

Culture of Outreach



Vision of the Joplin District

Mission- To make Christ-like disciples on the Joplin District

Vision- To encourage, equip and empower pastors, leaders, and churches. In the next 5 years the Joplin District will be a place where every believer will be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to fulfill the heart of Christ by reaching a hurting world.

Core values:

1. Lost people matter to God.
2. Develop Leaders
3. Better Together

Strategies:

- **Persistent Praying** – *Because we believe prayer is the core discipline that changes the culture and atmosphere of our hearts in preparation for His presence.*
 - We will do that by participating in a District wide Daniel Fast of at least 10 days or more at the start of every year.
 - We will join together for a weekly time of fasting, believing fasting and prayer move the heart of God.
 - We will encourage every church to schedule regular times of corporate prayer.
 - We will challenge every individual to have a personal time of passionate and persistent prayer on a regular basis.
 - We will daily pray for the Salvation of at least 1 individual.
- **Leadership Development** – *The consistent development of leaders is crucial for both the present and the future as the church moves into the challenging days.*

We will develop leaders through:

- Team Days, where pastors come together for a time of fellowship and challenge.
 - L² which occurs every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in a Zoom setting with our DS and guest speakers who encourage leaders with practical and relevant tools for ministry.
 - Area gatherings where book reviews and general teachings are on a smaller model.
 - Times of addressing current relevant issues in a larger setting for pastors and laypeople.
 - Each leader will find a mentor and be a mentor.
- **Healthy Churches** – *Enabling churches to remain or become healthy movements of God which will accomplish our mission.*

Healthy Churches will:

 - Find and remove unhealthy segments of the church that cause “disease” to spread
 - Create opportunities for the local body to expand
 - Design Mission Action Plans which will create SMART Goals – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time table.
 - Provide training opportunities for being trained on Discipleship methods.
 - **Planting Churches** – *Realizing our mandate by Christ to go, we believe it may be the most effective way in fulfilling the Great Commission.*
 - We will look for opportunities close and far away to plant movements of God.
 - We will be creative in our thinking. Whether it be places of homes, coffee shop, restaurants, bars, empty buildings.
 - We will use every means available to plant churches and bring people to Christ.
 - **Centers of Compassion and Recovery** – *Desiring every church to form ministries that help families and individuals recover from bad decisions and unforeseen circumstances and aid them in the development of their lives into wholeness.*
 - We will do that by creating Recovery type ministries in our Churches.
 - We will create centers of compassionate love for those who are walking a tough journey.
 - We will create safe and acceptable churches where no person is ever treated un-Christlike.

Core Objectives:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Win One | 3. Start One |
| 2. Disciple One | 4. Reproduce One |

Goals: Reach 1,400 souls for Christ in a years' time.
Every church increasing their worship average by 3%.
Average 10,000 in worship as a district.
To complete the vision of planting 70 new churches by 2026.
In our district report to attain Zero Zeros in souls won, members gained, and funding the mission.



CHURCH
NAME

MINISTRY
ACTION
PLAN



DATE

LEADER'S GUIDE

—ACKNOWLEDGE (BASIS)

Our vision is making Christ-like disciples of all nations.

—ASK (WHY)

Are we as a local church fulfilling the Vision and Mission of God's Church? How do we as a local church define vision/mission?

—ASSESS (WHAT)

SWOT Analysis. What did we learn about ourselves? From our findings:

- What do we need to stop?
- What do we need to start?

—ACTION (HOW)

Four things we will need to do to accomplish His Mission for our Church:

1. What is our goal for souls won to Christ this year, and how will we do it?
2. How many people are we discipling?
3. How many new members will we have this year?
4. Looking outward: How will we reach new people through our outreach ministry?

SWOT ANALYSIS

S STRENGTHS WITHIN THE CHURCH

W WEAKNESSES WITHIN THE CHURCH

O OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CHURCH

T THREATS TO THE HEALTH OF THE CHURCH

The amount of goals and steps for each church will differ.

SMART GOALS

What specific steps will you take to reach each of these goals?

S SPECIFIC

M MEASURABLE

A ATTAINABLE

R REALISTIC

T TIME-BOUND

APPENDIX

Page 1

The Great Commission Plan

Pages 2-3

Vision of the Joplin District

2 | Goals and Values

3 | Strategies

Page 4

Ministry Action Plan

Pages 5-7

Access

6 | Mission/Process/Review

7 | SWOT Analysis

Pages 8-17

Action

9-12 | Specific/Yearly Goals

13 | Ministry Event Breakdown

14-15 | Operating Budget

16-17 | Church System in 90 Minutes



THE GREAT COMMISSION PLAN

J O P L I N
D I S T R I C T
C H U R C H
O F T H E
N A Z A R E N E

ACKNOWLEDGE (BASIS)

Our vision is making Christ-like disciples of all nations.

ASK (WHY)

Are we as a local church fulfilling the Vision and Mission of God's Church? How do we as a local church define vision/mission?

ASSESS (WHAT)

SWOT Analysis. What did we learn about ourselves?

From our findings:

- What do we need to stop?
- What do we need to start?

ACTION (HOW)

Four things we will need to do to accomplish His Mission for our Church:

1. What is our goal for souls won to Christ this year, and how will we do it?
2. How many people are we discipling?
3. How many new members will we have this year?
4. Looking outward: How will we reach new people through our outreach ministry?

MISSION:

Make Christ-like disciples on the Joplin District.

VISION:

To encourage, equip, and empower pastors, leaders, and churches. In the next 5 years, the Joplin District will be a place where every believer will be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to fulfill the heart of Christ by reaching a hurting world.

