

lifegroups

Missions

Serving Menu

Dear Life Group Members,

One of the characteristics of a healthy Life Group is that they actively participate in service. Because of this, we challenge each Life Group to serve together in three different ways:

1. Once a month at a weekend worship service.
2. Once each session in the community. (Session 1: Sept-Dec & Session 2: Feb-May)
3. Once a year with one of the missionaries our Church supports.

This booklet should help familiarize you with serving with one of the missionaries our Church supports.

Thanks for being a part of Life Groups at Real Life!

Brandon Beard
Life Groups @ RLC



Why God Wants Us to Serve

Serving is one of our six core practices and one of the things we believe is essential in developing a close relationship with Jesus. Here are a few reasons why serving is a foundational part of Life Groups!

- **Serving draws us closer to God.**
"Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Matt. 6:21
- **Serving is the antidote to materialism.**
"not eager for money but eager to serve..." I Peter 5:2
- **Serving strengthens our faith.**
"Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus." I Timothy 3:13
- **Serving is an investment in eternity.**
"... Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity." I Tim 6:18-19 (LB)
- **Serving blesses us in return.**
"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Proverbs. 11:25
- **Serving together really helps a group have fun and bond together.**
- **Serving brings balance to the Church.**
"Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it." I Corinthians 12 and 13
Typically 90% of the work in churches is done by 10% of the people. Our goal is to become a church where 100% of the people in Life Groups do 75-85% of the work.
- **Serving creates a welcoming atmosphere for visitors.**
Besides serving, one of our other six core practices is Outreach. When we serve, it creates a welcoming atmosphere for people who have not been to Church in a while and for first-time visitors. Service projects provide a great venue to invite friends.
- **Serving gives us opportunities to share our faith with others.**
We want our Life Groups to be focused on helping others. While serving is our focus, we want to keep in mind that the most important need we can meet in people is to help them discover real life in Jesus Christ.
- **Serving together maximizes our Life Group's impact on the Church, the community, and the world.**
"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9,10, & 12

One of the last things Jesus did after he ascended into heaven is commissioned us to tell people about Him.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Rather than giving several missionaries a little money, Real Life has decided to fully fund the missionaries we support. This allows missionaries to maximize their effectiveness. They don't have to spend half of their time going to different churches and raising support. By fully funding each missionary we support, they can visit our Church, spend some time with their families, and then get back to their mission field. In addition to fully funding our missionaries, we would also like to support our missionaries with manpower throughout the year. They are out spreading the gospel and we would like to be partners in their work!

Mission trips are life changing! Our goal is to have each Life Group go on one mission trip per year to help one of the missionaries we support. We envision a day when different Life Groups will be visiting our missionaries once a month! Most missionaries feel isolated and alone; we want our missionaries to be a part of our community!

The following is a list of missionaries our Church supports and your Life Group can help.

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Santiago, Dominican Republic

G.O. Ministries

Felix & Jenny Abreu

Website: http://www.go-ministries.org/shortterm_missions.htm

Address: P.O. Box 991258

Louisville, KY 40269-1258

Phone: (502) 493-9846

What they are doing and how a Life Group could help them:

G.O. Ministries, Inc. is dedicated to the ministry of short-term missions and the development of partnerships of ministry. Their goal is to recruit, equip and coordinate people for short-term mission adventures that will mutually challenge each participant and support the inspiring efforts of National Christian Leaders abroad.

Santiago is their main hub and hosts the majority of visiting groups. Teams have helped finish a three-story Christian School and Ministry Center/Dormitory. A Medical/Dental Clinic is in daily operation and a Feeding Center in Hoya Bartola, "The Hole", feeding 90 children a meal six days each week. G.O. Ministries also supports the efforts of several churches and ministries around the city.

Your Life Group could send money and put together short-term mission trips to help support their efforts.

Heidelberg, Germany



MCYM

Art & Beckie Melli

Website: www.themellis.com

Address: C/O MCYM Europe Service

CMR 419 Box 1636

APO AE 09102

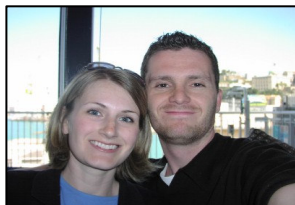
Phone: (303) 843-9000

What they are doing:

As Director of Joint Operations, Art oversees outreach camps in Italy, service/missions projects, staff training and conferences, and hospitality for the Joint European military bases where our missionaries are serving in England, Belgium, Holland German, Italy and Turkey.

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Ancona, Italy



Team Expansion

Jason & Heather Casey

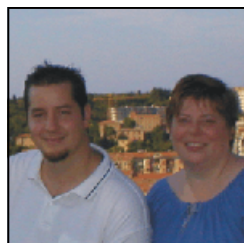
Website: www.goancona.com

Address: Via del Conero 2/C

20129 Ancona Italy

Phone: (502) 214-5975 (Vonage)

Contact email: jcasey@teamexpansion.org



Matt & Angie Crosser

Group Coordinators

Address: Piazza Malatesta, 25

60121 Ancona AN Italy

Contact email: mcrosser@teamexpansion.org

What they are doing and how a Life Group could help them:

The goal is to plant a church that is passionate about introducing people to Christ, growing them into disciples, equipping them to ministry in an attitude of worship. Their plan includes meeting in homes in an intimate small group setting and coming together in a large group setting for celebration and worship. Your Life Group could travel to Italy and help them run outreaches to the community, service projects, kids programs, teach English, and so much more! The opportunities are unlimited! If you cannot make it to Italy your group can...

