

25 OUTREACH IDEAS FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

Developed by the Rev. Elijah Lovejoy

1. Join your local Chamber of Commerce.
2. Participate in a Chamber (or other) business leaders' group on behalf of your church.
3. Enroll in your city's annual Leadership Program. (This is usually sponsored by the Chamber and introduces participants to all aspects of city life including government, education, healthcare, media, etc. Although the program can be expensive, it is well worth it and presents a very effective networking opportunity. Scholarships are often available for not-for-profit groups.)
4. Coach a youth sports-team; this opportunity allows you to minister recreationally to students as well as connect with families.
5. Work bi-vocationally as a means to meet more individuals in the community.
6. Bake homemade cookies or put together gift bags and take them to meet neighbors near your church, individually or on larger scale as part of church outreach night.
7. Go on a prayer walk through different districts of your city, individually or with group.
8. Ask the local newspaper if you can be a contributor to their weekly religion column.
9. Give your name to local funeral homes as a person they can call when families don't have a church or pastor who can do a family member's funeral.
10. Go to city government meetings.
11. Do community surveys to get to know the needs and interests of your community. You can also use this to find out what people are looking for in a church/pastor.
12. Set up an information or free-bottled water table at Wal-Mart. (They are one of the only national retailers who will allow you to do this. You have to reserve time in advance.)
13. Send press releases to your local paper about a events your church is sponsoring.
14. Join Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis or other club as a representative of your church.
15. Adopt a local school.
16. See if your local police and fire departments have or need a chaplain.
17. Invite a local high school or middle school choir to sing at your church for a special occasion.
18. Write editorials or letters to the editor about things you are passionate about.
19. Hang out at Starbucks, Panera or local book stores.

20. Do a Tellstart call campaign and follow up interested people with a mailer and visit or call. Contact Phil Spry (President and Founder) for details or check out their website.
21. Get involved in local campus college ministries in your town.
22. Get involved in local campus college ministries in your town.
23. Get a team from your church to join local amateur sports leagues (Parks & Recreation Leagues are better than church leagues if you want to meet non-believers.)
24. Start a discussion group (centered on a book or topical theme) at your local book store or other venue.
25. Offer to lead a monthly or quarterly worship service at local prisons, homeless shelters, or assisted living facilities.