

seven practices of effective ministry

Seven Practices of Effective Ministry: Building a Lasting Impact

seven practices of effective ministry form the backbone of any thriving church or faith-based organization. When pastors, ministry leaders, and volunteers embrace these core habits, they create a vibrant environment where spiritual growth flourishes and communities are transformed. Ministry is more than just programs or sermons; it's about intentional living, authentic relationships, and purposeful leadership. Let's explore these essential practices and how they can shape a ministry that truly makes a difference.

Understanding the Heart of Ministry

Before diving into the specific practices, it's important to recognize that ministry is fundamentally about serving others and glorifying God. Effective ministry thrives on humility, faith, and a genuine desire to shepherd people through life's challenges. The seven practices of effective ministry aren't just techniques—they reflect a mindset and lifestyle that leaders and members alike can embody.

1. Cultivating Authentic Relationships

At the core of any successful ministry is the ability to build genuine connections. Ministry isn't just about delivering messages from the pulpit; it's about walking alongside people in their daily lives. This relational approach fosters trust and openness, which are essential for spiritual growth.

The Power of Connection

When ministry leaders and volunteers take time to know individuals personally, they can better understand their needs and prayers. This relational ministry leads to deeper discipleship and a sense of belonging, which encourages active participation within the church community.

2. Prioritizing Consistent Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines

Deepening one's personal relationship with God is vital for ministry effectiveness. Leaders who prioritize prayer, meditation on Scripture, and other spiritual disciplines model dependence on God rather than on their own strength.

Prayer as the Foundation

Regular, intentional prayer grounds ministry efforts in God's guidance and power. It also cultivates discernment and patience, helping leaders navigate challenges with grace. Encouraging a culture of prayer within the congregation strengthens the entire body.

3. Embracing Servant Leadership

Effective ministry leaders lead by serving others, following the example of Jesus Christ. This means putting the needs of the congregation and community above personal ambitions or recognition.

Leading with Humility

A servant leader listens actively, empowers others, and remains approachable. This leadership style fosters teamwork and encourages the development of new leaders, ensuring the ministry's longevity.

4. Developing a Clear Vision and Mission

A ministry without direction can quickly lose momentum. Clear vision and mission statements provide a roadmap, aligning all activities with the church's core purpose.

Communicating Purpose Effectively

When everyone understands the ministry's goals, from staff to volunteers to members, it creates unity and focus. Leaders who regularly revisit and communicate the vision inspire commitment and innovation.

5. Investing in Discipleship and Spiritual Growth

Growth is a continual process in ministry. Investing in discipleship means providing opportunities for believers to deepen their faith through teaching, small groups, mentoring, and outreach.

Nurturing Mature Believers

Strong discipleship programs equip members to live out their faith authentically and share it confidently. This not only strengthens the church internally but also expands its impact externally.

6. Fostering Community Engagement and Outreach

Ministry doesn't happen in a vacuum—it engages with the community around it. Effective ministries focus on outreach initiatives that meet physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Serving Beyond the Walls

Whether it's organizing food drives, supporting local schools, or offering counseling services, community involvement demonstrates Christ's love in tangible ways. It also opens doors for new relationships and potential growth in the congregation.

7. Encouraging Continuous Learning and Adaptability

The landscape of ministry is always changing. Leaders who embrace learning—from theological education to leadership training—and remain adaptable can navigate challenges with wisdom.

Staying Relevant and Effective

By being open to feedback and new ideas, ministries can innovate without compromising their core values. This practice helps maintain engagement across generations and cultural shifts.

Putting These Practices Into Action

Implementing the seven practices of effective ministry requires intentionality and perseverance. Here are some practical tips for leaders and ministry teams:

- **Schedule regular team meetings** to assess progress and realign with the vision.
- **Create mentorship programs** that encourage relational discipleship.
- **Develop prayer ministries** where members can join in intercession and support.
- **Organize community outreach events** that address local needs.
- **Invest in leadership development** through workshops and seminars.

