

*What does
SEARCH AND RESCUE
have to do with the
CHURCH?
And does it Affect YOU?*

Provided by: Search and Rescue Ministry, Inc.



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WHAT DOES SEARCH AND RESCUE HAVE TO DO WITH THE CHURCH? AND DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

Introduction

Search and Rescue should be the focus of the “Church” or “Christianity.” The “Church” is more than a building; it is more than a local group that meets on Sunday mornings. God’s Church is all of His people collectively. Ephesians 2:19-22; “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” The “Church” is God’s Holy Temple, he lives inside the Church. We as Christians make up the church according to Romans 12:5, “So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Therefore we as Christians collectively make up the body of Christ or the Church, and therefore we ought to act as He would act, we ought to do the things He would do.

When Jesus began His ministry, He went about doing good; His focus was always on others, and on doing the will of His Heavenly Father. He performed many miracles, many of which included healing, and one of the greatest was when he raised the dead. While we are not Jesus, and we cannot perform any miracles on our own, Jesus has lost no power, He wants to save lost men and women from there trespasses and sins, and since He inhabits us, and we act as His body here in this world, we should be searching for lost men and women to help rescue them from the eternal punishment of sin called Hell.

WHY?

Spreading the Gospel or the Good News that Jesus came into the world to save sinners is not something we choose to do. It is a commandment of God. Jesus, Himself, just before ascending into Heaven, gave his people a commandment or a commission and he said this: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20) and then in a parallel verse; "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16 KJV).

Then He went a step further and gave an order as to how we should spread the Gospel. (Acts 1:8) "...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." According to this verse, Jesus wants us to be a witness starting at home with our family and friends, then in our local communities, then in our country, and finally all across the world. Wherever God has placed you in this scheme is where you need to be witnessing. A question we need to ask ourselves is this; are we fulfilling this Great Commission? It is a Great Commission. It almost seems overwhelming as we think about this task. That is exactly what the Devil wants us to think. He then wants us to dismiss the commandment God has given, causing us to be overwhelmed or faint at the idea. (Galatians 6:9) "...let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." The Devil has many tactics that he uses to get us sidetracked from God's work. If he can't get us to dismiss the idea or give up, he will offer an excuse. Maybe the excuse is that we give money to missionaries and they are performing these tasks on our behalf.

I am sorry my friend. As much as I believe we should support missionaries who go to the far-off corners of the earth to spread the Gospel of Christ this does not relieve us of the commandment Jesus Himself has given to each of us to "GO." This statement was not directed to any one person. It is my understanding that this scripture or this commandment was given to all Christians, believers, and followers of Christ, then, now, and forever. If you agree with me and you consider

yourself a "Christian" then we are to be working to accomplish this great task at hand. I recently heard this statement made concerning missions, "If not ME, then who? If not now, then when?" Jesus' command was in present terms. "Go", meaning NOW! This was good for the Apostle Paul, and it is good for you and me now. We need to "GO"!

Often times, we feel that non-believers should "Come." We open our church doors every Sunday, and put up a large sign and include the phrase, "Everyone is Welcome" at the bottom of it. Sometimes we provide special groups of singers and dinners to attract them, and then we wait. While in theory, non-believers should "Come," and our intentions are pure. We are sincere in wanting them to come. In reality, they should come, but they are hindered, they are weak, they need help, and often they need a light to come by, to help them find their way (you and I, as Christians, are that light). Let's think about lost campers in the woods in the middle of the night with no light, it is easy to say they should come back to camp. The camp is a warm safe place; however, everyone knows that without a light it is almost impossible for them to get back safely in the dark. Therefore, if we found ourselves in this situation we would send out a search and rescue team with lights and equipment to guide them back into safety. My friend, there are lost men and women all around us who are lost in their trespasses and sins. We are their Search and Rescue Team. Do not misunderstand what I am saying, Jesus is the Savior. As David said, "he is my Fortress and the Rock of our Salvation." We cannot make them follow us, but we can "GO" and tell them, shining the Light of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe

this is what Romans 12:1-2 is talking about when Paul wrote; "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." To be a Christian is to be Christ-like. Jesus was always up and about the Father's business, spreading the Gospel.