CORE VALUES:

1. Lost people matter to God
2. Leader development is critical
3. We are better together

CORE OBJECTIVES:

1. Win One
2. Disciple Others
3. Start One
4. Reproduce One

GOALS:

- Reach 1,000 souls for Christ in a year's time.
- Every church will increase their worship average by 3%.
- Average 10,000 in worship as a district.
- To plant 70 churches by 2022.
- In our district report, to attain Zero Zeros in souls won, members gained, and funding missions.

PERSISTENT PRAYING:

- We will do that by participating in a District-wide Daniel Fast of at least 10 days or more at the start of every year.
- We will join together for a weekly time of fasting - believing, fasting and prayer move the heart of God.
- We will encourage every church to schedule regular times of corporate prayer.
- We will challenge every individual to maintain a personal time of passionate and persistent prayer on a regular basis.
- We will daily pray for the Salvation of at least one individual.

Because we believe prayer is the core discipline that changes the culture and atmosphere of our hearts in preparation for His presence.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

- Team Days, where pastors come together for a time of fellowship and challenge.
- L² which occurs every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in a Zoom setting with our DS and guest speakers who encourage leaders with practical and relevant tools for ministry.
- Area gatherings where book reviews and general teachings are on a smaller model.
- Times of addressing current, relevant issues in a larger setting for pastors and laypeople.
- Each leader will find a mentor, and be a mentor.

The consistent development of leaders is crucial for both the present and the future as the church moves into the challenging days.

HEALTHY CHURCHES:

- Find and remove unhealthy segments of the church that cause "disease" to spread.
- Create opportunities for the local body to expand.
- Design Mission Action Plans, which will create SMART Goals: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time table.
- Provide training opportunities for being trained on Discipleship methods.

Enabling churches to remain or become healthy movements of God which will accomplish our mission.

PLANTING CHURCHES:

- We will look for opportunities close and far away to plant movements of God.
- We will be creative in our thinking - whether it be places of homes, coffee shop, restaurants, bars, or empty buildings.
- We will use every means available to plant churches and bring people to Christ.

Realizing our mandate by Christ to go, we believe it may be the most effective way in fulfilling the Great Commission.

CENTERS OF COMPASSION & RECOVERY:

- We will do that by creating Recovery-type ministries in our Churches.
- We will create centers of compassionate love for those who are walking a tough journey.
- We will create safe and acceptable churches where no person is ever treated unchristlike.

Desiring every church to form ministries that help families and individuals recover from bad decisions and unforeseen circumstances - therefore, aid them in the development of their lives into wholeness.



CHURCH
NAME

MINISTRY
ACTION
PLAN



DATE

The image is an abstract graphic design. It features a large, light blue rectangular area in the center. In the top right corner, there are two sets of concentric circles: one in dark blue and one in green. In the bottom left corner, there are several concentric orange circles. The top of the image has a green horizontal bar, and the bottom has a dark blue horizontal bar. A vertical orange bar is on the right side, partially overlapping the blue area. The word "ASSESS" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the blue area.

ASSESS

ASSESS

MISSION FOR YOUR CHURCH:

1.

STATE HOW YOUR CHURCH'S MISSION REFLECTS THE VISION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE TO: MAKE CHRIST-LIKE DISCIPLES IN THE NATIONS, AND THE VISION OF THE JOPLIN DISTRICT TO: DEVELOP LEADERS AND MULTIPLY THE CHURCH.

PROCESS AND PROGRAMS:

2.

OUTLINE THE WEEKLY PROGRAMS WITHIN YOUR CHURCH AND HOW THESE PROGRAMS HELP MOVE PEOPLE THROUGH YOUR DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS.

REVIEW YOUR CHURCH'S VITAL STATISTICS:

3.

GO TO NAZARENE RESEARCH SERVICES AND REVIEW YOUR CHURCH'S VITAL STATISTICS, TAKING NOTE OF THE TRENDS YOU MIGHT NEED TO ADDRESS. VIEW YOUR CHURCH'S REPORT ONLINE AT: FINDACHURCH.NAZARENE.ORG

SWOT ANALYSIS ASSESS

STRENGTHS WITHIN THE CHURCH:

S

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

WEAKNESSES WITHIN THE CHURCH:

W

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE:

O

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

THREATS TO THE HEALTH OF THE CHURCH:

T

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.



ACTION

ACTION

MY GOAL IS...

- State what you'll do.
- Make sure that your goals are clear, concise and unambiguous.
- Being more specific helps you identify what you want to achieve.

WHAT exactly do we want to accomplish?

WHO else will be involved (individuals/teams)?

WHERE will it take place?

WHICH resources are we going to leverage?

EXAMPLE...

NOT SPECIFIC: "I want more visitors."

NOT SPECIFIC: "I want to get good grades."

SPECIFIC: "I will get at least a 90% on my next math test."

SPECIFIC

MEASURABLE

THE GOALS
YOU SET
SHOULD FALL
UNDER THESE
FIVE SIMPLE
HELPS.

I WILL TRACK MY PROGRESS BY...

- Can you track the progress and measure the outcome?
- Provide a way to evaluate.
- In what ways can you measure your goal so that you know you're making progress?
- How much, how many, and how will I know when my goal is accomplished?
- Answers how much or how many and highlights how you'll know you've achieved your goal.
- How many accomplishments or actions will it take?

EXAMPLE...

NOT MEASURABLE: "I will be the best player on my team."

MEASURABLE: "I will score four goals this game."

I WILL ACHIEVE THIS GOAL BY DOING THE FOLLOWING...

- Involve action, otherwise they are dreams and wishes.
- Determine the next steps, so you know how to start making progress.

- Is the goal a reasonable stretch for me (neither out of reach, nor too easy)? How so?
- Any potential barriers you may need to overcome?
- Do I have, or can I get, the resources needed to achieve the goal?
- Weigh-in the time, cost & effort required to achieve the goal, versus other commitments & priorities.

