WENDY EVANGALISM

BOARD MEMBER

OUTREACH DIRECTOR (PERSONAL MINISTRIES)

Ministries in the Evangalism category are responsible for activities and events that have an outward focus.

INTRODUCTION

Outreach is a ministry of program development, recruiting and training volunteers to work for soul-winning and service in the community. Because so much must be learned in this role, it is important that at least one assistant be selected to "learn the ropes"

DUTIES

1. Working with volunteers. The personnel for outreach in the local church are volunteers, and much of your work is the recruiting, training, and overseeing of this volunteer workforce. Supervising volunteers is not the same as working with employees. Volunteers will do what they enjoy or are convicted to do, not necessarily what needs to be done. Pleading with them from the pulpit or trying to make them feel guilty will not succeed. Personal contacts are more effective than public appeals. Building a support team is essential for long-term success. You will be working with a small percentage of the congregation. Church growth specialists say that 10% of church membership have the gift of evangelism. That is a worthy objective, but it will take great persuasiveness to achieve even that percentage.

2. Planning. You are the key person in helping the leaders of your congregation develop a plan for outreach and soul-winning. It is your responsibility to get the key leaders together early to set goals. Get ownership for the goals from the church leadership, and they will help meet them. Some wise person said, "Good goals are my goals; bad goals are your goals." Remember that too many goals are confusing to the congregation and more difficult to reach. Experience demonstrates that most congregations can only handle one, two or three outreach goals at a time, and this "time" usually spans two or three years. Set SMART goals.

3. Education and communication. Your first goal is to help every church member become aware

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that he or she is witnessing in his or her own way. Every believer is a missionary to the family members, work associates, neighbors and others that he touches every day, whether he likes it or not, whether he intends it or not. It is a surprising thought to many of our members who "hate witnessing" that they cannot "not witness." Your task is to help the church members use the unique opportunities and spiritual gifts that God has given to each to accomplish His will. The teaching tools in The Sabbath School Leader magazine, the materials on spiritual gifts and friendship evangelism are key tools in doing this. You can make use of them each Sabbath during the time allotted. This time may be called "King's Business" or "personal ministries time" or something else, but whatever it is called it is essential that you communicate with the church members regularly about their witness and opportunities for service. This is a "nonnegotiable" part of what it means to be an Adventist church. It is equally important that you make this time interesting and relevant to your members, and not a time of haranguing, selling books, or reading in a ritual manner.

4. Program Management. You will be the manager of a number of programs sponsored by your congregation. Some are denomination-wide, international campaigns. Some are local ideas that a small group of your members have created. Each requires careful preparation, adequate supplies and manpower, and steady attention to detail. Checklists and worksheets to help you manage these projects are published in many different program manuals, handbooks and "how-to" volumes. Remember, every project is a process, not a goal. If you remember this, you will not feel defeated when a project fails. The goal is to save men and women for heaven. If one thing does not work, another will.