



2016 Renewal Theme

We are the Aroma of Christ

¹⁵ For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

2 Corinthians 2:15

Use any or all of the components that fit the Renewal you would like to plan.

In addition to focusing on the teachings in 2 Corinthians (and utilizing the vintage coffee “look”), we’ve also incorporated a secondary theme of mentoring and being that “aroma of Christ” to fellow Christians.

Main Bible Study - Aroma of Christ

† **2 Corinthians 2:14-17** ¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷ Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

Worship & Devotions:

Opening “Service” **JOHN 15:18-25**

† ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.

(Opening Devotion – simplified form of the service)

Closing Devotion – **Ephesians 3:16-20**

† ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this

love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Key Note Topics and Speaker Ideas:

† Loving When you Don't Feel Like Loving

- We all have those days... weeks... month. Sometimes it's the people at church who aren't being the kindest; who don't understand our situation. Sometimes it's our husbands who leave us alone with the kids most of the time. Sometimes it's our children who take our energy and wear us down. But we still love and can still show love because we have the ultimate example in our Savior.
- 1 John 3:16 focus... and lots of other passages.
- **Possible Speakers -**
 - *Valerie Johnson (of PWR)*
 - *I'm sure there are many women who have worked to overcome this and can share what they've learned and where they find their strength to love during the hard times.*

† The Message that Brings Life

- **Or "Relationships for Life" or "Conversations that Really Count"?**
- This could be a great focus for the ladies that have jobs or are involved in activities outside of the church.
- And it's always a good encouragement to all of us about the importance of sharing our faith and finding our comfort zone in building relationships where we can show our love for someone through talking to them about the most important relationship they'll ever have.
- **Possible Speakers -**
 - *Do you know someone who is really great at building relationships outside her church family? Ask her to share personal experiences, what she prays about, what she shares and why.*
 - *Valerie Johnson (of PWR)*
 - *Alicia Cortright (currently in Vancouver, B.C.)*

† Mentoring -- *Being that pleasing aroma to those who are in Christ.*

- This Presentation could focus on the importance and joy of mentoring and/or being a mentor.

- *You could follow it up by offering a Break out that goes even more “in-depth” into the practice aspects of becoming a mentor or starting a program.*
- **Possible Speakers -**
 - Ladies who are on the WELS Women’s Ministry Committee, currently planning the Mentoring focused Conference for 2016
 - Amanda Rose. *PW who is a part of the “Holy Hen House” blog and writes a regular post called “Mentor Monday.” She interviews women who have been recommended to her by those she knows.*

† **Healing Oils in the Bible** – *definitely some “pleasing aromas” there*

- There are many natural oils used throughout the Scriptures for various purposes; like Hyssop, olive oil, and Frankincense. Learn more about them and their Biblical significance as well as their natural properties.
- **Possible Speakers -**
 - Kathy Scharrer presented at the 2014 MN Renewal
 - Paula Sulzle

Chic Chats: *Great discussion starters with Biblical focus for every Renewal.*

- † *Chic Chats were designed to break ladies into smaller groups, help them connect, and give them time to just talk about what is on their hearts.*
- † *So Larger Renewals would split the ladies into groups of 10-15 with a facilitator for each group. A smaller Renewal might still like the topics and conversation starters for use as one group.*
- † **Topic pages are merely conversation starters and guides to keeping the discussions encouraging, scriptural, and helpful.**

Break Out and Activity Ideas:

- † **Break out Presentation Topics**
 - **Becoming a Mentor / Starting a Mentoring Program in your church/women’s group**
 - *Especially if you chose a Mentoring topic for one of your main speakers, this would be a great “follow up” choice for those who want to learn even more about mentoring or practically carrying it out.*
 - *This could take a more hands on/practical approach as a compliment to a Bible study or speaking presentation.*
 - **A Pleasing Aroma at Home...**
 - **Focus: As a Wife** – *an encouragement for being married to a pastor*
 - *Our husbands have some pretty crazy hours, can encounter some stressful situations, and often “bring their work home.”*

- This break out could share ideas for being that support and encouragement he needs. Offer ideas for building him up.
- *I have this idea to take an advice for wives book from the 1950s and go through it for the ideals (and even Biblical reasons) for how they suggest wives should act and “keep house.” Could have some opportunity for humor as well as encouragement?*
- *Possible titles? **Aromatherapy for Your Marriage** or **Serving up Support***
- **Focus: As a Mother** – *Any parenting topic that would be encouraging*
 - Ask those “parenting guru” people you know to share an encouraging presentation to moms with children at home a boost.
 - Or work through the Five Love Languages for Children book
 - *Possible titles? **Aromatherapy for Moms** or **Mom “Scents”***
- **Essential Oils; benefits and uses** (aromatherapy)
 - There are quite a few ladies out there who are Essential Oil Representatives or use oils quite a bit for their benefits. This could make for a very educational break out option.
 - *Just be sure the ladies don’t feel like it’s a sales pitch if you bring in an Essential Oil company representative.*
- **DIY at home**
 - Have a speaker come in to share about all the items you can make yourself to save money and eliminate chemicals from your home: cleaning products, body products, etc.
- **Coffee Roasting**
 - Know anyone who roasts their own coffee? Or is a Barista and knows all about coffee making?