1. Pray for them daily. (Become a prayer partner by going on their website and clicking on "Prayer Tools.")
2. Send a care package to them. (Show them your love by sending them a gift of their comfort foods. Ex: Macaroni and cheese, Kool-Aid, chocolate chip cookies, etc.)
3. Send an email of encouragement. (Remind them of who they are serving and encourage them with the love of Jesus Christ.)

Tokyo, Japan

Mustard Seed Global Fellowship

Website: www.msgf.com

Address: P.O. Box 8239

Northridge, CA 91327

General Inquiries: info@msgf.com

Phone: 818-602-4950

What they are doing and how a Life Group could help them:

Mustard Seed Global Fellowship is a non-profit organization that exists to establish Christ-Centered communities in the unreached urban areas of the world. Currently, a team is preparing to minister in one of the world's largest unreached urban areas: Toyko, Japan. MSGF is a tax deductible non-profit organization that is fully funded by donations. All checks can be made out to "Mustard Seed Global Fellowship" or "MSGF" and sent to P.O. Box 8239, Northridge, CA 91327.

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Joplin, MO



Ozark Christian College

Matt Proctor *President*

Website: www.occ.edu

Address: 1111 N. Main St.

Joplin, MO 64801

Phone: (417) 624-2518

Contact email: mproctor@OCC.edu

What they are doing and how a Life Group could help them:

The ultimate mission of Ozark Christian College is to glorify God by seeking the evangelization of the lost and the edification of Christians worldwide. The immediate mission of Ozark Christian College is to train men and women for Christian service through an undergraduate Bible college education. A Life Group could spend a week or weekend serving at the college in a number of different areas.

New York and the Northeast



Orchard Group

Brent Storms *Managing Director*

Website: www.orchardgroup.org

Address: PO Box 9

East Islip, NY 11730-0009

Contact phone: (978) 251-8100

Contact email: brent.storms@orchardgroup.org

What they are doing and how a Life Group could help them:

Orchard Group exists to plant growing and reproducing churches in New York and the Northeast. This region is one of the most densely populated and under-churched regions in the country. As of 2006, Orchard Group has planted 37 churches. Life Groups should contact Brent Storms if they would like to bring a team to see the work in New York and serve alongside these new churches.

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Edmonds, WA



Christian Evangelistic Association Scott Hatfield

Website: www.resonatechurch.org
Address: P.O. Box 92
Edmonds, WA 98020
Contact email: Scott@Resonatechurch.org

What they are doing:

Resonate Church is a church plant in the Seattle area.

Here are a couple of stats that give you some perspective on our mission:

- Washington is one of three of the most un-churched states in the US (Washington, Oregon & Idaho)
- Seattle is tied with Portland for being the most un-churched cities in the U.S.
- 4.2 million people in the Seattle area.
- 150,000 dogs in Seattle and only 136,000 Christians...what's wrong with this problem?
- Ed Stetzer said, "There are more Christians in Communist China per capita than there are in the Pacific Northwest".

Waukesha, WI



The Ridge Community Church

Mark Weigt *Lead Pastor*

Website: www.theridgecc.org
Address: 15885 W. National Avenue
New Berlin, WI 53151
Phone: (262) 968-5252
Contact email: mark@theridgecc.com

What they are doing:

The Ridge Community Church is a new church in the New Berlin area. The Ridge Community Church's vision is to help people who don't like church or don't go to church connect with God and experience the life He originally created us to live.

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Other Mission Organizations your Life Group could partner with: (A few examples for you to consider.) Real Life Church does not support these on a regular basis.

1. Amor Ministries

<http://www.amorministries.com>

Building homes in Mexico for poor families. In 2005 our groups built over 14 homes.

2. Center for Student Missions

<http://www.csm.org/>

Urban missions and service experiences for small groups. If you would love to work in the inner city, this is a great organization to team up with.

3. The Dream Center

2301 Bellevue Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90026

<http://www.dreamcenter.org>

There are opportunities for one hour, one afternoon, one day, an entire week, or an entire year. Contact Clarence Olsson, *Short Term Mission Coordinator*, at (213) 273-7107, stm@dreacenter.org, for information.

Answers to commonly asked questions:

- 1. How can our Life Group really help someone who is on the other side of the world?** In our "me first" culture it is rare to see people putting others first. When you go on a mission trip, you are sharing Jesus with another culture in a powerful way. The people your group ministers to will see Jesus in you as you put your own needs and wants aside and put the needs of other people first. In addition to helping the people in another place, you will also be helping a missionary our Church supports. Being a missionary can be one of the loneliest jobs in the world. By going on mission trips, we will encourage our missionaries and help them achieve their goals.
- 2. How are we going to pay for travel, etc?** While Real Life will provide some financial support for the trip, the majority of the money for your trip will have to be raised by the individuals in the Life Group. With lots of prayer, serious sacrifice, and creative team work, your Life Group will raise the funds needed.
- 3. What will we be doing?** This really depends on where you go and how long the trip is. Your group will spend a considerable amount of time planning and preparing for a mission trip. You will work with the missionary you plan to visit to come up with a solid strategy and plan for the entire trip. The needs of the specific area will determine your activities.
- 4. Can we bring our kids with us?** In some cases, yes. It depends on the location and duration of the trip. The reality is that not everyone in your group will be able to go on a mission trip with the Life Group. This is why we encourage groups to serve on the weekends once a month and in the community once every session. For those people, like kids, who cannot make it on the long-term mission trips, make sure to involve them in the other service projects your group participates in.
- 5. Where will we stay?** Housing will be coordinated with the missionary you visit. Sometimes you will be staying in a hotel, other times you will be placed in host homes in the area. The cost of your trip can be significantly reduced and the connection with the people in the area increased if you stay with people in the community you are serving.