

How To Organize A Community Outreach:



It's not hard to organize an outreach in your area. In fact outreach can be made simple.

There are several things that you will want to do to prepare to have an impact for God in your area.

1. **Pray** and ask God which place He desires for you to target in your area for souls.
2. **Drive or walk** around in the vicinity preferably near to your local church to see where the needs are the greatest. There may be an apartment complex, a neighborhood or a trailer park where you can plan your outreach.
3. **In your private prayer time**, begin to pray for the people of this area. Ask God to open their hearts and to give you favor with them.
4. **Begin to collect items to give away** when you go into the designated area that you have chosen. I started with big bags of candy to give to the children. After that we collected clothes. When I became more acquainted with the people I saw that they had basic needs, so we collected soap, shampoo, conditioner, brushes, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion and hair spray and put them in little bags. If it is close to school starting then it's a great idea to collect school supplies. If you are on a limited budget, don't try to buy the whole school supply list at once. Collect pencils. Give pencils and candy away! Other inexpensive items to collect for the children are coloring books, bubbles, kites and most of these items can be purchased at the Dollar Stores! At Christmas we collect toys for the children. We put the toys in big trash bags and label them. For instance:

- » Girls Toys: Infant
- » Girl Toys: Ages 4 and up
- » Teenage Girls: Toys
- » Boy's Toys: Infant
- » Boy's Toys: Ages 4 and up
- » Teenage Boys: Toys

When we have bigger gifts donated for example a girl's and a boy's bicycle, we purchase a roll of tickets and do a drawing at the end of the outreach. So be creative!

5. **Have cards or flyers printed up** with your church name, address, phone number, website and service times. This is probably something you already have on hand.
6. **You will need blank index cards and pens** in order to get the people's information so you can follow up on them after the outreach. Some churches/ministries use their Visitor Cards.
7. **If you target an apartment complex for instance go or call in advance** and speak to their manager. Let them know what church you are with and that you desire to come on a Saturday morning for instance for a couple of hours to give gifts to the children and families.
8. **Set your Outreach Date.** Most of the time we do our outreaches on a Saturday morning. Set your date well in advance so you can begin to announce it at your church and invite your friends to help you. On Friday afternoon we go to the outreach area and hand out flyers. We let the residents know that we will be in their area the next day at 11 AM for FREE GIVEAWAYS! We always let them know the exact location of the outreach.

For instance: On the Children's Playground or at the end of Avenue E. When we arrive, there is usually already a crowd of people waiting on us. If not, we take our teams door to door inviting everyone to come to the designated spot for FREE GIVEAWAYS in the next 10 minutes. Here's an example of a flyer that we used at one of our outreaches.

9. **Print flyers.** Here is an example of a flyer that we used at one of our outreaches:



10. **Hand out flyers the day before your outreach.**

OUTREACH DAY:

On outreach day, the excitement continues. Here's what we do:

1. **Have a Soul Winning Training Session** on the day of your outreach. Meet at your church at 9:30 AM for a brief training session and time of prayer. In our training sessions I go ahead and divide up our team into groups in case we need to go door to door once we arrive. I have taken as few as three on the streets and as many as two hundred. Numbers do not matter.
2. **In our training sessions I encourage everyone with scriptures.** I use:

John 14:14 "Yes I will grant [I myself will do for you] whatever you shall ask in my Name [as representing all that I Am]."

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know."

John 15:7 "If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you."

I John 5:14 "And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that is we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us." Then we pray down Heaven over the area. **Pray this prayer with your team:**

"Father in the name of Jesus I take authority over every spirit and strong hold that has people bound today. I command the enemy to get your hands off of them in the name of Jesus. Addictions, I destroy you. Drugs, alcohol, pornography, wrong relationships, perversion, deception, violence, abuse, I command you to be destroyed in lives today. Father I declare that the blood of Jesus Christ covers them and the angels of God are sent forth to have charge over them and to minister to them. We take authority over spirits of hopelessness and suicide. We speak peace and a sound mind to those we come into contact with today. I declare no accidents, no disease, no untimely deaths will come to any of those we minister to. Thank you my Father for saving the lost, restoring the backslider, healing the sick and setting captives free and at liberty today in Jesus name. Thank you for your promise in Psalm 91 that your angels have charge over our team and we are covered in the blood of Jesus Christ. Thank you Father that you have already gone before us and given us great favor with each person we will reach out to today in Jesus name. We thank you for a great harvest of souls and lives changed!"

3. **Gather your giveaways,** cards or flyers with church information and blank cards and pens to write down contact information of your new friends.