EXAMPLE...

NOT ATTAINABLE:

"I will remember everything my teacher says."

ATTAINABLE:

"I will follow directions the first time during reading."

ATTAINABLE

THE GOALS
YOU SET
SHOULD FALL
UNDER THESE
FIVE SIMPLE
HELPS.

ACTION

REALISTIC

THIS GOAL HELPS US BECAUSE...

- Is the goal worthwhile and will it meet our needs?
- Does it fit with our immediate and long-term plans?
- Is this goal worth working hard to accomplish?
- Is this meaningful to us or is it just something others think we should do?
- Will it delay or prevent us from achieving a more important goal?
- Has any other church done it? Study those groups.
- Do we have the capabilities, resources & physical abilities to reach our goal? Really?
- You might think that your goal is important, but you have to ask yourself this-is it really? If the answer is still a "yes," by all means, go ahead!

EXAMPLE...

NOT RELEVANT:

"I will learn all the 3rd grade spelling words in the 2nd grade."

RELEVANT:

I will practice my addition and subtraction facts."

WHEN...

- We will complete this goal by (date)...
- It will establish a sense of urgency and prompt you to develop better time management.
- What is the deadline you will set to meet your goal?
- How much time will you allow yourself to accomplish this goal?
- It's important to set a realistic time frame to achieve your goal to ensure you don't get discouraged.
- A goal without a deadline is just a dream. Stop dreaming and keep yourself responsible by setting up timelines for your goals.
- Intended to establish a sense of urgency and prevent goals from being overtaken by the day-to-day crises that invariably arise.
- Set deadlines or time-frames! You can break down your long-term goals into shorter intervals.

EXAMPLE...

NOT TIME BASED:

"I will study for the next math test."

TIME BASED:

"I will study on Tuesday after school with my sister."

TIME-BOUND

GOAL FOR THE YEAR:

1.

WRITE THE STEPS YOU WILL TAKE TO REACH THIS GOAL HERE.

ACTION STEPS:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

ACTION YEARLY GOALS

GOAL FOR THE YEAR:

2.

ACTION STEPS:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

WRITE THE STEPS YOU WILL TAKE TO REACH THIS GOAL HERE.

GOAL FOR THE YEAR:

3.

ACTION STEPS:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

WRITE THE STEPS YOU WILL TAKE TO REACH THIS GOAL HERE.

KEY MINISTRY EVENTS & OUTREACH CALENDAR

Based on your church's goals for the year, list the key series/services, outreach events, and ministry events for the coming year. Give the event name, date, and a brief description and desired outcome.

EVENT NAME | DATE

1.

Description and event goal.

EVENT NAME | DATE

2.

Description and event goal.

EVENT NAME | DATE

3.

Description and event goal.

EVENT NAME | DATE

4.

Description and event goal.

EVENT NAME | DATE

5.

Description and event goal.

EVENT NAME | DATE

6.

Description and event goal.

EVENT NAME | DATE

7.

Description and goal of the event here.

OPERATING BUDGET

Based on your church's goals for the year, ministry calendar, and existing ministries - complete your ministry budget for the new year.

\$ _____ Fair Share Giving
(13.5% of prior year income as a starting point)
\$ _____ **Others Total**

**GIVING TO
OTHERS**

\$ _____ Office Staff
\$ _____ Professional Expenses and Mileage Reimbursements
\$ _____ Leadership Development/Training
\$ _____ Hospitality/Fellowship
\$ _____ Office Supplies
\$ _____ Outreach
\$ _____ Children's Ministry
\$ _____ Youth Ministry
\$ _____ Small Groups/Discipleship/Sunday School
\$ _____ Music/Media Ministry/Worship
\$ _____ Membership/Conferences
\$ _____ (Add Lines as Needed)
\$ _____ **Ministry (Program) Total**

**MINISTRY
PROGRAM**

GOAL IS
15-20%
OF WHAT
YOU RAISED
LAST YEAR

\$ _____ Rent/Mortgage
\$ _____ Pastoral Housing or Parsonage Costs
\$ _____ Utilities
\$ _____ Insurance
\$ _____ (Add Lines as Needed)
\$ _____ **Property/Facilities Total**

**PROPERTY
FACILITIES**

GOAL IS
NO MORE
THAN 20%

\$ _____ Lead Pastor Income
\$ _____ Lead Pastor Insurance
\$ _____ Lead Pastor 403b
\$ _____ Lead Pastor Medical Account
\$ _____ Leader Pastor Social Security
\$ _____ (Add Lines as Needed)
\$ _____ **Pastoral Staff Total**

**PASTORAL
STAFF**

GOAL IS
NO MORE
THAN 50%

OPERATING BUDGET

Based on your church's goals for the year, ministry calendar, and existing ministries - complete your ministry budget for the new year.

\$ _____ Giving to Others
\$ _____ Ministry Program
\$ _____ Property/Facilities
\$ _____ Pastoral Staff
\$ _____ Other

\$ _____
Total Expense Budget

EXPENSES SHOULD
NOT EXCEED
INCOME.

**Total Raised for
All Purposes
(prior year)**

\$ _____
Total Raised

\$ _____ Other Income Sources
\$ _____ Other Income Sources
\$ _____ (Add lines as Needed)

\$ _____
Total Income

BUDGET BASED ON
95% - 100% YEAR
INCOME.

Before we can effectively improve our systems (i.e. strategies) for helping more people become Christ-like disciples, we have to know what our current systems are. A system is a set of strategies with a desired outcome.

This document will not be evaluated by anyone nor published anywhere. It is intended to be one of several diagnostic tools that will help your local leadership and your ZF process which system to improve next.

The smaller the church, the less need there is for formal systems. A lot of good ministry happens informally. If some of your systems are more informal, just document what happens informally.

