

# The Church Renewal Journey

AWAKENING ▶ EQUIPPING ▶ COMMISSIONING ▶ EMPOWERING ▶ SENDING



LAY RENEWAL WEEKEND



LAY MINISTRY WEEKEND



MARKETPLACE EVANGELISM WEEKEND



PRAYER WEEKEND



ACTS 1:8 WEEKEND



[www.churchrenewaljourney.net](http://www.churchrenewaljourney.net) \* [crj@namb.net](mailto:crj@namb.net)



## Team Member Handbook



*Count It All Joy*

# CHURCH RENEWAL Journey

## *Tips for Team Members*



Any long journey requires thoughtful and careful preparation. Surprises and unscheduled stops may occur, but good planning and preparation will enable you to continue the Renewal Journey through to its conclusion.

For many, the beginning point on the "Journey of Spiritual Renewal," the renewal strategy for Southern Baptist churches, is a Church Renewal Weekend. A lay team, under the leadership of a coordinator, comes into a local church for the Weekend.

This team is used in a leadership role to assist the local church to discover what they have in Christ and in each other, and to celebrate it. The prayerful desire is that many of the members of that local church will also begin a spiritual journey during this 42-hour period. As a team member, you can help in many ways. It is necessary, however, for you to have begun the journey yourself, to have the proper attitude and the necessary equipment. A Team Member Handbook was created to help you become a great team member.

### **Agreeing to Participate in a Weekend**

Serving on a Renewal team should not become "your ministry", but does provide an excellent opportunity for you to share how God is using you in your ministry.

Team members and coordinators must remain active in their home church. Serving as a team member should not prevent you from being active in your home church. When serving as a team member you should never criticize or make negative remarks about your home church.

1. **You're Relationship with Christ.** Read these verses and reflect on your relationship with our Lord. You have been born anew and, being led by the Holy Spirit, you have His witness within you. 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:14, and 2 Timothy 1:12
2. **Your Devotional Life.** Read and reflect on these verses as they relate and speak to you in your devotional life. You are one who speaks to God and the one to whom He speaks; you are also reading His word and, above all, mediating upon it. Psalms 5:1-3; 119:9-11; 97-99
3. **Your Story.** Your story is your "testimony." It needs to be current at all times. What is God doing in your life today? Do not preach! You are not there to tell them what to do, you are there to share what Christ is doing in your life today.

- Give it out of conviction.
- Give it out of experience.
- Speak about your witness.
- Give it out of commitment.
- Speak with the assurance of God's presence. He has promised it!

Your coordinator will probably assign you a team member prayer partner ahead of the meeting. Begin praying for the church, team members and yourself and be excited about how God is going to bless!

God bless you as you undertake this Journey with our Lord. He is blessing Renewal in a mighty way and you will be blessed as well.

### **Some General Guidelines**

You are to place the Church Renewal Weekend in the perspective of the "Journey of Spiritual Renewal," the total strategy of Renewal among Baptists.

1. **You are one of a team that has no "stars."** Everyone is an important part of this Weekend. Do not monopolize the time, either in small group sharing or in a testimony before a large group. Follow the leadership of your coordinator. Be appreciative of constructive criticism, if needed, from the coordinator. Experienced team members should offer advice to the coordinator and make him aware of any special talents of team members.
2. **You are to magnify Christ.** Behave in such a manner that all your actions are above reproach. Do not magnify a Church Renewal Weekend or some "event." It is not necessary to stress the abilities or gifts of any other team member, coordinator, or even yourself. These will be used by the Lord as He chooses.
3. **You are complementary to other team members.** What you may lack, some other team member will be able to supply. All fit in God's plan for His work in the proper place.
4. **You are an invited guest of the host church.** You are there to assist this church as a whole and individual members as you may have occasion. You are a representative of your own church on the recommendation of others. Respect it.
5. **You are to help edify and build this church.** This is done through love and a positive and hopeful attitude. Please do not criticize. Avoid negative comments. If you disagree with anyone or anything on the Weekend, pray about it alone. Team members should remember that we are never to point out problems or offer solutions for the church where we are serving. When you introduce yourself to the church at the start of the weekend or during team meetings, we should never make statements or comments about how our involvement in Renewal Weekends is keeping us from being active in our home church. Making a statement like "I'm never at my home church because of serving Renewal Weekends" can upset the church pastor, and cause him concern about his church members serving on a team.
6. **"Tongues" is not a part of the Church Renewal Weekend or of the "Journey of Spiritual Renewal."**

## During the Lay Renewal Weekend



There are three distinct areas of ministry for team members during the Lay Renewal Weekend:

### 1. Giving Your Testimony

You will be placed in any number of situations during the Weekend in which you will be able to share what Christ is doing with, in, and through you. Do it joyfully! If asked to share your testimony in a public, formal situation, here are some guidelines:

1. **Witness, do not preach.** Talk about your own personal experience and what Jesus Christ means in your life.
2. **Speak earnestly and simply.** Talk about your own, not another's, experience. You are an authority only on what you have experienced. That is what the Holy Spirit will use most.
3. **Be honest about yourself.** Your fears, your failures, lack of surrender, and how God has forgiven and strengthened, blessed, and used you.
4. **Talk directly to people in your group.** Draw upon the common experiences of life in language people can understand. Tell how you have found a more meaningful faith, how you have overcome resentment, fear, pride, etc., and your experiences of answered prayer.
5. **Don't talk too long.** Don't be overbearing. People cannot be forced into this new life. You must allow them the same freedom God gives them.
6. **Be enthusiastic.** Yet, don't be unreal. Avoid clichés. Pray for power of the Holy Spirit to help you radiate love.
7. **Focus your testimony.** Focus on one of three areas in your life: your job, your family, or your church. Avoid "sameness" about your testimony and those of the other team members.
8. **Follow your coordinator's suggestions about time limits.** No testimony should be more than five or six minutes. The Holy Spirit can penetrate the local congregation with several short testimonies better than with one or two long ones.

