

Launching Team Ministry in a Local Church

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Introduction

One of the most common terms we hear in the local church today is “team ministry.” You hear this term everywhere—both in the church world and in the business sector. I went to Amazon.com and under books typed in the words “team ministry.” **Their search engine immediately brought up 9,957 books that used this term!** It is used so much that I think the real simple meaning can easily get distorted.

Let’s first ask and answer this question: what is team ministry? Very simply stated, **a team is people doing ministry activities together.** In most churches, we find ministry being done in groups that fit this definition; worship teams, prayer groups, outreach teams, Sunday school classes and various other types of committees and task groups. If a church leader stops to consider this situation he or she will realize that there are many wonderful small groups functioning very effectively in the local church. We don’t want to in any way stop or hinder these groups. However, there is a difference between these groups and outreach ministry teams. Sometimes we refer to these groups but in actuality they are teams in name only.

Establishing effective ministry teams involves much more than adding a new program or changing the names of existing committees. The very essence of team ministry means that the leadership of the church must be decentralized because team ministry involves self-initiated vision in which members carry out plans they themselves have conceived or have had a part in creating.

Many churches still operate in a “preacher-led, staff-designed and staff-directed mode. The laity are expected to carry out activities which have already been determined by those above them. These types of programs often are preferred because they are easier to install and control than team ministries created and implemented by dedicated and gifted laypeople. A church would realize better results if the members are sufficiently involved in developing their own unique strategies.

The process of moving to a true team ministry approach takes time and, unfortunately, too often churches approach a change to team building as though it can be accomplished in a weekend leadership training conference. Such is not the case. **Moving to a team ministry approach requires a cultural change in the local church.** We are so used to doing what I call “SOS” which means “Same Old Stuff!” We must first build focus, commitment, and spiritual grounding. Our plan allows for this to happen.

Preparing God’s people for team building involves more than teaching, volunteer management, gifts assessment, or some program on “equipping.” **Changing to this working definition of team ministry takes time and means developing a new way of looking at how to mobilize the laity that sit in their church pews every week.**

Why team ministry?

Teams are effective because **people need each other.** There is a basic need to belong that is rooted in the life of every person. We find that teams are important because **people need to contribute.** They need a place to demonstrate their own strengths and affect the lives of others. **Outreach teams are effective because they provide ministry opportunities and leadership training** for every member. Also, **some of**

our greatest ministry ideas come from out teams. In a team setting, one idea can be offered and then built upon by another good idea that helps “tweak” the original. The vision is to have **everyone in the congregation be a part of a small family-like group** to help each other grow towards Christian maturity.

Our plan calls for four outreach teams: **Intercessory Prayer, Acts of Kindness, Church Visitation** and **Personal Evangelism**. Below is a graphic that shows the organizational structure of the teams.



Explanation of above illustration of team ministry

Our plan calls for the **formation of four teams under the direction of the senior pastor and a team outreach coordinator**. Each of the four teams would have one team leader. This forms the core leadership that is vital to the ongoing success of each team. Notice that the teams are “nuclear” because, like the atom, they are all in motion, work together in harmony and do not run into each other. **A church can form numerous multiples of the four teams as needed**—no need to limit it to just four. **If a church has only a few members just begin with one team of choice and add the others** as the church grows and believe me it will grow with team ministry!

Leadership roles

Senior Pastor

The senior pastor is first and foremost the most important leader in the organization and development of the teams. **A church will always go in the direction of the pastor’s heart**. No middle position here. If the pastor is actively “for it” then time, attention, thinking, planning, money, and people resources will

flow to this effort. If not, it will fail. He or she originates the teams and is in charge of the entire work and scope of the teams. **I know of no church that has had continued success in outreach ministry without the energy and involvement of the senior pastor!** The senior pastor works with the team outreach coordinator to identify and appoint team leaders and team participants. He or she then continues to be involved on a regular basis through regular meetings with the coordinator and team leaders. At selected times, the pastor will join the teams and participate in the actual outreach event.

