



De Colores  
Ministries  
of Grand  
Rapids

# DeColores Newsletter

May - June 2007

On the web at [www.decoloresgr.org](http://www.decoloresgr.org)

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**Fall Weekends are on their way!!**

**Men's Weekend #205, Sept 20- 23, 2007**

**Chuck Dykhuizen - Rector,**

**Ray Schauble - Co-Rector**

**Cascade Christian Church**

**Women's Weekend #206 October 4-7, 2007**

**Micki DeRuiter - Rectoress**

**Jan Smith - Co-Rectoress**

**Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church**

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## **Important dates to remember!!**

The June **DeColores Board meeting** will be 9:30 AM, **June 9**  
at 3rd Reformed Church, 2060 Michigan St. NE.

There is no board meeting in July.

The August **De Colores Board** meeting will be 9:30 AM, **August 11**  
at 3rd Reformed Church, 2060 Michigan St. NE.

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## **Being a Sponsor - - it is an Awesome Responsibility**

Having made a DeColores Ministries Weekend, you may want to share the experience. But who do you sponsor? Why should you sponsor? What's your responsibility? How do you sponsor?

**Who?** The best answer to "who" is someone you love and want to have the same experience of Jesus up close and personal as you did. This requires that you know the person well enough to know whether a Weekend is the right thing for them. DeColores Ministries is an intense short course in Christianity. The primary goal is to renew those who are Christians, so they can in turn spread His message of love and Good News. By developing lay people to be leaders in the home, church and community, God's word is spread. Sounds like Jesus and his disciples.

**Why?** The "why" answer is your desire that your friend be a committed Christian in all aspects of life. You want them involved in an ongoing active ministry, one-on-one, small group, church leader, or wherever their gifts lead them. A Christian wants to spread the Good News. Your example as sponsor is a critical part of the Weekend experience. You must be an example of a Christian in a broken world. Help your friend grow by sharing your successes and failures, along with your dependence on God for daily help. Share what keeps you going, where your spiritual life has grown. Discuss how piety, study and action change your life.

**Responsibility?** Your "responsibility" is to develop a long term relationship. Be a friend, mentor, supporter, prayer partner. As you grow in your faith, lead your friend. Walk with him/her spiritually. Offer a Weekend as a gift, a great way to develop relationships with other people who love the Lord too. Answer questions. Share what it has done for your spiritual life. Leave things like Palanca for a surprise. Explain what they need to bring.

Bring your friend to the Weekend and stay until they are settled and have met some of the people. Be sure to attend sponsors chapel. Be prepared to be there as long as necessary. During the Weekend, support your candidate with prayers and Palanca. Be prepared to help his or her family at home with meals, baby-sitters, transportation, or any other need. Bring the family to Holy Hour and to the church service Sunday morning. This is the beginning of Christian Community In Action.

When bringing your new Crusista home, allow time to talk about the experience. Be available! Walk with your friend after the Weekend. Encourage them to attend follow-ups. Take them to Ultreya (bring yourself too). Attend the next Holy Hour and Closing with them. Introduce them to friends in the broader community. Encourage them to remain active in the De Colores community by your example.

**Remember that this is your friend; be available for them! If for any reason, you cannot fulfill your duties as a Sponsor, please make sure that you find someone willing to do it for you.**

### **Application**

An application for a Weekend can be submitted any time, invitations are based on the date of the application. In the case of married couples, the husband must go first. If the husband is not willing, the wife must wait one year from the date of application. The wife's application should be submitted as soon as possible. The sponsor and wife covenant to pray for the husband to go to De Colores for up to one year. If the husband goes, the wife is immediately eligible. If there is good reason the husband cannot attend, sponsor brings request and rationale to the board for waiver of the requirement.

Candidate - fills out an application and returns it to their sponsor. Offer to help and check that all questions are answered honestly.

Sponsor - Completes their part of the application and sends it with the registration fee to:  
DeColores Ministries, P.O. Box 150263, Grand Rapids, MI 49515.

### **Invitation** (a few weeks before the Weekend)

Candidate – receives a letter or call of invitation. The candidate must respond yes in time for the Weekend. Questions about the candidate will be directed to the sponsor. Keep in touch with your candidate, answer questions and encourage them.

### **Confirmation** (after candidate accepts)

Sponsor – receives confirmation of candidate's attendance with a summary of responsibilities.

Sponsor – receives Sponsor Letter with weekend specifics.

**Questions?** Call the Pre-DeColores Couple: Doug and Lezlie Price, (616) 527-1835,  
douglas.lezlie@sbcglobal.net

### **A Few Words of Caution**

A De Colores Weekend is not for everyone. It may not be God's timing that they make this Weekend. A Weekend is not a place to send someone so God can fix them. People who have serious emotional problems, alcohol, drug or other problems may find this Weekend contributes to, rather than helps, their problems. Yet many people with these problems have enjoyed the Weekend and found the inner joy and happiness we all seek. In short, **know where your Candidate is spiritually before submitting an application.** The sponsor must be aware that their candidate may be sent home by the Rector/ Rectress because of disruptive behavior or total disinterest. If a candidate's behavior prevents others from enjoying the Weekend, the sponsor will receive a call to come take their candidate home.

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of Grand Rapids, MI

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P.O. Box 150263  
Grand Rapids, MI 49515-0263

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