



MONTHLY EMPHASIS

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Translated from Spanish by Bethany Cyr

Resource Folder

SDMI



Mesoamerica Region

MONTHLY EMPHASIS 2021

Theme: 2018-2021

Intentionally investing your life in discipling through prayer and God's Word, establishing personal relationships, teaching and serving others to be Christlike disciples.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timoteo 2:2

**Intentional Discipleship through
Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries and Urban Missions.**

With Prayer and the Word (2018)

Investing in Good Relationships Showing Christ (2019)

Invest in Teaching (2020)

Invest my time in Serving (2021)

PERMANENT EMPHASIS

Praying in the Word

Relating to the unreached

Teaching and Forming leaders who disciple others.

Our Core Values:

We are a Christian People.

We are a Holy People.

We are a Missional People.

HOW TO APPLY THE EMPHASIS

- Read the entire resource folder, in detail, with your SDIM team.
- Pastor and SDMI council organize dates for 12 Sundays to present each emphasis in your local Church.
- Director and secretary coordinate so that each ministry leader participates in the emphasis that corresponds to them.

MONTH	EMPHASIS	ORGANIZING LEADERS
January	<i>Education</i>	SDMI Council, NMI
February	<i>Marriage</i>	Leaders of Marriage Ministries, SDMI Council, NMI
March	<i>The Family</i>	SDMI Council, NYI, NMI.
April	<i>Evangelism</i>	Adult Ministries, NMI – SDMI Council, Evangelism
May	<i>Daughters of the King (Women)</i>	Daughters of the King Director – SDMI Council , NYI
June	<i>Children and Youth</i>	SDMI Council – NYI – Compassionate Ministries (NCM)
July	<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	VBS Director - NYI – SDMI Council
August	<i>In the Image of God (Men)</i>	In the Image of God Director - NYI - SDMI Council
September	<i>The Bible</i>	SDMI Council - NYI - NMI
October	<i>The Disabled</i>	Gift of Love Ministries Director - Compassionate Ministries - SDMI Council
November	<i>Fullness of Life</i>	SDMI Council - NMI - NYI
December	<i>Unity and Thanksgiving</i>	SDMI Council - NYI - NMI

“We are not called to serve from time to time, but to live serving”

—Pope Francis.

Isn't it amazing that one never fails to have opportunities to serve? There will always be a need that calls us to do good. Serving implies thinking about the needs of others. To do this, we need to be totally available, to surrender without calculating the benefits. God calls us to live a life of service with an open, generous, compassionate heart, giving not a percentage of our resources, but all. Let's imitate Jesus, who became a servant and invested his life, out of love for you and me.

For a life of Service,

Raquel Ramos

SDMI MONTHLY EMPHASIS CALENDAR

JANUARY: EDUCATION

Theme: What Does Service Mean

Bible Verse: "This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone." **Titus 3:8**

Purpose: That SDMI workers learn about a life of service and seek new ways of serving and helping those in need.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Meet with all the SDMI workers to learn about and discuss the Church Manual statements and the document entitled SDMI Mission, Vision, Purposes and Strategies (located in the Discipleship Ministries Resources Folder) about the work of SDMI, making everyone aware of the Mission, Vision, Purposes and local Strategies.
- Use points B and D of the purpose of SDMI to practice a life of service in your communities, towns or neighborhoods.
- Develop strategies for the proper functioning of the SDMI emphasis.
- Teach the laity how to form small discipleship groups at home.
- Train ushers with gifts of service and hospitality: take note of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of people who can be served in your neighborhood or community.
- Form with your leaders a search and visitation group for the unreached in your community or neighborhood

FEBRUARY: MARRIED COUPLES

Theme: The Marriage-Team

Bible Verse: “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” **Galatians 5:13**

