

Hello, My name is _____, Lafayette Great Banquet # _____. {and we all hear it.... CLAP!!}

Let's pause for just a second.... we all get used to hearing this introduction method.... but for just a moment..... go back in time to the very first time you said that phrase at your weekend. The first time you stood up in front of the group and introduced yourself.....

Our weekends. Each of us had our own individual experience that now binds us together in this incredible community of the Great Banquet. God's love and grace touches each of us in a unique way on our weekends, but together we are his community. A lot of us left our weekends on FIRE with the flame of God's love burning brightly in our hearts.

That fire of God's love has transformed us and has spread to others as we share his love with our families, friends and neighbors. The Lafayette Great Banquet community has continued, weekend after weekend, to be the hands and feet of Jesus as more and more people experienced their own three day encounter with Christ.

When the Lafayette Banquet started, demand for the weekends grew and grew! The weekends filled up fast and a wait lists to attend a weekend began to get long. Therefore, to offer the Banquet to more people each year an additional women's weekend in the fall was ADDED.

Two women's weekends started and wait lists continued! WOW!! What a fire was burning!! So many lives being changed by the power of God's love.

However, the last SEVERAL years there have been no need for wait lists. In fact, the guest list for weekends (men, women or awakening) are rarely even close to full. The fire has not been burning as brightly.

The Lafayette Great Banquet board of directors has the duty of continual evaluation. The board must look at things analytically and make sure all of the resources (time and energy and financial) are being stewardedly wisely. The past couple of years there has been talk about eliminating the second women's weekend in the fall.

In February, the board met for an extra long meeting to discuss current issues and to really dig deep about the second women's fall weekend. To be honest, the second weekend takes a TON of additional resources. It takes the commitment of a whole SECOND team, the time given by the entire community to support the events of the weekend and the financial resources required. Every single weekend is a huge undertaking requiring the efforts of MANY. (It's called a community for a reason)

As the board dug deep into discussion a sense of heaviness fell over the group. Each member could feel the weight of spiritual responsibility. Removing a weekend felt defeating. It would be giving the enemy victory. Eliminating a weekend would take away the opportunity for 42 guest's lives to be touched by the love of God!!

How could we eliminate a weekend??? How could we not?? The number of guests going through the banquets the past several years do NOT justify this second women's weekend!! But, UGH!!!!!! How could we vote to eliminate it??

We know YOUR life was touched by GOD during YOUR weekend. We KNOW you are passionate about the banquet. We know that the enemy HATES the banquet and wants for it to fail.

The board PRAYS and seeks God's wisdom and feels the heavy weight of responsibility to the Banquet community. After much discussion **the board decided that they do NOT want to eliminate a women's weekend!** Rather, the board would like the FIRE to burn brightly again and for the weekends to once again be full (with wait lists)!!

How?? RE-CHARGE!!! Seek God to pour out the power of the Holy Spirit on each of us in the community! Re-charge the passion we all felt during our weekends and to have the fire of the Holy Spirit burn bright!

The Banquet is a COMMUNITY of all of us and it takes all of us!!! We are the hands and feet of Jesus!!! We all want the banquet to grow, be strong and offer the weekends to a full number of guests each and every banquet season!!

The Board is just the catalyst.... but it is the ENTIRE COMMUNITY that is NEEDED to re-charge! Together the flame can re-kindle and burn bright! TOGETHER we can be the hands and feet of Jesus reaching out to the world around us!!! **As a community we can be the vessel that God uses to reach FULL guest lists!** TOGETHER we can be a thriving community that reaches out to others and gathers together to support one another.

Soooo..... **YOU are needed!!! The community needs each of us!!!**

The community needs your strengths, your talents, your support, your love, your hands and feet to BOTH serve and to invite guests.

The board has declared the year of 2019 to be the YEAR of RE-CHARGE!! The board does not want to give up a women's weekend without a fight!! I know that none of us in the banquet community want to see a decrease in the number of lives that can be touched with God's love.

What do we do as a community??

- 1) **Please join the board and lets all PRAY:** Pray for God to RE-CHAGRE the fire of the banquet!! GOD is the power!!

- 2) **PLEASE fan the flame of God's love by reaching out to a banquet friend** you haven't seen for a while and encourage them to come and share in a gathering or weekend event. Re-charge in action by all of us banquet community joining TOGETHER in the power of the Holy Spirit and through HIM..... the banquet can be a BLAZING FIRE of HIS love!!!
- 3) **SPONSOR guests!!** Invite others to experience the power of God's love by giving them the opportunity to attend a Banquet or Awakening Weekend. The banquet exists to share God's love!
- 4) **Volunteer to serve.** There are SO many ways to serve within the banquet. Serving meals, preparing snacks, signing up on the prayer charts, sponsoring guests and attending gatherings are just a few ways that you can serve... the banquet NEEDS you! You also have special talents that you can share. (music, technical, computer, writing, IT, organization, cleaning, etc)

**The Lafayette Great Banquet,
fueled by the power of the Holy
Spirit, RE-CHARGE the flame of
HIS love!!!**