Jesus made it easy for us. He left the command broad. He said to tell it to "Every Creature." We cannot mess this one up because we can NOT tell the wrong person. (Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." If ALL means ALL, then we all need to know that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim 1:15). Jesus has not left us alone to perform this task. He said he would go with us "alway," even to the end of the world. Many people misquote this scripture. They use the plural form of the word and say "always". This scripture is plain. It uses the term "alway" for a reason. Jesus will go with us "all the way." There are not as many ways as the devil would have us to believe. There is just one way that leads to life, and Jesus is that way. He will go all the way with us if we go his way. As Jesus gave these instructions, he said, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always."

Even though this is a daunting task, isn't it wonderful to know that we are not alone? Jesus our Lord and Savior will be there to help us. We have "Good News," the Gospel to tell. He will lead and guide us on our

journey as we "Go" out and labor together with the Spirit of God to fulfill the Great Commission.

HOW?

Since we have started off with the theme of Search and Rescue, let us continue with that analogy. A search and rescue team would definitely be prepared, before trampling off into the forest at night. They would probably take a light. Maybe take something to keep the lost camper warm and protect them from the elements. They probably would also take along some food for the lost, hungry, and weak camper. Did you know that Jesus is all of these essential things to us? (1 John 1:5) "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all", (Psalms 91:2) "... He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust", and (John 6:35) "...I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

Jesus is ALL we need! No matter if we have nothing else, He is enough. Remember the scripture about the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus had nothing in this life, but God was enough. I've heard this story all my life and I would like to share it with you: There was a wealthy man who worked in a large city and he gave his heart to God. He was so excited to be saved, he was just bubbling over. He wanted to do something to tell others about Jesus. While driving to work one morning he saw a large billboard that was empty and the sign below it said: "Advertise

Here." He reasoned with himself, "This is a very busy highway. There must be nearly one hundred thousand people or more that pass this way every day. If I rent this billboard and put a message on it about Christ, it would have to get the attention of many non-believers. Many may turn to Him and have this same joy that I am experiencing." He did just that. He made the call, he paid the fees, and after a few days his sign was erected. In large bold print, it simply said, "Jesus is the Answer". The next morning driving to work, he passed the location of the sign. He was so thrilled to see it. He could only imagine how many people had seen this while driving by. The whole day, he continued to think about this sign and the multitude it may have blessed. The following morning on his way to work, he was just as excited to see this sign. However, when he saw it he was so disappointed. Some vandals had attacked it through the night, and took spray paint and wrote above the words, "But what is the Question?" Now he was upset and troubled all day. Later that evening after eating dinner an answer came to him. He went to his garage, and gathered a few cans of spray paint and went to the billboard himself and there he wrote, "It doesn't matter what the question is, JESUS IS THE ANSWER".

We need to fully understand this concept. Jesus is what the world needs. It doesn't matter what shape our country is in. It doesn't matter that the devil has destroyed the family structure. Jesus is bigger than any problem we might face, and He is the answer. If we can ever get a hold of this fact, and understand this is not a movie where all works out in the end. This is much more serious than that; this is truly a life and death

matter. Once our friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors, or strangers we have not met, yet, take their last breath, their destiny is sealed. It cannot be changed. When we grasp this, we will be more inclined to engage in this "Search and Rescue Mission."

We have good news to tell. The Gospel is this: (Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:8) "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 10:9) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:13) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 8:1) "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:38-39) "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is the Glorious Gospel of Christ and God has called us to labor together with the spirit in order to share this gospel. (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That is enough! When we come to the end of life's way, and we

face the crossing at Jordan's chilly banks, He will be there to take us across. HE is enough! HE is everything!

Who?

(John 1:12) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." If we are the Sons or Daughters of God, then His Great Commission has gone out to us and we are called to be on the Search and Rescue Team. He wants us to share what we have with others. The most powerful tool you have is your testimony. Over and over we read where the Apostle Paul told of his conversion. We need to tell others what God has done for us. When we tell of our conversion experience or when we accepted Christ into our heart, coupled with God's Holy Word, the Holy Spirit will move in and convict hearts. There is Power in the Word of God. His Word has Drawing Power, Saving Power, and most of all Keeping Power.

According to Mark 6:7, when Jesus called the original twelve disciples, he sent them out two by two, meaning in pairs. That is good advice for us today. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says this, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken," meaning we are stronger together. While we often have opportunities one on one to witness to others, it is often better to organize efforts with other Christians, Church Members, or Search and Rescue Team members. While we are all sent to tell we are not all sent to tell the same

person. By organizing our efforts we will be able to cover a broader scope. God has made each of us different and with different abilities. Some rescue missions require special skill sets. When we unite together for a common goal we will learn that some have a better skill set for witnessing to lost sick, those that are down on their luck, and maybe homeless, while others are able to reach people who have committed crimes and are incarcerated. God uses us all in different ways. You and your church teammates will have to determine where God is choosing to use you. God made each of us differently and he made each of us for a purpose, with that in mind, the important thing is that we are searching and attempting to rescue those which are lost in their trespasses and sins. They need a Savior, and with God's help, we can help direct them to a place of safety, Jesus Christ.

