



Mission Grant Report Form

Iowa District West

Grant recipients are asked to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort or, if a continuing ministry, by January 31 of the following year in which the grant is received. Please submit any pictures, as well, that would help to share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their ministry.

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort.

The purpose of the seminar was to emphasize the importance of Life and that God is the giver of life and it should not be taken lightly.

2. What goals were established for this effort; that is, what did you hope to accomplish?

We had hoped that the seminar would educate and enlighten attendees on life end issues. Our desire was that they would take what they had learned and share with their family members.

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors? I believe we might not ever know the answer to that question. As always, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to work in and through the speakers and this event and to bring glory to our Creator. In planning and promoting this event, we indicated that every person who was going to die or knew someone who was going to die, should be in attendance (basically that meant everyone). We stressed that there should be important conversations with loved ones prior to the end of life. We also indicated that we would look at everything from a Christian perspective.

Two of the speakers enlightened the guests on dementia and Alzheimer's disease. We might not have a loved one facing this issue, however, as a congregation, we will have the opportunity to witness members dealing with the illness. We were instructed on how to handle, to help and to react as loving support team for families going through a difficult time. It was very educational, however, the topic didn't really pinpoint specific questions of life-end in a general sense.

It could have been very easy to feel disappointed in not leaving the seminar with an expectation of what was covered. However, I need to be reminded that the seminar was prayed for and the speakers would be moved by the Holy Spirit to be a vessel for the people in attendance. Perhaps they were moved to discuss this topic more so than the life end issues. I was reminded that it is God's plan for the outcome of this event ... NOT Lori Lyons plan!

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again? I would ask the speakers for an outline of their message before asking them to speak. This would give the organizers and the presenters a clear picture of what is to be expected.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort? As always, bathe it in prayer and turn in over to God!
6. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort? It is difficult to pick a "perfect time" that would work for people to attend. We had sent out a mailer to all IDW congregations, to local churches, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. It was disappointing that we only had about 25 people in attendance; the majority being from our congregation. I originally thought an afternoon would be better than an evening. However, with the Clay County Fair and the camping season winding down, I think if it were to be held in the fall, it might be better for a Sunday evening event but keeping the time limited to 2 hours maximum.
7. Contact person
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