



Serving in ABFs: Groups can be Mobilized to Make a Difference! - September 06

Adult Bible Fellowships (or whatever you call your midsize groups) create a perfect stage for transitioning our focus off of ourselves and onto the world around us through service. Many churches and ABFs who make serving a part of their group life attest to the joy of making a difference for Jesus. One of strengths of midsize groups is they can offer "many hands" to do ministry as opposed to a small group.

The benefits of doing service projects in your ABF are:

- Expose your city and area to the love of Jesus.
- Restore the name of Jesus and repositioning your church positively in the community.
- Be part of obeying God's command to go to your Jerusalem and ultimately to the ends of the earth.
- Deepen relationships within your ABF group.
- Involve your entire family in a service project
- Create a sense belonging in your group.

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. - 2 Corinthians 4:5

Serving Within the Church Community

a. Choose an area of landscaping around the church and pull weeds throughout the fall to help keep our landscaping looking great.

b. Offer to relieve the workers on a Sunday morning in the nursery or children ministry area.

c. Writing notes of encouragement or appreciation as a family to Sunday School teachers, AWANA leaders, pastoral staff, someone at church who has ministered to your family in some way.

a. Volunteer to baby-sit for a family with young children so the husband and wife can have a night out together. (Contact the church office for names of couples in the Young Marrieds ABF)

b. Bake a batch of brownies or cookies and deliver them to the local police department or fire department with a note of thanks for their faithful service to the community.

c. Volunteer to mow the lawn or rake the leaves for a senior citizen in your neighborhood.

d. Visit a nursing home and volunteer to play games with the residents. (Contact a local nursing home to make sure this is okay with the staff and for information on good times to visit.)

e. Help serve meals to people at a soup kitchen

Serving the Community around the Church

a. Hand out bags at the local grocery store for people to fill and then return to you for the local food pantry, or Hurricane

Katrina survivors (Contact the manager of the grocery store for permission).

b. Collect teddy bears or other stuffed animals to be used by police officers or firemen when children are involved in emergency situations. See more information at www.carebags4kids.org.

c. Talk with the local school district office or school principal to set up an after school tutoring program. It is quite easy to do.

d. Adopt a family at Christmas through the Salvation Army. (Contact the Salvation Army for information.)

e. Collect new shoes and socks for Shoes for Orphan's Souls.

f. Set up a distribution center for the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Project.

g. Habitat for Humanity has building projects planned to aid in finding housing for Hurricane Katrina survivors. (Contact Habitat for Humanity at 815-759-9002).

h. I heard a church is promoting an "Undie Sunday" collection of new packages of undergarments for men, women, children and infants who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. This sounded like a clever idea and something that most likely gets overlooked in clothing donations. This would include underwear of all sizes, t-shirts, socks and diapers.

One Church's example: Wayside Chapel

Wayside Chapel in San Antonio Texas has a growing ABF Ministry. Many of their ABFs have been involved in significant ministry over this past year. Listed below are some of the ministry these groups have been involved with:

Family Foundations ABF

- Assisted Hurricane Katrina evacuee family re-locating in San Antonio
- Organized garage with proceeds paying shipping for items sent to street kids in Romania
- Collected and shipped 150 lbs. of sporting goods and games for school ministry in Romania
- Organized a "Shoe Drive" and shipped 180 lbs. to Romania
- Installed audio/visual equipment in Children's Ministry classrooms in our church
- Decorated our church for Christmas
- Decorated our church for VBS

Carpenters ABF

- Assisted Hurricane Katrina evacuee family re-locating in San Antonio
- Participated in San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry (SAMM) Christmas In July '06 for Transitional Living Center
- Provided school clothes for 27 school-age children living in the SAMM facility

Young Marrieds ABF

- Assisted Hurricane Katrina evacuee family re-locating in San Antonio
- Passed out water bottles at Sea World on July 4 promoting new church plant in the area

Homebuilders ABF

- Assisted Hurricane Katrina evacuee family re-locating in San Antonio
- Repaint house owned by the church
- Clear trees from recently purchased adjacent lot for additional church parking

- Lead a corporate worship service Praise & Worship
- Mission trip to Costa Rica building a house at a seminary in San Jose
- Easter outreach with One Way International at south-side housing project
- Thanksgiving dinner outreach with One Way International at south-side housing project
- VBS lunches with One Way International at south-side housing project
- Backpack school kids outreach with One Way International at south-side housing project

Genesis ABF

- Assisted Hurricane Katrina evacuee family re-locating in San Antonio
- Monthly breakfast outreach to 250- 300 Army medics at Fort Sam Houston
- Backpack school kids outreach with One Way International at south-side housing project
- Lead a corporate worship service Praise & Worship
- On-going visitation of shut-ins
- Greeting Card ministry

Resources on serving:

101 Ways to Reach Your Community; Steve Sjogren; NavPress; 2001

Loving Your City into the Kingdom; Ted Haggard & Jack Hayford; Regal; 1997

Irresistible Evangelism; Steve Sjogren, Dave Ping, & Doug Pollock; Group; 2004

The Church of Irresistible Influence, Robert Lewis, Zondervan, 2001

www.actsofkindness.org

- Dave Angle, along with Steve Lizzio, Director of ABF Resources & John Gordon, Pastor of Adult Ministries at Wayside Chapel in San Antonio, Texas