4. **Dress casual.** In the summertime, it's important to stay hydrated. In all of our summer outreaches, we always bring bottles of water for our team and for the residents.
5. **When we arrive at the outreach location,** there is usually a crowd of people waiting on us. One group unloads the giveaways. Another group lets the residents know where the giveaway line will start so they can begin getting in their place to receive their free gifts. The rest of the team goes to each resident, hugging the children, handing out candy and drinks, meeting the adults and letting them know how much we appreciate them coming.

If you arrive and there is not a group of people waiting on you, do not be discouraged. Take your team door to door inviting everyone to come to the designated spot for FREE GIVEAWAYS in the next five minutes. This is what we say when we go to someone's door:

"Hello, my name is Debra George. I am with Life Church and we are here to be a blessing to you and your family today. We are giving away free toys for your children and we have something to give to adults too. We are meeting in five minutes next to the swing set. Come on out and join us."

I encourage teams when going door to door to not go inside of someone's home unless you have a designated leader with you who gives their approval. For instance, there have been occasions when the resident wants us to pray for someone who is sick and unable to come to the door. I have done this many times however I do not recommend this unless you are with one of your Pastors or leaders.

Another important point is that when we knock on doors I always knock and then take a few steps back away from the door and wait for someone to answer. I take teams into the drug districts a lot and you never know what condition the person is in who answers the door. Be waiting and smiling! Use wisdom.

We always have men on the streets with us, however I always keep women on the forefront and visible for two reasons:

- » Women will be more responsive to coming to an outreach with their children when they meet and connect with another woman. In some cases the husband or man of the house will not want his family to attend if he does not see any women on your team. These are suggestions and of course there is an exception to every rule. Girl Toys: Ages 4 and up.
- » When I take teams into the prostitution district, I use ladies to talk to the prostitutes though men are always present for safety reasons.

6. **When we start the outreach,** I stand and greet the people and let them know how much we appreciate them coming. I then say, "We are here on behalf of (name of your church and Pastors). We have some free gifts to give you today because we want to be a blessing to you. Before we give you these gifts I want to take one minute of your time and tell you about the GREATEST FREE GIFT you can ever receive, the gift of Jesus Christ, everlasting life. The Bible says in John 3:16 that God so loved YOU, that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, that whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
7. **Pray with the people.** I want all of you to lift up your right hand like you had a question at school. Now lift up your left hand too like someone had a gun in your back (God forbid!) This is a sign of surrendering your life to God. Now repeat this prayer out loud after me, "Lord Jesus, forgive me of all of my sins. Come into my heart and save me today. I believe that your blood Jesus washes all of my sins away and that I now am a child of God. Thank you for saving me in Jesus name."
8. **Announce the name of your church when you finish praying.** Include church location and service times for the next day. Always mention about programs you have for children, teens and adults so that they know you have something for every age. If possible, let the residents know that your team will be coming by in the morning an hour prior to services to pick them up for church.
9. **Pray one on one with the residents.** The next thing I do is tell them that your team is coming by to ask you if you need prayer for anything special and they will pray with you. If you approach someone and they say that they don't need any prayer, I always ask them if I can pray and ask God to bless them. They usually say yes. Pray short and powerful prayers.
10. **During prayer time, have your team get resident's information written on cards** so that you have a way to follow up on them. You will want to make sure your information cards include their names, children's names and

ages, address, phone number and email address. During this time, make sure that you have handed them a card or flyer with your church information on it.

- 11. Start giving your items away.** Begin to move the line along and have part of your team stationed at your giveaway area to hand the giveaways to the residents.
- 12. Hug and love on all of the people.** Let them know how much you care.
- 13. Gather your team** when the outreach is over and thank God for what He is doing in your area. Collect the information cards so you know what doors to knock on to bring people to church the next day.
- 14. The last and most important key to having a SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH is CONSISTENCY.** Once you go into an area, stop by again with a few friends the next week and knock on the same doors to say hello. Ask them if there is anything that they need prayer for. Remind them that you will be back on Sunday to pick them up for church. It's not necessary to bring giveaways with you each time. We do giveaways about 3 times a year. The rest of the time, we talk with the people, learn their names and begin to build relationships with them.

REMEMBER THE GOAL OF OUTREACH IS TO SEE PEOPLE COME TO JESUS AND THEN GET THEM PLUGGED INTO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH WITH GREAT PASTORS WHERE THEIR LIVES CAN BE CHANGED AND TRANSFORMED!

Possibly you are in a church that does not have an outreach team. You as an individual can do an outreach in your neighborhood by applying the same principles that I use above. Get a friend to help you and do a local outreach. Start inviting and bringing new converts to church with you. It just takes one person to make a difference and that one person is you. Go! Get started today!