

COMMUNITY MINISTRY - Bibliography -

101 Ways to Help People in Need, by Steve and Janie Sjogren (NavPress, 2002)
ISBN 1576833151

The authors present practical and creative ways for you and your church to reach out to people with physical, emotional, and relational needs—in your neighborhood, your community, your country, and your world.

101 Ways to Reach Your Community, by Steve Sjogren (NavPress, 2001) ISBN
1576832201

The approach called "servant evangelism" allows any believer—regardless of gifting—to be involved in sharing God's love with others. One of the great things about this approach is that you don't have to do it alone. Sjogren offers 101 simple and effective ways your church or small group can demonstrate the love of God to those in your community. When people see the love of God in action, they want to know more about Him. You *can* share your faith successfully, and here are practical ways to start.

101 Ways to Reinvest Your Life, by Steve Sjogren and Janie Sjogren (NavPress, 2003) ISBN 978-1576832295

The authors show you specific ways to use your God-given abilities and hard-earned skills to make a difference in the lives of others. Decide to make the rest of your life the best of your life.

Building Communities from the Inside Out, by John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight (ACTA Publications; 1 edition, 1997) ISBN 087946108X

Provides a path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets.

Churches that Make a Difference: Reaching Your Community with Good News and Good Works, by Ron Sider, et. al. (Baker, 2002) ISBN 0801091330

The authors give those involved in community outreach a comprehensive resource for developing holistic ministry—a balance of evangelism and social outreach. Illustrations and organizational tips detail the how-to's of an effective holistic ministry. User-friendly tools are included as well for congregational studies, surveys, evaluations, and community assessments. The authors draw on extensive experience with church ministries and faith-based organizations as they share the life-changing vision and biblical mandate for living the whole gospel. Church leaders will be encouraged in their process of developing and maintaining a holistic ministry, and local churches will rediscover a passion for loving the whole person the way Jesus did.

Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-Based Initiatives, by Carl S. Dudley (The Alban Institute, 2002) ISBN 1566992567

In this era of "faith-based initiatives," congregations increasingly find themselves in the business of establishing and supporting community ministries. In this volume, the author revises and updates his earlier book, *Basic Steps Toward Community Ministry*. He offers guidance for congregational leaders who need to create tools, get started, and take next steps to respond to God's call to ministry in their community.

Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor (Regal, 2007) ISBN 0830743790

The urban landscape is changing and, as a result, urban ministries are at a crossroads. If the Church is to be an effective agent of compassion and justice, we must change our mission strategies. Lupton asks the tough questions about service providing and community building to help ministries enhance their effectiveness.

Conspiracy of Kindness, by Steve Sjogren (Vine Books, 2003) ISBN 0830734074

Ten years ago, Steve Sjogren published this groundbreaking book that has helped thousands of Christians win others to Jesus and the Church by performing simple, unexpected services. *Conspiracy of Kindness* enables every Christian to become an effective evangelist by demonstrating with teaching, example and testimony how unassuming acts of kindness convince people of the love of God more persuasively than words. This tenth-anniversary edition contains the author's epilogue, in which he describes the impact kindness evangelism has had on Christianity throughout the world.

Deeply Woven Roots: Improving the Quality of Life in Your Community, by Gary Gunderson (Augsburg Fortress Press, 1997) ISBN 0800630955

Gunderson, Director of Operations for the Interfaith Health Program, in Atlanta, demonstrates in this dynamic book how congregations can become centers for health and healing in their communities.

Encounter God in the City: Onramps to Personal and Community Transformation, by Randy White (InterVarsity, 2006) ISBN 0-8308-3389-7

Urban life peels away our sin and self-deception and challenges our unexamined assumptions about privilege, race, class and power. Experiential discipleship moves us from abstract theory to hands-on learning and on-the-ground action, revolutionizing our perspectives and making a difference in local neighborhoods and beyond. The author's narratives of experiencing God in the city show us how our spiritual health is intertwined with the health of the metropolis. Seek the welfare of the city, and both you and the city will be transformed.