By embedding these habits into the ministry's culture, churches can nurture a thriving environment where spiritual and community growth go hand in hand.

The Ripple Effect of Effective Ministry

When ministries commit to these seven practices, the impact extends far beyond Sunday services. Lives are transformed, relationships healed, and communities uplifted. Moreover, effective ministry inspires others to serve and grow, creating a ripple effect of faith and hope.

Remember, ministry is a journey, not a destination. Embracing these practices helps leaders and congregations remain rooted in purpose and equipped to navigate whatever lies ahead. Whether you're a seasoned pastor or a volunteer just starting, focusing on these seven practices of effective ministry will guide you toward a fulfilling and impactful ministry experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Seven Practices of Effective Ministry?

The Seven Practices of Effective Ministry typically include: prayer, preaching, pastoral care, leadership development, evangelism, discipleship, and community engagement. These practices help ministers serve their congregations effectively and foster spiritual growth.

Why is prayer considered a foundational practice in effective ministry?

Prayer is foundational because it connects ministry leaders with God, providing guidance, strength, and wisdom. It sustains spiritual vitality and ensures that ministry efforts align with divine will.

How does leadership development contribute to effective ministry?

Leadership development equips ministry leaders and volunteers with the skills and vision needed to lead congregations effectively, fostering sustainability and empowering others to serve.

What role does community engagement play in effective ministry?

Community engagement helps ministries address local needs, build relationships beyond the church walls, and demonstrate Christ's love through service, making the ministry relevant and impactful.

How can evangelism be effectively practiced as part of ministry?

Effective evangelism involves building genuine relationships, sharing the gospel respectfully and clearly, and living out Christian values as a testimony to others.

What are some effective methods for discipleship within ministry?

Effective discipleship methods include small group Bible studies, mentoring relationships, spiritual formation programs, and personalized guidance to help believers grow in faith and practice.

How does preaching contribute to the effectiveness of ministry?

Preaching communicates biblical truths, inspires faith, encourages moral living, and equips the congregation to apply scripture to their daily lives, making it a vital practice in ministry.

Additional Resources

****Seven Practices of Effective Ministry: A Comprehensive Exploration****

seven practices of effective ministry serve as critical pillars for religious leaders and organizations seeking to foster meaningful engagement, spiritual growth, and community impact. In a landscape marked by evolving societal values, shifting congregational needs, and technological advancements, understanding these foundational practices helps ministries remain relevant and impactful. This article delves into the core elements that characterize effective ministry, analyzing their roles, benefits, and challenges within contemporary faith communities.

Understanding the Core of Effective Ministry

Effective ministry transcends simple organizational management; it embodies a holistic approach to leadership, service, and spiritual nurturing. At its heart, ministry aims to guide individuals toward personal development and communal harmony, often within a faith-based framework. The seven practices of effective ministry, therefore, are not merely procedural steps but strategic imperatives that align theological principles with practical execution.

Incorporating these practices enables ministries to address diverse congregational dynamics, from youth engagement to elder care, while also adapting to digital transformations and societal shifts. By integrating strong leadership, intentional discipleship, and community outreach, ministries can cultivate environments where faith flourishes authentically.

The Seven Practices of Effective Ministry Explored

1. Intentional Leadership Development

Leadership is the backbone of any ministry. Effective ministry prioritizes the cultivation of leaders who are not only spiritually mature but also equipped with managerial and interpersonal skills. Intentional leadership development involves training programs, mentorship, and succession planning to ensure continuity and growth.

According to a 2022 survey by the Barna Group, ministries with structured leadership development programs report 30% higher engagement rates among volunteers and congregants. This indicates a direct correlation between leadership investment and overall ministry vitality. However, the challenge remains in balancing theological training with practical leadership skills, an area where many ministries seek innovative solutions.

2. Strategic Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

Discipleship is central to ministry effectiveness, focusing on the spiritual growth of individuals within the congregation. Effective ministries employ strategic discipleship models that cater to various age groups and spiritual maturity levels, ensuring that teaching and mentorship are relevant and impactful.

