



WE SERVE *Churches*
AS CHURCHES SERVE *Others*

Ten Suggestions for Starting a Compassion Ministry

Compassion Ministry can be defined by the 4 components of

1. Meeting needs of unchurched people, so that
2. Trusting relationships can be formed, so that
3. The Gospel of Jesus Christ can be shared, so that
4. Those reached can be connected with a local church.

Based upon these criteria, the following are 10 suggestions for starting a Compassion Ministry in a local church

1. **Seek the Will of God**

- Pray over every part of the process
- Ask God to guide through the conducting of surveys, interpretation of information, enlistment and training of leadership/volunteers and development of ministries

2. **Study the Word of God**

Study what God's Word has to say about ministering to those in need. Consider the following:

- a. Old Testament roots: The Old Testament features a grouping of people who are to be given special care: widows, orphans, aliens.
- b. New Testament pronouncements: Many times, we are told to do good works in the New Testament
 - Ephesians 2:8-10
 - I Peter 2:12
 - I Timothy 6:18
 - Romans 12:21
 - Titus 3:14
 - James 2:14-17
 - Hebrews 10:24
 - I John 3:16-18
- c. Jesus modeled Compassion Ministry
 - Luke 4:18-19
 - Luke 7:18-23
 - Matthew 4:23
- d. On the final exam of life: Mathew 25:31-46

3. **Determine the Purpose of what you are doing**

- Conduct evangelism training of leadership/volunteers.
- Keep evangelism at the center of what you are doing. Do not assume evangelism will take place. Determine beforehand how the gospel will be shared.

4. **Survey Community Needs**

- Conduct a Community Needs Assessment (CNA)
- The CNA involves surveying community and religious organizations to discover services provided as well as services needed
- [Community Needs Assessment \(CNA\)](#)

5. **Study Demographic Information**

- Use demographic information provided by TBMB or other agencies
- Discover data provided by U.S. Census in relation to the area served

6. **Discover Community Needs**

- Hear directly from the community served
- Community Needs Survey can be conducted various ways:
 - Direct Mail
 - Phone survey
 - Door-to-door survey
- Perhaps the best method is to have every member complete the survey with a non-churched person. Each member can take one survey for the assigned week and return it the following Sunday.
- [Community Survey](#)

7. **Enlist Church Support/Input**

- Conduct Church Survey to discover needs, interests, experiences and education
- Take note of who God has brought to your church and what God has brought them through (II Cor. 1:5)
- Seek to discern the interests, passions and experiences that God has given to your church to be used to reach others
- [Church Survey](#)

8. **Learn From Others**

- Seek to identify other churches/ministries that are doing similar ministries. Find best practices. Learn from the experiences of others.
- Ask denominational leaders for references for such ministries
- Read books, blogs, articles that relate to ministry areas

9. **Start Small and Keep Records**

- Many needs will be discovered. Many interests will be unveiled. However, start one ministry at a time. Don't try to do too much too soon.
- Keep records of those served, those serving, gospel conversations, conversions, and baptisms.
- Track the assimilation of those reached. Don't let new believers fall by the wayside.
- Register your ministry with Compassion Ministry TBMB- [Registration Form](#)

10. **Evaluate**

- Keep the main thing the main thing. We never drift toward evangelism; we drift away from evangelism. If the ministry has moved past gospel sharing, it is time to stop what you are doing and return to the purpose of the ministry.
- Anyone can feed, clothe, educate, and many other social ministries. We have the Words of life. We are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ. If that is not being done, it is time to rethink what is being done.

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