Please do not include plans or philosophy in this document. This is strictly for documentation of as-is systems, step by step.

HOW TO DOCUMENT YOUR CHURCH'S AS-IS SYSTEMS IN 90 MINUTES OR LESS.

LOVING RELATIONSHIPS/ASSIMILATION:

- How does your church connect with newcomers?
- What strategies do you employ to help newcomers connect with the ministries and people of your church?
- What is the end goal of your assimilation system? What system(s) does it feed into?
- Think of someone who is a regular attender now but was not a year or more ago. What steps did that person take toward assimilation?

NEED-ORIENTED EVANGELISM:

- What are the common ways people are given the opportunity to become followers of Jesus through your church?
- How do you follow up on those who make decisions to begin following Jesus?
- How do you train and motivate your church to personally engage in need-oriented evangelism?
- Think of one or two who have begun following Jesus in recent memory. How were they led into that decision? How have they been helped since?

EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP:

- How do you develop leaders?
- Think of someone who is in leadership now that was not a year or more ago. What steps did they take into that role and how are they being developed now?
- How do you cast vision and build teams to achieve mission?

GIFT-BASED MINISTRY:

- How do you help people discover their place and their giftedness?
- How do you recruit, assess, and deploy people into ministry roles?
- How do you support those who are in ministry roles?
- Think of someone who is serving now who was not a year or more ago. How were they recruited, assessed, and deployed?

PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY/STEWARDSHIP:

- How do we develop generous givers?
- How do we measure desired outcomes in people's lives? How many in our church attend worship regularly, participate in a discipleship ministry, give regularly through tithes and offerings, practice personal spiritual disciplines, and serve in a regular ministry role? Are there other desired outcomes in people's lives that would be indicators of a passionate spirituality?

EFFECTIVE STRUCTURES/STRATEGY

- How does the church calendar take shape?
- How is the church budget written and managed?
- Does the church have an organizational chart showing who is responsible for whom and who answers to whom?
- Does the church have written ministry descriptions for each ministry role?
- How are goals set and plans made to achieve those goals?
- Who knows the mission, vision, and values of the church? How are these communicated?

INSPIRING WORSHIP:

- How is the preaching plan prepared?
- How are sermons prepared?
- How do the leaders involved in worship coordinate their plans for the service (music, tech, preaching, arts, greeters, ushers)?
- How do we promote upcoming services?
- How do we measure the inspirational impact of our services?

HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS/NDI:

- What are the small group (and 1-on-1) discipleship ministries of our church?
- How do we train group leaders?
- How do we grow and multiply (i.e. manage) our discipleship groups?

Outreach Ideas

- 1. The 52 Challenge:** Members commit to personally invite one person—friend or stranger—to church every week this year, and write the names on their personal calendar.
- 2. Snow Day:** Build dozens of snowmen on the church lawn. Decorate snow-families with creative props and signs inviting folks to church.
- 3. Plan a baby shower** for a local pregnancy center on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, the third Sunday in January.
- 4. Sunday Brunch:** Deliver invitations to homes located near the church building inviting them to worship services and to a Sunday brunch beforehand with their neighbors (and some friendly church members).
- 5. Pray for Leaders:** Invite local government leaders to your worship service. Recognize those who are able to attend and pray for them.
- 6. Community-Wide Blood Drive:** Support your local blood bank.
- 7. Date Night:** Provide complimentary childcare for unchurched couples on Valentine's Day.
- 8. NearlyWed Seminar:** Invite engaged couples to an 8-week seminar before church or during the week. Each session is a topical Bible study about marriage, with homework and handouts. At completion, couples get a certificate and promote to newlywed class.
- 9. Mission Trip Mania:** Plan several mission trips for the year—local, national, international—and challenge members to either participate personally or help sponsor another participant.
- 10. Interactive Missions Fair:** Educate the entire church about how your church does missions both locally and globally. Invite missionaries your church supports and local ministries you partner with to set up booths.
- 11. Biggest Workday Ever:** Plan dozens of projects, involving all age groups. Challenge members and regular attenders to commit at least two hours for planting, painting, cleaning and other DIY projects.
- 12. Host a Kite-Flying Day:** Encourage kids, teens and adults to participate and invite friends. Give awards for highest, longest in flight, most creative kite.
- 13. Community Easter Egg Hunt:** Provide kids' music, candy-filled eggs, snacks and a puppet show about the meaning of Easter. Distribute bookmarks or refrigerator magnets that list weekly and special events for kids. Don't forget to invite everyone to Easter worship.
- 14. 1-2-3 Serve!** Each small group in the church plans a servant evangelism project on the same Saturday, blitzing the entire community with good works in Jesus' name.
- 15. Friend Day:** Encourage every member to bring an unchurched friend to worship.
- 16. Car-Care Clinic:** Enlist the help of some men in your church to set up a free oil and lube change and general car maintenance operation at your church for the single moms and widows in your community.
- 17. Stop & Pray Day:** On May 1, National Day of Prayer, use an outside banner to invite the community to come inside and pray. Play background music, light some candles and provide a simple prayer guide, sign-in-book and printed invitation to worship.
- 18. Mother's Day** is perfect for a baby dedication and to promote the launch of a small group for new parents.

19. School's Out Celebrations: Host three last-day-of-school parties. Elementary kids' ice cream party, middle school pizza party and treasure hunt; high school sand volleyball tournament and Christian concert. Provide a summer calendar of church events for each age group.

20. Welcome Wagon: Deliver welcome baskets to people who move into your community. Include baked goods or pantry items, information about your church, as well as coupons to local businesses. The Chamber of Commerce can provide you with the names and addresses of people who recently have relocated to your area.

