

GROWTH CAMPAIGN 2021

"TRUE HOPE"...



...in times of uncertainty

...in times of insecurity

...in times of desperation

...in any circumstance

The Invested Life: Intentional Discipleship Through Service

Dear Discipleship Leaders:

In the midst of this time of the Covid-19 pandemic we have had to live at a global level, the mission of the church and the life of the Christian are presented as crucial through sharing hope in a world full of brokenness.

Crises can provide opportunities for God's people to flourish spiritually and lead others to Christ, who is our only Rock and True Hope — not just now but for all eternity.

People should be able to look at Christians and see a response to pain that is clearly different—"unexplainable!" Ask God to use this time of confusion and uncertainty to bring revival and spiritual awakening to our lives, our churches, and our Region. (Phil 4:5-6).

It is time to **Serve** the broken, to use our gifts and testimony to provide shelter to all who thirst to find True Hope. May the Father breathe on all of us with His Spirit to help us see, with the compassionate eyes of Jesus, the redemptive purposes for all those around us.

With Love,
Raquel Ramos



Service has three important dimensions:

- Identify with the needs of others.
- Share common spaces and life with others.
- Set challenges and provide hope.

God's purpose in calling us is service, the offering of our life and our capacities for the extension of his kingdom and his justice. Communion with God and justice for the weak must go hand in hand, just as faith and mercy go hand in hand.

Investing your life implies going out, getting out of your comfort zone, and through the love of Jesus and the daily testimony of faith, reaching out to people. Then, restorative paths may be born that bring about a just and caring society. We have received a call and God reaffirms it today: he calls us to serve, without clinging to privileges or possessions, to go out of our way to place ourselves in the path of others, identifying needs, sharing and creating a community of equals, a community of life, of hope. In this way, human beings can find themselves and find a place where they can feel useful and loved.

May God allow us to continue responding to His call and may we humbly serve, being instruments of His blessing, and in this way, see the Kingdom of God grow.

Ideas to Grow by Serving...

Refocus the Mission and Vision of Discipleship and Service:

- Provide a place for Hope.
- Create new strategies and share them.
- Integrate all ministries of the church.
- Integrate evangelism to TV, radio, internet, social networks.
- Enter new areas: social classes, places, vulnerable groups.
- Plan follow-up and continuity: disciple in small groups for all ages, vulnerable and at-risk people, situations, contexts, needs...

Engage the entire faith community through:

1. Cultivating an intimate and permanent relationship with God.
2. Commitment: the basis of all progress.
3. Prioritize: put things on the list, according to priority.
4. Brotherly love: a climate of friendship, full of affection and understanding.
5. Waiting: knowing how to wait in active vigilance, anticipating growth.

Serve through existing ministries and create new ones according to context and need:

- **Preaching Ministry:** reconciling people with God. Sermons and Concerts in the open air.
- **Teaching Ministry:** development of the mind and character is essential in the plan of redemption and in the promotion of spiritual maturity.
- **Social Ministry:** collaborate in the construction of the society in which we live through integral well-being, healthy interpersonal relationships, human development, social justice, work in rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, orphanages, etc.
- **Health Ministry:** physical development, exercise, nutrition, hygiene, first aid, fight against addictions, life change, mental health, etc.
- **Compassionate Ministry:** living in unity with the needy and showing compassion to the oppressed, immigrants, homeless, etc., bring restoration to those who are broken, provide disaster relief, restore hope to people, help provide clothing, shelter, food, medicine and education.
- **Voluntary Service:** living as Christians involved in and with the world. Serve by giving our time, abilities, money, talents, profession, trade, volunteering, helping an NGO, write personal letters to neighbors offering the services and help of the Church, providing resources to meet specific needs as a sign and source of hope and love.
- **"A Christmas with Hope":** Collect clothes, food, toys, hygiene items, etc. for communities or groups that lack social assistance; provide home repair, visit people in the hospital, give gifts to orphanages, sponsor a child, send special cards to church neighbors, welcome new people to Christmas celebrations, welcome a vulnerable person into your home or into the church (orphan, elderly, immigrant, foreigner, etc.)
- **"Hope of Life" Ministry:** prolonging life and improving its quality through the greatest act of kindness, which is the donation of living and post-mortem organs, blood, tissues and bone marrow.
- **Homes of Hope:** Promote creating homes that have structure where love is a fundamental part of the home, school and church; where quality of life for families is taught through seminars, classes, counseling, family camps.
- **Publications of Hope:** Spread the message of hope through libraries, newsletters, brochures, biblical portions, doctrine, ethical and social coexistence principles, loan of books, DVDs and CDs.
- **Support and Communication Networks:** Social networks for prayer, counseling, workshops and talks, to clarify doubts, podcast, publications for young people, family, women, men, children; books, radio, TV, digital platforms (website, YouTube, blogs), create videos, viralize content, Librarybus, etc.