We know there are none righteous no not one. We are ALL sinners. If we are saved and laboring on this Search and Rescue Mission, it is only by God's Grace and because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. However, since we are saved we have certain obligations. One of these obligations is this, (Philippians 2:5) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" We must strive to have the mind of Christ, or in other words, act like a Christian. The devil often wants us to think that Christians come in many different forms with many different beliefs. However, the Bible depicts a successful Christian or a successful Search and Rescue Member as having the following attributes:

- We must give ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus Christ, and we must adopt the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice.
- We need to give ourselves to one another by the will of God. We should by His grace, love and obey Him in all things.
- We should abstain from all appearance of evil. Abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world.
- We should provide things honest in the sight of all men.
- We should agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self-denial faith and good works endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- We should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for public worship, church conferences, and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel.
- We should not fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of it's poor, and all it's benevolent work.
- We should agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

- We should everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.
- We should to this end agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, and success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world.

If we do this, the God of peace will sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we will be a successful Search and Rescue Member.

Implementation

We have discussed Why, How, and Who, but how do we start to implement this into our lives and into our church? This is where we often start to struggle but God definitely doesn't want us to struggle. Doubt is something the devil wants us to do, but not God. He just wants us to have Faith, and Go! (Hebrews 11:6) "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". So moving forward in this implementation let us together seek the face of God in Prayer:

Our Father which art in Heaven hallowed be Thy Name. Lord we humbly come to you this day asking that you use us as a vessel of clay. Mold us into what you would have us to be and use us for thy service. Help us as we move forward, to be found faithful, and keep us in the center of thy will. We know you commanded us to spread the gospel to every creature. We ask that you help us to do just that. Help us to be bold, and look for opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ with others. We pray as we do, Your Spirit will go before us and prepare hearts, so that the seed sown may have good ground to grow. We pray that as we labor in your vineyard, you will give increase for our effort and that souls will be saved from an eternity of punishment. Help us to ever be faithful, and we will never fail to praise you for all things. AMEN.

Moving forward, in Faith believing that God will be with us every step of the way. We need to work with our group to set up visitation teams. Search and Rescue teams must be prepared, available, and ready to "Go" when the opportunity arises. The way we get prepared is to study God's word. In this commission he left us he said "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20). Pay close attention to the section underlined, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you". How can we teach if we do not

know ourselves? (2 Timothy 2:15) "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." God left us his word and he wants us to use it as a manual to live by and to share it with those we come in contact with. If we do this we will be prepared when an opportunity arises.

The next thing we said was important for a search and rescue team was to be available. It would not matter how much we studied God's word or what abilities we may possess if we are not available to put it to use. Then it is worthless. (Hebrews 12:1-3) "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." God gave the best Heaven had for us, and he will NOT take second place in our lives, we must forsake all to follow him, (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) "...Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." God must be first in our lives, no matter if we are on the job, at home, at church, at the ball field, or any other place we may be. Jesus said (Matthew 5:14) "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

How can we be the Light of the world if Jesus is the Light? Let us think about the Sun and the Moon. The sun is the great light. The moon actually has no light in itself; however, it reflects the sun's light. The reason the moon appears to be brighter or dimmer at times is due to its relationship to the sun. When the moon is better aligned and close to the sun it appears brighter and fuller. When it is further away and at an angle, it appears dimmer. We are no different than the moon. We reflect the Light of the Son, God's Son. The closer our relationship is with Him, and the more direct we are in line with His word, the brighter we shine. No wonder Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." As a member of God's Search and Rescue Team, we need to make sure we study God's Word. We need to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only, so we can keep the Light of God reflecting through us bright, that others may see and come in before it's too late.

The last thing we said a search and rescue team need to do is; "Be ready to go". We must be ready as individuals, and then as a church or group. This is such a great message. We must take advantage of every opportunity we get to tell others of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself talked to people as he went along the way, but he also organized groups. (Mark 6:7) "and he (Jesus) called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two..." Jesus sent the twelve disciples out in pairs, and the Bible teaches in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. So it is good to go

out in pairs, and it is good to out groups from our churches to witness in our communities and our areas we live in.