Team outreach coordinator

This person can be the pastor or someone else in the church with a passion for ministry. He or she is the “go to person” for all of the teams. This person meets with each team leader often; **this person is the “dispatcher” that regularly feeds each team vital contacts** (people) or specific areas to visit. This person makes sure that each team stays active. They meet with team leader and subsequently with all team members and prays with them and actually goes out on outreach activities with them. This person is a **key leader** and the selection and training of them is absolutely essential to the ongoing success of team outreach.

This person could be an associate pastoral staff member (volunteer or paid) or a strong lay leader. This is not complicated. We are looking for a person with a consuming desire to see lives changed through outreach ministry and has good leadership and relational skills—that is enough!

Team leader

One of the most memorable quotes of Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, is, **“Everything boils down to leadership.”** To explain further, the height of your outreach team ministry will be determined by the depth of your leadership. **We need to find quality people to lead each team.** They need to regularly meet as team leaders with the coordinator and, on occasion, with the senior pastor. These meetings need to include quality time spent in Bible study, prayer, and strategic planning. We recommend that all of the time not be spent in “operations” type meetings, which is the tendency.

Together the above leaders prayerfully and carefully choose team members. Now let’s take a look at the identity and purpose of the four teams.

Identity and purpose of the four teams

Intercessory Prayer Team

This team meets together to offer powerful intercessory prayer for the entire church outreach and ministry. This outreach takes place both inside and outside the church. To elaborate the mission of this team is: **intercession on location, with information, in cooperation, against opposition, for glorification of God.**

Intercessory prayer is a biblical priority. Paul instructed young Timothy as follows: "I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men." (1 Tim.2:1).

The Bible mentions many kinds of prayer, such as supplications, petitions, thanksgivings as well as intercessions. Intercession is that type of prayer that focuses on the needs and concerns of others. During your prayer effort, God may reveal some personal need to you for which you must offer petition, but primarily; prayer-walking is offering prayers of intercession.

Someone has calculated that among the prayers of the Bible where we know the answer given, 78% are prayers of intercession. While the term, "prayer-walking" does not appear in the Bible, nor does the Bible describe any person as actually practicing "prayer-walking" as we know it, it is a method that God is using today. It is a method of the biblical priority of intercession.

An early warning is in order: Refrain from worshiping the method. Rather, use a method that God is currently blessing while worshiping the God of the method.

Prayers of intercession are offered...

...to the Father. Prayer-walking is primarily talking to God about the people rather than talking to the people about God. God said to Jeremiah, "*Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know*" (Jeremiah 33:3). Note the instructions in Matthew 6:6; Matthew 18:19-20; John 16:23.

...to and in the Name of the Son. Prayer-walking is done in the authority of Jesus Christ rather than in your own authority. Note the experience of the disciples in Luke 10:1-20. See also John 14:13-14; John 15:16; Romans 10:12; Romans 8:34; II Corinthians 12:8.

...in and with the Holy Spirit. Prayer-walking is done in harmony with God's agenda, rather than your own agenda. Note Paul's experience in Acts. 16:6-10. See also Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20. As you walk and pray you will be a person of secret influence, interceding to the Father, in the Name of the Son, with the Holy Spirit to the One who works where no man can work, who accomplishes tasks beyond man's ability to accomplish, and who gains glory where man sees no glory. God will respond to your intercessions, not because He has too, but because He has chosen to do so.

