



NEWSLETTER

Spiritual
Leadership
Development
NEWSLETTER

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for the members
of the Germantown
church of Christ as
we lead by being
Christian servants.

The Newsletter

This month's SLD Newsletter features a Lads-to-Leaders (L2L) National Convention update and an ideal way of enriching relationships with others by gaining and giving trust.

Glenn

Leading the Assembly

This is a reminder to the men, young men and boys within the congregation who would like to increase knowledge and experience in leading the assembly during worship services.

The Leading the Assembly class will begin Sunday, April 23rd. The class will meet for 5 weeks during the Sunday morning Bible class period.

Class sessions will include a lesson on an element of worship, examples of leading the element and time for the class participants to practice leading the element. After attending this course the class attendees will have prepared examples for use in leading the assembly during worship services.

Several individuals have already signed-up for this class. If you would like to participate there is still room for you!

Sign-up Sheets in South Hall

This month PAGE 2 of the SLD Newsletter provides a column on trust. The element of trust is key to any strong relationship; especially, among Christian brothers and sisters as we join forces in common goals.

L2L National Convention

The Lads-to-Leaders (L2L) National Convention is here! Many of our congregation (209 to be exact!) will be attending the L2L convention in Nashville April 14-16. At the convention our young people will be able to use their talents and increase their skills to gain even more experience in many areas. This experience will help them to have the confidence to use their abilities within the Lord's church in the future.

The national convention is a final event in a series of events, which began last August with our L2L Kickoff Banquet at Germantown. Again this year our L2L coordinators have done an exemplary job in leading each of the activities and giving so much of their time and abilities to our youth. Participation in our L2L program has grown tremendously, both physically and spiritually, for several years. From August through April L2L activities have taken place every week; even on Sunday afternoons and nights during the week.

Not only have the young people been involved, but their parents have been supportive by ensuring that participants get to the right activity at the right time with the right attitude! With the passing of every year our L2L involvement helps to produce stronger leaders for the church in the future and even for today!

We have an addition to our L2L trip to Nashville this year. For the first time we will have three college students from within our congregation go with us to Nashville as "encouragers." The students are: Aaron Howell, Andrew Howell and Beth Phillips. They will help parents and youth with directions, attend events and encourage the participants, lead devotionals and take the junior and senior high students to the Opryland Mall on Saturday during free time.

With our arrival back to Germantown on Sunday, April 16th, we will take some time to recognize our L2L participants Sunday evening. Numerous individuals and families are involved in the L2L program at Germantown and I want to thank each person for the efforts they give.

Also, with many Christian deeds in life some individuals work behind the scenes. Only the individual, the person they help and God know about the deed. Our L2L program is an example. Each year for several years we have had individuals give money to support the trip to the L2L National Convention. This money is used to help with hotel and food expenses for families while they attend the convention. These kind acts give families the opportunity to spend time together and enjoy the convention with other Christian families while the young people increase their knowledge and skills. These Good Samaritans do not ask for recognition; that is not their purpose. Without naming names I want to thank them for their willingness to share with others. God knows them individually and their reward will be great!

The Trust Factor

In our spiritual life we should include The Trust Factor. Without trusting others at some points in our lives we will be taking our life's journey alone. Alone we are not as successful in accomplishing our dreams or following God's plan for our lives. The Trust Factor encompasses integrity, credibility and loyalty. How do we build trust, whom do we trust and when do we trust them?

The Trust Factor

We need to be able to trust others and be trusted by others. In life, and especially in our spiritual growth, we should ensure trust is a vital part of our relationships.

How do we build trust? *Trust is built through integrity. Displaying integrity is when someone "talks the talk and walks the walk." When a individual's words and behavior match then a person has integrity. When a person says the same things and does the same things no matter the situation or circumstance then the person demonstrates his integrity. We can portray the appropriate image that others expect of us in a situation, but our integrity really displays who we are.*

Whom do we trust? *Trust is given to individuals who have credibility with us. Credibility is the consistent demonstration of integrity. When one consistently is the same person day-in and day-out credibility is formed. This credibility is gained over time and does not come easily. Likewise, once credibility is established in a relationship it is not easily destroyed.*

When do we trust them? *We give loyalty to someone who has credibility with us. This loyalty is the result of a relationship built on integrity and credibility. Loyalty is exercised in good times and bad times within a relationship. Each of us is tested and tempted in our life. At times we fail to meet our own expectations or the expectations of others. Even when one fails in a particular circumstance we will trust the person if our relationship is strong enough. If the relationship contains integrity, credibility and loyalty we can overlook a failure by a friend; even forgive a major fault against us.*

Trusting God

As Christians we can always place our trust in God. Over the ages God has shown mankind that we can trust Him. Following are some reasons why we know God is trustworthy:

(1) *The promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is the Creator of mankind (Gen 1:26-27). He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To each of them God promised a land, a nation and a blessing to all families of the earth through their family (Genesis 12:1-3; 26:2-5; 28:13-14). God shows integrity by keeping His promises.*

(2) *The permanence of Christ. The Hebrew writer states we should imitate leaders who are faithful. These earthly leaders come and go, but we have a greater example in Christ. Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:7-8). Jesus Christ remains eternally the same. This quality is an anchor for anyone who is seeking stability in their life. God displays credibility by the unchanging nature of Christ.*

(3) *The sacrifice of Christ for our sins. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Christ humbled himself and become obedient to death - even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). "It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him" (2 Timothy 2:11 NASV). Christ demonstrated loyalty to God by doing God's will and going to his death for the sins of mankind.*

Trust produces confidence and we can have full confidence that God will continue to keep His promises, have an unchanging nature and provide us with salvation; leading to a home in heaven where He will dwell among His people (Revelation 21:3).

Trusting Other Christians

As with so many other elements of life relationships also bring challenges. Trusting others can be a challenge. Although Christ lived a perfect or sinless life no one else does. Although the church is the chosen, assembled, elected and redeemed people of God we are still only mere humans; with faults. Thus, the church is not perfect either as much as we may strive to do our best.

To work in the Lord's vineyard together demands a degree of trust among brothers and sisters in Christ. We have common goals in bringing the Good News of Christ to others and edification within the church while we all struggle with life's problems. "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6:10 NASV).

We trust that the body of Christ is working toward the common good of all mankind. We can be more successful by possessing The Trust Factor in our relationships with others.

THE TRUST FACTOR

How to possess this quality:

- 1 Own Integrity
 - Talk the talk and walk the walk
- 2 Own Credibility
 - Be the same person each day
- 3 Own Loyalty
 - Look past a friend's failures