† **Crafts & Activities**

- DIY with Essential Oils
 - *Make lip balm, lotion, deodorant, homemade soap... etc.*
 - *I have an awesome coffee body scrub recipe I love!*
 - *Oh, oh! DIY Deodorant! “Be a pleasing aroma to those around you.”*
 - *(See the downloadable, printable, recipe cards & labels)*
- Spa Time - *With foot soaks and hand treatments*
 - We’ve done this at past Renewals:
 - *Have an aromatherapy diffuser and quiet music playing.*

- *Bring in a foot soak tub for each women. Place a towel in front of each chair, set the tub with hot water on each towel. Lead the women in soaking their feet, using a nice body scrub on their feet and hands.*
- *Prepare wet, heated wash clothes to give each women to lay across their eyes and lie back for a few minutes of quiet.*
- *Wash feet (give each women a scrubby glove available in pairs at the dollar store to lather up.) Then have towels for drying off, using a nice lotion or body butter. Etc.*
- *Have the ladies pair off to give each other hand massages with lotion.*



- **Make a Coffee Cup Sleeve**
 - *There are numerous designs and materials for making these. Check out Pinterest and find one you really like.*
 - *Many are knit, crocheted or use a sewing machine. But some felt ones you could hand stitch. Or have the leader prepare certain steps ahead of time.*
 - *I've included one set of directions at the end of this page.*



- **Candle Making**
 - *There are some great ideas out there for coffee and other scented candles.*

- **Make a Fabric Journal Cover**
 - *MN will be doing this in 2016*

- *Leave Free Time for leisure activities if it fits your planning; like Geocaching, hiking, photo scavenger hunt or their own crafting, etc. Or whatever is great to do in the area.*

† *Encouragement projects*

- **Send cards to other PWs and Missionary wives**
 - *Have a synod year-book, note-cards, stationary, even stamps available.*
- **Choose Prayer Partners for the year**
 - *Bring slips of paper for names, a "hat" and a sheet with a few "parameters" or encouragements for how to proceed as a prayer partner for the year as well as an indication of when/how it would "wrap up."*

† **Book Club Ideas** - Invite ladies to read the book before the Renewal, then come and discuss it.

- A Garden Path to Mentoring; Planting Your Life in Another and Releasing the Fragrance of Christ by Esther Burroughs
 - This book is being used in conjunction with the National Women's Conference this Summer (2016).
- Woman to Woman: Preparing Yourself to Mentor by Edna Ellison and Tricia Scribner
- L'Abri by Edith Schaeffer
 - *This could be a really awesome discussion book, seeing how one family chose a very unique ministry and relied entirely on God and prayer. And their ministry was such an amazing encouragement to Christians, being that "aroma of Christ" and teaching/building up fellow Christians.*
 - *Edith Schaeffer maintains through personal and detailed letters close family ties with many individuals whose needs are as diverse as their nationalities. In the same way, this book reflects the courage of obedience. As it unfolds it reflects behind it a unique woman, and through it a family that grew because of their personal commitment to Truth.*
- Super Mom Has Left the Building; Being a Proverbs 31 Woman in a 21st Century World by Judith Edwards
 - Every Mother wants to be the best she can be for her family. But sometimes the expectations pile up like laundry, and the load gets too big to carry. Edwards offers welcome insight on the larger-than-life Proverbs 31 woman, imagining how she would look as she goes about the business of mothering today. Leaving supermom myths behind, she offers realistic encouragement to modern-day moms.
- Desperate: Hope for the Mom Who Needs to Breathe by Sarah Mae
 - *A mother of small children in need of sanity theme and a mentoring theme. It is laid out with each chapter starting with the young mom and her struggles and then her mentor responding to those specific struggles.*
- Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers (fiction)
 - In this compilation of the five books of the best-selling Lineage of Grace series by Francine Rivers, we meet the five women whom God chose--Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. Each was faced with extraordinary--even scandalous--challenges. Each took great personal risk to fulfill her calling. Each was destined to play a key role in the lineage of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.

