Worldwide Church of God

GC2 equipper

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Greetings faithful servant of Jesus,

Once again we near ***Holy Week***—that special time of the year when we gather to remember and rehearse the final days of Jesus' life, his sacrificial death on the cross, his burial, and his glorious resurrection.

- On ***Palm Sunday,*** we remember Jesus' humble, yet triumphant entrance into Jerusalem as the Lamb of God comes to give himself as a sacrifice for all.
- On ***Maundy Thursday,*** we commemorate the *Last Supper* when Jesus hosted a meal for his disciples and introduced the bread and cup of the *Lord's Supper* as a sacrament of our continuing participation in his death and life.
- On ***Good Friday***, we remember when Jesus died for us on the cross, expunging the penalty for all sin. We remember that as our substitute and representative, Jesus died in solidarity with us all—revealing both the enormity of sin and the total commitment of our Father to his beloved children.
- On ***Easter Sunday***, we gather to worship the risen Lord, celebrating Jesus' victory over death and sin through his resurrection—the great event, which brought to fruition God's astounding plan: In Christ, all things are made new.

Holy Week, particularly Easter Sunday, is a great time to bring with you to church friends, family and neighbors. On this special occasion, they will hear and experience the truth about Jesus and their life in him. Many churches have their highest guest attendance that day. Is your church prepared to host them?

In this issue, Randy Bloom profiles two resources designed to help congregations develop effective ***host ministries***. Rather than mere "meet and greet" programs, host ministries help congregations position themselves to effectively participate in what Jesus is doing, in the Spirit, to help people understand and embrace the unconditional love and acceptance that the Father has for us all.

May your celebration of Holy Week be filled with God's abundant love and grace,

Ted Johnston
GC2 equipper editor

Resources for developing host ministries

by Randy Bloom, director WCG Church Multiplication Ministries

When guests walk into your house of worship, they typically know few, if any people. Often they do not know what to expect. Sometimes they are looking for a church home. They certainly hope to find warm greetings and friendly faces.

Your congregation is probably friendly, but unless guests are warmly received, they typically will not experience your church as the friendly place that it is. Every church benefits from an effective "host ministry""—we prefer this term to speaking of "greeters"; there is much more involved than merely welcoming people at the door.

The primary goal of a host ministry is to **join with Jesus in building *relationships***. The triune God created us all for fellowship with him and one another (1 John 1:3). The Spirit makes this relationship possible as the "personification" of the relational love between the Father and the Son. God shares this relationship with us and invites us to participate with him in building new relationships. To do so effectively, we need appropriate ministry "scaffolds" that help us extend God's love and grace to others, both consistently and winsomely. An effective host ministry need not be elaborate, though certain vital elements need to be present. To help you in this, the CAD Ministry Development Team recommends two resources:

> ***I'll never visit your church again!***
>
> These are words no church wants to hear. Do you know that your guests will make this decision within seconds after walking in your door?
>
> -Curt Gunz

1. *Greeter's Ministry*

This easy-to-use training manual written by Curt Gunz addresses key principles for implementing an effective host ministry in your church. We have evaluated this resource and recommend it for WCG use. It provides clear, systematic instruction in an easy-to-use format. Its methods are being used successfully in many U.S. churches. Here are two of the concepts addressed in the manual:

- Without a positive first impression, it is unlikely that visitors will return. The first 30 to 90 seconds usually establish that impression. Gunz shows how to make those crucial first moments the best possible, helping your guests have a positive experience the whole time they are with you.
- There are simple, proven ways to help ensure that guests form a positive first impression. These ways are not difficult; but many churches fail to use them. This training resource shows you how.

Download the manual at http://www.yourchurchcangrow.com/gm-ebook/gm.htm**.** The cost is $39.95.

2. *Assimilating New People*

This daylong workshop led by a member of the *WCG Ministry Development Team* addresses the formation of effective host ministries within WCG congregations. These ministries assist visitors in encountering and embracing the triune love and life of God—leading both visitors and members toward deeper participation, in and through the church, in the Father's mission.

This workshop goes beyond "meet and greet" strategies and takes a holistic approach to building loving relationships that last.

The *Assimilating New People* workshop may be scheduled by contacting the CAD office in Glendora, CA, or one of the CAD ministry developers who conduct this seminar: Dan Rogers, Ted Johnston or Randy Bloom. Information about this and other MDT workshops is found at http://www.wcg.org/MinDev/events.htm**.**

Computer Tip:
Creating signatures in Outlook

by Pam Morgan, WCG IT support analyst

Ever wonder how someone got their signature to appear at the bottom of their email message? Or how they also got their local church logo to appear?

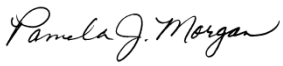
Here's how:

If you want to use your actual handwritten signature, first sign a blank white piece of paper and then scan it and save the scan as picture…..remember where you saved it to, and what you named it—you'll need it later.

Now open your *Outlook* program, and follow these steps:

- Click on Tools, Options
- Select the Mail Format Tab
- Select Signatures button
- Click New
- Name the signature (i.e. Business, Personal, Friends)—keep in mind that you can have more than one signature
- In the blank box type a message and/or insert a picture that you want to see at the end of every message to which you apply this signature.

  Example:

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- Choose this as the default signature if you want it to display on emails or create another signature
- Click OK
- Click OK

Each time you click the New Message button, the signature you created will appear at the bottom of the message.

Enjoy!

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