

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

PREPARATION

- Prayer is one of your most important jobs as a Spiritual Director and should begin as soon as possible. While all team members are asked to pray for other members of the team via the team prayer chart, the Spiritual Directors should make this a specific and focused commitment. Pray in all ways for all aspects of the Banquet, including the guests, health, protection from spiritual warfare and for specific requests (as you are made aware of them) and for God's will to be done.
- The Head Spiritual Director may call a meeting for the team SDs to get together early in the season. This allows SDs a chance to get to know each other before team meetings start and share strengths, weaknesses and life events so that you can begin to minister well together. Share what you have experienced that has worked well on other Great Banquet teams you have served on. Discuss a system to check on one another when with a guest in need so no one SD is overwhelmed or monopolized during the Banquet.
- All Spiritual Directors should read through the entire Lay Director/Spiritual Director Manual before the weekend to familiarize themselves with the various devotions and the timing of the banquet. The HSD will assign SDs to read at different points.
- Begin the process of praying over and writing your talk as soon as possible. The Great Banquet is one message delivered in 15 parts. Each talk (representing one part) is essential to the power and unity of the overall message. All five Spiritual Director talks cover various aspects of God's grace, which may be a completely foreign topic to many of the guests. Receiving the information presented on the talk outlines is of paramount importance to the guest's understanding and experience of the Great Banquet. There is not much content overlap between the talks, so if any speaker fails to cover the material on their outline it is unlikely that the guests will receive this essential information elsewhere during the weekend. Therefore, it is very important to cover all the main points as outlined. All Speakers, and most importantly Spiritual Directors, are to consider themselves teachers above all else. The focus of the talks should always be on teaching the material of the outlines, not in providing your own testimony. Examples from your life and from other areas (such as history and general culture) should illustrate the main points of the outline, never be the dominating focus. Spiritual Directors need to set a good example to other Speakers in writing their talks by incorporating the outlined content completely. Additionally, the Spiritual Directors are often called upon during previews to ensure the theological content of the talks is consistent with what is provided by the Great Banquet and to work with new Speakers or those needing extra help in aligning their talk to the outlines. No theological content should be added or removed to any talk so as not to take away from the focus on God's grace and love.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

PREVIEW/TEAM MEETINGS

- Be available to your team during the weeks of team meetings. Spiritual warfare and ordinary life circumstances will occur where team members may face crises during the preparation period before the weekend. Spiritual Directors will pray for specific needs and may be asked to spend time with team members. You are not being asked to be a professional counselor, but you do need to be ready to listen, pray and support your team.
- Group worship and communion is a part of every weekly team meeting. Spiritual Directors cover the devotion part of these meetings, typically alternating men and women SDs as speakers, and lead and serve communion. Sign-ups for this occur during Orientation. One volunteered Spiritual Director each week will prepare a brief 8-minute devotion (on the topic of their choice) and lead communion, being assisted in service by other Spiritual Directors, the Lay Director or Assistant Lay Directors. A detailed agenda is provided to the Spiritual Director giving the devotion one week before by the Community Lay Directors to help assist them in executing this assignment. This agenda includes all details for how to serve communion and what specifically to say. Communion elements are provided by the Agape Team.
- At team meetings it is important that SDs spread out amongst the tables so that every table previewing talks will have at least one SD present. The SDs' role during preview discussion is to support the Table Leader who is learning how to draw out responses through questioning. Additionally, the SDs should ensure that all feedback for the Speaker is constructive and never personal or critical. The SDs are charged with ensuring that all the talks stick to the outline and include testimony to illustrate the main foundational points of the outline. The ALDs will time each talk, but the SDs should be aware of the talk time guidelines and support the Speakers sticking to that and not going drastically over or under time. The focus of every talk should always be on the Biblical messages presented in the outline and never on the individual speaker.
- The SDs are charged with monitoring that the theological content of each talk is consistent with what is in the outline. All theological content is provided by Lampstand Ministries and we are contractually bound to present only what they provide, not adding or subtracting content. This ensures that all Great Banquets teach the same basic Christian components across communities around the world and over time to create a consistent Great Banquet message. If a concern about theological content comes up in table discussion, the SD at the table should set that point aside and discuss it with the HSD and LD, who will then discuss it with the Speaker in private, out of respect for the individual Speaker, so as not to embarrass them publicly.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

PREVIEW/TEAM MEETINGS, *continued*

- If the tables previewing talks each have an SD present, one of the remaining SDs may go out of the room with the Speaker to pray them out after their talk preview and wait with them while discussion of their talk is ongoing. *Optional.*
- SDs may be called upon to mentor a new Speaker or to assist a Speaker who needs a little extra help in re-writing their talk. In this task, be supportive, friendly and gently assist the Speaker in following the speaker guidelines and timing as outlined in their materials. *Optional.*
- During team meetings we typically close in prayer with the entire group. Spiritual Directors may be called upon by the LD or HSD to publicly pray out the team at these times. *Optional.*

WEEKEND

During the weekend your ministry will have four key parts: Accessibility, Prayer, Listening and Guidance.