21. Be Festive: As a church, participate in the town's annual fair or festival. Wear church T-shirts and have fun. Make a parade float, host a diaper changing station or offer to be the cleanup crew.

22. Neighborhood Cookout: Encourage church members or small groups to host a neighborhood cookout one Saturday and invite their neighbors to church.

23. Cool Comfort: Open your facility to those in the community who may not have air conditioning. Provide play areas for moms with young kids. Set up a workspace for college students with free Wi-Fi access. The summer heat is especially dangerous for seniors. Providing a cool place for them to spend their days may even save a life. You may need to arrange transportation to and from their homes.

24. Student Camp Sendoff: Members of an adult Bible class select a camper, prepare a snack bag for the trip, and pray for them that week.

25. Outdoor Concert: Invite the entire community to a free outdoor concert on the church lawn.

26. Thank Local Heroes: Invite fire fighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel and others for a special recognition service and lunch at your church.

27. All-Church Picnic: Plan a fun-filled day of food, games and fellowship.

28. VBS. Vacation Bible School is an enormous outreach. Visit LifeWay.com/vbs for ideas.

29. Middle School Summit: Incoming middle school students and their parents rotate through 10-minute topical classes taught by church youth leaders and Christians who teach or work in local middle schools. Afterward, kids have a party and parents eat out together.

30. Back-to-School Backpacks: Partner with a local school or shelter and donate backpacks filled with school supplies to school-age children whose families need financial assistance.

31. Move It: Recruit volunteers to wear church T-shirts and help with move-in day at your local college. Invite students to Sunday worship and a homemade lunch in their honor.

32. Snacks for Teacher Workday: Bible study classes or small groups select a local school, prepare and deliver baskets of snacks with a note of thanks and a prayer for the upcoming school year.

33. First Day, Moms Pray: Host a tea for moms just after they drop their kids off for the first day of school. Seat them by school or child's grade level for fellowship. Pray for the moms and the children. Provide a list of church activities and worship times.

34. Explosion Sunday: Kick-off new small groups and invite guests and unconnected members to join one.

35. Adopt an International Student. A majority of international students who come to the U.S. to study are never invited into an American home. Work with your local university to host an international student throughout the year. Pick them up at the airport when they arrive. Invite them to dinner once a month and spend time with them during the holidays.

- 36. “Meet the Teacher” Sunday:** Kids invite their schoolteacher, principal, cafeteria worker, etc., and sit by them in worship. Pray for them during church and honor them with a brief milk and cookies fellowship afterward.
- 37. Singles Dream Team:** About one-third of adults in your town are single. Form a top-notch team to pray and plan multiple small groups, events and ministries for singles. Kick off with a single adult retreat.
- 38. New Members Fellowship:** Host a bi-annual or quarterly event for new church members to help them feel welcome and make friends.
- 39. Minister Appreciation Week:** Ask members and attenders to send a note of appreciation to the pastor(s) during the first week of October.
- 40. Stock the Pantry:** Ask members to donate non-perishables to your church’s food pantry or a local food bank.
- 41. Pumpkinpalooza:** Display an invitation banner and gobs of pumpkins outside. Kids under 12 pick a pumpkin, decorate it and take it home. Take family photos and invite guests to pick them up on Sunday.
- 42. Senior Adult Revival:** Plan a weeklong daytime evangelistic revival for senior adults. Serve lunch. Encourage members to bring friends who may not know Christ.
- 43. Citywide Thanksgiving Art Exhibit:** In early fall, begin to solicit entries from church members, friends, local artists, art clubs and classes. Using any medium, artists illustrate a Thanksgiving theme. Deadline is end of October, and art is displayed in the church lobby throughout November.
- 44. Fall Daylight Savings:** Plan ahead so early arrivers (who forgot to change their clock) can enjoy their error. Signs at doors can offer doughnuts and coffee in the foyer, library time, or an invitation to watch the praise team rehearse.
- 45. Election Day:** Before voting day, each Bible study class selects one elected position such as Sheriff or City Commissioner. The group purchases a Bible, highlights favorite Scriptures, and delivers it immediately after the election with a note promising prayer for that leader.
- 46. Baptism Sunday:** Invite people who want to become a Christian, and believers who have never been baptized to sign up for a big baptism Sunday. Provide printed and e-invitations for their family and friends.
- 47. Missions Parade:** Emphasize international missions with a simple international parade during worship. Have children march around the worship center during a mission-themed song carrying miniature flags of the nations.
- 48. Digital Thanks:** Members submit one photo and a two-word description of something for which they’re thankful. Show a media presentation of the photos before and after the service.
- 49. Holiday Food Baskets:** Organize, prepare and deliver holiday food baskets to families and individuals in need.
- 50. Wrap It Up:** Provide free gift-wrapping for mall shoppers. Promote upcoming Christmas events at your church.
- 51. Christmas Caroling:** Teams blanket the community with caroling then meet later for hot cocoa.
- 52. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Keep it brief and family friendly. Plan ahead for quality music and friendly greeters. Invite the entire community.

Other Ideas

Backpack Giveaway

Turkey Giveaway

Ham Giveaway

Adopt a school or classroom

- Provide Kleenex

- Provide cookies on teacher work days

- Provide doughnuts in the morning

- Provide shoes for children

- Provide Christmas gifts

Here are some easy steps that can help you get started and be successful in outreach. A tremendous lesson we have learned along the way is that being structured and intentional is very important.

Those four steps are:

IDENTIFY
PLAN
COMMUNICATE
EXECUTE

IDENTIFY:
WHO DO YOU WANT TO BLESS AND HOW?

Select a group of people in your community and decided what you want to do for them.

PLAN:

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?
WHAT WILL IT COST?

What supplies do you need, how many volunteers do you need, how much money do you need? We operate on a budget of \$650 a month and with that we are able to bless over 350 people each month. A little bit can go a long way.

