

YWEA mean so much to me and my family personally. Together, my husband Bill & I have been a part of working with all the campaigns for our church. I admit that first year Bro. Ashley Way, our pastor at that current time, came to us about heading up our first YWEA project, I had never heard of YWEA. He asked us to pray about it and we did, as well as research exactly what it was and its history. We were immediately touched by the great things YWEA had been able to accomplish throughout its origin and knew we wanted to get involved. So we sat down, got a plan & jumped in with all we had!

Our first order of business was to educate our congregation on YWEA & then together get us a vision and plan of action. Our very first year we raised \$7,000! We were so excited and each year we have continued to grow our vision and our education in YWEA.

I know everyone knows what YWEA stands for, Youth World Evangelism Action, but I would like to share with you what it means to Blackville Church of God.

The **Y** in YWEA to us means,

Yearning – Since our church started being involved in YWEA seven years ago, it has opened up a yearning within our congregation to do more for the kingdom. It has created a yearning and hunger in us for helping others and taught us how together we can make a difference in the world. Who would have ever thought a little church in Adrian, GA could have risen well over \$125,000 in the last 7 years. It hasn't been about the amount raised as much as it has been about the church as a whole coming together & proving that we can accomplish great & mighty things if we all contribute physically and monetarily. Now, not everyone has been able to even contribute monetarily. We have a church auction which is our primary fundraiser that some people contribute to with items like baked goods, hand crafted items or professional services like haircuts, lawn care, car wash, babysitting etc. It has grown us together with a mission. We are proud of what we accomplish and are always amazed at how God blesses us.

YWEA has also evoked **Wisdom** into our lives. This is what our **W** stands for! We have all been able to take each project through the years and learn about areas and people that we would never have taken the initiative on our own to research and call in prayer. Our children's church and youth programs have utilized the curriculum provided on the MY YWEA webpage to give our young people a foundation of knowledge for the purpose and cause they are raising the money. Our kids have found such satisfaction in helping less fortunate children. It has also pushed us to dig deep into what the bible tells us about missions and helping those in need.

Next, I would say our **E** in YWEA stands for **Example** – Seven years ago, by the example of Bro. Ashley Way, a seed was planted in our church for YWEA. Even through a pastor change two years ago, Bro. Barry Peavy, our present pastor, was able to step in and still see the harvest continue to grow. Through a vision and passion from our pastor, as well as our YWEA coordinating team, a hunger for YWEA and missions was implanted into everyone in our

church. By example, we have been able to show what teamwork, prayer, and a lot of hard work can accomplish for God.

But that can only happen if you have the right **Attitude!**

Yes, Attitude is what our **A** stands for in YWEA. When defined, Attitude means a manner, disposition, or position with regard to a person or thing; a state of mind or a feeling. That really says it all! I can honestly say that your attitude towards YWEA and missions, as a leader in the church, will be reflected on by others. YWEA can't be just about raising money. It takes a heart condition for it and believing in what you are raising the money for. Don't miss the opportunity to teach your members that the most important part of mission work is to believe in what you are raising the money for. Don't let it be just about meeting a pledge or goal!

Our hearts at Blackville began many years ago being conditioned to make a difference. Now is your opportunity to stand up and do the same. Change hearts around the world and change hearts within your own church. Now days so many people are so concerned with self that they miss how beautiful life can be when helping others. So we at Blackville challenge you all to find a **Yearning** within your church members, seek and teach **Wisdom** to them about the project this year, lead them by **Example** and please, do it with a Christ like **Attitude**.

Many have asked us over the years to provide some examples of a few fundraising ideas that have worked for us. I have listed them below. Of course, it is difficult to explain in this letter with much detail, so know that we are always willing to speak with your YWEA Coordinator(s). We do not utilize all these events every year. We try and rotate a few to keep them exciting.

Motorcycle Ride: This event usually takes place in March for us. The great thing about this event is that it gets many people involved throughout the area that does not attend our church or any church for that matter. We always have t-shirts made and make them available to others as well as we give one to the riders as a gift with registration. We usually ask for donations of \$25 per rider. We have members of our church prepare a lunch for them when the ride is over. We have a 50/50 raffle and door prizes to give away as well as information available about YWEA and our future events. We put several "Bikers" within our own church as event coordinators so that their knowledge of area bikers can be utilized. Average funds raised: \$2,000

4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament: This event is usually scheduled in April for our church. We start gathering teams, hole sponsors, and door prizes about three months ahead. This is the break-down we use....

\$100 Bronze Sponsor (Printed tee sign & Publicity)

\$250 Silver Sponsor (Printed tee sign, Publicity, 2 free players)

\$500 Gold Sponsor (Printed tee sign, Publicity, 4 free players)

Most of your revenue is made off of hole sponsors. This alone raises about \$1,800 of profit, minus the cost of signs. Some business actually have their own signs and prefer you to use them, saving you money! We have repeat sponsors each year so we save the signs to use from year to year. Next, you need to provide a lunch. We usually prepare hamburgers and hotdogs so that the players can easily pick up lunch on a specific hole & continue to play. Our church ladies ministry provides individually wrapped sweets for pick up as well. Team cost is \$200 to play. We make extra money by having tickets available for purchase for the longest drive and closest to the pin contest. We award cash prizes for these and to the winning team. Those amounts are dependent on the number of teams you have to play. A great resource for us has been to contact the golf teams at local schools and give them a discounted rate to play. This helps generate interest and help us meet the minimum team requirements placed by the golf course for closing the course for our tournament. Average funds raised \$2,500.00 but have raised \$8,500 in past.