The Externally Focused Church, by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson (Group, 2004) ISBN 978-0764427404

Learn from churches that have made serving their communities a priority--with dramatic results. Your church can be a firm pillar in your community because of the unwavering truth and love of its members.

Letting Go: Transforming Congregations for Ministry, by Roy D. Phillips (The Alban Institute, 1999) ISBN 1566992214

Pioneering thinkers have been saying for decades that the key to church renewal lies in nurturing the ministry of the laity. Based on his 30-plus years experience in parish ministry, Phillips makes the case that in order for lay ministries to flourish, pastors need to let go of their traditional views about their role in the congregation. *Letting Go* forthrightly explains what it means for pastors to do less, so their members have the opportunity and freedom to grow.

Needs-Based Evangelism: Becoming a Good Samaritan Church, by Robert D. Pierson (Abingdon, 2006) ISBN 0-687-33248-6

Using Jesus' parable from Luke 10 as his foundation, Pierson explores how churches can become "Good Samaritan" churches—congregations that effectively

reach and minister to the community. He contends that being a Good Samaritan church begins with strong leadership committed to addressing the needs of people so they can become disciples of Jesus Christ. To compete with today's consumer-driven society, however, churches must learn to be entrepreneurial in their approach and "market" themselves as entities that truly meet specific needs.

Next Steps in Community Ministry: Hands-on Leadership, by Carl S. Dudley (The Alban Institute, 1996) ISBN 1566991684

Dudley and a research team go back to 24 ministries still in existence five years after the Church and Community Project's completion. They discovered: how the myths and expectations of funding, lay/clergy leadership, and church/society partnerships were shattered by what is doable; how the often Herculean efforts frustrated and tired participants, who were then uplifted and sustained by making a difference; how faith was the foundation for action, and how, through action, the poor, the homeless, and others in need became real people and not statistics. Perhaps most important is the discovery that community ministry takes shape in ways unique to local issues of theology, church size, social location, and cultural composition.

Outflow: Outward-Focused Living in a Self-Focused World, by Steve Sjogren and Dave Ping (Group, 2007) ISBN 978-0764434044

Written for everyday people, this book inspires readers to lead joyful, outward-focused lives, powerfully connected with family and friends...and in those connections, to naturally share God's love. Related kits also available: *Outflow Pastor Kit*, *Outflow Small Group Ministry Leader Kit*, *Outflow Youth Ministry Leader Kit*, *Outflow Children's Ministry Leader Kit*.

Public Offerings: Stories from the Front Lines of Community Ministry, by Linda-Marie Delloff (The Alban Institute, 2002) ISBN 1566992680

The author introduces readers to 10 congregations that have successfully developed the capacity to serve different publics effectively. Through written stories and an extensive resource list, the author suggests ways for all congregations to reach beyond themselves to better serve their neighbors.

Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing It Together and Doing It Right, edited by John M. Perkins (Baker, 1996) ISBN 080105463X

This text, dubbed "the official handbook of the Christian Community Development Association," explains the foundation of CCDA: relocation, redistribution, and reconciliation. This book offers upfront advice for real ministry based on the African-American pastor/leader/organizer's experience and a theology of mutual ministry.

Seeing Beyond the Church Walls: Action Plans for Touching Your Community, edited by Steve Sjogren (Group, 2001) ISBN 978-0764423437

Respected Christian leaders share key action plans and an encouraging vision for seeing beyond church walls created by inward-focus and introversion, to how to penetrate our local communities with the love of Jesus Christ. A bridge-building body of Christ that overcomes its own inwardly focused gaze to grip the hearts of those beyond church walls.

Starting a Nonprofit at Your Church, by Joy Skjegstad (The Alban Institute, 2002) ISBN 1-56699-265-6

Joy Skjegstad outlines the step-by-step procedures for setting up a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization connected to a congregation using simple, easy-to-understand terminology and plenty of examples from churches that have already taken on this task. Whether a congregation is setting up a new program or has an established nonprofit that needs to be restructured or redefined, congregations will find helpful guidance in this practical, experience-based book.

