Business meeting session

Officer Recommendations:

POSITION	Presently Serving	NOMINEE
President (2 years)	Bob Mayfield (Oklahoma)	Richard Nations (Iowa)
President-Elect (2 years)	Richard Nations (Iowa)	John Boone (Florida)
Eastern Vice President (3 years)	Steve Sallis (New York)	Belinda Jolley (South Carolina) (3 year term)
Central Vice President (3 years)	Keily Young (Mississippi) – 1 year remaining	Keily Young (Mississippi)
Western Vice President (3 years)	Marvin Owen (Wyoming)—2 years remaining	Marvin Owen (Wyoming)
Secretary/Treasurer	Sandy Coelho (New England)	Sandy Coelho (New England)

Officers accepted by acclamation.

Dates and Location of UPCOMING May Meetings

YEAR	DATE	LOCATION	LOCAL HOST
2011	May 11, 12, 13	Dallas, Texas	Phil Miller
2012	May 16, 17, 18	California	Tom Belew
2013	May 15, 16, 17	Chicago, Illinois	Dale Davenport

Approval of the dates and locations was unanimous.

Recommendation from Officers

Richard shared a recommendation from the Officers to pay Sandy Coelho for her services of Secretary/Treasurer at the rate of \$100/month/ \$1200/year. Richard noted that Sandy does all the work to keep the Association running and her work should be honored. Recommendation approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report

Sandy Coelho shared an update of the finances. At this point in 2010, only 4 state conventions have not paid their dues and overall the Association is in very good shape financially. Steve McNeil motioned to approve the report, seconded by Marvin Owen. Report approved.

Mark Miller raised the issue of the need to continue to receive the money from Lifeway. It was noted that this money is earmarked to be used to help supplement travel for the states that need assistance. It was also suggested that this has been a great partnership for Lifeway and they still continue to be part of the meeting.

Possible speakers for 2011

Sharon Bowman (Mark Miller has contact information) – being a trainer
Margaret Sluscher (private consultant)
Aubrey Malphurs (strategic discipling)
David Platt (new book, Radical)
Rick Yount – education (brain development)
Small groups guru

Blog feature on website

A discussion about doing a blog on the sundayschooldirector.com site or a connected blog was discussed. Mark Miller suggested that if everyone took a day each month, there would be enough content to keep it fresh and new. Richard suggested putting a small group together to tackle the logistics. The group would include: Mark Miller, Bob Mayfield, Sean Keith, Phil Stone, Darryl Wilson, and Steve McNeil (with Sandy and Richard as ex-officio members). Recommendation approved unanimously

Website

Sandy Coelho reported that the sundayschooldirector.com website is up on the web and Sandy needs any feedback and any content you want to add.

Other General Business

Any retirees: none upcoming

There has been some concern that our attendance is waning. Richard noted that he would work through Vice Presidents so that the new folks would be included in upcoming meetings and so they would utilize it as a way of recruitment. Suggestions: Put them on the agenda and be sure to send the information about new members to the members as soon as the information becomes available. As soon as the agenda is put together we need to let everyone know and everyone needs to help recruit others.

Name change: Is there a need to change the name of this organization?

The initial suggestion seems to be misconstrued. Marvin suggested coordinating the Sunday School and Discipleship directors at the same time and then help with the travel. Richard will be working with the leaders to see where to go with that suggestion.

A special thanks to Mark for hosting this year's meeting. His work was outstanding.

At 9:55 a.m., Bob Mayfield closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Coelho
Secretary/Treasurer