Practical suggestions

- Daily prayer commitment for outreach groups and all other ministries of the church.
- Prayer walks through neighborhoods, around schools and government buildings. Include locations where other groups will be doing upcoming ministry.
- Use survey stakes anointed with oil on county or neighborhood lines and claim that area for God.
- Pray for the lost. Ask Jesus to prepare their hearts and minds to receive the gospel.
- Seek out the hurting. Look in the newspapers for people who have lost loved ones, children graduating or going into the service and pray for them.
- Start an "email prayer chain" in the church. Starting this effort is an effective way to let members share, receive and pray for the needs of others. Email prayer chains use technology to quickly and reliably share prayer requests and answers to prayer.
- Use Facebook, Twitter and short message texting (SMS) to offer prayer for others.
- Geographically pray where the other ministry teams are working. Pray down strongholds in selected neighborhoods, pray over the streets where the Church Visitation and Personal Evangelism teams are working.
- Develop a prayer waking ministry. This can take place down a street, in a housing project, near a nursing home or prison, or wherever the other teams are involved in ministry.

While "prayer-walking" is not mentioned as such in the Bible, praying on location most clearly is mentioned. When Jesus received the message of the illness of Lazarus, he could have prayed for healing in his present location, and may well have done so for he stayed there "two more days" before announcing to the disciples, "Lazarus is dead." There may be other reasons why Jesus chose to go then to Bethany, but on arrival, he prayed before calling out, "Lazarus, come forth!"

(John 11:1-44). This was intercession on location. There are other biblical examples of such location-praying. Perhaps you will want to study some of them before your prayer journey.

An additional value of location-praying has to do with presence. Since Jesus lives within you and the Holy Spirit works through you, there is a sense in which your prayer-walking provides light in dark places and salt in unsavory places (Matthew 5:13-16). If your body really is a "temple of God" (I Corinthians 3:16) then where you go, you represent His presence.

Often the location of your prayer-walking will be in enemy territory. One writer says, "Christians have lost the home-field advantage." This is true in most, if not all of the world. The enemy and his influence will be obvious to you as you walk. In times like these you need to remember that the battle has already been assured. Walk, not in fear, but in assured victory.

Acts of Kindness Team

This outreach is a simple, straightforward approach to sharing God's love in simple, practical ways. It is sometimes referred to as "kindness evangelism" because it speaks to a person's heart first rather than to his head (a gospel presentation). Servant Evangelism is effective because it is

- Quick and simple
- high volume and done in teams
- culture-current
- gives the Holy Spirit an open door to convict those we are leading to Christ
- allows shy people to launch into effective ministry
- an approach families can do together
- easily picked up by new Christians
- friendly, non-pushy, non-aggressive
- appeals to every segment of our cities
- emotionally safe
- giving-centered rather than asking-centered
- provides a safe place for ambitious people to expend their energy
- provides an open door for the miraculous—if God so moves!

Some practical ideas adapted from Steve Sjogren and his book titled *"Conspiracy of Kindness"*

Coffee Giveaways

Use either Igloo containers or air pump thermoses. Offer three options: regular, decaf and hot chocolate. On a cool day, you will have folks swarming for a cup of something hot. You will need three or four people to help give away coffee for each big canister. With each drink, we give out a connection card. Consider having paper cups with your church's name and logo printed on them.

Newspapers

You can go right to the local newspaper office and ask for a donation of the daily or weekly paper by explaining that your team will personally pass out each copy individually. Some convenience stores will allow you to purchase an entire stack of newspapers. Place a sign on the top of the stack that reads, "Free Newspapers—Courtesy of (Church Name)" and attach a connection card to each paper with removable adhesive.

Donut Giveaway during Morning Traffic Times

This giveaway is especially effective when performed by senior citizens—who can say no to a sweet grandma-type? These gals set up on a traffic island at a stoplight (make sure they're safe out there). When the light turns red, they step up to cars and ask, "Would you like chocolate, maple, or glazed?" They then give them a connection card with the snack.

Bottled Water Giveaway

Many people prefer water to soft drinks. Ice down bottles of water in large coolers for an alternative to a soft drink giveaway. Use the same connection cards. We don't recommend combining this with a soda giveaway, because it offers too many options and gets complicated.

Hot dogs and hamburger food giveaway

Find someone with a grill and cook the food right on the church parking lot! Get a sign that reads, "Free hot dogs and hamburgers! Stop in here!"

