

## Connections.....with Steve Becker

### Take that Risk!

Today's column is dedicated to all those intrepid topic writers and theme teams who will spend this summer scratching their heads to come up with thoughtful session plans.

Why do we write sessions? What are they supposed to do for us? To me, effective session plans create a framework for self examination, a novel way to consider ourselves in a different light. Offering us mirrors to our spiritual selves, the best topics give us tools to examine our attitudes, test drive our beliefs, and deepen our insight into who we are at our cores. In doing so, we can try out personal statements of faith in a safe place, comparing who we *believe* we are with who we *really* are. Dynamic questions urge us to take a few more steps on our journeys of **becoming**.

What types of subjects make the best plans? When confronted with this task, many writers try to play it safe. Unwilling to hurt anyone's feelings or rock the spiritual boat, they choose safe subjects that lack the ability to evoke self-examination, values clarification, or deepening of faith. People come to our groups with an innate thirst to improve themselves. One way our themes can quench that thirst is to challenge our members to take the risk to look at themselves in novel ways: to put well-heelled attitudes to the test, prize their beliefs through public affirmation, consider the consequences of alternatives, and act on those beliefs.

Take the risk to be edgy. To entice. To provoke.

Have a wonderful summer!

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