

Walking so missionaries don't have to...



Via Dolorosa

Resource Packet



SPEED THE LIGHT

“Via Dolorosa”

WHAT?

Via Dolorosa ("Way of Grief" in Latin) is a road in the old city of Jerusalem, a path where Jesus was lead in agony, carrying the crucifixion cross. There are a total of 14 stations along this path, based on events that occurred on the way to the Golgotha hill, the site of crucifixion, which is located at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This famous walk is reenacted yearly in Jerusalem during Easter weekend. This can also be a powerful weekend for you locally.

The **Via Dolorosa** walk is a **Speed-the-Light** evangelism event that will impact your life! The mission is to carrying crosses on a 35-mile walk over a period of 3 days on Easter weekend. (this can be shortened as needed) This will take place throughout the Appalachian District as we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to our communities in order to raise money for missionaries around the world. Each participant will have pledge sheets in order to raise money. Be a part of carrying the cross and making a statement for Jesus Christ in your community!

WHY?

- 1) To be a witness for Jesus Christ
- 2) To see the lives of people changed by the reality of the cross
- 3) Raise money for a great cause, Speed-the Light, and help missionaries around the globe.

HOW TO RAISE THE MONEY?

- 1) Pledge forms are provided. Have individuals pledge either per mile or for a one time amount. (Suggest at least \$10.00, but accept anything.)
 - 2) Contact (in person) local businesses using a letter from your youth leader. Include the following in the letter:
 - (a) The donation is tax deductible (they will receive a receipt).
 - (b) The cause—what we are doing and why. (Speed the Light: money for missionaries to buy equipment such as vehicles, sound equipment, etc.)
 - (c) Any business that gives \$100 or more will receive free advertising in the newspaper, on the radio, on a sponsor board, and in your church bulletin.
 - 3) TIP: When you go to businesses, ask if they may want to top another business...
EX. "This business gave \$100; what would you like to give?"
 - 4) Ask parents to take pledge forms to work (get money up-front).
- *All money is to be collected before the event, if possible!

THE (SUGGESTED) PLAN

Aim to raise at least \$300.00

- >That's 3 businesses at \$100.00 each
- >30 people at \$10.00 each
- >15 people at \$20.00 each

*Many could do much more than this. Please raise as much money as possible, even above and beyond \$300.00. Remember, we're doing this for Jesus to help spread the gospel around the world!

REWARDS:

*Everyone who participates will receive a special momento.

*The top 3 people who raise the most over \$500.00 will receive:

- 1st.....BEST gift certificate for Mall or Store, other STL gifts
- 2nd.....BETTER gift certificate for Mall or Store, other STL gifts
- 3rd.....GOOD gift certificate for Mall or Store, other STL gifts

*Also, anyone who raises over \$500 will be invited to a special dinner event....courtesy of your youth leader!

Note: Letters for you to carry to businesses have been included in this packet. You will most likely have a better response by taking the letter "in person" than calling over the phone.

Maintain a Proper Attitude at All Times

“Your attitude should be that of Jesus Christ.” Phillipians 2:5

- ◆ Have a positive outlook on learning through this trip.
- ◆ Be willing to learn something new about your spiritual life and who you are in Christ.
- ◆ Please walk without complaining...this can be difficult.
- ◆ Be flexible...you may have to adjust to conditions that you may not enjoy.
- ◆ Be an encourager and supporter.
- ◆ Remember why you are carrying the cross.
- ◆ This event has proved to be powerful in every way. Let's keep it that way!!!

REMEMBER:

This is going to be one of the most incredible things you will ever do as a witness for Jesus Christ. Your best behavior will be required. We will be walking along streets and roads that require you to be alert, courteous, and cautious. If your "goofing around" or attitude hurts the witness of Jesus or the safety of the group, you will be sent home. This is non-negotiable.



Items You Need to Bring

Permission/Insurance Release Form:
MUST HAVE! See your youth pastor for this.

Personal Items: Rain gear, camera (optional), 3 changes of clothes, sleeping bag, pillow, bathroom items (towels, wash cloths, soap, etc.), vaseline/lotion for feet, toilet paper (1 roll), plastic bag for dirty clothes, sunglasses, sunscreen, money for snacks and "Via Dolorosa" expense

Clothing: T-shirts, jacket, sweat shirts, lightweight pants/sweats (jeans are NOT suggested—you will be in pain!), comfortable shorts (decent/modest), 2 pairs of tennis shoes/walking shoes.

