WENDY DISCIPLESHIP

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Ministries in the Discipleship group are responsible for small groups and other education focused events that encourange growth

INTRODUCTION

A ministry of educating the congregation and the community about public issues. Free exercise of religion is like a fragile flower; it must receive the most vigorous protection possible and the most gentle care to be found. Within it, freedom of conscience thrives or is throttled.

DUTIES

1. Promote Liberty magazine - Your first responsibility as religious liberty leader is to help your pastor conduct the religious liberty campaign in your church. Set an example by your wholehearted support. Then encourage church members to subscribe to Liberty for themselves and give generously to send the magazine to community, state or province, and national officials and thought leaders.

2. Communication - Report good and bad news through church newsletters, the church bulletin, and in oral reports in the personal ministries time. Become the eyes and ears for your conference and union public affairs and religious liberty directors by bringing significant items to their attention.

3. Get acquainted with public officials - Know the state or provincial government leaders and national legislators from your area. Write to them when religious liberty issues arise. Let them know what your religious liberty concerns are in a respectful, dignified manner as befits the cause of Christ. When religious liberty issues arise, you may be asked to encourage church members to write letters to state, provincial, or national leaders, but consult with your union Publish Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) director before writing or contacting public officials in the name of the church.

4. Give recognition to civic leaders - When a civic official in your community takes a strong stand

DUTIES

on upholding religious liberty, contact your union conference PARL director for assistance in recognizing the official by presenting an appropriate plaque or award at the church or in the official's office.

5. Community relations - Become involved in the local community. Keep a current name and address file of city and county officials including council members. Get acquainted with your city and county public servants and be sure they receive Liberty magazine. Attend their meetings to become better acquainted with the problems in your community. Keep your pastor and conference PARL director informed about major developments in your community that could affect religious freedom. Help to organize local contacts when asked to do so by your pastor or conference PARL director.

6. Help church members - Watch for religious liberty problems among church members. Some members, especially new ones, are not aware that assistance is available to them as they face Sabbath employment problems or problems with labor unions.