

SCC 2009 Lenten Booklet Writing Guide

Thank you for taking the opportunity to share for our Lenten Devotional Booklet this year. Each year these meditations are a blessing to many people. Please consider the following guidelines as you prepare to write your devotion.

How do I get started?

- As you begin to write and as you finish writing, take a brief moment to pray.
- Devotional writing is first of all authentic. It connects the events of daily life with the ongoing activity of God.
- Think about a time when you made a decision based on your faith. Why did you make that decision? How did the situation turn out? Did you regret your decision or were you glad? Why?
- You could also begin with scripture. What is one of your favorite scripture passages? Why? Is there a particular story that seems to keep coming to mind recently? How has that passage intersected with your life? Has it given you strength? Has it challenged you? Has it surprised you? How do you feel God reaching out to you and the world through those words?
- You might also begin by considering someone who has been or is influential in your spiritual life. In what ways do you see God at work in their lives. Tell a story of how they inspired you, challenged you or helped you too see God in a new way.
- Let the writing uses sensory details -- what color it was, how high it bounced, what it smelled like. The more sensory details the writing includes, the better.
- Let the writing be exploratory. It searches and considers and asks questions. It examines the faith without knowing in advance what all the answers will be.

Things to keep in mind

- Meditations should be about 250 words long.
- Avoid the phrases... "you should ...," "you need to ...," "we must ...," etc.
- Make only one point. Think snapshot, not movie.
- Focus on how you can deepen the Christian commitment of readers and nurture their spiritual growth.
- Indicate the version of the Bible quoted in the text.
- If you mention someone's name, make sure you either have their permission. Otherwise, use a different name to protect their anonymity.
- Seek always to encourage readers to deeper engagement with the Bible.
- Please email your devotion to mgraham@speedwaychristian.org by February 8.