

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY

1. Part of the training Jesus gave his disciples was sending them out two-by-two into the community. Serving the community around our church is something we can do to show God's love and perhaps share the gospel. It is also part of the training process of making disciples. Talking in the worship service about what we ought to do as Christians, but not actually doing it isn't a good idea.
2. Some churches take an all or nothing approach. They want an all-church effort to do a service project (Fall Festival, Easter egg hunt, Operation Christmas Child, etc.) or they leave everything up to the individuals in the church to do it all. A better strategy is a combination of all-church, small groups and individuals.
 - Big church-wide events
 - SS class and small group service projects (each class could do 4-6 projects a year)
 - Individual projects and family projects
3. Make a list of the non-profits and ministries in your city that you could partner with. They might provide the funding and the planning and your church provides manpower.
4. Find out which places your church members are already volunteering at (Red Cross, a school, Boy Scouts, Children's home) and make a list of these places and let your church members know how they can also be involved.
5. Train your members to become the "chaplain" of the street they live on. They can make it their goal to get to know neighbors, meet needs when possible, pray for families, and organize fellowship suppers for their neighbors.
6. Take a survey of your church members and make a list of the skills that are represented – plumbers, carpenters, car repair, computer repair, software installation, cooking for large groups, math and science tutoring, knowledge of other languages, sewing, sports coaching, etc. If you find enough people with the same interests, skills and passions, it may suggest a ministry that would benefit your community.
7. Talk to other churches, non-profit organizations, the mayor and schools and make a list of the top needs in the community – after school care, tutoring, repairing and painting old houses, etc.
8. Three of the "felt" needs of families in your community might be:
 - 1) sports teams for children that don't cost a lot of money
 - 2) music lessons (piano, guitar, band instruments, singing). The schools are cutting way back in the areas of art and music and private lessons are very expensive.
 - 3) tutoring in reading, math or science
9. What could you offer adults in your community – exercise groups, English second language help, cooking lessons, computer skills, Lamaze classes, new parenting classes, financial skills class, support groups for addiction, support group for divorce, support group for widows/widowers, support group for cancer, support group for depression/anxiety?

10. Look for ways to partner with other churches, other Associations and the Baptist State Convention. For example, in our Mid-State Baptist Association:

- Builders for Christ
- Storehouse food ministry needs counselors, box packers, carry food to the cars, food donations
- Wesleyan BCM needs homes for supper, women to disciple college girls, car drivers, cook food
- Someone to start a new Hispanic church
- Someone to work with international families and start new small groups of ethnic churches
- Help build websites for churches
- Do minor or major repairs for local churches

11. In addition to regular serving, some churches do a big city-wide event every year where 20 churches and a bunch of non-profits all work together to do service projects all over the city in a certain week.