Auction: We prepare for this event all year. Our auction is our biggest event and draws many people in the area. We have been blessed to have large items donated for the auction most every year by members in our church, such as handmade cedar bedroom furniture, Jeep Cherokee, Sea-Doo Boat and a golf cart. These items are always auctioned off mid-way through the live auction with a minimum opening bid. The auction starts with silent bidding for usually about an hour prior to the event. These items are anything from restaurant gift cards, handmade jewelry, cakes, pies, toys, etc. We provide a meal during our auction for a donation at the door. Our children & youth department serves and waits on the tables for tips. The kids love helping with this. They also look forward to creating some great items for auction. We have many kids who donate painted birdhouses and framed artwork for example. The parents and grandparents are usually the buyers and we always do these items during our live auction and let the child hold it out front for the auctioneer. Our youth usually donate services like babysitting, car wash, and yard work. We've had people in the past donate professional services like a massage, haircut, lawn care, pet grooming, fresh produce, etc. and many of the ladies donate baked goods (ex: one cake a month for a year or home cooked Sunday Dinner for 4). We have so much fun with this event and it is something that everyone looks forward to each year. I can elaborate more if needed as well as give explanation of how we handle bidders and bidder numbers for each person in attendance. Average Funds Raised \$10,000

Envelopes: This is not a new idea of course but we do utilize this all year long. Envelopes \$1 - \$100 are placed in a basket and members can pick one up throughout the year and work on filling it up with the designated amount. They turn them in to the designated person and most people pick up another one to start working on. We have found that allowing them access all year makes it easier for those on a fixed income. They can slowly work on the envelope amount selected without pressure. Average Funds Raised \$8,000

“Lose it All for the Cause” Contest: This fundraiser is so much fun. It does however require some fun individuals willing to “lose” it all for YWEA! This contest starts by us having the church members nominate individuals that they would like to see with their heads shaved. We add up the votes and see who our top 2 individuals are. We then list all others nominated in the order of votes. We contact the top 2 and ask them if they would be willing to be a part of our contest. If they are not, then we move on to next person in line with the highest votes. Once our two victims are chosen we photoshop a picture of them with their heads bald & put them on the screen in church. We have contribution baskets with their names on them available for the duration of the contest! We usually give about a month of time for funds to be raised. They individuals can campaign against each other. We post totals each Sunday to make it more fun and get the loser on fire! They have come up with some pretty sneaky maneuvers to ensure their victory! Whoever raises the most money wins & gets to shave the head of the loser or have a beautician do it in front of the church. The kids especially love this event. We usually end the head shaving show that last night with an ice cream social for fun. Average Funds Raised: \$5,000.00

Fun/Color Run: This is a new event for us this year. Running is at an all-time high and so we hope to capitalize on it this year. We have contacted several individuals familiar with coordinating this event to get their advice and ideas. We are planning to have this event in February. Potential Funds to be raised \$1,500

We have found we get a great response from fundraising events based on seasons and when we can utilize and provide a service that many people would be spending money on any way such as the following:

Photo Quick-Takes: This is or could be a seasonal event. Just about everyone has photos taken for Christmas cards these days! We have a photographer come to the church for two days. We provide a 25 minute photo session with two scenes to choose from, Fall or Christmas is most popular. We charged \$40 and they receive a CD with the edited pictures on it for them to use for their Christmas cards etc. Average Funds Raised \$1,500

Poinsettia’s Sale: During Christmas, many people love to decorate with poinsettias. We sell them for \$25 and they are placed in the church in “Honor” or in “Memory” of someone during Christmas. They may submit a photo with the order form. I then create a power point/slide show presentation with music that includes all the photos & names of those being remembered or honored. It is played at our candlelight Christmas service. After the service, they take them home. This has become a very personal fundraiser and it is beneficial to both the giver and receiver during a difficult time of year. You could also do this with Easter Lilies. Average Funds Raised \$1,000

Boston Butt, Ham & BBQ Sale: This of course is a traditional fundraiser but we have found that the most success for us has been around a holiday. We usually do this the week of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Fourth of July. We have done this over the years a variety of ways. We cook them ourselves sometimes or we have a local BBQ restaurant that works with us allowing us to sell tickets and the purchaser can pick up the items at their convenience. Our ticket options when doing this is as follows:

Family Meal Pack (1lb BBQ, Buns, & 2 sides) \$20, Ham \$45 or Boston Butt \$25

This allows flexibility on the dates for the purchaser and less work for us! No cooking or delivering....just sell tickets! Average Funds Raised \$2,500.00

Good Luck and God Bless!!!

Bill & Crystal Bailey

Blackville Church of God - YWEA Coordinators

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