

A Simple Strategy for Community Evangelism through Missions

I. Identify the opportunities and needs in your community that allow for the greatest Gospel impact.

Recognize that the strategy for Gospel impact can be different for each opportunity or need. In general, some present opportunities for direct Gospel witness, and some require bridge building to gain an opportunity for the Gospel, and still others require prepared and resourced individuals or small specialized teams.

Use demographic analysis resources, community assessment tools, or internal church-based surveys to assist in better identifying needs or segments of your community for Gospel impact.

Choose a variety of opportunities to address to allow for different levels of engagement and for more comprehensive engagement with your community. For example, choose needs that connect with the school system, the city or county government, a local non-profit, a local community ministry, a specific segment of your community, and your local association of churches. The number of needs you address or opportunities you take on should be governed by how many can be supported and maintained by your local church.

II. Plan strategically for how your church will engage with these opportunities and needs.

Ask, “What can your church do and how should you do it in a way that would present the Gospel with the most clarity, that would have the broadest Gospel impact, or that would start an ongoing Gospel conversation?”

Look at “Opportunities for a Local Church to be on Mission in their Community” to help expand your ideas and help you think creatively.

Consider how God has gifted members of your congregation and how He has placed them in the community. You may already have a missionary in place.

Assign the need or opportunity to a small group, a mission team, a ministry team in your church, or a combination of all three.

III. Consider how a mission team from a sister church could extend and/or strengthen the ministry and witness of your church.

A team from a sister church can

- supply numbers, skill, and strength
- prepare and establish
- partner and supplement

A team cannot

- replace the work that God has given to your local church in your local community

The individuals or groups in your church assigned to engage with the need you identified should provide the connection point for the mission team and be responsible for following up on the work of the team both in completion of a project and in Gospel witness.

Church leaders should provide both support and guidance to the ones who work directly with the mission teams.

Opportunities for a Local Church to be on Mission in their Community

Keith Ivey, GBMB Missions Consultant

It should be understood that if a particular ministry or mission strategy does not exist in your area that you should at least pray about whether God would have you start one!

Food Pantry

Food Vouchers

Community Food Bank Volunteer, Board Member, Unloading, Fundraiser

Food Drive

Regional Food Bank Volunteer, Membership

Nutritional Classes

Cooking Classes

Shopping/Coupons Classes

Seasonal Food Baskets

Emergency Food Boxes

Monthly Food Distribution

School Nutritional Supplements – Backpack Buddies, etc

Food Coop

WIC/Food Stamp Supplement

Community Garden

Cookie Ministry

Meals for Public Servants

Police, Fire Department, 911 Center Break Room Ministries

Adopt a School – prayer walk, back to school, supplies, landscaping, special events, teacher appreciation, teacher breakfast, faculty snack area

Sports Team/Band/Extracurricular Ministry – meals, Gatorade/water at practice, banquets, Transportation

Partner with area Christian Learning Center – volunteer, mentor, driver, board member, donor

County Senior Center – volunteer, programming, special events, transportation, service projects for individual needs (construction, etc)

Meals on Wheels

Transportation Assistance to Seniors

Nursing Home Ministry – Worship, programs, visitation, Homecoming/"Family Reunions"

Adopt Family of Deployed Military

Care packages for Deployed Military

Military Chaplaincy Partnership

Adopt a Unit

Christmas Store

Free Gift Wrapping

Adopt a Family for Christmas – Deployed Military, Prison, Poverty, Foster, etc

Community Christmas Service/Programming – participate in community events/activities

Pre/Post Natal Ministries – partner with Pregnancy Care Ministry if one in the area

Care center Volunteer/Donor/Board Member/Promotion/Building Upkeep

Merchant Ministries – Prayer walking, Bible Study/Prayer Gathering, Seasonal Gifts, RAK – wash windows, cookies, gifts, assistance, business/continuing ed seminars,

Businesspersons' Lunch
Adopt a Community Club

ESL – at church, at a business – volunteer, sponsor, etc.
GED Classes/Tutoring
Citizenship Classes
Immigration Assistance
Refugee Ministries

RAK – Free Car Wash, Window Wash, distribute light bulbs or batteries, \$20 challenge, reverse giving
Gas Buy Down
Free Oil Change/Car Maintenance for Single Mothers or elderly
Firewood Ministry
Winterization Ministry
Yard Work
Home Repair
Handicap Accessibility/Build or repair Wheelchair Ramps
Habitat for Humanity – Build House, Sponsor House, Board member, thrift store
Help Another Congregation with Bldg./Property Upkeep

Disaster Response – Credentials, training, Assoc/regional team member, Host Team
Tree Removal
Home Repair/Cleanup
Shelter – Heat, Cold, Storm
Chaplaincy/Prayer

Fire Ministries – emergency shelter, needs,
Adopt a Unit – volunteer, chaplaincy, serve families, seasonal and special events

Sports Ministries – Upwards, etc.
Sports Field/Tournament Ministries – food, water, worship/prayer services, travel kit for families

Multi Housing Ministries – Bible Studies, Worship, Children/Family Activities, VBS, Cookouts, Community Garden,
Senior Ministries, movie nights

Serve HOA
Form Neighborhood Watch
Newcomers Ministry
Friday Nights for Jesus
Community Block Party

Movies at the Park
Festival Ministries – Plan one, support one, serve in one, work sound, provide music, etc
Parade Ministries – Plan float, pass out water & tracts, serve parade

After school Programming – tutoring, mentoring, Bible Study, Nutrition, recreation
Preschool
Free Childcare
DOJJ Mentoring Vol
School System Mentoring Vol
Open Gym
Game Nights
Parents Night Out

Child Protection Workshop
CPR Training
Hunter Safety Workshop

Hospital Visitation/Chaplaincy
Make pillows for heart patients
Make blankets for cancer patients
Waiting Room Ministry
Hospital staff break room ministry
Hospital Gift Bags

Jail Ministry – visitation/chaplaincy, worship/Bible Study, transitional ministry/assistance
Courthouse Ministry
Encouragement Ministry to families of those in Newspaper – police blotter, obituaries, newborn, etc.

Wild Game Dinner
Outdoor Weekends
Fishing Tournament
Road Race
Sports Tournament

Resort Ministries – campground worship, creative ministries, street ministry, prayer walking, kids activities, movie nights, serve resort community (state park, campground, merchants, etc.)

Community Canvassing – Spiritual Needs Survey, Community Needs Assessment, “Prayer on the Porch,”
Request Demographic Study of your area
Identify People Groups in your area
Prayer walking
Start an Outreach Bible Study
Place a family in a community as missionaries
Quarterly or monthly events (movies, games, music, cookouts, etc.) and worship/Bible Study
Publish a Prayer Line – text, Facebook, phone call, etc.

Host mission teams
Train Church Members to ask, “How can I pray for you?”
Embrace the habit of follow up!
Plant Seeds of all kinds.
Go where the crowd is gathering in your community.
Identify Person of Peace