Purpose: Encourage married couples in the church to help other married couples in need (nurturing, financial, marital relationship, hope, illness, etc.), especially the unreached.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Hold two or three ministry events (Marriage Ministries), which are aimed at people in need in your community (dinner, breakfast, movie, coffee and dessert afternoon, games, counseling, conference).
- Offer various classes for parents dedicated to helping parents of young children, of disabled children, of adolescents, etc.
- Invite unsaved couples to these special activities so they can observe, feel loved, and sense unity and mutual concern through fellowship.
- Using WhatsApp, E-mail, Messenger, Facebook, etc., send your unconverted friends and acquaintances in your neighborhood or community advice, devotionals, reflections, songs, images, etc. that will encourage them and draw them closer to the church community and improve their married life.
- Form a counseling team to pray for and assist in the restoration of marriages and families, to help those in confused or wrong relationships, including those with wounds from separation or divorce, and offer this resource to anyone desiring to mend their marriage, whether saved or unsaved.
- Make small cards of love and/or encouragement and take them to the couples in your neighborhood, reminding them that the church loves them and wants to help them.

MARCH: THE FAMILY

Theme: Serving Everyone in Everything

Bible Verse: "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." **Joshua 24:15**

Purpose: That each member of the family participates by helping, without looking at their position or what they do.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- That each member of the family finds a way to help within their home, blessing their family through their service.
- During this month, each family of the Church helps someone without a family or who has no family locally by adopting/inviting them to be part of their family.
- Encourage each family to have a family altar or time of worship, inviting a family in need and witnessing to unreached members of their own family.
- Encourage each family to develop a service project where they can pray for someone in need, and help them materially, physically and / or spiritually (repair a roof, visit the sick, make a card for an elderly person, distribute evangelistic brochures in the park, paint a wall, run errands or work for an elderly person, babysit for free, help someone in need, share recordings (audio and/or video) of songs or an encouraging message by your favorite pastor or a special reflection, etc.
- Institute Family Day and offer a "Family Welcome" to neighborhood families who come to your church for the first time. Prepare "care packages" (a small gift and church activity brochure) to distribute to these new families. Include information about available opportunities in the church and how they can participate in ministry and fellowship.

APRIL: EVANGELISM

Theme: Bring Your Neighbor Close

Bible Verse: “ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” **Matthew 25:35-36**

Purpose: Practice brotherly love by building relationships that are built through concrete actions that heal the real needs of burdened hearts.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Pray and supplicate in the Spirit that in the church community, homes and personal live, they will find Unity in Love, Collaborative Teaching and Joy in Service.
- Ask attendees to present a list of the people for whom they will pray, spend time with and serve, and make a commitment to God to do so.
- Find ways to serve your prospects (through: kindness, patience, hope, humility, gratitude, generosity, etc.), establish bonds of friendship, trust, and closeness to your neighbors, as well as diverse and infinite ways to show them the love of Jesus through your service and lifestyle.
- Involve the congregation in a training and visitation plan to help those in need and to share the truth of Jesus.
- Choose a park in the community and provide a special meal to the homeless or immigrants of the community.
- Make posters with verses or short messages on them such as, “Can I pray for you?”; "Jesus loves you!" etc. Display them in your community, at sports fields, parks, near shopping centers or on a street corner that’s a high traffic area.
- Arrange a visit to an orphanage, nursing home, pregnant women's center, addiction center, etc., where you can bring hope and volunteer service.
- Plan a Youth Gol (Soccer) Project or another sports related project in the community.

MAY: DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (WOMEN)

Theme: Hands of Love and Kindness.

Bible Verse: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”. **1 Peter 4:10**

Purpose: Reach out to other ladies through friendship, service, and love.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Start a new class or small group for Ladies that meets weekly and provides a place where ladies feel appreciated and you can appreciate others through instruction and fellowship.
- Create groups for reading, parenting, home economics, cooking, pregnancy and motherhood for women in the neighborhood.
- Host a Friendship tea or coffee. Have the ladies of your church invite their unsaved neighbors to share a cup of tea/coffee. You can have games and, of course, share from the Word of God.
- Open household meetings with different emphasis: widows, single mothers, divorcees, addicts, mothers with disabled children, etc.
- Ask women in your church to be part of a team that provides meals for those who are in the hospital or just returned home from the hospital, have just given birth, are in need financially, have had a death in their family, etc.