Spiritual formation programs that integrate prayer, scripture study, and community service help believers deepen their faith and live out their convictions. The use of digital platforms for discipleship—such as online Bible studies and virtual small groups—has expanded reach and accessibility, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Community Engagement and Outreach

A ministry's influence often extends beyond its walls through deliberate community engagement efforts. Effective ministries create outreach initiatives that address local needs, fostering goodwill and demonstrating faith in action.

This practice involves partnerships with local organizations, social service projects, and events that welcome the broader community. Ministries that prioritize outreach tend to experience growth in membership and increased social impact, highlighting the importance of relevance and service in ministry work.

4. Effective Communication and Transparency

Clear, transparent communication is essential for trust-building within any ministry. Whether communicating vision, policy changes, or financial updates, ministries that maintain openness foster stronger relationships with congregants and stakeholders.

Utilizing diverse communication channels—including newsletters, social media, and town hall meetings—ensures inclusivity and responsiveness. Transparency in governance and decision-making processes often correlates with higher satisfaction levels among church members, reducing conflicts and misunderstandings.

5. Adaptive Use of Technology

In the digital age, technology has become indispensable for effective ministry. From live streaming services to managing church databases, ministries that adapt technological tools can enhance engagement and operational efficiency.

Technology also facilitates global connections, enabling ministries to reach beyond geographical limitations. While digital adoption presents challenges such as resource allocation and training, the benefits of expanded reach and modernized communication are significant.

6. Stewardship and Resource Management

Sustainable ministry requires prudent stewardship of financial and human resources. Effective ministries implement transparent budgeting processes, encourage generous giving, and manage volunteers efficiently.

A 2021 report from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability emphasizes that ministries with well-defined stewardship practices experience greater donor retention and financial stability. Balancing resource management with mission-driven initiatives ensures ministries remain viable and impactful over time.

7. Cultivating a Culture of Prayer and Worship

Finally, at the spiritual core of ministry lies the cultivation of a vibrant prayer and worship culture. This practice nurtures a sense of unity, reverence, and dependence on divine guidance.

Effective ministries encourage diverse worship expressions and consistent prayer practices, both corporately and individually. Such spiritual disciplines reinforce the ministry's mission and inspire congregants to live out their faith authentically.

Balancing Tradition and Innovation in Ministry Practices

The seven practices of effective ministry highlight a delicate balance between honoring longstanding traditions and embracing innovation. Ministries rooted solely in tradition may struggle to connect with younger generations or adapt to societal changes. Conversely, ministries that overly prioritize innovation risk diluting core theological values and alienating established members.

Successful ministries navigate this tension by integrating time-tested spiritual disciplines with contemporary methods of engagement and administration. This approach not only preserves doctrinal integrity but also enhances accessibility and relevance.

Implications for Ministry Leaders and Organizations

For ministry leaders, the adoption and refinement of these seven practices demand intentionality, continuous learning, and responsiveness to congregational feedback. Leaders must develop competencies in both spiritual leadership and organizational management, fostering environments where both can thrive.

Organizations benefit from regular assessment of these practices through strategic planning sessions, congregational surveys, and benchmarking against best practices within the broader faith community. Such evaluations enable ministries to identify strengths, address weaknesses, and anticipate future challenges.

Looking Ahead: The Future of Effective Ministry

Emerging trends such as digital discipleship, bi-vocational ministry models, and increased focus on mental health within congregations suggest that the seven practices of effective ministry will continue to evolve. Ministries that remain open to innovation while grounded in foundational principles will likely lead in shaping the future spiritual landscape.

As the role of ministry expands beyond traditional boundaries, these practices offer a roadmap for sustaining impactful, relevant, and spiritually enriching communities. The ongoing integration of leadership development, community engagement, and adaptive technologies will prove essential in meeting the complex needs of modern faith expressions.

