

THE SPR CONNECTION

A Newsletter for United Methodist Women Secretaries of Program Resources

ISSUE FOUR | SUMMER | 2009

Leadership Training

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us ... —Romans 12:6-8

One of the responsibilities of the conference secretary of program resources is to train district and local SPR's for leadership. How we go about our training will be as varied as the trainers, but all training has characteristics in common:

- **A goal** – a stated purpose of how the training will be used within the broader organization,
- **An objective** – a statement that identifies and defines the hoped for outcome of the training,
- **Content** – the specific ideas and information shared,
- **Method** – techniques and processes used,
- **Resources** – people, materials, equipment and other means of communication needed to enhance the training, and a time frame.

Starting with a goal, ask yourself what is the overall purpose of your

training session? To set up your goal, ask your counterparts for feedback about what they need. This will help you target your discussion. Good communication is essential for this step. Do you have the addresses (mail or e-mail) needed to contact your group? Send an e-mail “blast” (e-mailing everyone at once) and use the responses to assist with your goal planning. Are there common needs? Do many need more explanation on the consignment process? Your goal statement could say: “To break down the consignment process to understand how it affects an event and the Mission Resource Center.” It could include some of the feedback, answers to questions and solutions to challenges.

Fortunately, technology enables us to have off-site and non face-to-face meetings, and can also allow you to concentrate on smaller sessions rather than trying to cover everything in one. This can also be done using the postal

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service. But anyway you do it, everybody must be willing to participate by answering requests for feedback, and by sharing thoughts, comments and suggestions.

*Continued on page 2 with the **Objective**.*

MUSINGS FROM MRC

The Mission Resource Center is in the midst of fulfilling your orders for all of the spring meetings leading up to Regional Schools of Christian Mission events in June.

Again this year, Liz and I are planning to attend all five of the Regional Schools, with Liz attending Midwest, Upper Atlantic and West Gulf, while I attend the Pacific and South Atlantic schools. We met so many wonderful members at each of the schools last year, and became more in touch with the challenges of SPRs.

We enjoyed seeing the different event locations, and admired the various methods the literature sales staff utilized to make resource rooms appealing. It will be fun to see what this new year brings in the way of creative merchandising. We'll have our cameras ready to capture those inventive displays, making the best use of the space available. You and your resource rooms may be featured in future *SPR Connection* issues, so have your smiles ready!

The Mission Resource Center

is fortunate this year to be able to offer two of the *New World Outlook* issues that relate to the Native American study (March/April 2007 issue) and the Sudan study (May/June 2009 issue). MRC will be sending copies to each of the Regional Schools, and hopes to distribute limited copies to each of the Schools of Christian Mission that will follow in July and August. We have additional resources that we'll show you on the pages to follow, with a few suggestions to help you make your upcoming

event exciting and effective.

We'll look forward to seeing you at the Regional Schools, so be sure to introduce yourselves, and share your great ideas for future *SPR Connection* articles. The fall issue will highlight the Reading Program, and ways to promote it at your events.

Sandra Patterson
Membership Services Manager
Eliza (Liz) Davis
SPR Specialist

Objective, Continued from page 1

When choosing your objective, think ahead to what you want your group to take away from the session. Using your feedback responses, anticipate questions that may arise. You can elaborate here, outlining your discussion for the agenda. A statement may be: "After completing this training, secretaries for program resources will ..." Be as specific as possible when making your objective statement.

Content, method and resources make up the parts of your agenda. These cover the topics your training will include, what you will cover within the topics, how much time will be spent on each, how you will conduct the training and what items you will need (visual assists, newsprint, video, etc.).

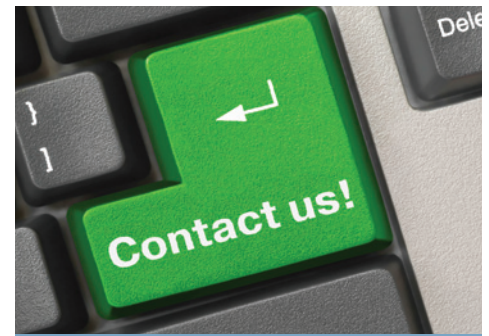
This training plan framework will help organize your session for maximum

result and presentation. Once you have created your plan, you now have a useful guide for future trainings that can be edited and adjusted according to need.

