

# Epiphany Tidings

## Roy's Ramblings...

My wife Lu Ann and I just got finished working two back to back Epiphanyes, one girls and the other boys. The first one left us completely exhausted as Lu Ann had to take over as Lay Director on one day's notice and nothing was completely ready. The original Lay Director's family came down with the flu the week prior to the Epiphany. In spite of all that, the looks of hope on those girls' faces at the Cross Ceremony and during the Fourth-Day talk made it all worthwhile. Lu Ann had to travel out of State on business between the two Epiphanyes and of course her return flight was very late. We headed to the second Epiphany on four hours sleep. The second was also an exercise in being flexible as many team members also succumbed to illness. Assignments had to shifted and we were adjusting up to two hours after the Epiphany started. We completed the Epiphany in utter exhaustion. However once again the looks on the faces of the Stars made it all worthwhile. We were exhausted but reminded of what an awesome program Epiphany is.

As volunteers, we all probably wonder at times if our efforts are worth it. Epiphany requires a lot of work and a high degree of commitment. And we all, at one time or another, have said, "If we make a difference for just one youth, it is all worth it." We were fortunate enough to see that "one youth" first hand during these two Epiphanyes. Not in a Star on these weekends but in one of the volunteers. We were blessed to have a former Star work the first Epiphany as an assistant table leader and give the Fourth Day talk. She then worked on the kitchen team at the second Epiphany the next weekend and when the Fourth Day speaker was a no-show, she gave the Fourth Day talk at that one as well with 10 minutes notice. Her message was the same both times - she was abused and abandoned by family, left to fend for herself at 14, got into trouble and eventually was incarcerated. Before she attended her Epiphany as a Star, she had never even heard of Jesus. She said that an Epiphany weekend just like theirs had helped her turn her life around She was a living breathing testament to the difference an Epiphany can make.

We are not all fortunate enough to see the fruits of this labor of love we call Epiphany. We plant the seed, another waters, and God makes it grow. But over the course of those two weekends, we had the rare privilege of seeing what God had grown from a seed planted by volunteers just like you. Never doubt that it's worth it.

Blessings,  
Roy

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### Epiphany Events

- Giddings #31 & Mart #28  
March 16-18, 2018
- Post #22 April 6-8, 2018
- Krier #24 May 18-20,2018
- State Board Quarterly Meeting:  
May 24,2018.



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## GAINESVILLE #36

Thank you Jane Talcott for the photographs and report on Gainesville Epiphany #36.

Jane reports, "Gainesville #36 just closed. It was a challenging weekend for LD Neal Welch but he guided the team in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We experienced the best ever closing!!"



## UPCOMING EPIPHANY WEEKENDS

Facility	E#	Date	LD	ALD	WC	SD	B. Rep
Brownwood	E 36	TBD					
Clemens	E 44	TBD	Latrina Koole				
Evins	E 7	TBD					
Gainesville	E 37	TBD					
Giddings	E 31	March 16-18	Jenny Flannery	Anne Wilkerson		Mike Jones	Roy Bradshaw
Krier	E 24	May 18-20	Yvonne Gonzales				Marsha Reindl
Mart	E 28	March 16-18	Kerri Kenney	Chris Kenny			
Post	E 22	April 6-8	Dan Swanson	Paula Swanson	Cindy Johnson	Bill Fuller	

## Krier Epiphany #23 Lay Director's Report

As the teaming process began, we were struggling to fill all positions, but our God is so GOOD! He provided just the right amount of volunteers to make the weekend happen and for the weekend to run smoothly. The whole team pulled together and worked very well together. There was no "this is not my job" or "I can't do it". Lots of smiles, graciously accepting other jobs, and positive attitudes. It was a wonderful weekend.

Katheryn Cline  
Lay Director Krier E #23

## Giddings Epiphany #30

October 13-15, 2017  
Lay Director: Jack Flannery

I must say that I felt like E30 was by far the best weekend we have ever had!!!

On Friday morning there was a young man removed because Chaplain Horton had received an email stating he had assaulted staff. Chaplain was disturbed about it because he had really prayed for this particular boy Frederick to attend the weekend. Chaplain and the SD prayed together and removed him from the roster.

About two hours later Security came over and confirmed that the offense happened over 30 days ago and that particular staff had sent the email knowing it would knock Frederick off the roster. We brought him back on team and

gave him to our most experienced family members, Lynn and Laura Fletcher. He was an asset to E30.

The Lay Director had some confusion about setting up the families and placed 1 person as Assistant Spiritual Director that didn't have any solid qualifications. There was lots of prayer involved and counseling. We decided to leave Connie as ASD and it worked out quite well. Going forward, the upcoming Lay Director has already been given instructions on team assignments.

Other than being one hour late on Saturday morning and losing one Star for behavior, everything went just as God had planned it, and many lives were touched, including the team!

Love always in Christ,  
Anne Wilkinson, Board Representative

## Krier Epiphany #23

November 3-5, 2017  
Lay Director: Katheryn Cline

Epiphany # 23 was a blessing for the stars and for the team. The Holy Spirit showed up and helped the team overcome the challenges. We were able to recruit only one new team member so we had a small team of 28 but through the power of God, we managed. Katheryn encouraged flexibility and willingness to pitch in when needed, and so the team was able to provide more rec than we've ever done on a weekend as well as putting on all the skits despite not having superstars. Since Krier is alternating boys' and girls' there were no stars left from the previous boys' Epiphany.