Suggested medical supplies:

Band-aids, gauze pads and wraps, ace bandages, ice packs, sports cream (for sore muscles), blister kit.

**There will be medical assistance available.

Food:	Lunch on Friday	Will be provided
	Supper on Friday	Will be provided
	Breakfast on Saturday	Will be provided
	Lunch on Saturday	Will be provided
	Supper on Saturday	Will be provided
	Breakfast on Sunday	Will be provided
Money:	\$10.00 "Via Dolorosa" t-shirt	
	\$10.00 Snacks	

***This may seem to be a lot, however, you must pack light. Remember, this is not going to be a fashion show. Dress comfortable and conservative. Don't forget any of the items listed. You will most likely need them all.

"Via Dolorosa 20XX"

Suggested Event Schedule

Friday:

- 8:00 a.m. – Arrive at church
- 8:30 a.m. - Leave for starting point
- 9:00 a.m. - Arrive at starting point
- 9:15 a.m. - Kick-off Prayer
- 9:30 a.m. - Begin "Via Dolorosa"
- 11:00 a.m. - 1st Break
- 12:15 a.m. - Lunch
- 2:15 p.m. - 2nd Break
- 3:30 p.m. - 3rd Break
- 5:00 p.m. – Arrive at ending point

Saturday:

- 7:30 a.m. - Wake-up
- 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast/Devotion
- 8:30 a.m. - Leave for starting point
- 9:00 a.m. - Prayer/Continue "Via Dolorosa"
- 11:00 a.m. - 1st Break
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. - 2nd Break
- 3:45 p.m. - 3rd Break
- 5:00 p.m. – Ending point

Sunday:

- 7:00 a.m. - Wake-up
- 7:30 a.m. - Breakfast/Devotion
- 8:00 a.m. - Pack-up
- 9:00 a.m. - Leave for starting point
- 9:15 a.m. - Continue "Via Dolorosa"
- 10:45 a.m. - Arrive back at your church

“Police Informational Letter”

<<Date>>

<<Name of Police Department>>

Dear Sheriff <<Name>>,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting project that the students of <<church name>> are going to be participating in on <<date>>. This weekend is the time that all Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we will organize a 35 mile cross walk to commemorate this glorious event. We call this event “Via Dolorosa” which means “the way of the cross”. We are hoping to accomplish two things with this project:

- 1) Encourage the faith of the residents of <<Your area/county>>.
- 2) Raise funds for the support of missionaries around the world.

This 3 day event will take place through-out <<County name>>. I have enclosed maps containing the routes we will be walking over the 3 days. I assure you this event is well planned, and safety is our first priority. There will be approximately <<Number or range>> people walking and we will have plenty of adult supervision at all times. There will be two vehicles traveling with us with flashing caution lights. One will go before the group and one will fall behind the group. We will walk beside the road or on the side walks (never in the road or streets). We will also have a Registered Nurse, Doctor, or EMT on hand at all times.

If you have any questions about “Via Dolorosa”, please call me at <<Phone number>>. Thank you for your time, and may God bless you in your leadership of <<Name of police department>>.

Sincerely,

<<Your Name>>

<<Position>>

<<Church name>>

“Press Release Letter”

“Tax-deductible gift receipt/thank you”
(On church letterhead)

<Date>

«Organization Name»

«First & Last Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip Code»

Dear «First Name»,

Thank you for your tax-deductible donation of \$<<Amount>> toward our youth missions fundraiser, “Via Dolorosa 20XX”, a 35 mile cross walk, which was held on <<date>> of this year.

Be assured that your contribution in its entirety is going to missions’ endeavors around the world. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

<Youth Leader Name>

<Youth leader title & church name>

<<Date>>

<<Local newspaper name>>

Attention: Editor/Journalist

Dear Sirs:

On <<date>>, the students of <<church name>> will be walking 35 miles through a portion of <<county/area name>> to raise support for missionaries around the world. This weekend is the time that all Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we will be honoring this glorious occasion by carrying crosses during our walk. This event is called "Via Dolorosa" which means "the way of the cross". We hope to encourage the faith of all those who witness us walking. Last year during this event, we raised over <<amount>> for missions, and we saw teenagers give of their time and energy for others!