I remember in times past we would go door to door throughout communities, and through the hospitals, asking each person we met if they knew Jesus as their personal Savior. Praying for many and asking many to pray for us. However, even though God's word has not changed and people's needs have not changed our culture has changed. Laws have changed. It has made it dangerous, or in some cases illegal, to perform this type of visitation without prior consent. Therefore we must not change the message which we are sent to tell, but perhaps change the method in which it is delivered. Technology is a great thing if used properly. The Devil is sure using it to his advantage so isn't it time we use it to ours? Just as salesman needs leads to go on sales calls, we as Christians need leads or opportunities to witness to people. While Jesus said to tell it to every creature, He has also said: "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." (Matthew 7:6) We know that not every person we tell is going to receive it, but to them that do, it is the power of God unto Salvation.

How do we get the opportunity to witness? While there is no set way, here are 10 suggestions in no particular order. These have all been proven to have success; you can try them and see how they work for you. Some are simple and almost effortless, while others are elaborate and take planning. In general, the more effort you put into it, the better the results.

1. **Word of Mouth** – You know every time we hear of someone sick or going through a problem it is an opportunity to speak to them. We can do this by phone, by postcard, social media, or email. If just to say; we are praying for you, we care about you and are here to help if we can. This simple statement can often open doors for a Search and Rescue team to Share the Gospel.
2. **Visitors Cards** – While churches have been doing this for years, it is a good way to get information about people who have visited your church. Following up with these can often lead to the opportunity to share the church's beliefs and ultimately for a Search and Rescue Team to share the Gospel.
3. **Phone Trees or Group Calling Services** – While this is a relatively new idea, it is proving to be a very successful program and inexpensive. A couple good web-based programs currently available is Call Multiplier and One Call Now. They have the ability to call large groups of people in just a short amount of time. You can create groups, and subgroups and some offer the option to perform surveys. This is a good way to keep in contact with people you have visited and keep them informed of upcoming events and services. It makes newcomers feel a part.
4. **Prayer List on websites and social media** – When people request prayer for something or someone, this means there is a need, thus giving us a reason or opportunity to contact them. Once again, our Search and Rescue Teams may have an opportunity to share the Gospel.

5. Free Car Washes – If your church is located in a populated area, this can be great fellowship for Search and Rescue Teams and for the church members alike. This provides a great way to bring people into the church environment on neutral terms. Offer a "Free Car Wash" on first come first serve basis from 9 am – 3 pm on a Saturday. Make sure it is free. However, while they are in line waiting on the wash, have members of the Search and Rescue Team there making contact, and seeking opportunities to witness and share God's Word.
6. New Baby Congratulations - Most families announce the birth of their new babies in local newspapers. Use this as a Search and Rescue opportunity. Send a letter of congratulations from the church offering a free baby care package and church recognition upon attending a regular Sunday Church Service. Be prepared, having a small basket with lotion, bibs, and other baby items to give them upon attendance. During the worship service, recognize them by having them bring the baby to the front. Tell it's name, weight, and length at birth. Once they fill out a visitor's card, Search and Rescue Teams can follow up.
7. Humanitarian Projects – Jesus instructed us to take care of the widows and orphans, and this is a great way to get leads and share the gospel. This often works well with the involvement of youth groups. No matter if you are assisting in cleaning up a vacant lot in a community, cutting a widow's or elderly person's grass. Maybe your church is equipped to handle replacing a roof

for someone who cannot do it on their own. This can be a great way get leads in a community. Remember we are to "Go". This sometimes means we have to sweat a little, but you will be surprised how many people you will get to witness to while performing these tasks, remember our goal is to Share the Gospel.

8. Nursing Home Visits – While Nursing home visits are definitely not a fun place to go. For many, this is their last stop before leaving this world. It can be a great place to witness. I was in church just this week and heard a prayer request for a gentleman's uncle, he was 91 years old and had not yet accepted Christ as his personal Savior. (Jude 1:23) "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire" we definitely have the opportunity to witness and share the Gospel here, and not only to patients, but it can open up doors to their families who Search and Rescue teams can follow up with.
9. Jails and Prisons – While this may be an even harder place to visit than the nursing home, people in here are often at a place where the Devil has wrecked their lives and has left them with no hope. No matter what they have done God still loves them, and we need to tell it. Some of these inmates just need to hear that. Some may be seeking the Lord but not know how to get to him. That was the case with the eunuch in the chariot that Phillip helped. Who knows? It may open up a door to their families, and the

communities they are from. Remember we are not waiting for people to come to us, we are Search and Rescue.