JUNE: CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Theme: *History Makers*

Bible Verse: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity” **1Timothy 4:12**

Purpose: Invest your time, gifts and talents to help children and youth connect with Jesus and help them develop a relationship with Christ.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Establish security policies in Youth and Children’s Ministries (check SDMI Protection Policy for Children, Youth, and People with Special Needs in the SDMI resources).
- Be sure to find appropriate songs and curriculum for these ages with biblical principles and doctrines that apply to their daily lives.
- Provide programs inside and outside the church, on evenings or Saturdays, with uplifting, fun and challenging activities.
- Establish a comprehensive response plan that cares for your children and youth by following up on their needs.
- Seek mentors who will accompany them, giving importance to their needs, and caring for their well-being.
- Integrate them into children's church or circle of friends (studies for youth); where they can participate in activities and programs and feel loved, cared for and important.
- Include them in the ministries and activities of the church, giving them opportunities for service.
- Establish an afterschool homework club, a library, an internet game room, a toy library or board games, in order to reach children, youth and the disabled in your neighborhood or community.

JULY: IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (MEN)

Theme: Your Life . . . a Service to Others

Bible Verse: “Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’” **Mark 9:35**

Purpose: Help the man who wishes to serve others by giving him practical ideas for leading or starting a small-group, being a disciple-maker, sharing his skills and talents, doing Christian social work, and being a spiritual leader in his home.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize and carry out a retreat, a soccer day, a sports tournament, a barbecue, etc. as a way to invite and involve unconverted friends and family and show them the united, loving, faithful service and friendship that should prevail among all.
- Encourage each head of household to be in charge of a “family home evening” one day a week, and offer ideas for spiritually ministering to their family.
- Create a specific time for men to meet; it can function as a support group for men from the neighborhood with different difficulties and/or needs.
- Convert your church into a community center for hands-on workshops (electrical, carpentry, blacksmithing, etc.) where men from the church can share and use their skills, and in doing so, show love and concern for others by putting into practice the character of Christ.
- Organize a group that visits rehabilitation centers in your neighborhood or near the church, to share the good news, offer counseling, host a game time, provide haircuts and necessities like food, soap, toothpaste, clothes, etc.

AUGUST: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Theme: In Serving Others, I Serve God

Bible Verse: “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them”. **Hebrews 6:10**

Purpose: That teachers, children and youth learn to help everyone, contributing to their families and communities with their lives.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- We recommend planning VBS well in advance since it helps you anticipate, develop a plan, have more ideas, recruit volunteers, delegate responsibilities, promote, carry out and evaluate the program.
- Take VBS where there is a need for God's love: a new community, disabled children in your neighborhood, an orphanage, children living on the streets, or invite children and youth who are completely foreign to the church.
- If you want to serve the children of your church, encourage them and the whole church to invite and bring new children to VBS.
- Promote the VBS mission offering “Kids Reaching Kids”.
- Keep records of the children’s information, especially of children who arrive for the first time, so you can follow up with them after VBS.
- Open VBS to young people (youth), disabled children and parents of participating children, creating groups and adapting classes for them with the same VBS theme.
- Evaluate the VBS program afterwards and keep in contact with new parents and children, encouraging them to join in up-coming church activities.

SEPTEMBER: THE BIBLE

Theme: Doer of the Word.

