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Cursillo #109 for 2021 is still in our future. For further questions contact Weekend Leader Toni Routt at toni.routt@gmail.com

Our newsletter is open to being shared and dispersed. We welcome all readers. And we would be most interested in having other Cursillo Newsletters made available to us. Please share.

On Aug 15th an Ultreya was held. They had 14 attending. Toni Routt gave an inspiring witness talk on her experiences of grace at Saint Christopher's. The gathering had some harrowing moments when the power went out at Sid's house but the Holy Spirit helped him to create a hot spot so we finished the Ultreya in the dark on battery power.



Ultreya ZOOM Meeting Oct. 17th. Please come join in the Cursillo family reunion that we lovingly know as Ultreya. Look for further info on how to connect to the next meeting.

When? 10/17/21 5:30pm Where? In front of your laptop, Ipad, or cell phone. Please bring food and beverage of your choice, your physical self, and an open heart and an open mind. Look for a special invite to come and how to connect.

share the light

Sunday – Oct. 17, 2021

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

5:30 – welcome, introductions, Scripture meditation, prayer for the Holy Spirit

6:00 – break into zoom rooms for reunion groups

7:00 – witness talk

7:30 – clergy response to witness talk

7:50 – music postlude

7:55 – closing prayer

Guests are welcome. **Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ.** If you would like to be added to the invitation list please contact Cameron Cooke at Cameroncooke539@gmail.com

Announcements

Secretariat Members Needed

Volunteers are needed to help lead our NC Cursillo movement. Contact the current secretariat to learn more.

Need More Information?

To find out more about attending a three-day weekend or sponsoring a participant, contact

NorthCarolinaCursillo@gmail.com

Secretariat meetings

Abiding by pandemic restrictions, Secretariat The Fourth Day meetings meet via conference call and Zoom meetings. We currently met the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00 pm via zoom. Contact NorthCarolinaCursillo@gmail.com for further information

From Hawaii Cursillo



The article in the December 2013 E-Chronicle entitled **“There is New Life in “Cursillo”!**

The Ultreya (meeting) held November 17, 2013, at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, attracted about fifty people who prayed, shared their Faith, sang songs, laughed, ate, and discussed the future of the Cursillo Movement in Hawaii. In their evaluations those attending gave high marks “across the board.”

Several people came over from the Big Island, others had been active in the movement on the mainland, and some were members of similar movements such as the Methodist “Walk to Emmaus” and the Lutheran “Tres Dias.” Others came because they were curious and wanted to know what Cursillo was all about.

The “Cursillo” is a lay movement to strengthen people in their Faith, and train and inspire them to be a Christian influence in

their respective environments. The Episcopal movement was very active in Hawai’i from the late 1970s, but has tapered off in recent years.

The Ultreya opened with prayer and then participants separated into small groups where each person had an opportunity to briefly share their “Piety, Study, and Action” during the past week. Carol Williams from Arizona, the 2nd Vice President of the National Episcopal Cursillo Board, shared what is happening across the mainland, and had the groupthink about the possible future of Cursillo in Hawai’i. She pledged that the National Cursillo would willing to send a team to Hawai’i to train people how to be more effective in “making a friend, being a TRUE friend, and bringing our friend to Christ.” Then people had an opportunity to respond to her talk and ask questions.

Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick gave an inspiring talk about what is happening in the larger Church, the plans for the future in the Diocese of Hawai’i, and the role Cursillo might play. He said that since the Cursillo was a “Lay Movement” it was up to the people to decide what they wanted to do, and he pledged his support.

The meeting closed with a large prayer circle where people could thank God and ask for guidance. Even though some could not attend the Ultreya, they communicated by phone and letters how important the Cursillo Movement was to their lives. One couple called from Washington State, indicating the positive effect the Movement had on their lives, and urging it to be reactivated.

A man on Kaua’i shared that on his weekend they stood overlooking the Waimea Canyon as the sun rose, and prayed silently and aloud. He said, “I gained a deeper and more meaningful understanding of Christ and my Faith, both my strengths and my weaknesses.”

A Doctor wrote that she hoped for a resurgence of Cursillo in the Diocese. “In our weekly Group Reunion, our friendships have endured and deepened as we share our secular and our faith lives in depth.”

A lady who attended Episcopal Cursillo No. 1 in 1977, wrote that when she was invited, she was too busy to take time away from her real estate business but succumbed. It was a “mountain top experience, a profound spiritual experience, and I didn’t want to come down.” She has been living her Fourth Day in a group for over thirty years.