- **Accessibility:** Spiritual Directors are publicly introduced at the Great Banquet very early on. This is so that guests know who you are if they need someone to talk to or ask questions of as they make sense of this Great Banquet experience. Your job is to be accessible and open to the guests at all times. Some may choose to come to you, and/or some God may direct you to pursue. Pray about who to approach and pray for God to give guests the courage to approach you. Be easily accessible always, especially at Chapel times and during breaks – sitting beside an open chair and/or in a quiet but visible spot. It is amazing how very reticent people will become bold in seeking guidance. God is working on their hearts too. Look for people who may be sitting alone, asking “Would you like someone to sit with you?” If they say yes, just sit quietly and pray for them until they are ready to talk. If they say no, respect their need for space. Many just need a quiet time with Jesus. During meals, try to sit with different guests and get to know people. Your focus should be on being friendly and accessible to those who may need you.

Your accessibility to the guests and team members is very important, especially in the Conference Room. Typically, all five Spiritual Directors sit at tables in the back of the room (to easily observe the entire room). You are encouraged though to frequently leave those seats and integrate into the room itself; to create more physical proximity to the tables and remove the physical barrier (the SD tables) that can exist between you and the guests. Each Spiritual Director may be assigned to a specific table. It's encouraged that you occasionally ask a table to sit in for a discussion. You can sit in on a table's prayer time, but only if invited to do so. In these cases, the SD should be careful to not dominate or direct the discussion, as that is the Table Leaders' role. Rather, be a sympathetic participant, helping the Table Leader (and Assistant) only as needed; providing spiritual insight where appropriate and finding opportunities to get to know the guests more personally. Time spent with tables may yield great fruit in the form of relationships and trust.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

WEEKEND, *continued*

- **Prayer:** One of the Spiritual Directors' key responsibilities is to pray. You will pray Speakers in and out as coordinated by the HSD. You may pray over the building and/or conference/sleeping rooms as directed by the HSD. You will be praying for guests and Speakers during talks and praying for fruitful discussions during poster times. You may be assigned a specific table or team group (such as Kitchen, Agape, Music/AV, Leadership, etc.) to be praying over during the weekend. Needs of certain guests and team members will arise during the weekend that you will need to be in prayer about. SDs should check in with their assigned tables (if so assigned) and team group at least 1-2 times daily to seek out prayer requests or concerns. It is important for guests to know exactly who to go to in case spiritual questions arise or help is needed. It is also important for team members to feel supported and covered in prayer as individuals and as groups.
- **Listening:** When you are with someone, it is your first job to listen. Use reflective listening techniques to support them in talking and key into the emotions they are expressing. Be comfortable with times of silence. You do not need to fill it and it allows God to whisper into their heart or yours. Once you have gained their trust and begin a discussion, you should encourage the person to be specific when they discuss feelings and issues; if not with you, then silently with God. The more specific they can be with the blocks in their relationships with Christ and others, the more effectively they can surrender them to Christ's grace and receive healing. Ask questions about their feelings. Often, tracing their emotions can open avenues to putting words to feelings and then exploring the real issues behind the emotions.
- **Guidance:** As you interact with guests, remember that your role is to simply provide spiritual guidance and point the way to Jesus. You are not asked or expected to provide any formal counseling or have all the "right" answers. Even if you are a trained counselor, the Banquet is not the place for formal counseling. In your discussions submit to God – He is in charge and you are to be available as a listening ear and discerning heart. He will give you words He wants you to share (Mark 13:11). Be confident in your role knowing that God chose you and will lead you only to those guests for whom you have been prepared. Again, your job is to guide people to God. It is not your job to "fix" them – that is solely God's job. Point guests back to scripture. Having ready access to a resource such as the Book of Bible Promises can be a helpful tool in finding scripture to apply to someone's life circumstances. Also be prepared in advance with a brief testimony of why you believe in God, why "good" people need Jesus and why did Jesus have to die. Guests will vary in their Biblical knowledge and exposure. As you listen, never assume the person has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Be ready to ask if they have accepted Jesus. Reassure guests that God has brought them to this weekend for a purpose and to meet their needs. Focus on the importance of seeking a relationship, or stronger relationship, with Christ and encourage them to bring their questions, thoughts, doubts and burdens to God and ask Him for answers. One of the primary Bible verses to guide you as a Spiritual Director is Corinthians 1:4 "He consoles us in all our troubles, so that we in turn may be able to console others in any trouble of theirs and to share with them the consolation we ourselves receive from God." Remember to always end your time with someone by taking their questions to God in prayer. Model for them the process of

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

seeking God's will and thanking Him for what He will do. Some guests will be quite familiar with this, while others may have never prayed before. Help them see that the purpose of the weekend is to seek God in all things.