After you have completed the first two steps then you need to communicate.

COMMUNICATE:

COMMUNICATE YOUR PLAN
TO THE CHURCH BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS

Cast your vision.

At SNC we have an outreach team and an outreach wall. My outreach team is a group of volunteers that have committed to serving in outreach for one full year. Our outreach wall is located in our foyer and it showcases our outreach spotlight each month (who we are blessing) and what items we are collecting. We also talk about outreach weekly during our announcements.

EXECUTE:

GO AND DO IT!

Let's take those steps and walk through an example of an outreach we do at SNC.

Identify – We decided a few years ago that we wanted to love on the Seymour School employees.

Plan – Each month we select something different to take them

We have taken them homemade apple pies, candy bars, coffee cups, goodies bags, cookies. Anything that says “We appreciate you and have a great day.”

Once we know what items we need we know exactly what it's going to cost based on the number of employees.

Communicate – At SNC we have an outreach team, so after the plan is in place I communicate this to my team and they immediately know what their role is.

Execute – We select the date/time, assemble the gift and deliver.

Here are some additional outreach examples



Each year Seymour host it's annual Apple Festival. We always put a float in the parade and we have walkers hand out items to the crowd as we pass by. We have handed out SNC frisbees, SNC pens, bottled water and capri suns. If your town has a parade this is a great opportunity to be in front of people and love on them at the same time. We also host a booth that has free kids games.



Back To School



Back To School

Each year we host our annual Back to School event. Children receive a free backpack, a shoe voucher, haircut voucher and a variety of other items needed for going back to school. We also take this opportunity to pray with each family that comes through the line. Our local police and fire departments come out and interact with the children as well.



Breakfast Bags

These are our breakfast bags that we take out into the community each month. This is a very inexpensive outreach. We pick a breakfast item, drink and a snack that we can buy in bulk at Sam's. We print up a label on a 2x4 label you can get on Amazon or at Staples and we bag them in the traditional brown lunch bags. We take these to our local Steel Plant. This is a very labor-intensive job and what a great opportunity to brighten their day when they walk into the breakroom and see these waiting for them. We also take these to our local MoDot office and to our post office. Both of these groups can take these bags when they head out on the job.



Car Care Kit



Car Care Kit

In January we put together an SNC car care kit. Each kit had windshield wiper fluid, an ice scraper, air freshener and tire gauge. We left these on porches throughout Seymour.



Christmas Caroling

At Christmas we loaded up on a trailer and went caroling around Seymour. We have found that our church loves loading up on a trailer and going out together.



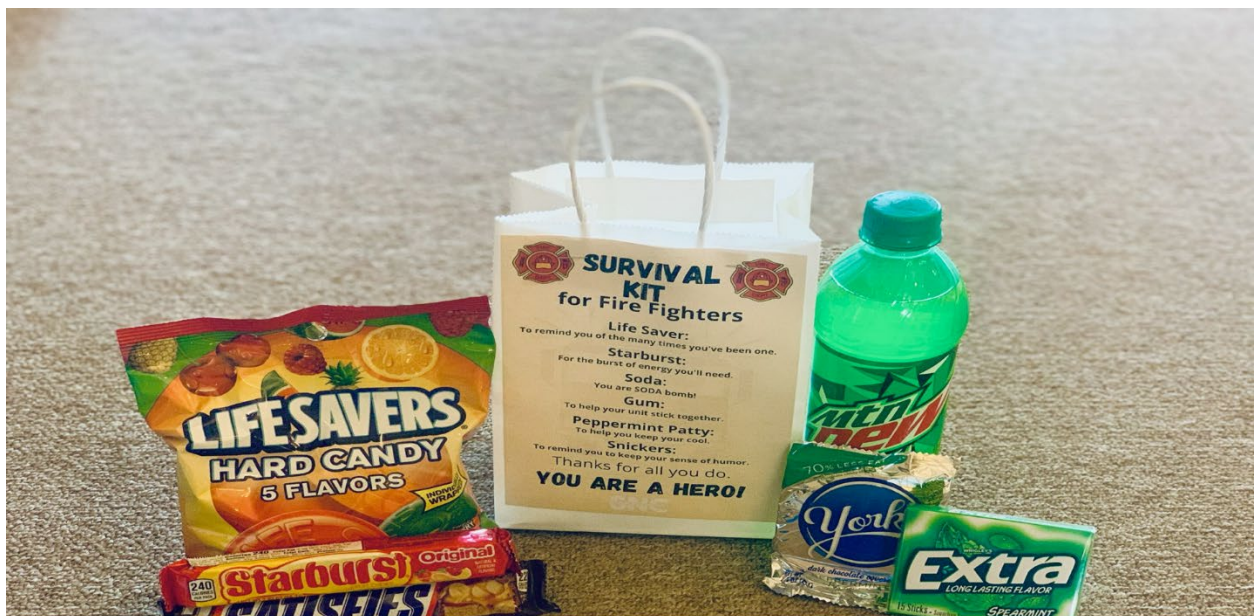
Christmas Parade

Prior to our town Christmas parade, we set up a free coffee stand on our town square. We give away coffee, apple cider and kool-aid jammers.



Christmas Parade

Each year we put a float in the parade and hand out candy to the kids. We bag the candy in Ziplock bags and put a label on the bag with something about Christmas and the church's name.



Fire Department

This is an outreach we did through our outreach wall. We have 50 volunteer firefighters that serve Seymour and Webster County. We collected these items and put together a firefighter survival kit. It's a great way to thank them for all that they do.



Fish Fry

In May we hosted a free fish fry in our town square. People just had to stop by for a free fish dinner.



Apple Pies

Each Fall we buy several bushels of apples make homemade apple pies. We give these out to school employees and to different businesses around town.



