



November Letter 2009

Dear Teen Leaders and Parents,

We had a very difficult meeting in October – Lisa could only stay for the morning, and Ralph, still recovering from flu, came only for lunch and the afternoon. Yet, we think the Teen Leaders did a good job...

For this meeting – PLEASE READ OVER YOUR PARTS AND SHOW UP COMPLETELY PREPARED! That always saves everyone time!

The November View

Our next meeting is **NOVEMBER 7.** Drawing is at **8:00 AM.**

We are meeting early in order to stuff the folders for Pebbles ... see “Things to Consider” below.

We will have lunch at 11:30... The afternoon will be longer in order to better prepare for Pebbles.

Teen Scholars are required to stay until **3:00.**

Support Teens who will be attending Pebbles on Nov. 13 are also required to stay **until 3:00.**

Things to Consider:

- Pebbles:** It seems that all 16 Teen Leaders will be attending Pebbles this year – even the support teens. This is great news! Enclosed is a flyer and a letter for school principals to explain your son/daughter’s absence from school on November 13. Many Catholic and public schools bring students to Pebbles; we’ve never had any problems with students missing school for this event. We need all **students to get their own transportation to Cardinal Stritch University – to the conference center -- on Nov. 13 by 8:00 AM.** If you need a ride, please contact other Teen Leader parents. **Teen Leaders must bring their PEBBLES FOLDERS and NOTES.** (Hope Is Something You Do Binders are not needed for this day.) Dress code is “business casual.” Please try to look professional for this event. Although the flyer lists a fee for this event, Teen Leaders do not pay the fee! Moreover, no extra permission slip is required for Teen Leaders.
- Pebbles Extra Help Needed:** Lisa was not able to assemble or convene a Pebbles planning committee this year; therefore, **we need the Teen Leaders to assist us with stuffing folders with the Pebbles hand-outs;** that’s why we need them to come earlier on Nov. 7 if possible... and **if two or three moms or dads are available to assist us with that day please contact Ralph. We could use a few more adults to assist us with registration, and general operations for that day.** Lisa will not be attending; Ralph will be running the day with Marie Britt Sharpe, a member of the Pebbles committee for many years, and a mother of 2 former Teen Leaders.
- Tomorrow’s Present Brochures:** Last time, Steven Berg mentioned the need for brochures to explain the Tomorrow’s Present programs. Lisa meant to grab bunches of brochures for everyone, but forgot by the end of the meeting. **You can still get brochures** by going to House of Peace (tell Miss Shirley they are in a cardboard box on the file cabinet to the right of my desk) or even by stopping by my home (I have many in my car). Please get the brochures if you think it will help with donations for the Christmas Trees in a Jar effort!
- Mentor Buddies:** If you haven’t yet provided full contact information for your “mentor buddy,” we need it by Nov. 7. Lisa needs to send a letter to each young person, formally inviting them to the program.

The Longer View

December – We usually have a Christmas “banquet” that day and we draw names in November, so each Teen Leader gives an inexpensive gift (\$10 or less) to another Teen Leader. This year, we will also be giving presents to our mentor buddies, who will join us for lunch and stay for the afternoon.

January – we will have two meetings – our “dress rehearsal” for Hope is Something You Do will take place on Jan. 23, and our actual workshop for middle school teens will take place on Jan. 30. Teens will receive new T-shirts.

This Month's Questions

Call/email your mentor group leader between Nov. 2-4 with the answers to these questions:

- #1. Did you receive the November email and letter? Is any information incorrect?
- #2. Do you have a ride to Cardinal Stritch University (the conference center) for 8:00 AM on November 13?

Call Ralph regarding Pebbles – 412-5842 or 962-3776 (work).

Call Lisa with any other concerns you may have... 414-545-6006... or email her at Lisa@tomorrowspresent.org.

For more information about Lisa, continue to visit www.tomorrowspresent.org and click on “Lisa’s Health Update.” Then click on the blog from there; the blog link is toward the bottom of the page.