San Diego Episcopal Cursillo from March 2021

Each person returning from a Weekend is encouraged to actively participate in the Jesus Movement. This time after the Weekend is known as the “Fourth Day” and extends for the rest of their lives. Through the Cursillo community, there are ongoing means to support Christian Ministry and Living. Small groups called Reunions are formed and meet regularly on a regional basis. It is through these groups that we mature in our spirituality and through the Cursillo Method experience Christ being lived and shared with other believers. Our 4th Day can make that experience turn into a lifetime process of spiritual growth and renewal-

https://youtu.be/Pd_lqcE1Czs-

How Cursillo Strengthens Your Faith



Temptations faced by Cursillo Leaders

Excerpt A Strategy for Revitalizing Cursillo, Houston Presbyterian Cursillo, by Kirsten Huffman 2010

The example of humility Jesus shows us (washing the apostles' feet) is a reminder that the first thing a leader must do is get rid of all ambition and the lust for power. When we speak of being a leader for Christ, the issue is not one of control, but of service, responsibility and accountability. As Christian leaders and as Cursillo leaders, we must be concerned about upholding what is right and not be concerned with keeping our position intact. Christian leaders need to make the tough decisions, even when they are not popular. Within the Cursillo Movement, Lay

Directors, Spiritual Advisors, Secretariat members are called to stand on the truth, whether it is popular or not, whether it threatens their 'job security' or not. True disciples of Jesus must understand that they are not indispensable. Christianity, the Church, the Cursillo Movement do not rise or fall based on their leaders' performance. All too often leaders are ineffective because they spend more time focusing on the power and authority they either have or seek than they do concentrating on doing the job at hand. All Cursillistas have an important role to bring the world to Christ, regardless what their official 'title' might be or not be. Too many Cursillistas focus more on the Weekend than on doing the work of evangelization. Yet, a Cursillista could be doing great work for the Movement without ever having to be on the Weekend team. The purpose of being a Cursillo leader is not to be on the Weekend team, but to lead other Cursillistas in their task to continue the apostolic mission begun by Jesus and the Twelve. One of the reasons our Pre-Cursillo and Post-Cursillo is often weak is because all our energy is put on the Weekend. The Weekend is only one part of the job, and in the broader scheme of things, the Weekend is the least important part of the Cursillo – it is simply a means to get people from the PreCursillo to the Post-Cursillo. In our consumerist society we have become obsessed with the need to see results in everything we do. It is a great temptation to get discouraged because things are not moving fast enough or we see no visible results. In our apostolic work we want to give up because we have so many failures. The only thing that is essential in this regard is that we do our work for Christ, whether or not we see noticeable results. Related to the issue of successes and failures is the concern over numbers. We are concerned about filling Weekends, the size of our School of Leaders, the number of people attending Ultreya. Again numbers are incidental. In a School of Leaders it is better to have ten leaders committed to the work of the Cursillo than a School of thirty people, with the same ten still carrying the load. Bodies are not all important. Bodies without commitment accomplishes nothing. The purpose of Ultreya is not to fill halls with Cursillistas, but make Ultreya available. If we are called to do God's work it should make no difference who is in authority. The apostolate is still the apostolate, regardless of the Lay Director or Spiritual Advisor, the Secretariat or anyone else. On Weekends we want to put our 'friends' on the team with us, whether or not they have an authentic witness. Our vocation is given to us by Christ through baptism, not by some individual leader. All of us are called to be servants of Christ, no matter what position of authority we have or do not have. No one person is so essential that the community

cannot survive without him or her. This is a familiar malady that we all know from parish experience. People follow a certain priest and after he is transferred, there is a new 'clique' with the new priest. This is why communities do not stay strong. No one person is so invaluable that everything we do rests on that one person's presence.

5 WAYS TO EMBRACE INFREQUENT CHURCH ATTENDERS

By [Carey Nieuwhof](#)

There's an urgent question many church leaders are asking as we all try to figure out how to respond as people who attend church now attend less often. The question is this: How do you interact with infrequent church attenders who don't seem to be embracing the mission of your church the way you hoped they would? I think it's simple. ***You embrace them anyway.***

I chose the word 'embrace' on purpose. Because I know there's something deep-seated in many of us that wants to reject people if we sense they're rejecting us. And people who don't come out to church much on Sunday can feel like rejection if you're an insecure church leader. (Which, by the way, is many of us on this side of heaven. When I started in ministry in the mid-90s, if someone didn't attend church for a while, it was almost always because they left.

Today, I don't actually sense that the people who haven't been at our church for a few weeks or a few months are rejecting us. In fact, when I run into them, they tell me they *love* our church. And that they can't wait to get back at some point. So no, they haven't left. They just haven't been lately. So what do you do?

There are at least 5 things you can do. But just because I see it that way doesn't mean everyone sees it that way.

And...here's the danger...if you start judging people for not seeing it your way, you almost certainly turn them off. People—especially teens and young adults—can smell judgment a mile away. Judgment creates barriers. So what do you do instead?

1. Empathize.

It's not that hard to do if you realize you probably have an attitude about other organizations similar to their attitude toward your church. Take going to the gym for example.