I would like to invite you to report the good news of some local teenagers who are not getting in trouble, but they are giving of themselves to support missionaries whose have committed to help those less fortunate than those of us living in the United States. With teenagers getting a lot of negative press these days, I believe it would be encouraging to our community to see some youth of <<county/area name>> involved in a positive event.

If your newspaper provides a place for Public Announcements, I would greatly appreciate all that you could do to inform the community of "Via Dolorosa". If anyone is interested in supporting this project or has any questions regarding this event they can contact me at <<Phone number>>. Thank you for your assistance and may God Bless You as you serve our community.

Sincerely,

<<Your name>>

<<Your position & church name>>

“Business Sponsor Request Letter”

(Use when asking for donations from businesses)

<<Date>>

Dear Community Business Leader:

Christ not only calls each of us to walk with Him, but He calls each of us to walk the extra mile for our neighbors both here and abroad.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is <<name>>, and I am the <<church position at church name>>. This coming Easter weekend <<date>> we will have about << # >> young people carrying crosses 35 miles over a three day period. This event will take place in <<county/area>>, and we are doing this to raise money for missions’ works around the world. We are calling this walk “Via Dolorosa”, which literally means “the way of the cross” or “the way of suffering”.

We are encouraging individuals and businesses, such as yours, to give a tax- deductible donation to this worthy cause. Those donating \$100.00 or more will be listed on our ‘Sponsor Board’, which will be located at <<Church name>>. Also, the names of sponsors will appear in the local newspaper, on the radio, and in our church bulletin which will reach hundreds of people. You will receive a tax receipt for your donation.

You can make an investment by calling <<Church name>> church office at <<Phone #>>, or by giving a donation by check to the bearer of this letter. Please make checks payable to <<Church name>>. If you have any questions, please call me at the church office from <<time>>, Monday through Friday.

Thank you for your time,

<<Name>>

<<Church position & church name>>

“Public Service Announcement Letter”

<<Date>>

<<Radio Station name>>

Dear Friends at <<Radio Station name>>,

“Via Dolorosa 20XX” is coming to the <<County/Area>> area. On <<date>>, the students of <<Church name>> will be walking 35 miles throughout <<County/Area>> to raise support for missionaries around the world. In the past, we have raised over <<Amount>> for missions and hope to raise <<Amount>> this year. This weekend is the time that all Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, so we will carry crosses during the walk in honor of His sacrifice. The term “Via Dolorosa” means “the way of the cross”. One of the goals of this event is to encourage the faith of all those who witness the walk. For more information concerning supporting this project or if you have any questions, contact <<Your Name>> at <<Phone>>.

If your station provides Public Service Announcements, I would greatly appreciate all that you could do to inform the community of “Via Dolorosa”. Thank you for your assistance and may God Bless You as you serve our community.

Sincerely,

<<Your name>>

<<Church position & church name>>

“Police ‘Thank You’ Letter”

<<Date>>

<<Police department name & address>>

Dear Sheriff <<Name>>,

I wanted to take a moment of your time to thank you and your staff for your assistance and cooperation during Via Dolorosa 20XX, the 35 mile cross-walk that took place on Easter weekend, <<date>>. The escorts all three days were absolutely wonderful to have. Each officer was great to work with.

I also wanted to share with you a few of the results from the walk. Of course, several folks told us how encouraged they were to see students standing up for their faith. They felt inspired to go through their day no matter the difficulty. Our students were also personally challenged and inspired in their relationship with Christ. We raised <<Amount>> for missions that weekend.

May God bless you in your leadership of our <<Name of>> Police Department.

Sincerely,

<<Your name>>

<<Church position & church name>>

“Volunteer ‘Thank You’ Letter”

<<Date>>

Dear <<Name(s)>>,

Whew! Via Dolorosa was a huge success with powerful spiritual growth, increased unity, and over <<Amount>> raised for missionaries! We couldn't have done it without your time, effort, and energy. We want to thank you for all that you did to contribute to this ministry event.

Not only do we appreciate your help during the walk, but also your willingness to influence the lives of young people by showing them your love and support. The young people were uplifted and rejuvenated by all the encouragement, support, and FOOD! We're still talking about how delicious the meals were during Via Dolorosa...thank you!

Young people love to be with adults who love and accept them. Thank you for doing just that. Your contribution made a difference in their lives. We hope that you were as blessed by them as they were by you.

Again, thank you for contributing to Via Dolorosa 20XX. May God richly bless you as you continue to serve Him!

In His Grip,

<<Your name>>