- The Best Yes; Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands by Lysa Terkuerst
 - In this six-session video-based Bible study Lysa TerKeurst shares how to make better use of the two most powerful words, yes and no. Using Biblical teaching and practical insights this study will help you be more equipped to discern the best yes answers for your life.
 - Designed for use with *The Best Yes Study Guide* which can be purchased separately.
 - *Women could do the study on their own and they the “leader” could use the Study Guide to lead the book club discussion at the Renewal.*

The Coffee Cup Series studies by Sandra Glahn

I totally love these studies. I have done almost all of them with various groups of ladies over the last 6 or so years and have been really impressed.

These studies could be used as a group study, book club or in some other way maybe?

(Or as suggestions to the ladies as great study options to take home.)

- Java with Judges
- Premium Roast with Ruth
- Espresso with Esther
- Solomon Latte
- Kona with Jonah
- Mocha on the Mount
- Frappe with Philippians
- Cappuccino with Colossians
- Chai with Malachi
- Sumatra with the Seven Churches



Ideas for Fun Extras

† Decorations & Centerpiece Ideas -

- We chose a “vintage” looking logo for this theme since there were so many fun vintage coffee items out there...
- Large “coffee cup” or “tea pot” flower pots planted with flowers in them
- Jars or dishes with coffee beans and candles
- Create Themed “aroma” tables, each one with a different “aroma”
 - *The Coffee Table, The Chocolate Table, The Flower Table, etc.*



† Icebreakers/activities

- Autograph Hunt Sheet
 - See “Aroma of Christ” version
 - *Hand out as ladies arrive. Encourage them to get signatures as they “meet” fellow attendees.*
 - *Have a designated time to turn them in and offer prizes to the first ones in who have the most autographs.*
- “Have you ever...?” conversation starters



† Gift/Favor Ideas

- Welcome attendees with a gift in their hotel room:
 - *Water bottle or other drink item*
 - *Granola bar, gum, healthy snack item*
 - *A little package of special coffee*
 - *A note that welcomes the women*
- *Send each attendee home with a retreat “favor” as a memento & reminder of the Renewal.*
 - **PWR has designed Travel Mugs** to fit the theme... these are available for cost. Just ask to get enough for your attendees.
 - Fill with some chocolate, cocoa mix, tea bag, etc.
 - **PWR also has straw tumblers** that could be fun to fill with goodies as well.
 - How about a coffee scented candle from the Dollar Tree?
 - **Make a Coffee Cup Sleeve** for each attendee, put around a paper “to-go” cup and fill with goodies.
- *Create a little something “extra” for your speakers.*
 - **Get them the PWR Mug** to fill with items along with a thank you card (and honorarium if you are able to provide one).
 - **Thank your speakers a leaders “A-Latte”** with a gift card to a fave coffee place. *Tuck it in an “Aroma of Christ” Thank you Card from PWR.*
- *Fun Sayings for cards and tags or whatever*
 - “All I need is a little bit of coffee and a whole lot of Jesus.”
 - “C.O.F.F.E.E. Christ offers forgiveness for everyone everywhere.”



Theme Items from PWR - available to “match” the theme. Just ask Valerie.

- **Encouragement Cards** – designed with theme passage
 - Create an encouragement card corner, or simply give each attendee a free card to write out to someone they know and want to encourage.
- **PWR Thank You Cards** – designed with theme passage
 - Can be used for writing speaker & leader thank yous.
- **PWR “Thank you For Coming” Postcards**
 - Write a note to all attendees, either before they arrive or the week after the Renewal. Just one more encouragement and note of appreciation.
- **Travel Mugs** – We designed 11oz porcelain travel mugs with silicone lids to match the theme. These are available at cost for any Renewal committees to order as many as they’d like (or need).



PWR Items - just ask to receive these items for free for all your attendees

- **PWR Bags** – lime green reusable shopping bags with a square base
- **PWR Pens** – red click pen with stylus tip

To request PWR or Theme items, just contact Valerie Johnson
612-267-3017

Valerie@pwrenewal.org

PW Renewal would also love to post your event on www.pwrenewal.org.

☞ Just let us know what information you’d like posted. We’ll also include your Renewal or event in our monthly E-votion that goes out and any mailings we send out.

☞ We can also set up online registration as well through PWR if you’d like.

☞ PWR also offers free shipping to a Renewal or PW event of any items purchased at pwrenewal.org or sheepshirts.net.

- Organizers would notify Valerie of the upcoming event for which they want to offer the free shipping.
- Give Valerie a shipping name & address for receipt of items.
- Orders would need to be received at least a week prior to the event to allow shipping time.
- Attendees would include “ship to event, date, location” in the comment section upon order.