They Will Know Us by Our Love: Service Ideas for Small Groups (Group, 2007) ISBN 9780764434341

This book equips readers to lead adult small groups in 101 meaningful service projects...projects that quietly communicate God's love to a community. Includes scripture verse related to project, discussion questions for each service project, helpful hints, various indexes (scripture, duration, types of service, seasonal ideas) for quick reference.

Urban Churches Vital Signs: Beyond Charity Toward Justice, by Nile Harper (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2005) ISBN 159752123X

These significant stories describe creative initiatives by congregations in response to issues of economic development, affordable housing, health care, and education in fifteen cities across the nation.

Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry, by Joy Skjegstad (The Alban Institute, 2007) ISBN 978-1-56699-341-8

Providing detailed guidance on the practical aspects of seeking grants from foundation and corporate funders, Skjegstad describes approaches for researching potential funders, developing a case statement, putting together an effective grant proposal, and following up with grant makers. She explains the types of grants available and how to determine which are a good fit with your ministry. Skjegstad helps faith communities identify their own cultural beliefs, follow spiritual disciplines, and cultivate generous hearts as they work toward integrating their faith and their fundraising.

CHILDREN

101 Simple Service Projects Kids Can Do, by Susan Lingo (Teacher Training Series – Standard, 2000) ISBN 978-0784711545

Service projects kids can do to serve individuals, the church, and the community. These activities teach kids as much about God as they do about serving others. Provides dozens of opportunities to build a sense of community among your kids and to develop servants of God.

The Big Book of Service Projects, Grades 1-6 (Gospel Light, 2001) ISBN 0830726330

80+ multi-age service projects, many designed to be completed in class, helps lead students in serving family and friends, church family, people in the community and around the world. These service projects enrich any curriculum by giving students practical ways to apply what they learn about loving and serving God and others.

Options are included to adapt projects to any elementary level. Give students practical opportunities to show God's love to others and encourages students to begin a lifetime of Christian service.

Teaching Kids to Care & Share: 300+ Mission & Service Ideas for Children, by Jolene L. Roehlkepartain (Abingdon, 2000) ISBN 0687084288

This volume provides over 300 inventive, hands-on activities (short and long-term) that involve children in service to one another, their churches and local communities, and the world. The book features: lively, age-appropriate projects and activities for 3- to 5-year-olds, 6- to 9-year-olds, and 10- to 12-year-olds; guidance for working with children of different ages and abilities; ready-to-use reproducible pages and a Scripture and topic index; and contact information for numerous national and international service organizations and programs that work with and relate to children.

Tween Time: Fellowship and Service Projects for Preteens, by James Wrede, et. al. (Abingdon, 2003) ISBN 978-0687022540

Tween time helps 4th, 5th, and 6th graders be active in service and feel prepared to be part of the larger youth program. Twelve programs cover such topics as: Courage, Making a difference, Coping with Stress, Success and Competition, God's presence, Compassion. Twelve service projects are also suggested.

YOUTH

Fresh Ideas 6: Missions and Service Projects, by Jim Burns and Mike DeVries (Gospel Light, 1999) ISBN 0830718796

Helps any youth worker turn youth mission trips into events that kids and youth workers will find life-changing. Jim Burns and Mike DeVries provide dozens of innovative, group-tested ideas for meaningful mission ventures. This reproducible manual includes: The basics of planning a purposeful trip; Myriad ideas and places for mission and service projects at home and away; Sample schedules, forms, questionnaires; Walks youth workers through the process of planning a trip step-by-step.

Soul Survivor Guide to Service Projects (Gospel Light, 2004) ISBN 0830735291

Explains an important aspect of the Soul Survivor ministry: action evangelism, communicating the gospel through service, justice and love. Includes ideas for service projects, examples of action evangelism, tips for youth leaders and methods of outreach and follow-up, this inspiring manual will help youth leaders galvanize young Christians to reach out to their community and make a difference.

This bibliography was prepared by the staff of the Covenant Resource Center. While not specifically endorsed by the Evangelical Covenant Church, the above resources may be helpful as you plan for ministry. For additional assistance or suggestions, contact the Covenant Resource Center at 1-800-338-IDEA(4332) or resource.center@covchurch.org.