- There may be some guests whose issues are extreme. They may need formal counseling, but the Great Banquet is not the time or the place for that. If the issues are urgent there are Pastors at ZPC who are available, and the LD and Community LD can help in calling them. If the issues can be deferred, encourage the person to seek professional counseling and assist in helping them find resources. They can still submit these issues to God now and ask for His protection and provision during the weekend and guidance for where to go afterwards.
- Above all, remember to keep prayer requests and guest or team concerns **confidential**. Please do not discuss issues widely and please do so with full respect for all individuals' privacy. It is an honor and privilege that you have been chosen to pray for a need; please show it the appropriate respect by maintaining strict confidentiality during and after the Banquet. The general rule is to seek help if needed from the HSD and the LD but to involve as few people in issues as possible.

A few practical considerations for the weekend ...

- It is very important that there is always at least one Spiritual Director in the Conference Room at all times. Likewise, at least one Spiritual Director must remain in the Chapel or Sanctuary until everyone has left. Guests, Table Leaders and team members need to feel confident that an SD is always available whenever needed.
- If you need extra time with a guest in the Chapel or other area, please let the ALDs, the HSD and the guest's Table Leader know where you are.
- Be sensitive to guests who may approach you with similar life stories or who felt especially drawn to what you said in your talk. Feel free to enlist the help of a fellow Spiritual Director at any time if you need support with handling a guest.
- Spiritual Directors may be called upon to read as part of the Chapel meditations and to serve communion daily over the weekend. These tasks will be assigned by the HSD.

AFTER THE BANQUET

- Be sure to follow through with anyone if you promised assistance in getting help or resources.
- It is very important for Spiritual Directors to attend the 4th Day meeting to assist guests into getting into a group after the Banquet. Likewise, it is equally important for SDs to attend the Celebration Community Gathering the month after Banquet. The guests and team look to you as leaders and examples in the Great Banquet Community.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

NOTES FOR THE HEAD SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

- It is highly recommended that you call a meeting of the Spiritual Director team early in the preparation season to plan how to effectively minister to team and guests as a group and organize prayer needs. A closely united spiritual team is a powerful witness and a team that knows each other well will be most effective in serving the Lord. Oftentimes, HSDs will do this in conjunction with a meal or social event. Many spiritual teams continue to meet regularly (in addition to team meetings) throughout the weeks leading up to the banquet to pray together for the teams, guests, each other and specific needs. It is recommended that the HSD assign each Spiritual Director prayer responsibility for a specific table(s) and a team group(s) (Kitchen, Agape, Music/AV, etc.). The HSD may also choose to assign prayer partners among the entire team, with the Lay Director's approval, of course. The HSD and LD should also plan on working closely together and get to know each other well.
- The HSD is responsible for deciding how to divide up the reading assignments for the Chapel meditations during the Banquet (all are written in the LD/SD manual). The HSD may choose to read them all or divide them among the Spiritual Directors. Whoever reads them should be notified in advance, so they have ample time to read through and practice.
- The HSD will also organize the serving of communion during the Banquet weekend, using primarily Spiritual Directors for assistance. Be sure to announce each time how gluten free individuals should partake of communion and do not expect gluten free individuals to use the same juice cup as others.
- Give advance thought and preparation for how you would like to execute the Dying Moments service. Considerations should include where you would like to locate the communion stations and how you would like to handle the bread offering that represents their burdens. It is recommended that HSDs choose, for health and sanitary reasons, to use one set of bread for individuals to pray over and release as a burden and a different, new set of bread to eat as actual communion to avoid unnecessary sharing of germs. Carefully model the process of coming up to the altar by having the other Spiritual Directors come up first (one or two at a time) to serve as an example to the guests for how to release their burden. It may be spoken or said silently in their hearts; both ways can be modeled. No one should feel pressured to state something out loud that they do not feel called to share publicly. It is important that this Dying Moments service is not executed in a single file line as this will take too long and be difficult for many guests, as well as throw off the time schedule. Some guests may need extra time with a Spiritual Director in the Chapel after Dying Moments. That is OK, and the rest of the group should not wait to eat lunch for that. Dying Moments is followed by lunch and a long break and the ALDs can make sure that lunch is not put away until all are out of the Chapel.
- HSD should lead the spiritual team in creating a system for checking on one another when with a guest so no one is overwhelmed or monopolized. Generally, 20-30 minutes is an appropriate time for another SD to check if they need assistance or relief.
- HSD makes some remarks at Closing, including the gifting of the hand cross to the LD. They also administer communion to the team and the Community during Closing.