10. Door to Door – As discussed this may not be possible or safe in all areas, but there are communities where this is still possible, and it has been proven to work. If you have never been on a door to door visit be prepared to get talked to rudely. Some people will not welcome you. However, you will have the opportunity with others to share the Gospel, and that is what it is all about in this Search and Rescue Mission.

Now that we have identified some ways of implementing this program in our churches we need to determine who our Search and Rescue Team will be.

Then What?

Expect a battle. This is a search and rescue mission. The blessings of being a faithful and obedient servant and the excitement of seeing souls rescued will be the most rewarding thing you have ever done in your life. But remember, this mission is going on in the middle of a battlefield. This battle has been going on since the beginning of time, and it is against good and evil. (Ephesians 6:12) "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (1 Peter 5:8) "...the Devil, as a roaring lion,

walketh about, seeking whom he may devour". Therefore we must (1 Peter 1:13) "...Gird up the loins of (our) mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

The Apostle Paul said this in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." We can make it. He will help and we have fellow believers there to help us. This is not an every man for himself mission. We are our brother's keeper! We are responsible for others! I heard this statement made at a funeral one time. The preacher said, "People will do one of three things with their lives. They will waste, spend, or invest them." Many people waste their lives. They live from day to day and have nothing or no one to show for it. The second group he mentioned spend their lives. They work hard, they gather all they can, and they play hard. They enjoy life to the fullest. Then, there is the third class. They invest their lives. They sacrifice their time, their money, and their families in order to help others. As members of God's Search and Rescue Team, we need to fall into the third class of people. Heaven will be worth the investment.

The Devil is not going to sit quietly while we spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; however, while we might have to endure the battle, we have already won the war through Jesus' death, burial,

and most of all His resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 4:13) "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Now it's time to start getting excited. Let's expect a harvest! (John 4:35-38) "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (Matthew 22:9) "Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage." (Revelations 22:17 "... The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely." The gift of Salvation is free and it is for whosoever will. That takes in you and me and whoever we may come in contact with. God is sending us out on this mission and He has warned us to: (Matthew 26:41) "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (John 16:33) "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (1 John 5:4-5) "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" We are overcomers in Jesus. The book of Revelations gives many promises to them that overcome:

- "...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." (Revelations 2:7)
- "...He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." (Revelations 2:11)

- "...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." (Revelations 2:17)
- "...he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations." (Revelations 2:26)
- "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." (Revelations 3:5)
- "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." (Revelations 3:12)
- "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." (Revelations 3:21)

We have overcome. We have already won the victory. Now, as Search and Rescue Team members, let us enter into the mission field and spread the Good News, the Gospel of our Salvation. Let us tell it to **Every Creature**. This is our reasonable service! May God bless you and be with you in your Search and Rescue efforts.

Special Bonus:

Search and Rescue Ministry

Steps to Getting Started

1. **Select a Search and Rescue Coordinator** – Just as a fire department has a fire chief to coordinate rescue efforts at a fire, and to keep fireman from causing harm to each other, our Search and Rescue Ministry needs a Coordinator to keep our efforts moving in a positive direction. Often groups overlapping can cause a negative effect. For example: Team 1 goes on a door to door visitation on Main Street. The next week, Team 3 goes on a door to door visit on Main Street. Without, a coordinator we can easily overlap. Two door to door visits, only a week apart, could seem intrusive instead of inviting. The role of a Search and Rescue Coordinator is to communicate with Team Leaders, help keep track of leads, help keep track of follow-up needs, and to assist Team Leaders in making plans for Search and

Rescue Efforts. The Search and Rescue is often a Pastor, Associate Pastor, or Leader in the Church.

2. **Locating Search and Rescue Leaders** - Search and Rescue Leaders should be able to communicate well with others. They should be organized and disciplined enough, to make a written plan. Document the results of the plan. Keep track of contact information and, if possible, follow up on the information. Leaders should discuss plans with the Search and Rescue Coordinator prior to implementation. Search and Rescue Leaders should recruit and select teammates, and work to disciple and train new leaders.

(Note: As teams grow, they should split off into new teams by selecting additional leaders and teammates and branching out into other areas. Please consult with S&R Coordinator.)