Ice Cream Coupons

Approach a local ice cream store and explain your desire to give away thousands of ice cream coupons. Chances are the owner/manager will be willing to give you a good deal on ice cream coupons. Attach a connection card to each coupon, and you'll have a project that will elicit a response from just about everyone in town.

Umbrella Escorts

The elderly and moms with kids find it tough to make it from stores to their cars in the rain. We use huge golf umbrellas to help get them and their purchases to their cars with as little wetness as possible.

Grocery Bag Loading Assistance

Moms with lots of kids hanging onto them like koalas often need assistance getting their bags loaded into the car from the shopping cart. The elderly need the same sort of help. Volunteers on this project need to appear particularly safe and friendly; name tags or coordinating T-shirts identifying connection to your organization makes the servants look more "official." Note: On this project, almost everyone will try to give a tip, but as with all kindness projects, to receive money would taint what you are trying to communicate. Our motto is: "Showing God's love in a practical package with no strings attached." This project may require permission from the store manager on the day of the event.

Business Blasts

Surprise employees of local businesses with a small gift such as a basket of candy. Bring in one package to be shared by store employees and leave a connection card that reads something like, "We appreciate how you serve the community with your business, and we wanted to share God's love in a practical way." Be sure you give items only to employees, so they don't think you are "soliciting" their customers.

Gatorade at Biking Trails

Some health-conscious folks like runners, bikers, and other people don't drink soda at all. Set up along a bike trail, athletic field, or hiking trail and offer Gatorade or bottled water to exercisers.

Pictionary in the Park

This was a popular game in the late 1980s similar to Charades. Set up in a local park and play the game using a white board to draw hints. Complete strangers will start to join in, especially if your group is friendly and animated. When onlookers correctly guess the answer, allow them to play the next round. After 15–20 minutes, take a break, serve soft drinks and talk with the visitors one-to-one.

Special note: we have scores of other great ideas all laid out in an easy-to-read grid. Email us at: laity@msn.com and ask for “**Kindness Idea Table**” that we have adapted from Steve’s book. It is free!

Church visitation team.

This team is designed to present information about the local church in a personal, one-on-one community visitation method. One of their primary tasks is to personally visit every home in every neighborhood within reach of their local church and, if possible, do three things: (1) Acquaint the people with the local church, its specific location and its mission in the community. (2) Find out if they have a church home and if it is an evangelical church. (3) Ask if there are any special prayer requests and offer prayer during the visit. The visitation locations of this team are not restricted to just homes and apartments. The team can minister in various ways: cards/letters, email, phone calls, visits to homes and hospitals, visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Team members will knock on doors, invite residents to the church and serve in the capacity of first level identification of potential areas of ministry for the overall church as well as the servant evangelism team. The activities of this team are of vital importance because they are the first impression of your local church to the community around your church.

These are friendly visits designed to acquaint the prospect with the ministries of the church and provide a personal invitation to attend with directions to the church. Monthly visits are made and include things such as: delivery of flowers, cards or music, as well as spending time in prayer, conversation or just being a presence to those in need. Team members are encouraged to talk, listen and enjoy visiting and making new friends. Whether visiting people in their homes, in the hospital, or in a restaurant over a cup of coffee, the simple act of connecting with others is filled with powerful possibilities. The act of friendship is an inroad to hearts and lives that creates trust, value, and incredible potential for ministry.

Examples of people that need to be visited.

Anyone needing encouragement, comfort, or a sense of belonging would profit from a visit. While that could include everyone, there are certain individuals who especially need to be reminded that they aren't forgotten. These are people who can feel rather lonely at times.