Nursing Home

Through our outreach wall we collected items for the residents at our local nursing home. We collected word searches, adult coloring books, colored pencils and pens. We also have our kids in Sunday School make cards for the residents on a regular basis.



Nursing Home

Each month we love on the nursing home employees. We have taken them a variety of different items. We try to deliver close to their monthly in-service meetings.



Pineapple Whip

Last summer we paid for Pineapple Whip to come down from Springfield and give away free Pineapple Whip to our community.



The second week of May is Police Officer Appreciation week. We collected these items through our outreach wall and then at the end of May we delivered these coolers full of snacks, drinks, gift cards and a variety of other items to our seven officers.



Real Love Christmas - Foster Children

Each Christmas we have Real Love Christmas. We adopt around 140 foster children and we purchase an item for each that is then given to them at their Christmas party. The first year we collected new stuffed animals and the second year we purchased new blankets for each based on their favorite color.



Real Love Christmas - Foster Parents

We also take that opportunity to love on the foster parents. They have received gift boxes, apples pies and ice cream sundae boxes.



Real Love Christmas - School Employees

Prior to the Christmas break we did the 12 days of Christmas SNC style. Each day the employees received something different like Famous Amos cookies, a can of pop, Doritos, hot chocolate and we wrote the jingle to go with it. This outreach was a lot of fun and we even had teachers send us a video of them singing our version of the song.



Real Love Christmas - Community

We put these goodie bags together the week before Christmas and took them into businesses and blessed all the employees.



Social Workers

During social worker appreciation month, we had the opportunity to bless them with a lunch bag full of goodies. We included a coupon for a free drink at our SNC coffeeshop that is open Sunday and Wednesdays prior to service.

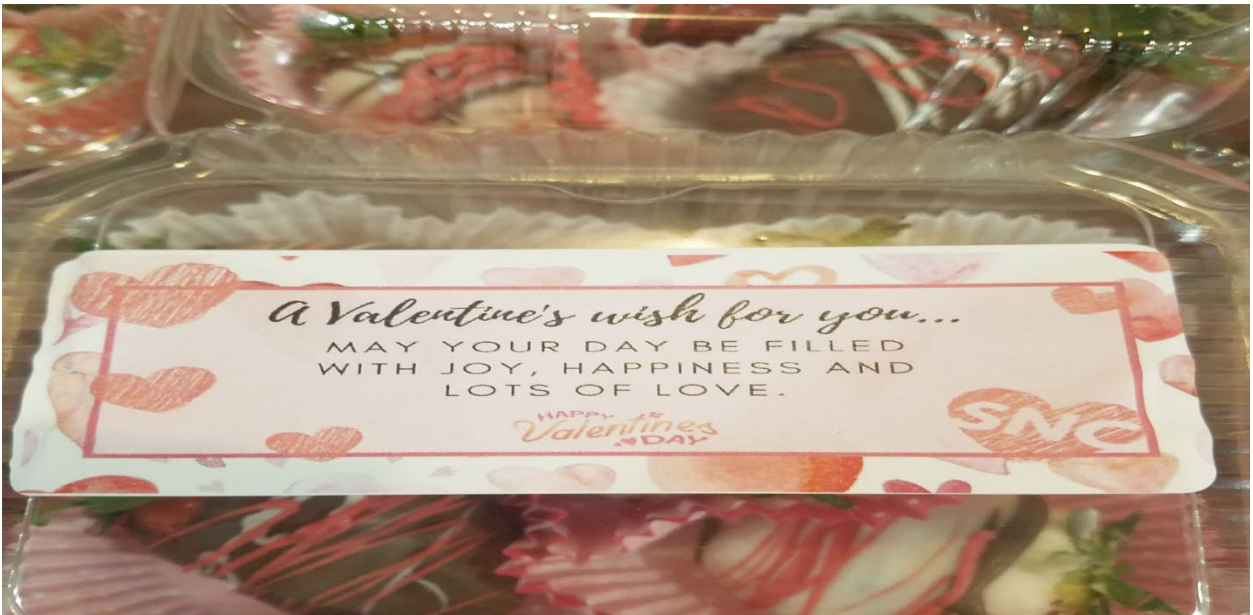


Easter

In the Spring we left an SNC umbrella on 200 doorknobs in our community, along with an invite to our Easter service.



Strawberries



Strawberries

The week leading up to Valentine's Day we dip thousands of chocolate covered strawberries, box them up in half dozens and take them to every business in Seymour. We give away around 750 boxes.



Trunk Or Treat



Trunk Or Treat

We participate in our local trunk or treat that is held on our town square. We sponsor 15+ spots and hand out GREAT candy. Our free cider and coffee stand is always in our first spot that way parents can enjoy a cup of coffee or cider while they walk with their kids.



Library Outreach

Through our outreach wall we collected new books and DVD's for our local library.



Seymour School Employees

Back to School survival kit for all school employees.



Real Love Day

Real Love Days at SNC are when we go out into the community and do physical labor for others. We rake and haul off leaves, clean up brush, mow yards, whatever the need is. This outreach costs you absolutely nothing. Sometimes we go out and just knock on doors and ask if we can rake your yard for you. Other times we have assigned jobs that our city needs help with. It's a great opportunity to bless people and build a relationship with your city.

As you can see there are many ways you can do outreach. When you begin to go out you will quickly realize that people are not accustomed to being loved on, they may think that you are weird, they may cry, they may stand there speechless or they may try to pay you. But this is why it is so important that we are out there loving on people and sowing seeds of kindness in our communities.

Resources I use:

Pinterest
Outreach Magazine
The Conspiracy of Kindness
Discountmugs.com
4allpromos.com

Outreach:

Connecting with Our Community
Building Relationships and Spreading God's Love

Why does Outreach matter?

