Happy New Year to You and Yours

January 2014 Winter Retreat - SIGN UP TODAY! ROOMS ARE GOING FAST!
January 2014 we're starting the year with a Winter Retreat. The dates are Friday, January 17th, 2014 to Monday, January 20th, 2014 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Join us for good food, fun, fellowship and a spiritually uplifting and exciting time.

Click here for details and registration info »
10 Places to Meet Christians (Other Than Church)

If you missed our August workshop about "How to Approach and How to Be Approachable" be sure to visit the Approach 2 Link site and read this blog post.

Read the Blog Post »

Questions / Comments

If you have any questions please email westendasam@gmail.com or visit us online at http://www.westendsingles.org

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Every month the West End SDA Church Singles Ministry department has a Singles Weekend. January 2014 we're starting the year with a Winter Retreat. The specific dates are January 17, 2014 to January 20, 2014 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Join us for a spiritually uplifting and exciting time.

Skiing, snow tubing and snow boarding are on the agenda but you don't have to participate in those activities to enjoy this weekend. We have different packages available so that if you're not skiing you pay less and you still get to enjoy the weekend. Registration is now closed.

**Schedule / Itinerary (Tentative)**

**Friday, January 17th**
- 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm - Check in, settle in and all that fun stuff.
- 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm - DINNER (Soup, snacks and beverages)
- 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm - Bible Study / Discussions (Topic: To be determined)
- 10:00 pm – Until - Watch informative videos or play Bible Taboo

**Sabbath, January 18th**
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am - Prayer walk*
- 8:30 am – 10:00 am - BREAKFAST
- 10:00 am – Worship
- 10:30 am – 12:30 pm - Interactive Seminars / Discussions
- 12:30 – 2:00 pm - A tasty healthy LUNCH will be provided while we watch more informative videos
- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm - BREAK / Play Bible Outburst
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm - Interactive Seminars / Discussions
- 6:00 pm – Worship
- 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm - DINNER
- 8:00 pm – Until - Go to downtown Gatlinburg, play lazer tag and other games. Or you can stay in the cabin and watch movies.

**Sunday, January 19th**
- 8:00 am – 8:30 am - Worship
- 8:30 am – 9:30 am - BREAKFAST
- 10:00 am – 4:00 pm - Enjoy winter activities (skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing) or spend time in town sight seeing.
- 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm - Board games and discussion

**Monday, January 20th**
- 8:00 am – 8:30 am - Worship
- 8:30 am – 9:30 am - BREAKFAST
- 10:00 am – Check out

*Weather permitting

**Prices / Packages**

The total cost is $155 if you are not skiing, $165 if you are snow tubing and $185 if you are skiing. All packages include food, lodging, materials and a free gift. The ski package includes a tram ride (from downtown Gatlinburg to the ski slopes), an area lift ticket, ski equipment rental, and a 1 hour lesson. Here are details for each package:

- **Basic Package** - No snow activities, just relaxing and fellowshipping - $155
- **Snow Tube Package** - Includes 4 hours of snow tubing - $165
- **Ski Package** - Includes ski lesson, lift rental and ski equipment - $185

**Questions / Contact Info?**

If you have any questions please call 973.250.8489 or email westendasam@gmail.com
Registration is now closed.
Recently I did a workshop on talking about approaching and approachability to a group of single at a church. As apart of the workshop I share the best places to approach someone. The places I mentioned are places that you can meet anyone; but, one attendee, curious to know, raised her hand and asked, “What about places to meet Christians?”

Although the places I mentioned were places that Christians also frequent, the chances of the person you meet being one may not be high. It sounded like the need to be an environment where the person you meet WILL be a christian is the type of place that this attendee at the workshop wanted to know.

In a previous post I did, I mentioned places that you can meet anyone (not just a potential suitor) but again, there were places that you can meet anyone and although Christians also frequent those places, the chances of the person you meet being one may not be high, as pointed out by an attendee that I was having a conversation with at the last approach2link event.

I understand why a Christian would want to meet other Christians when searching for a mate. They want their mate to have the same values and beliefs as them. So I started to think about it, what are some places that Christians can meet other christians outside of going to a church.

I will like to start with some of the places I’ve mentioned before but tailor them to be applicable to Christians looking for other Christians…Those of you who have read the previous article already can jump to number 5 for new places I have never mentioned before.

1. Meetup.com

Meetup.com helps groups of people with shared interests plan events and facilitates offline group meetings in various localities around the world. There are several groups that cater to Christians. Simply type the word Christians in the group search engine to find groups in your
area. You can also start a group yourself and invite other Christians to join.

2. Recreational Sports

Join a recreational sports team organized by your church. If your church doesn’t have a team, join another churches team. In the past, I joined a volley co-ed team for my church (www.sdc-cvl.com). I was familiar with the people on my team already but got to know them better and also got to know new people during our games.

3. Group Discussions

A great way to meet other people is to attend organized group discussions or host one yourself. This would include bible studies, sabbath/sunday school and prayer meeting. Group discussions can allow you to meet with other christians weekly and you are given a chance to get to know the view points of others.

4. Join a Ministry

There are many benefits to joining a ministry and meeting other christians is one. Volunteering your time to a ministry allows you to meet people who share the same passion as you. Most churches request volunteers and nominate leaders yearly/biyearly. Offer your services or start your own ministry. You don’t have to wait be asked to join one.

5. Conferences

Generally, the aim of conferences is to foster fellowship with people state-wide/provincially, nationally or internationally depending on the occasion. In addition, they encourage networking and create opportunities to do so. So why not attend a conference to meet other christians? Check out gycweb.org for a conference that happens yearly.

6. Mission Trips

Similar to joining a ministry, mission trips allow you to meet people who share the same passion as you. You also get the opportunity to visit places you may not have gone other wise and you get the satisfaction of helping others who are less fortunate than you. I know of at least one couple that met each that way. I think I’m going to ask them to share their approaching story. If they are willing, you will have to stay tuned to hear that one.

7. Retreats

Churches tend to have retreats for different ministries. I know for my church, the family ministries, singles ministries and youth ministries, tend to organize retreats or camps. These are great opportunities to get to know the members of your church better.

8. Single Events

The singles ministry department, specifically puts on events that cater to singles. People tend to shy away from events that say singles but if you are single and you want meet other christian singles these events are where you need to be. Such events include, but are not limited to, games night, picnics, BBQ’s, speed dating, conversation parties, etc…

9. Christian Dating Site
10. Christian School

Attending a christian college is probably the best place to meet other christians. Everyday, every time you meet someone, the chances of them being christian are high. When you are in the cafeteria in the buffet line, when you are waiting in line to be financially cleared, or when you are waiting for the school bus to go home from school, when you create an approachable opportunity during those times you can relax knowing that the person you are chatting with has already pass the first thing off your list – being a christian.

DISCLAIMER

Please note that just going to church functions outside of church service is not enough. You can easily go these events, surround yourself with other Christians and still not meet anyone new. The key to meeting someone new is creating approachable opportunities. You have to be able to apply the strategies of approaching and approachability, in order to successfully meet someone new.