The Lay Director Katheryn Cline did an excellent job of assigning team members to their jobs. For the first time the music team also served as table family leaders, and that worked well.

The talks followed the outlines, and the speakers' stories were a witness to God's transforming power. Restroom breaks and tray processing went smoothly. The last two weekends the staff has brought the trays to our dining area, and that has saved time. As before, we still have the problem of boys eating too much, but this weekend no one got sick. As always, the food was outstanding; we are very grateful for our outside team.

I am so thankful that I could serve as Assistant Spiritual Director and Board Rep on Epiphany #23!

Sarah Holden, Board Representative

## Post Epiphany #21

October 13-15, 2017

Lay Director: Kristi Howard

As usual I met the team at the Host Church the day before the Epiphany. They were well organized having most of the preparatory work done prior to set-up time. I think that rolled into me being put at a table for the Epiphany. While I did enjoy the work, I think maybe they were just trying to keep the Board Rep out of their way.

The Epiphany started off great. The talks were well done and effective. We did have some boys leave during the day, but most returned within an hour or so. The table that I was on would ultimately lose two boys that did not return. There were a lot of problems on that table because three of the boys claimed to be related. Truthfully, I only believe two were, but the facility had not informed the team of this. Therefore, there wasn't an opportunity to address this until it was too late. In all honesty, I think we would have lost the two boys we did anyway,

Otherwise the communication with the facility seemed excellent. There are some constraints due to the facilities available, but the team has adapted and handled it as well as usual. All in all it was a very good Epiphany. This is a team with a high content of veterans that is very adaptable.

Roy Bradshaw, Board Representative

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*“...I think maybe they were just trying to keep the Board Rep out of their way.”*

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## Evins Epiphany #5

July 28-30 2017

Lay Director:

The Epiphany retreat was held at the Evins Unit July 28-30, 2017. The Evins Unit is located near Edinburg, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley.

24 Stars attended the retreat. The team consisted of 29 volunteers, mostly from the Rio Grande Valley but some team members came from San Antonio and the Houston area. 6 team members were new to Epiphany. There were 2 Super Stars who served during the retreat. 5 staff members were always present.

The team gathered at a local church Thursday July 27 for the commissioning service. The leadership did a great job of making last minute adjustments including last minute cancellation of a team member and adjusting accordingly.

The Evins Unit serves a diverse mixture of incarcerated youth. Many are serving time until they reach legal age and then will continue to serve their sentence at the Texas Department of Corrections. Many, if not all, are convicted of serious felonies. The team did a great job of trying to reach the Stars. Many

Stars are very reluctant to participate for a variety of reasons and the team worked very hard at opening the hearts and minds of those youths. As always, God is in charge and his Holy Spirit can transform lives and open hearts where human hands cannot.

The talks were very good as many of the speakers had experienced events in their lives which mirrored the lives of the youth. All procedures were followed and adjustments were made as deemed necessary.

The team worked well together. As Evins is very young in the Epiphany process, it was very nice to see the excitement and dedication of the team members who only have a few Epiphany experiences under their belt.

The outside team did a fantastic job of preparing the food. The outside kitchen team was very kind in showing me how they make their variety of salsas....which are some of the best I have ever had.

Greg Bradley

State Board Representative

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## Brownwood Epiphany #34

September 1-3, 2017

Lay Director Trudy Smith

Spiritual Director: Pastor Mike Wiley

Assistant Lay Director: Deb Tumlinson

Weekend Coordinator: Anna Jackson

It is always a pleasure to serve alongside the Brownwood Epiphany Team! The 22 Stars who attended were eager to be there and soaked up the love poured out on them by the team. In spite of a couple of people dropping off just a few days before the weekend, there were 30 team members who functioned like a well-oiled machine. Trudy and her leadership team did a great job directing the weekend and the girls responded well to their leadership. As is usually the case with this facility, bathroom and medication breaks can cause long pauses in the schedule, but the team did a great job keeping momentum going with singing or by engaging the girls in conversation around their tables.

The food was outstanding!!! Kudos to

the Cooks and the Kitchen Team for serving such amazing meals the entire weekend! (My mouth is watering just thinking about the chicken fajitas...) This team takes food serious! It is obvious that they don't just go for what would be quick and easy—they pour a lot of love and effort into blessing the girls (and the team, and the guards) with the meals and snacks they provide.

The entire weekend seemed to function smoothly. Talks followed the outlines and were within their time frames. The girls were highly attentive to Debbie Bellinger's Forgiveness Series. Her story was an emotional testimony that many of the girls were able to relate to, and she did a great job keeping the focus on God's restoration and the importance of forgiveness. Likewise, the Fourth Day speaker, Shenika Arrendondo, gave a powerful testimony of God's continuing work in our lives as we walk out our "Fourth Days." I know that LD Trudy made the assignments, but it was obvi-

ous that God hand-picked each of the speakers for this weekend to specifically connect with this group of girls. It was such a blessing to watch God move on their hearts and break the chains of unforgiveness and hurt.

The only suggestion that I have would be for future Lay Directors to remind the Life of Christ actors not to stray too far from the script. On this walk, one team member in particular chose to ad-lib a good bit, going well beyond the allotted time and even straying from what is portrayed in Scripture. Other than that, I did not notice anything that was not in line with Epiphany guidelines.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Board Rep for Brownwood #34! God was exalted and praised throughout the weekend and only Heaven knows the full-extent of what was accomplished for the Kingdom through this Epiphany.

Lisa Seaton, Board Representative



*Caption describing picture or graphic*

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

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