Bible Verse: "... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Matthew 20:28**

Purpose: Persevere in knowing and understanding the Word, and act in serving others.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- In agreement with the pastor or a teacher, dedicate the entire month to having a weekly Bible study on the book of James, emphasizing loving in action and in truth.
- Promote the systematic application of the current reading plan.
- Memorize 3 Bible verses that talk about serving others
- Celebrate the International Day of the Bible by receiving a special offering to support the Bible Society and Bible League.
- Organize young people to give out Bibles, New Testaments, Gospels, and Bible verses or brochures in the neighborhood, hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, rehabilitation centers, etc.
- Organize outdoor (park, sports field, main square) readings of portions of the Bible. Invite children and youth to read, using a device that amplifies sound.

OCTOBER: THE DISABLED (GIFT OF LOVE MINISTRIES)

Theme: One Church for All

Bible Verse: “Help each other with your troubles. When you do this, you truly obey the law of Christ.” **Galatians 6:2** (ICB)

Purpose: Connect people with disabilities to Christ.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize training courses on disability for all SDMI workers (Tools / Manuals at www.mesoamericaregión.org / ministries / discipleship)
- Detect the needs of disabled people and their families in your neighborhood and community. (If you don't know if there are disabled people in your area, conduct a survey in your neighborhood.)
- Carry out a service project for a person with disabilities and/or their family that lives in your community or neighborhood.
- Open a support group and / or organize accompanying activities for families of disabled people.
- Facilitate access: parking, restrooms, ramps, visibility, sign interpreter, Bibles in large print, Braille, or in audio, etc.
- Provide pastoral care for families with members that have severe disabilities, assisting them at home when they cannot leave home.
- Visit an orphanage for people with disabilities with NYI.
- Invite Christian brothers or sisters, pastors, or missionaries with disabilities to share their testimonies.
- Provide a “Mother's (Care Giver's) day off” by caring for their disabled child.
- If you have a passion for serving people with disabilities, allow God to use you in your profession as a teacher, physical therapist, speech therapist, psychologist, sports coach, nurse, bricklayer, musician, etc.
- Remember that the disabled can also contribute to the church through their: witness, hope, simplicity, history, joy of living, determination, inspiration, acceptance, patience, etc.

NOVEMBER: FULNESS OF LIFE

Theme: Experience Counts in the Life of Service

Bible Verse: “Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?” **Job 12:12**

Purpose: Involve senior adults in the task of intentional discipleship through service.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Start a class, a weekday meeting, a monthly meeting (Fullness of Life Ministry) for the senior adults in which they can feel accepted and useful.
- Provide opportunities in the church for your senior adults to share their wisdom, their faith, their example of life and their dependence on God in prayer.
- Visit the senior adults of your church and in your neighborhood, helping them with grocery shopping, cleaning the house, or taking them a card, sharing hope and love.
- Involve senior adults in your ministries for young people and children, allowing them to advise them, pray for and with them, participate in activities with them, bless them, teach them a trade or lead a biblical reflection.
- Use the church facilities or a home as a “place of refuge” where senior adults in your neighborhood can talk, exercise, make crafts, sing, watch videos, and more.
- Encourage the person in charge of the Fullness of Life Ministry to organize the senior adults to pray, visit others or find other things they could do to serve the church and their neighborhood or community; they are still useful for The Kingdom.
- Develop with your senior adults a simple project to win their friends to Christ, the M9/910 PROJECT, based on Matthew 9:9 and 10 (consult the lessons in the Fullness of Life 2020 Resource Folder).

DECEMBER: UNITY AND THANKSGIVING

Theme: I Have Served My Lord with Joy and Gladness!

Bible Verse: “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” **Hebrews 12:28**

Purpose: Let us show thanks for being able to serve in the power of Grace.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Celebrate the joy of serving by practicing random acts of kindness.
- Invite discipleship groups to help at a local homeless shelter.
- Celebrate what God has allowed you to do by inviting people who were affected by being served. Publicly share with them your appreciation for the opportunity to serve them, and why you did what you did.
- Take advantage of the opportunity this year has given you to launch a “compassionate ministry” and, in coordination with NMI, identify a service project that will meet a specific need that you can plan to do in the coming year.
- If, through service to others, you have a list of prospects or there was growth in your church; honor newcomers, new converts, or new members that resulted from such beautiful work.
- Prepare gifts or cards for senior adults, children, and youth.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timoteo 2:2

50 practical ways to start serving others right now.