I have a gym membership. Truthfully, I haven't been there in two months. But I spin on my bike trainer at home, do push-ups and hike. I watch what I eat and I do other exercises. To me, my goal is fitness and health. It's not going to the gym. The gym is a means to an end, and it's not the only means for me.

Am I going to make the cover of next month's Muscle Magazine? Nope. But that's not my goal.

Many people think the same way about the church. Especially if you're reaching unchurched people. If a formerly unchurched person shows up 12 times a year, that's far more than they've ever been in church! They might think they're doing great, and maybe they are compared to how they used to feel spiritually.

So rather than judging them for it, tell them they're doing great. And invite them into a deeper conversation about faith and life. I realize the gym analogy breaks down because I don't think the Christian faith is an individual pursuit like fitness can be (more on that in part 4 of this blog series). And clearly, I would be in better shape if I went to the gym three times a week and had a personal trainer.

But if you stand there with a scowl on your face every Sunday angry about empty seats, why would anyone want to sit in one?

2. SEPARATE THE MISSION FROM THE METHOD

Somewhere along the way a lot of us end up confusing the mission and the method. Your mission is to lead people into a relationship with Jesus, not to get people to show up for an hour in a box every Sunday. Please hear me...I value our time together on Sundays as a church. And I think it's presently one of our very best vehicles through which to advance the mission of the church (more on that in Part 4 of the series).

But our mission is *not* to fill seats on a Sunday. It's to lead people to Jesus. You should be obsessed with your mission, not with filling seats. Truthfully, some of us are more in love with the method than the mission. If that's you, repent. I have. I am. That shift will create a whole new mindset in your team. As [Will Mancini said](#), that will help you run offense, not just defense on the issue of declining church attendance. You'll start to think of fresh ways to help people on their journey toward Jesus.

And—don't miss this—if you really help people move into an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, they might show up more regularly in your church on Sunday. Ironic, isn't it?

3. USE TECHNOLOGY TO HELP PEOPLE EVERY DAY

Church leaders today have an advantage that we simply didn't have a decade ago.

Social media and even email are great ways to help people deepen their journey with Christ, not just sell your latest program.

What if you started viewing your social media channels and email list as an opportunity to come alongside people and help them grow in their faith?

You have to be careful how you approach this, because if you're just trying to drive attendance, people will notice. But if you

encourage them, inspire them, challenge them and help them, they'll welcome your presence.

I wrote a post on how to [write email people actually want to read here](#), and Casey Graham and I touched on using email and technology as a way to reach out to your church [in this podcast](#). I also outlined [9 great ways to use social media in this post](#), along with 3 common mistakes many leaders make.

If you run your social media and email content through a *helpful* filter, people will be thrilled to hear from you. And it will deepen the bond you have with infrequent attenders. They'll come to see you as a friend, not just one more person trying to sell them something.

Be the favorite person in their inbox, and their favourite thing to see on their newsfeed. Never underestimate what being helpful does for everyone involved.

4. START MEASURING OUTPUTS

Perhaps the biggest takeaway for me personally from [my interview with Will Mancini](#) was Will's insight that church leaders are programmed to measure inputs, not outputs.

We measure how many people showed up, what they gave, who they brought and even online traffic. But rarely do we measure outputs.

What if the church became as much a sending organization as a receiving organization? What if you developed ways to measure spiritual growth? Like how much time people spend with God personally each day reading scripture and praying? The stats are surprisingly low. According to a [recent study](#), 57% of Americans read their bible four times a year or less. Only 26% read it more than 4 times a week. What if you helped the people around your church change that?

And what if you got innovate and started thinking through whether people were better off five years after joining your church than were before? Or whether they feel closer to Christ? Or whether they're making a difference in their workplaces and neighbourhoods? What if you helped them be the church, not just go to church? Leaders get passionate about what they measure. So measure thoughtfully.

5. CELEBRATE WINS

It's strange that when a child takes their first steps, we applaud wildly, but when a Christian takes their first steps, we call them immature.

Sure, so a new Christian doesn't read their bible every day or attend every week or give the way you want. I get that. Many long time Christians don't either. Rather than judging them, why not love them? Why not celebrate when they take a step?

Send a handwritten thank you note to each first time attender.

Welcome them when they come back. Throw a party when they show up again 3 months later. Celebrate like crazy when someone gives their first \$5 gift. Jump for joy when someone decides to serve or high five them when they decide to get in a group. Okay, I'm exaggerating a bit. The point isn't to get weird. The point is to celebrate. As Andy Stanley says, what you celebrate gets repeated.

Want to know how to celebrate? Follow my friend [Bob Goff](#).

I don't think I've ever met anyone with a bigger heart than Bob, or who take more delight in things others might ignore or despise.

Read [his book](#). Stalk him (okay...don't stalk him, but do [follow him](#)). Let some of his Kingdom of God joy rub off on you. If the church approached ministry the way people like Bob approach life, the church would be a far more attractive and contagious place.

Instead of judging a fellow Christian, love them.

