

OUTREACH DURING COVID-19

by DAVID WHEELER

 North American
Mission Board

 SBC
OF VIRGINIA

*You are
not alone.*

Even though COVID-19 has forced us to maintain distance from people, the mission of God is still moving forward. In fact, some could argue the Lord is providing Christians with a broader reach to proclaim the gospel. The Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia created this great resource to help pastors and churches to focus on caring for their neighbors while maintaining a safe distance and abiding by the Center of Disease Control guidelines.

Johnny M. Hunt

Johnny Hunt, Senior Vice President of Evangelism and Leadership
North American Mission Board



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"Doing stuff for people instead of directly with people."

- Steve Sjogren, creator of the phrase servant evangelism

In the midst of COVID-19 and our current situation, we want to provide you with some ideas for Servant Evangelism. These are not the only things you can do but are good starting points and ideas. Steve Sjogren, the creator of the phrase, "Servant evangelism," said we are, "doing stuff for people instead of directly with people." We can still serve people during this time and show them the love of Christ! With all these activities and ways to serve, don't forget you must explain to them why you are serving! In other words, do not miss the opportunity to share the gospel! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to David Wheeler at [dwheeler2@liberty.edu](mailto:d Wheeler2@liberty.edu). Cell number is 614-309-9739 (call/text anytime).

SERVANT EVANGELISM:

Most Effective

- Gift bags- Make gift bags with things like hand sanitizers, tissues, gift cards, or candy and leave them at people's doors. Put a note and contact information explaining why you're serving.
- Type up a note saying you are looking to serve and love on people. Leave it in neighbors' mailboxes or on their doors. On the sheet offer to babysit, take dogs for a walk, cook meals and deliver them, do yard work. Put contact information on the sheet.
- Mow a neighbor's lawn and talk to them afterward and tell them why.
- Pull weeds from the lawn and talk to them afterward and tell them why.
- Offer to do yard work for the elderly who don't want to go outside
- Go to Lowe's, Home Depot, or the Hardware store for someone, especially now that people are quarantined at home, many people are fixing up their yards/homes.
- Toilet paper- if you have extra, give it away. Potentially pre-packaged, single rolls.
- If you are going through a drive-thru, pay for the food of the person behind you and ask the cashier to give them your hand-written note explaining why you did it.
- Make cookies or a meal for a next-door neighbor. Deliver to their door and tell them you're serving them because of the love of Jesus (from a distance of 6 feet).
- Order food or purchase groceries for those who can't afford them/or can't get out of their homes.

More Suggestions

- Blood drive- There is a huge need for blood donation during this time! Donate blood and have spiritual conversations with the healthcare workers.
- Have your small group collect money and pool together to meet the needs of several families.
- Write notes of encouragement, prayer, Scripture for neighbors, friends, or family that are unbelievers. Leave them in mailboxes or use sticky notes to put on their door.
- Send well written emails of appreciation, be vulnerable specific about why you appreciate the person.
- Mobile dog-washing teams. Get buckets, hoses, sponges, and shampoo and offer to wash people's dogs.
- Give people a bird feeder (found on Amazon for \$4.95, suction cup bird feeder- goes on outside of window and gives them birds to look at). Especially something for the elderly. Then continue providing bird seed.
- Clean retail store windows.

More Suggestions (Continued)