- elderly people still living independently especially if they are shut-ins
- elderly or disabled people living in nursing homes
- people who are sick for a prolonged period of time
- people who are hospitalized
- bereaved people
- prisoners
- people in shelters
- people in crisis

Here are some other places of ministry for this team:

- Nursing Homes – Sunday morning service
- Assisted Living Community –oliday meal and party with games and activities.
- New Guests – bring a welcome basket with snacks. Include something with the church phone number and address on it like a pen or calendar.
- Inactive Members – desserts or some kind of baked goods.
- Shut-ins, Terminally Ill – pray with and sing (hymns or choruses), mini-service.

Personal Evangelism Team

The members of this team will, under the planning and direction of the team coordinator, go directly to targeted neighborhoods and homes, contact the residents, introduce your local church, develop a relationship with them and then determine the spiritual condition of the residents of the home and attempt to share the gospel.

The members of this team will initially also accomplish the follow-up activities related to relationship development and initial discipleship, but as the prospect list grows, additional team members will need to be added to ensure that adequate follow-up is accomplished as well as enabling the team to expand its outreach to as many individuals as possible.

When we reach the lost we cause all of Heaven to rejoice. Jesus tells us that there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God when one sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10). The joy of sharing the gospel and seeing people come to Christ is beyond description. If appropriate, keep detailed records of the conversion for a visit by the pastor or staff member.

Sources of visitation prospects

Prospects are everywhere. The vast majority of people we come in contact with are lost (Matthew 7:13-14) and need to be taught the gospel. We need to develop an interest in spiritual matters with them and ASK them to study the Bible with us so they can learn the truth of God's word, obey it, and go to Heaven. The only way to set up a personal Bible study is to ASK. They may have a doctrinal question that requires more time for scriptural answers so we strongly recommend starting a home Bible study. This is how cultic groups win many families!

- 1) **People who have visited our church services.** This team will attempt to visit everyone who has visited the church in recent months.
- 2) **Children of members.** Whether they are minor or adult children they have usually attended the church with their parents.
- 3) **Spouses of members.** Usually have attended church with their believing spouse.
- 4) **Friends who attend youth functions with our youth.** These provide a contact that is many times overlooked. A visit would provide a wonderful link to bring parents or other siblings to church.
- 5) **Benevolent contacts.** When we show care and concern for others they are more likely to be open to a personal Bible study.
- 6) **Bible school and VBS contacts.** By their attendance they have indicated an interest in Bible study.
- 7) **Visitors to worship services.** By their attendance they have displayed an interest in the church.
- 8) **Hospital contacts.** Those undergoing serious illness can see that their life could end at any time.

- 9) **Delinquent members.** We should always try to restore the fallen, "Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:20).
- 10) **Neighbors.** We should want those who live near us in this world to also be with us in Heaven.
- 11) **Fellow employees.** We work with these five days a week. During lunch and breaks we should bring up spiritual subjects and talk with them about their souls.
- 12) **Door knocking.** A good way to find prospects in a neighborhood.
- 13) **Friends and relatives of members.** It is good when other members can help you in contacting their friends and relatives in setting up a Bible study and scheduling a visit by one of our teams.
- 14) **Newcomers to town.** They are seeking to establish new friends and are putting down new roots.
- 15) **Visitors to your home.** We need to ask them to have a personal Bible study with us if necessary.
- 16) **Those who take Bible correspondence courses.** These have already indicated an interest in Bible study.
- 17) **Funerals.** Those attending funerals, at that time, tend to realize the brevity of this life.
- 18) **Jails & prisons.** Many incarcerated people realize they need to make some positive changes in their lives. In jails and prisons you can always find people who are wanting someone to teach them the Bible.
- 19) **Nursing homes.** People in rest homes like visitors and may want a personal Bible study.
- 20) **Website comments.** These show an interest in church by responding replying in the "comment" section of the church website. The website can offer virtual tours of the facilities and feature the programs and ministry that the church has to offer.
- 21) **Friends of new converts.** Many times a new convert has friends and he would also like for them to be taught the gospel.
- 22) **People seeking counseling.** These are needing and wanting to make changes in their lives.
- 23) **Those getting married.** Particularly if the spouse of a member is not a member.
- 24) **People undergoing trauma.** People undergoing serious problems are usually looking to God for help and are usually very good prospects.