Lisa Calderone

Ralph Stewart

Dominique McGee

Gerri Sheets-Howard

Enclosures: • Agenda & Prayer • Pebbles information • Mentor Buddy information • Contact info and calendar

Groups:	COMPASSION	INSPIRATION	LOVE	FRIENDSHIP
Seniors:	Rebecca (leader)		Arthur (leader)	Aqueelah
Juniors:	Joana	Fernando (leader) Sun	Beatriz	Steven (leader)
Sophomores:	Francis	Kayla	Dauson	Keyon
Freshmen/women:	Mykiliah	Khalil	Jasmine	Lucero

7 NOVEMBER 2009 Agenda

- 8:00 **Stuff the folders for Pebbles**
- 8:30 **Ice breaker:** ● Play Bippety Boppety Boop as if you were teaching it to a group – teach 3, play 5-6 rounds; teach another 3, play 5-6 rounds, teach the last 3, play 5-6 rounds. (You, Me: Mykilia; Airplane: Khalil; Elephant: Jasmine; Statue of Liberty: Lucero; Jello: Keyon; Roller Coaster: Dauson; Plumber: Francis; Rabbit: Kayla; Crocodile: Sun)
- 8:40 **Prayer** ● Presider: Arthur ● Reader #1: Francis ● Reader #2: Lucero
● Reader #3: Jasmine ● Reader #4: Beatriz ● Reader #5: Joana ● Reader #6: Sun
- 9:00 **Practice Blue Pages** (Rebecca is manager; Arthur is Leader ABC; Fernando is DEF)
- 9:45 **Bathroom break**
- 10:00 **Energizer (if we have time):** ● Duck (Joana, Beatriz, Steven, Fernando)
- 10:10 **Practice Pink Pages** (Fernando is manager; Rebecca is Leader ABCD)
- 10:40 **Green Pages F** (Oscar and Felix, Arthur & Rebecca) and **G** (Francis)
- 11:00 Evaluation in Mentor Groups; report of key insights; reminders for phone calls/emails
● T-shirt sizes (we will order new T-shirts for the workshops)
● Situation regarding Mentor Buddies – have they all agreed to come in December?
● Situation regarding Pebbles – does everyone have a ride to Cardinal Stritch?
- 11:20 Christmas present drawing (reminder that everyone also brings gift for buddy)
- 11:30 **LUNCH**
- 12:30 **Review Pebbles schedule** Ralph
- 2:45 **Mutual Invitation:** Name your favorite part of today's meeting.
- 2:55 Spontaneous Prayer/Blessing of Teen Leaders ... Teen Leader volunteer
- 3:00 ish Teen Leaders dismissed when room is clean
- 3:00 ish **Mentor Group Meeting ...**
Pebbles concerns, Hope is Something You Do concerns...

GENEROSITY

Call to Prayer: Light a candle
Drop 2 pennies into a glass container

Word: **Reader #1: Mark 12: 38-44**

Response: Reader #2: Background:

Centuries ago, a widow was a helpless person. In those days, men controlled the family wealth and property, and women received any status they had from their husbands. When a woman was widowed, that was a sign of bad luck and even sinfulness. So society looked down on widows. Yet, the widow in this story is heroic; she was much more generous than anyone else. We are called to imitate the generosity of a widow who gave so much of what she had.

Reader #3: The widow was poor, but someone to admire. There are many athletes, rock stars, and actors who are rich, but whose lifestyles are not admirable. Yet they are idolized by many young people.

- What are some of the negative characteristics of the “rich and famous”? Why do so many teenagers admire them anyway?
- How can we live in a way that discourages others from admiring the type of lifestyle led by the “rich and famous?”

Reader #4: Some people don’t try to make the world a better place. They say, “I am only one person, so I really can’t make a difference.”

- What response can give you to that excuse?
- Can you think of one example when you’ve seen one teenager make a difference by the influence he or she had on others?

Mutual Invitation: Choose to answer one of the above questions.

Sending Forth: Reader #5: “I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.” (Helen Keller)

Reader #6:
Almighty God, help us to be generous with our time and talent.
Give us the courage to do all the “somethings” we are able to do. Amen.