1. Do the dishes without being asked.
2. Offer to help a younger brother or sister with their homework.
3. If it's cold outside, start your parents' car so it will be nice and warm when they get into it.
4. Contact the school principal and ask how you can volunteer at the school.
5. Spend 5 hours a week volunteering at your church office.
6. Go through your closet and donate books and games to a local hospital.
7. Visit someone in your Church who is hospitalized; your pastor can help you with that.
8. Volunteer at the nearest pregnancy crisis center.
9. Buy someone's lunch.
10. Depending on the time of the year, shovel snow or cut the grass in your yard or for your neighbor.
11. Offer to help your mom clean the cabinets thoroughly, organize a garage sale and give the proceeds to charity.
12. Be a mentor. Find someone who is younger than you and offer to do a Bible study together.
13. Teach Sunday school.
14. Take homemade baked goods to someone who is sick or injured. There are many cookie recipes that are easy to make.
15. Don't take the best seat in the house.
16. Write an note of encouragement and hope and leave it in a friend's locker, on their desk at work, on their car, etc.
17. Support a ministry financially or by volunteering.
18. Promote someone's ideas. When possible, advocate for others.
19. Start a Bible study at your school, your home, in a park, etc.
20. Ask your youth pastor how you can help set up or pick up the youth group room.

21. Send an anonymous donation to someone you know is struggling with their finances.
22. Volunteer to rock babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of a nearby hospital.
23. Go on a short-term mission trip with your church.
24. Sponsor a child through the Nazarene Child Sponsorship Program or another child sponsorship organization.
25. Choose a missionary and commit to pray for him / her one hour each week.
26. Plant a vegetable garden. Share your harvest with an elderly couple in the neighborhood.
27. Donate a shoe box to Operation Christmas Child for a child at Christmas.
28. Donate your time, your skills or knowledge and volunteer at an orphanage, hospital, etc.
29. Instead of throwing them away, gift clothes to a local shelter.
30. Send a care package to street children, nurses, doctors ...
31. On garbage day, move your neighbors' garbage cans to the pick-up location.
32. Call a mom you know and offer to take care of her baby/child/children for free.
33. Make some encouraging posters and anonymously hang them all over your school or in front of your house or in a store window or along the street. Here are some slogans you can use: You matter! You're Great! I'm proud of you! You shine like the sun!
34. What is the chore at home that your mother/wife likes the least? (Wash, mop, sweep the floor?) Take on that job for her.
35. Fast one day a week and pray for others.
36. Adopt a grandfather or a grandmother at the local nursing home and pay them a visit regularly.
37. Give compliments and smiles generously.
38. Send flowers.
39. Let someone else choose which T.V. show or movie to watch.
40. Write encouraging notes on all your friends' Facebook pages.

41. Write your favorite verses on cards and insert them into schoolbooks or books at the library.
42. Prepare and deliver chemotherapy care packages. Here's how: 2 sets of plastic utensils (knife / fork / spoon), chewing gum or lemon drops for the bad taste in their mouth, hand sanitizer, lip balm, disposable toothbrushes, a card with a beautiful message from you and/or your family, other ideas: socks, sheets, scarves, etc.
43. Leave flowers or a package of delicacies at someone's door. Ring the bell and run!
44. Write a note to your teachers, professors, pastor, grandparents, etc. telling them how much you appreciate their investment in you.
45. Do a household chore for a brother / sister (or spouse) without them knowing.
46. Who do you know who is alone? Call them and make plans.
47. Leave a coin in a parking meter so that someone else can use it.
48. Organize a picnic trip at your church or school.
49. Plan a talent night and give the money it earns to missions.
50. Offer to give a complete day to someone you know. Let that person be the one to plan the agenda for the day.