Evangelism training for all team members

It is **extremely important to provide soul winning training for all four of the teams** and especially the personal evangelism team in order to prepare them to share the Gospel and conduct follow-up in the home. We strongly recommend the purchase of our latest ministry training book titled: *Share the Gospel in Three Stories*. There is also a companion DVD that contains five 20 minute teaching sessions and covers the essence of the entire book. You can order on-line at: www.laityalive.com.

Forming the teams

Team particulars. Very important! The teams **meet only once each month for about three hours**. The **first hour** can be a training or fellowship time. It **may of may not include food**. The **other two hours** are spent on the actual outreach ministry event. This could be on a different day if needed as scheduled by their team leader. Further, the teams are empowered to set their own best day, time and location for the monthly meeting. They can meet at the church on an agreed upon location or at individual homes or even a restaurant. They decide. **Each team should have no more than 10-12 members**. If there are more people that want to join just start another team!

Recruiting. The **first task of the senior pastor and team outreach coordinator is to find the right people** to join the right teams. Do it "one-on-one" not from the pulpit or with a general announcement.

Jesus went to where they were and personally recruited them. Nathaniel under a tree, Peter in a boat, Matthew at the tax office—you get the picture. Try to determine the individual's passion and gifting for ministry. Don't just try to "fill the vacant slots."

Barriers.

Barriers to volunteering might not be obvious to you as a church leader because you're already there doing the jobs that you're asking your congregation to be a part of. Pay attention to the way that potential team members might feel when faced with the challenge of figuring out which is the best team for them. Here are some of the most common barriers you (and them) will face:

- **Fear.** One of the greatest barriers to people stepping up to team ministry is fear. They are afraid that if they sign up to volunteer and don't like what they signed up for, then they will be stuck doing a volunteer role that they dread. They are concerned that there will be no graceful way out of the volunteer role. We can probably all understand that fear. Somewhere along the way, most of us have signed up for something that ended up not being all we hoped it would be. Then we feel guilty as we try to think of a graceful way out of the situation.
- **Time commitment.** When you approach people to be a participant in a team, **you will often hear this comment, "I am already working in the church."** This is true. Many are in the choir, the men's or women's ministry, teach Sunday school or work as an usher etc.

Here is how to handle this situation. **Mention the difference between "tithe" and "offering."** Ministry time involvement is like tithes and offerings. Do we really spend one tenth of our time in some form of ministry? (Read Malachi 3:8). Ask the potential team member how much time is being spent on a daily, monthly or yearly basis? Out of that time, how much is serving God in a way that we want or is convenient for us? How much is done with an underlying thought of, this is what I have to do to be "a good Christian". Jesus said in St. Matthew 23:23 *"for ye pay tithes..., this ought ye have done, and not to leave the other undone"*. That sounds like a requirement or an obligation. Deuteronomy 14:22 speaks of setting aside a tenth of what is grown or produced. In your average day to day life are you growing or producing at least 10% of it for the Kingdom of God? They might be saying, "I have gone to church on Sunday morning, said my prayers before meals and at bed time and read several chapters in the Bible this week. There is the tithe on my time, Right?" We all should be doing at least this much. This is what we *ought to do* (see Matt. 23:23).

So where does our "offering of time" enter the picture? This is the time we give to ministry when there are so many other things that we want to do or feel that they should be given our attention. This is the later part of St. Matthew 23:23. This is the *"and not leave the other undone."* So much time is spent on stressing and worrying over our own problems and trying to fix them ourselves. Wouldn't it be much better to pray with those who have problems and pain, hurts and heartache, suffer with loss and loneliness? When we tell others of God's love and share the gospel with them, we bring hope and healing. **There is no greater use of time than being involved in ministry.** As we reach out to others, we allow God the opportunity to take care of us and bless us in ways that we could never imagine (Read Malachi 3:10). God wants to bless us abundantly and He is asking us for a chance to prove it. As we take time to give ourselves to others, God gives His blessings to us. What a promise! If we took more time to show others Jesus, maybe we would see more of Jesus in our own lives.