- **Ministry to the Disabled:** home visits, family advocacy, emotional support, parent support group, Bible study and prayer, school for parents, sponsorship of children, donations.
- **"Breaking the Silence" Ministry:** Concern for the needs of children, women and the elderly who live with violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse, slavery, exploitation, neglect, kidnapping.
- **Parent Support Group:** homework workshop; parenting orientation; restoration; difficult children; dangers of the internet and social networks; self-destructive practices in children - tobacco, alcohol, drugs, cutting, suicide, depression, sexting, cyberbullying, rape, abortion; free childcare; toy libraries.
- **Workshops:** development of a trade and self-employment: electricity, plumbing, embroidery, knitting, cooking, sewing, baking, mechanics, carpentry, makeup, beauty, nails, teaching a language, etc..
- **Sports Activities:** Tournaments (3 × 3 basketball, 24-hour soccer, beach volleyball, foot volleyball [volleyball but only use your feet], etc..)
 - Use of believers in the world of sports
 - Interchurch "leagues" including the participation of non-believing friends
 - Create Christian sports teams to participate in secular competitions
 - Use of sports to integrate young people into society
 - Allow the people of the neighborhood to use church facilities (basketball courts, tennis courts, etc. or simply ping-pong tables and parlor games).
 - Specific games for children (The "Kids Games" are held in more than seventy countries around the world; they are "semi-sports" games in which children from all cities participate, and in which there are always spiritual teaching programs.)
 - Sports camps, action and risk sports, high mountain camps, hiking
 - Special topics and youth activities, "Christian athletes".
- **Artistic Activities:** graffiti, murals, anime, painting, singing, learning an instrument, poetry, writing, orchestra, band, and music, theater, fine arts, film and television, exhibitions, creations, etc.
- **Social Activities:** show evangelistic films; breakfasts and dinners aimed at women, business men, seniors, young people; activities for couples (with nursery care included); concert, with different types of music; activities for children (theater, mimes, clowns and comedies, games, ventriloquist, puppets); camping, bike rides, picnics, birthday wishes, etc.
- **Ministry of Conversation** (talk, converse, gather): Establish a place inside or outside the church for a coffee and/or tea room to generate an informal atmosphere where people can meet to chat with a cup of coffee or tea and snacks, promoting ministering to different groups: seniors, youth, women, the disabled, etc. Free coffee or breakfast can be offered to the homeless — a tea for a hug; a coffee for a hug.

- **Listening Place Ministry:** Establish a room whose intended use is a safe place for people who want to share their problems, concerns and burdens, with someone who will listen; the listener can minister through words of encouragement and prayer.

P. S.

- ★ Remember that when establishing a ministry, you need to observe the context in which you see the need and the people, survey or ask (reasons for prayer, disabled, elderly, drug addicts, education, broken families, gangs, violence, etc). Once the need is located, undertake a ministry of service that will meet it.
- ★ Use all means possible, involving as many people as possible, using your imagination, because whatever we can do to serve selflessly, and that will glorify God, is worth it. We need wisdom from God and power from the Holy Spirit to find new ways and new places to speak about the Lord.

GET OUT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING, SERVE THE BROKEN!!!

Translated from Spanish by Bethany Cyr