From Tools for Effective Trainers – Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church.

Brenda Thompson

*Women's Division SPR Staff Contact and Reading Program Specialist
bathomps@gbgm-umc.org
212-870-3733*



E-mail Orders and Customer Service:
cs@missionresourcecenter.org

Newsletter Contributions:
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Customer Service Phone:
800-305-9857

Customer Service Fax:
214-630-0079

Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST

Mailing and shipping address:
Mission Resource Center
1221 Profit Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

Exciting Ideas for Literature Sales Rooms at Schools of Christian Mission

As we transition through spring, we start planning for the Schools of Christian Mission and thinking about different ways to promote the spiritual growth and mission study resources. One of the key responsibilities of the Secretary of Program Resources is to order resources for sale at conference and district meetings, including the Conference Schools of Christian Mission.

Plan to visit the room or area that will be used for the literature display and sales at your upcoming event. It is preferable to

have a room that can be secured overnight and between times when you plan to be open for sales. Get creative with the way you set up your room. Between all three studies (Food & Faith Spiritual Growth, the Sudan Mission Study and the Native American Mission Study), there is a wealth of possibilities for displays.

If you can utilize wall or window space, plan to mount map posters above or near your Native American and Sudan mission study resources. A poster with pertinent facts about the study makes a great backdrop, similar to this window display of the Native American map used in the presentation at the 2008 South Atlantic Regional School. There will be a map and fact poster for the Sudan study (#M3065) available during the summer 2009.

If you have lots of wall space, the flag of Sudan also offers you a great backdrop for a table display, or use it as a colorful contrast to a plain tablecloth. The Sudanese flag consists of three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white and black with a green isosceles triangle based on the hoist side. There are many websites



Israel-Palestine mission study display at South Atlantic Regional School in 2008.

from which you can download images with exact proportions. Print a large image and have your favorite copy store blow it up for you, paint one on a display board, or sew one together out of inexpensive pieces of cloth.

The resource room at the 2008 South Atlantic Regional School used the flag of the State of Palestine for just such a display at last year's school.

Another idea for table displays on the Sudan might be a grouping in various locations of some of the agricultural products grown in the Sudan, such as cotton, groundnuts (peanuts), sorghum, millet, wheat, gum arabic, sugarcane, cassava (tapioca), mangos, papaya,



Use window or wall space to display mission study maps.

bananas, sweet potatoes and sesame. The 2008 Midwest Regional School featured these vegetables with their Native American mission study materials. This food display will incorporate both the spiritual growth and the mission study



Use food displays to incorporate spiritual growth and mission study themes.

themes. Another idea for display around the mission study on Sudan is to display some basketry, which is the most elaborate folk craft in the Sudan. You might find some baskets that are similar to those made in the Sudan and feature them around the

Sudan mission study resources.

If you're lucky enough to have an open area outside your Literature Sales Room, you might have representative conferences or districts make table displays, each featuring a different aspect of one of the studies, such as this one displayed by the Kentucky Conference at the 2008



Ask conferences to plan a display for your Literature Sales area.

South Atlantic Regional School. This school was very fortunate to have a long wide hallway or corridor leading up to their resource room that was conducive to lining both sides of the corridor with well-spaced tables. Each conference in the region took a different theme in the mission studies, and created display

boards and props to support that theme. This area not only served to inform attendees, it also created a great gathering area while waiting for the resource room to open.

In another open area in or near the resource room you might set up projects to help participants get a

“feel” for the mission study material. At 2008 Midwest Regional School, participants in the children’s mission study class enjoyed painting rocks to make “Christmas Moccasins” and creative sand painting, which was another activity in the Native American children’s study guide. Other activities, such as making seed necklaces and medicine bags, would also be good activities to draw the interest of attendees and keep them busy in between open periods for the resource room.