- **Lack of experience.** Let them know that all they really need is a desire to help others and get involved in actual ministry. Serving on any of the teams should be a positive experience. People are ultimately looking for three things when they volunteer and you must point out to them that their participation will help them find these things. Here they are:

1. Make a Significant Contribution

People want to know that they are needed and that what they are doing is making a difference in the lives of others. We need to remind volunteers often that, “We couldn’t do it without them!” We need to be intentional in sharing stories about how their service is making the church and the community a better place. Even the most simple acts of kindness and service, like passing out bulletins at the door, makes a difference.

2. Find a Circle of Friends

People who are exploring the possibility of joining a team are also often looking to find a circle of friends. Sometimes the “who they work with” is more important than “what” task or service they actually do. As you promote volunteer opportunities, make sure that you point out the opportunity that new team members will have to build relationships and make friends.

3. Have Fun

People want to do something they enjoy with people they like being around. Prospective team members need to understand that volunteering is not just about sacrifice and work or doing things just because someone has to do them. Serving can actually be fun. As you promote volunteer opportunities, show pictures and talk about how much fun the volunteer teams have serving together. Even in the most task-driven serving experiences, team members can and should experience joy.

We can show the team members what volunteering can provide them. We can show that it provides the members with a chance to learn something new, add variety to their lives by doing something different, feel needed, and gain leadership skills.

The senior pastor and team outreach coordinator must make sure that they are constantly analyzing what it looks like for a member to decide to join a team, and focus on making that process as simple and easy for them as possible. Brainstorm with your church staff on ways you can implement programs and ways that help cultivate a culture of service.

Materials needed

One of the great benefits and blessings of our team approach to ministry is the minimal cost involved. You don’t have to pay monthly fees for a “church consultant” expert to come to you and show you how to set it all up, you don’t have to buy equipment and you don’t have to pay extra salaries. Our plan is simple, cost effective and a powerful way to reach lost people and grow your church on a sustained basis. You only need four items.

Result forms. These are gold! **They simply ask for names, addresses, email and cell phone numbers.** I say cell phones because we can text them back for free if we have a cell number. There should also be a **place on the form to share the spiritual results, prayer needs or other comments** by the team member. We should have these forms everywhere! At the altar, in the church office by the telephone so we can remember who called for spiritual help and give the names to the team coordinator. **Every team**

member needs them! When go out and visit the community, go from house to house or any other team activity. **All cards should be first given to the team outreach coordinator!!**

Church brochure/bulletin. Use what you have but make sure that it shows the name and picture of the pastor, a location map, phone numbers, website and email address. Every team needs a good supply so print plenty more than what is needed for Sunday services!

Kindness cards. These are just simple “calling card” size cards with the statement “Showing God’s love in a practical way” on the front and the church name and contact information on the reverse side.

Tracts. The church will need thousands of tracts with the church name and address printed on them. They can be purchased on-line at these locations (some are free!): www.gospeltract.org; www.chick.com; www.a4truth.org; www.billygraham.org; and www.tractleague.com.

Action steps

1. As senior pastor, **make a firm decision to form the teams.**
2. Select the special person to be the “**Team Outreach Coordinator.**” Could be the pastor.
3. Working together with the above coordinator recruit the **four team leaders.**
4. **Schedule an organizational/prayer/fellowship meeting** on a social basis (with food) for the four team leader, the outreach coordinator and the senior pastor.
5. Explain the **function of the four teams** and **give a handout** of the proposed activities of each.
6. **Recruit the team members** for the four teams.
7. Launch team ministry with a “**mega outreach event**” that involves all teams.