- \$5 gift cards- Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, McDonald's, etc... Give to people with note explaining why.
- Mail carriers- leave pre-packaged gifts/snacks.
- Sanitation workers - leave pre-packaged gifts/snacks.
- Self-serve gas stations- ask managers if you can pump gas for people... wash windows as people pump gas.
- Find out what friends need, and have it shipped by Amazon or FedEx.
- Send money electronically to help those you know who are in need.
- Become a pen-pal to someone in a senior-living home.
- If you are doing carryout for dinner, when you go in to pick it up and there is a wait, pay for the person behind you and tell them why
- Any form of entertaining children for any amount of time for free.
 - Provide music
 - Babysitting
 - Taking the kids to the park to give parents time alone
 - Organize neighborhood to do a bear hunt
- Serve your landlord or leasing office.
- Help out in a church foodbank or donate food.
- Pay a small bill for someone who is currently out of work due to the virus/economy.
- Offer free babysitting for nurses/doctors/medical personnel who need to work during this time.
- Volunteer to help tutor children in person or over video call.
- Volunteer to tutor parents who are now home schooling.
- Put on a free car wash with a couple people or go door-to-door to offer to wash people's cars.
- Walking dogs/caring for other's pets.
- Cleaning people's houses.
- Take people's trash to the dump.
- Roll neighbor's trash can to the curb for pick up – return can later.
- Host a kid's (less than 10) club/activity of some sort outside (if neighborhood has kids).
- Use chalk with your kids to write encouraging messages on your driveway for the neighborhood. Have kids write "Jesus loves you" or "We are praying for you" in chalk on the sidewalk.
- Provide chalk for other families with kids.
- Clean out basement or storage bin – take used clothes, toys, appliances, etc., to neighbors in need.
- Reach out to your local church and ask who they know needs help, then provide the service. Many churches are overwhelmed, offer to help reach out.
- Give someone a free haircut (if you have experience!)
- Making masks and posting them on your mailbox with a sign saying, "take one, Jesus loves you"
- Offer free resume reviews and interview tips through email or video calls. People will need to find new jobs.
- Give out Door Dash or take out Gift Cards.
- Tax Information
 - If you have tax savvy church members, providing dependable information on stimulus checks, unemployment checks, and new tax dates could help.
 - Offer free video-call tax advice.
- Drive Thru Supplies- Make small kits and hand it out in drive-thru form in the church parking lot.
- Kids Ministry- Give families two baskets, one for the kid and one to take to a neighbor. Basket could have coloring books, activities, or snacks.
- Offer online virtual pastoral marriage assistance.
- Collect names from church members, personally call people to pray and encourage them.
- Have food delivered to neighbors from local restaurants, pizza places, etc. Just call up the neighbor and tell them not to worry about dinner, ask them if you could have a pizza delivered, etc. Then ask to pray for them and tell them why you want to serve!

SOCIAL MEDIA

- With Social Media, it is important for both the church social media pages and the social media pages of church members to take advantage of ministry opportunities through their own followings/networks.
- Post to “offer help” on Facebook groups, Instagram stories, and other social media platforms.
- Prayer Post- Post on FB or Instagram that you will be praying for people for the next 30 - 60 minutes, so comment or private message with prayer requests. Then reach out to specific people for encouragement, especially non-believers.
- #givebackchallenge- Film your family giving back (through one of the servant evangelism ideas above) and then challenge 3 other families to also give back.
- Instagram stories asking for prayer requests
- Post a pre-loaded Starbucks Card on Social Media, “Have a coffee on me”. Could use for specific groups, such as college students, healthcare workers, or essential workers.- <https://www.amyporterfield.com/2018/03/how-share-starbucks-coffee-followers/>

WITNESSING

- Check-in with nonbelieving friends that you can pray for.
- Consistently calling people in your contact list.
- Share over video games, chat rooms, or zoom calls.
- Load up the Share Jesus Without Fear Questions on Facebook and ask for responses:
 - Do you have any Spiritual Beliefs?
 - To you, who is Jesus?
 - Do you believe in heaven or hell?
 - If you died, where would you go?
 - If what you believe were not true, would you want to know it?

TESTIMONY AND ENCOURAGEMENT VIDEOS

- 1-minute testimonies on social media.
- #mystorychallenge- post a 60-90 second video of your testimony and tag/challenge three others to do the same.
- See Conversion and Recovery testimony tip pages below:

Preparing Your “Conversion” Testimony

Use the following outline to prepare your “conversion” testimony explaining how you became a Christian.

- I have not always been a Christian. (Briefly describe your life before becoming a Christian.)
- I realized I needed Jesus and received Him into my life when . . .
- The biggest change I have noticed in my life is . . .
- May I share how something like this can happen to you?

Other good questions to answer in Social Media Videos

- What are you learning about God in this season?
- What Scripture has been encouraging you in quarantine?
- How have you seen God move in your life or community?
- What is getting you through this scary season?

- How are you struggling? (It is always important to be human and vulnerable)
- If you had one thing to tell people that you feel is most important, what would it be?

HELPFUL RESOURCES WITH EVANGELISM IDEAS

- www.Kindness.com
- www.Servantevangelism.com
- www.Stevesjogren.com
- www.Truelife.org
- www.lamsecond.com
- [The Story App](#) (send out the Story Video for gospel conversations, load on Facebook)
- The Children's Version of the Story, go to thestorymaker.com. (send out the Story Maker Video for gospel conversations related to children, load on Facebook)
- 3 Circles App- lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide (send out the 3 Circles Video for gospel conversations, load on Facebook)
- My Hope Billy Graham Videos - myhopewithbillygraham.org/programs
- Here is another Billy Graham video. One of his last public presentations, it is very good. The video is less than ten minutes long, and I personally believe it has an important message for us today, especially during the pandemic. Post on Facebook, etc. [Here is the link.](#)