

Chapter 5

VOLUNTEERS FOR MINISTRY EVANGELISM, SERVANT EVANGELISM AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (I Peter 4:10, NASB).

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers in ministry are ordinary people. They come in every age, shape, form and fashion. They are doing extraordinary things through their surrender to God and in the power of the Holy Spirit both inside and outside the church walls. “Volunteers – they’re your best friend, faithful partners They give, sacrifice, sweat and toil. Sometimes they look a bit like MacGyver . . . making the most of what’s in front of them – other times they resemble Superman . . . accomplishing impossible ministry feats with ease.”*1

Actually, they are “missionary” volunteers, people of passion, who have a heart for ministry and evangelism. Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism “missionary” volunteers will be a believer*2 and seek to . . .

- Have a passionate heart for God and for people to know Jesus Christ
- Have a Servant Heart
- Be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit
- Be a Prayer Warrior
- Be intentional in ministry and evangelism
- Be a personal witness
- Be a person of humility, selflessness and integrity
- Be passionate about Biblical obedience
- Be available for training in their area of ministry
- Have a desire for personal involvement in ministry
- Have time for ministry
- Have “sticktuity”
- Be an active member of their local church
- Be an encourager

The “missionary” volunteer is not required to have a seminary degree or know everything there is to know about ministry and evangelism. The volunteer will only need to be committed to taking the skills he uses in everyday life and apply them in the service of God. The volunteer only has to care enough to share himself or herself with others.

Some “missionary” volunteers will be more mature in their servanthood than others. Some will have greater strengths in one or two characteristics than others. Yet, everyone can have some part in Ministry Evangelism or Servant Evangelism. It is the Body of Christ on mission regardless of age, spiritual gift or experience.

Paul speaks to this very thought in I Corinthians 3:1-9 when he says some will do one thing while others will be doing something entirely different – all having part in one thing . . . a person’s redemption in Christ. **The Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism “missionary” volunteer’s purpose in sharing the Gospel is always – Jesus.** The volunteer during an outreach expresses a genuine faith by incarnational living before non-believers where values and ethics are translated into action.

There is no greater joy than to know that you will be used by God as a “missionary” volunteer in a way that has an eternal impact.

Who are the “missionary” volunteers? Depending on the particular outreach, project or event, “missionary” volunteers can range from children to senior adults and the family. Each volunteer will have a different response to the ministry (cf. the following, **VOLUNTEERS, OUTREACH AND RESPONSE**).

VOLUNTEERS, OUTREACH AND RESPONSE

VOLUNTEERS	OUTREACH	RESPONSES TO OUTREACH
Children	Free Lemonade Give Away Cereal Give Away	Learning to be servants Serving in action
Teens	Feeding Ministry Broom Ministry	Spiritual maturity in serving Energetic participation
Young-Mid Age Adults	Banana Nut Bread Give Away Buying and Grocery Give Away	Building relationships Serving to meet a need
Senior Adults	Feeding Ministry Meal to a neighbor	Life experience teachers Encouragers in a personal loss
Family	Park Clean-up Day Adopt A Family Adopt A Road for Clean-up	Family togetherness Family giving to meet a need Family community service

Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism “missionary” volunteers must take ministry and evangelism seriously and . . .

- Keep their eyes on Jesus
- Turn their eyes outward
- Focus on people
- Do not become side tracked from Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism
- Look for an opportunity to minister, be a witness and share the Gospel

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Living an outward focused life is not just about how we see the world around us. It has to translate into how we interact with that world. One way to live outwardly is to serve the local community through non-church groups. There are plenty of voluntary organizations that are often crying out for people who will help and support them.

Serving the community, “missionary” volunteers are being the hands and feet of Jesus outside the walls of the church – embracing the Acts 1:8 challenge in their community. How? . . . in the PTA, being on the soccer field, craft instructor at a senior center, teacher’s assistant . . . “missionary” volunteers in the community. (Just a thought . . . “Missionary” volunteers have a heart for *servicing the community*. Think about the community *servicing with us*. The community will have the opportunity to see Christians acting like Christians.)

One thought. If you do offer yourself as a community volunteer, don’t go with a hidden agenda. Simply offer to do whatever you can to further the aims and objectives of the organization you serve. As you serve diligently you may be asked questions about who you are and what motivates you. Now the door has been opened to share a Christian witness.

VOLUNTEERS	NON-CHURCH RELATED ORGANIZATION	
Teens	Hospital Aid Student Tutoring Soup Kitchen	Community Sports’ Team Player Local Newspaper Photographer Recreation Department Trail Guide
Young–Mid Age Adults	Sports’ Coach Teacher’s Aid Soup Kitchen	Cancer Survivor Day Driving Instructor Substitute Teaching
Senior Adults	Tax Preparation Hospital Aid Management Training	Volunteer Coordinator Meals On Wheels Financial Counselor
Family	Adopt-A-Road Clean-Up	Soup Kitchen

The old saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child”. If that’s true, it must take an army to run a church. Often, it’s the spiritually growing members of the church who’ll step in as “missionary” volunteers week in and week out. They serve tirelessly and selflessly.