3. **Choose Teams** –As stated, different people have different abilities. It is often good to pair up teams with people who have different abilities. For instance, a talkative person with a quiet person, or a younger person with an older. Most of all you need teammates who can and will labor together. It is important that teammates have the same available time to labor. For instance, someone who works evening shift Monday – Saturday, could not work well with someone

who works day shift, Sunday – Thursday. Teammates must be available at similar times. Some teams may work well with only 2 members, while others may have 10 or more. Often search and rescue missions may bring multiple teams together. For instance, a group carwash may take all teams and members working together to make it a success.

- Each team member, including coordinator and leaders, should complete an enrollment form. The form should consist of Name, Times Available, and Contact Information. This information should be shared among the group so that members can be contacted, when necessary.

4. **Start Making Plans** - Once we have selected our teams, it is time to start planning. It has been said, "It is not a plan unless it is written down." So, write down your plans for each event. Document the results and submit them to the coordinator. He/She should keep a record, and highlight successful events in order to help with future planning. The coordinator will help with follow-ups. Each team should commit to at least one plan per month. Maybe one team will commit to a prison ministry the 1st Tuesday of each month, while another team may plan a different event each ranging from one on one home visits to the hospital track visits, and more. As stated in our program guide, God made each of us different and we have to

labor where he gives up the opportunity. Most importantly, we have to labor. I was recently told of a seventy-six-year-old lady who has taken on the mission of asking people everywhere she goes if they are a Christian or not. She then proceeds to give them a gospel track which either tells them how to be saved or encourages them to keep or pressing on. This lady mostly gets to see people at the grocery store or doctor's office, but she is "Going and Telling"! As we make our plans, let us keep in mind the instructions, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20) and then in a parallel verse; "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16 KJV). Then he went a step further, and gave an order as to how we should spread the Gospel. (Acts 1:8) "...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." According to this verse, Jesus wants us to be a witness starting at home with our family and friends. Then in our local communities. Then in our country and finally all across the world. Where ever God has placed you in this scheme, is where you need to be witnessing. Before making any plans, spend time in

prayer and studying God's Word, let the Holy Spirit lead you, and then "God and Tell"!

NOTE: More plan ideas and examples can be found at: www.searchandrescueministry.com

5. **Execute the Plan** – If you have prayed prior to planning, and you feel God has helped you with this plan, then trust Him. Remember He is with you, no matter the outcome. While we want to do our part and we love to see people rescued from a life of sin and shame, it will not always turn out that way. While Jesus was here on this earth, more rejected him than accepted him, and we can expect some of this, too. No matter what, God is with us. God, who cannot lie, promised He would go with us all the way! No matter how hard it gets at times, or what the results seem to be, we have to remember we are not responsible for results. We are only responsible for "Going and Telling"! The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 " I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. If any good or success comes from our effort, it will be all by the goodness and mercy of God the Father, and Jesus Christ!

6. **Be Faithful, Pray, and Wait on God!** – When John wrote to the church of Smyrna, in Revelations 2:10 he said, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation...: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. We must be faithful, and continue our work, Hebrews 11:6 states"... without faith, it is impossible to please him (Jesus)..." And when we are Faithful, God will bless. Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Be faithful; continue to labor to fulfill the "Great Commission"!

Supporting Documents (Found on Website):

- Enrollment Form – Completed By Everyone.
- Leader Plan/Record Form – Completed By Leader each Event/Submit to Coordinator.
- Coordinator Record/Follow-up List – Completed by Coordinator and retained.

Additional Special Bonus:

Free Logo Design!

Go to: <http://www.searchandrescueministry.org/Church Resources - Extra Resources.html>

And scroll down until you see the section entitled:

Get your Free Customized Logo

Complete the form with your personal information and within a few days, if not sooner, we will email you back a free digital Personalized Logo which you will be able to use in your search and rescue efforts!



More Information about this program
and ways you can get involved can be
found at:

www.searchandrescueministry.org

You can also visit our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/searchandrescueministry

A Christ Centered Outreach Ministry.

This program is designed to help encourage and grow churches and individuals. The goal is to reach the lost by encouraging personal spiritual growth in individuals, bringing them together in groups, and then letting our light shine to the lost in a variety of ways. As we spread the gospel or good news, we will work to fulfill our role in the Great Commission. The only thing that is asked of you is to share this with ALL of your Christian friends and contacts so that others may benefit as well. Search and Rescue Ministry is a non-profit, we charge no fees for our services, however we do accept donations. May God richly bless you!