

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE



INCREASING YOUR OUTREACH TEMPERATURE

Would you like to increase the outreach temperature of your corps?

Would you like to see more people come to faith?

Jesus is recorded in Matthew 9 as saying to his disciples "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (v35-38).

We must face a sobering reality - there are people who are hungry for God; but the workers are not working. Most Christians have never led a person to Christ.

In response to this, Jesus calls us to pray.

The Problem?

Vision leaks, and according to Kevin Harney of Organic Outreach®, the fastest vision to leak in the local church is evangelism.

People are busy. They have normal lives.

While they might get fired up after a passionate sermon or inspirational testimony, they'll have lost this enthusiasm well within 30 days if there's not something else to keep them engaged.

The Solution?

Put in place a system that helps re-vision personal outreach at least every 30 days.

We all understand the principle of accountability. Just before the Corps Review, the Pastoral Care Council meets and the roll books get updated. Actions get completed just before the next meeting, and we suddenly get dieting or exercising before the extended family gathering. A simple principle to getting more done is to increase the frequency of these 'report backs'.

Combining these two principles, a great way to increase the outreach temperature in your corps would be to put in place a system of 'reporting back' on personal outreach at least every 30 days.

How?

Introduce two simple personal accountability questions into your regular meetings with leaders, such as one-on-one and leadership team meetings:

1. Who are you praying for to come to faith?
2. What will you do this month to help them (e.g. invite for a meal, go out socially, invite to something at church, introduce Jesus into a conversation, etc.)?

Model the system from the top—make sure you are also sharing who you are praying for, and the steps that you are taking.

Once established, this can be expanded to the agenda of other meetings – like life groups, music team practice, Kids Church leaders meetings, etc.

You could also expand the questions to ask a discipleship question like "what's God talking to you about at the moment", but that's a topic for another resource.

Imagine if everyone in your corps knew they were going to be asked every month who they are praying for, and what step they're taking to bring that person closer to Jesus ... The outreach temperature would surely rise, and people would come to know Jesus.

Resources

Kevin Harney Organic outreach® (kevinharney.com/organic-outreach/oit-resources):

- One degree rule – increasing your personal outreach temperature by one degree
- Two degree rule – encouraging your existing ministries to look for ways what they're already doing can engage with people outside the church
- 30 day rule – vision leaks