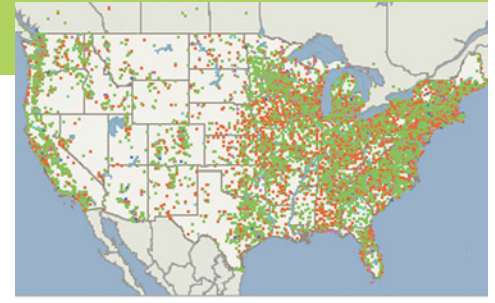
The children’s study books are great sources of activities that can be adapted to your resource room



Include activities to keep participants busy during “free time.”

waiting area. One such activity related to the Food & Faith theme might include planning a menu for one week of each season using food originating from your local geographic area. In preparation, search www.localharvest.org to find farmer’s markets in your vicinity, and research what foods they might feature in each season. Challenge participants to create their own menus for just one day’s main meal. Provide pens/pencils and paper at a table displaying your sample menus, and encourage participants to display their menus on the foam-core board with tape, which you’ve provided for this purpose.

Let your imagination flow and use this year’s themes to create some innovative displays to grab the interest of your school’s participants. The pictures from this year’s events will be featured



■ Farm ■ Frm Market ■ Restaurant ■ Grocery ■ Other

Locate a farmers market near you by searching www.localharvest.org

throughout upcoming *SPR Connection* issues, so have fun and get inspired!

In preparing for your Schools of Christian Mission, please remember to send your Consignment Order Form in early. If you are having one of the study-book or other authors attend your event, plan a book signing featuring an appropriately decorated area for the author to sign books the attendees have purchased in the resource room. For these book signings, be sure to contact the Mission Resource Center early to order an ample supply of the author’s book.

Also remember that through the consignment ordering process, your conference or district does not incur the cost of shipping the material to your event, and you can return any unsold material after the event. The Mission Resource Center has negotiated a greatly reduced shipping rate with UPS that will save your treasury in the return shipping expenses. We’ve added the convenience of pre-printed return shipping labels, and will bill you for the shipping



costs with the final settlement invoice for your event. This system has been working well for almost a year with just a few minor tweaks. We estimate that most shipping costs are reduced by 50-60 percent from conventional shipping rates.

With careful packing, this return process also helps make the returned items more readily available for other events in conferences and districts.

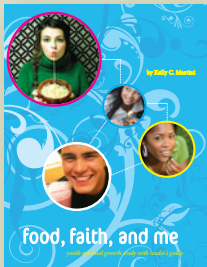
United Methodist Women

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Hot off the Press

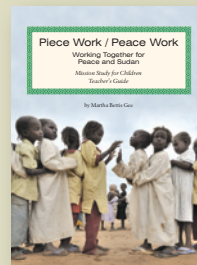
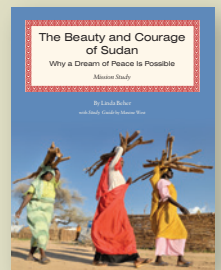
United Methodist Women
Program Calendar 2009-2012
(#M3051-2008-01) \$10.00



Food, Faith and Me
Youth Spiritual Growth Study
with Leader's Guide
(#M3055-2009-01) \$8.00



The Beauty and Courage of Sudan
Why a Dream of Peace Is Possible
Mission Study
(#M3060-2009-01) \$10.00

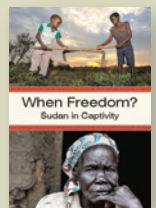


Piece Work / Peace Work –
Working Together for Peace and Sudan
Mission Study for Children Teacher's Guide
(#M3063-2009-01) \$8.00

Food & Faith
Spiritual Growth Study for 2009
with Leader's Guide \$7.00
(#M3030-2009-01) English
(#M3048-2009-01) Spanish
(#M3049-2009-01) Korean



When Freedom?
Sudan in Captivity DVD
2009 Mission Study
(#M3064-2009-01) \$19.95



Gift in Memory Cards
Two NEW designs!
Candle Design (#M5033-2008-01)
Tree Design (#M5035-2008-01)



Sudan Map and Facts Poster
2-sided (#M3065-2009-01) \$12.00