- Outreach helps fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
- It builds relationships with people in need, inside and outside the church.
- Outreach is a practical way to share God's love and serve others.
- It strengthens the local church and grows the congregation.

Biblical Foundation for Outreach

- Acts 1:8 (Witnessing in your local community and beyond)
- Matthew 24:35-40 (Caring for the least of these)
- 1 John 3:18 (Love in action, not just words)

Jesus' Example of Reaching the Lost

- Jesus' ministry focused on meeting people's needs (feeding, healing, teaching)
- He engaged with all people, regardless of their social status.
- We are called to model this love and outreach in our communities.

Planning Effective Outreach

There are four key steps to accomplish successful outreach. The most important lesson we've learned along the way that is being structured and intentional is key. By planning with purpose, you can ensure that your outreach efforts are meaningful and effective.

1. Identify
2. Plan
3. Communicate
4. Execute

IDENTIFY: Who do you want to bless and how?

- What are the needs of the people in your surrounding community?
- How can your church best serve and meet those needs?
- Is there a certain group of individuals we want to bless this month?

Select a group of people in your community and decide how you want to serve/bless them. It could be the elderly, local school teachers, first responders, or those experiencing homelessness. Consider their needs and what you can do to meet them—whether it's providing meals, offering emotional support, or organizing a service project. By focusing on a specific group, you can create a more personalized and impactful outreach effort.

PLAN: What do you need to make this happen?

- Develop clear goals.
- What supplies do you need?
- How many volunteers do you need?
- How much is it going to cost?
- Involve church members by matching their gifts and passions to outreach projects.

COMMUNICATE: Cast your vision

MOBILIZING THE CONGREGATION

- Share your heart during announcements, share your vision
- Offer simple ways for the congregation to get involved, such as praying, giving and SERVING.
- Share success stories of past outreach events.

We need to cultivate a culture where outreach is a regular part of our conversations, making it a central focus of who we are as a church. By discussing it frequently, we can inspire ongoing involvement and keep the vision alive.

EXECUTE

GO AND DO IT!

Example of putting this into action

- Identify: Realove Church is located in Seymour, Mo. Valentine's Day is an important day in our school system. Throughout that day the local florist delivers many gifts to the children. Many parents do not have the means to send their child a gift, and sometimes this creates an environment where children feel left out or less than. We wanted all children to feel valued, regardless of their circumstances.
- Plan: Realove started purchasing small stuffed animals for each child in the elementary school and attaching a small box of candy. This provides the opportunity for each child to go home with something special.
- Communicate: We expressed our desire with school administrators.
- Execute: Gifts are assembled and delivered to the school.

Outreach Ideas

Breakfast bags are a low cost outreach. They contain water, breakfast item and a snack.

These are great for factory type environments.

(always have a label with a short note and your church name)



Police Officer appreciation week is the second week of May. We have gifted coolers, lunchboxes, goodies and gift cards. You can also engage the kids by having them make cards.



Realove Day is a day of service in our community.



Back to School Event

We provide free backpacks, socks, shoe vouchers, onsite haircuts, kids devotionals, underwear, dinner, snow cones and most importantly we pray over each family.



The week of Valentine's day we dip thousands of chocolate covered strawberries and then distribute to the local businesses.



Strawberries

Love on your local Social workers. Take in snacks, give them a gift during social worker appreciation month. Find ways to also love on foster parents and kids in foster care.



Social Workers

Host a community Easter Egg hunt, with bounce houses, face painting, petting zoo and snacks.



Participate in your local Christmas parade. We enter a float and hand out Christmas Presents to all the children watching. We also host a free apple cider and coffee stand on the square before the parade.



Additional ideas

- Be involved in community events. Seymour has a local Apple Festival every Fall. We sponsor a FREE kids game booth each year.
 - Find out if your school district has a Care to Learn program and inquire about their needs.
 - Contact your school administrators office and inquire if there are any families that have outstanding lunch debt they are unable to pay.
 - Provide sport drinks for your local high school sports teams.
 - Purchase word searches, adult coloring books, colored pencils and pens for nursing home residents.
 - Give away gift cards to local food truck vendors or local coffee shops.
 - Provide food assistance
 - Provide utility assistance (pay utility bills)
-
- Provide small gifts (snacks, candy, homemade goodies) to school employees
 - Deliver household items to senior citizens
 - Reach out to local group homes in your area and see if there's a need you can meet
 - Participate in your local trunk or treat, offer free coffee to parents
 - Angel tree - contact school counselors and inquire if any families need assistance purchasing Christmas gifts.
 - Deliver Thanksgiving dinner to shut ins or families that don't have access to a traditional Thanksgiving meal.
 - Show appreciation to your local fire department.
 - The possibilities are endless

Reflection and Debrief

It is important to assess the outreach itself—what worked well, what challenges we faced, and how we can improve for the future. Gathering feedback from volunteers helps refine our approach and make future efforts even more impactful. This reflection process allows us to grow and better serve our community.

Post Event Follow-up

Some outreach events provide the opportunity to collect contact information of those attending. It is important to follow up with them, either through card, text or email.

Send a thank you to your volunteers expressing your appreciation of their involvement.

Closing

Our outreach ministry is dedicated to sowing seeds of love and kindness, knowing that even the simplest act of service can plant a seed of eternity in someone's heart. These seeds have the potential to blossom into faith in Christ. By serving others, we unlock the deep purpose God has given each of us to make an eternal impact.

As a church, we believe that outreach must be a priority in our long-term vision. It's not just an event—it's a way of life that reflects our commitment to reaching those in need. We invite you to be a part of this incredible mission—to serve, to love, and to help change lives for God's kingdom.

Keep on sowing your seeds, for you never know which will grow—perhaps it all will

Ecclesiastes 11:6



