



## Reaching Your Broken Community

by Chaplain George

As we look at the world of hurt around us, we sense the same burden our Lord had for reaching the lost and broken. God loved people so much that He gave His best, the Lord Jesus Christ. He was not, and is not, willing that anyone should be lost. In the Old Testament God used angels, prophets, priests, kings, dreams and visions. In the New Testament we see much of the same: dreams, visions, gifts of the Spirit, preaching, evangelism and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

So how can we make a difference for Christ among the lost and broken in our communities? Four key principles come to mind. First, it's important to define our priorities as a congregation with a willingness to sacrifice personally and deeply for the sake of others. Second, we need to commit to communicating an unapologetic, uncompromising biblical message and to do so with compassion. Third, we must be strategic, creative and innovative in our delivery. Finally, we need to be spontaneous in the moment of opportunity. Within this fourfold framework, there is room for a variety of individual and corporate expression, using the gifts and talents of any Christ-follower who is willing to participate in the mission.

One of the most challenging aspects of this type of outreach is grappling with the brokenness of those who may walk through our church doors from very difficult backgrounds. Many congregations aren't prepared for what it will cost to get down and dirty in the work of shining a light into the lives of those who, for years, have been prisoners of the darkness. Of course, we need to remember that being the hands and feet of Jesus means entering into messy situations with grace and compassion as we seek to facilitate ongoing healing and renewal. Are we willing to do so?

In this hurry-up society we can be driven by the urgent, distracted by changing circumstances and burdened by conflicting obligations. The obstacles to overcome will be poor time management, self-indulgence, timidity and complacency. A consistent message and exemplary leadership will be crucial to overcoming these obstacles and achieving the goal of motivating our congregations to reach the lost of our communities.

*It is an honor to encourage you in your calling as a pastor. We hope our experiences and heart for you and your family will be evident in these weekly newsletters.*

*-From the pastors and chaplains on staff here at Focus on the Family*