### 2. Leading a Small Group

1. **How does one come to the group?** Pre-prayed, of course, willing to let the Holy Spirit lead and using these as only suggestions. Pray for openness and sensitivity to the people.
2. **What should a leader do in the small groups?** Here are some possibilities: Get acquainted with each other on a first name, no-title basis; share with each other personal struggles and successes in the Christian life; respond to what is happening in this group; pray for each other. Questions to be asked and other suggestions will be given to the team members by the Coordinator in the team meetings.

3. **What about prayer?** Some groups open and close with prayer. Some use prayer instantly as a person expresses a problem that seems to call for it. Conversational prayer is good. Occasionally a group will gather around a person to pray for him. In this, there is considerable assurance and support.
4. **How does one get honesty?** By being honest and encouraging others to do likewise. If you are scared, feel free to say so; perhaps ask someone to pray for you right now. If someone in the group is unusually honest, note it graciously, "Bill, I know it took courage to say that. Anybody else have a struggle like Bill's?"

### 3. Staying in a Home

1. **Be a good guest** by being on time for meals, making your own bed, etc.
2. **Be conscious of the needs of the hosts**, particularly spiritual needs. Many times, they will be more open to sharing these with you as a guest than with their fellow members.
3. **Be aware of the lifestyle and habits of the hosts** and be careful not to violate or disrupt it by your own lifestyle or habits.
4. **Have prayer times with the host family.** Suggest a devotional time before retiring; perhaps, read the Bible together and pray with them.
5. **A "thank you" note** after the Weekend is always appropriate. A good way to do this is to send a book which relates to a need or desire the host family indicated.

### After the Lay Renewal Weekend

1. Search your own heart about the contribution you made as a team member to the church over the Weekend. Be honest as you consider this: "Did I help the Weekend?"
2. Consider the strengths and weaknesses of the whole team for the Weekend. Was our approach well received? Could it have been better? If so, how? How can we improve?
3. What were the needs of the church as they identified them? Were they met?
4. Did the church grasp the total strategy of the "Journey of Spiritual Renewal"? If not, why?
5. Communicate these ideas to your Coordinator by letter or telephone.

### Dress Guidelines for Team Members

These are suggested guidelines. Your Coordinator for the Weekend may also make attire suggestions because of the dress code of the church.

#### Adult Team Members:

- Friday — Attire should be business casual, no shorts.
- Saturday — Attire can be a bit more casual, no shorts.



- Sunday — This should be your Sunday best for regular worship service.
- Casual Dress Contemporary Service – Business casual.

### **Youth/Children Workers:**



- Friday — The attire can be casual but not athletic attire.
- Saturday — The attire can be more casual if going on an outing or playing sports outside. If shorts are worn, must be conservative length.
- Sunday — This should be your Sunday best.
- Casual Dress Contemporary Service — Business casual



### **Business Casual Definition:**

- Men — Casual pants, casual shirts, golf shirts.
- Women — Pant suits, dresses, skirts and blouses.



Remember that you represent your church and your Lord Jesus Christ as you serve. Your attire should reflect this.

### **Serving on a Ministry (S.H.A.P.E.) Weekend**

The Lay Ministry Weekend is different from the Lay Renewal Weekend in several ways. However, the basic difference is that this Weekend challenges members to take action on what God has shown them.



The emphasis is on discovering how God has SHAPED you to do His will in your life. Spiritual gifts are a big part of this weekend along with your heart (what motivates you) your personality and your experiences. This helps Christians plug into ministry where God is leading them. Your testimony on a Lay Ministry Weekend should relate to this primary idea. In preparation, study Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and similar passages.

## **Serving on a Marketplace Evangelism Weekend**

Marketplace Evangelism Weekend is different from the Lay Renewal Weekend in several ways. However, the basic difference is that this Weekend challenges members that they are made to count for God and to take action on what God has shown them by being a witness in their marketplace, the place where they spend time each day.



The emphasis is on making your life count for God as you go about your daily life and sharing the gospel as you go.

## **Serving on a Prayer Weekend**

The Prayer Weekend discusses many avenues of prayer but is structured like a Lay Renewal Weekend in several ways. However, the basic difference is that this Weekend challenges members to pray for others.



The emphasis is on discovering who we should be praying for and increasing our prayer time in our lives. Prayerwalking the community will be done during the Weekend. It is an experience you will not forget.

## **Serving on an Acts 1:8 Weekend**

The Acts 1:8 Weekend discusses how to be a witness in the world today. This Weekend is structured like a Lay Renewal Weekend in several ways. However, the basic difference is that this Weekend challenges members to be aware of opportunities for sharing the gospel and meeting needs of others as we share.



The emphasis is on discovering your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the world, and opportunities of reaching out to these areas as a church and individual.