Seven Practices Of Effective Ministry

seven practices of effective ministry: Seven Practices of Effective Ministry Andy Stanley, Lane Jones, Reggie Joiner, 2004-08-18 There's no scoreboard in the sanctuary, and the only plate is probably for the offering. But every church leader needs to know how to win, and every congregation needs to know when to cheer. This insightful book speaks to every church leader who yearns for a simpler, more effective approach to ministry. An engaging parable about one overwhelmed pastor is followed by an overview of seven successful team practices, each one developed and applied in a ministry setting. Reinforced by relevant discussion questions, these clear, easy, and strategic practices can turn any ministry into a winning team. Your ministry is perfectly designed to produce the results you are currently experiencing. If you are satisfied with those results, you don't need this book. If not, it's time for a change. Like your own personal trainer, 7 Practices of Effective Ministry is an insightful guide for any leader who yearns for a simpler, more effective approach to ministry. Here are seven strategic principles that when put into play will bring focus and clarity to everything you do and turn your ministry into a winning team. Story Behind the Book Looking for ways to help pastors faced with hectic lives and depleted resources, Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner, and Lane Jones decided to write a parable about the complicated life of a local pastor. Rather than come straight at those in ministry with formulas and lists, they engage readers in an effort to have them identify with the character. "For many years, I practiced and taught church growth. What I have witnessed as a member at North Point takes church growth to a whole new

level. Andy and his team communicate principles that will add value to you and the church you love.” -John C. Maxwell, founder, The INJOY Group “Every professional athlete recognizes the value of solid coaching. The best are always working to get better. From what I’ve seen at North Point, these seven practices can improve the game of any church in America.” -John Smoltz, Cy Young Award-winning pitcher “The practices covered in this book are down-to-earth, practical, and come from real difference-makers who know what church leadership is all about. Andy, Reggie, and Lane have definitely hit the ball out of the park with the 7 Practices of Effective Ministry.” -Ed Young, Jr., senior pastor, Fellowship Church

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seven practices of effective ministry: *Simple Church* Thom S. Rainer, Eric Geiger, 2011-05-03 The simple revolution is here. From the design of Apple products to Google's uncluttered homepage, simple ideas are changing the world. Now in paperback, multi-awarded #1 national bestseller *Simple Church* guides Christians back to the simple gospel-sharing methods of Jesus. No bells or whistles required. With insights based on case studies of 400 American churches, Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger prove the disciple-making process is often too complex. Simple churches thrive by taking four ideas to heart: Clarity. Movement. Alignment. Focus. *Simple Church* examines each idea, clearly showing why it is time to simplify. This updated trade paper edition includes a new chapter with further insights the authors have gained through hundreds of conversations with church leaders since this landmark book's original release.

seven practices of effective ministry: *Louder Than Words* Andy Stanley, 2009-01-16 Your character, more than anything else, will impact how much you accomplish in this life. It is more important than your talent, your education, your background, or your network of friends. Andy Stanley helps you chart a course toward becoming a man or woman of character. You'll discover a definition of character that will inspire you for a lifetime, the external and internal benefits of strong character, the six false beliefs behind negative behaviors, and more. Using practical insights, biblical exposition, and engaging stories, Stanley guides you step-by-step in setting the personal goals that will build the foundation for true success. *The Secret to a Life with No Regrets* How important is your character? It determines everything about you! How much you will accomplish in life, and whether you are worth knowing. How you will respond to success, and how you will weather the inevitable storms of life. This is a book about uncompromised living. It is about choosing every day to be a man or woman of integrity, a person whose actions speak louder than words. Bestselling author Andy Stanley challenges you to become what you were meant to be: a person whose commitment to doing the right thing, whatever the cost, will inspire others and change your world. *Story Behind the Book* As a pastor, I spend a substantial amount of my time with people who are digging themselves out from personal environmental catastrophes—circumstances that were often years in the making but “took them by surprise.” Another group of people have faced, or are facing, storms of life that are not of their own making, storms created by the character deficits of others—storms that are a natural part of a fallen world. There, in the midst of unjust treatment and seemingly undeserved pain, the true character of a man or woman is revealed. What you see in such moments is what was really there all along. This book is about change. It’s about the process of taking raw materials and molding them, shaping them, and refining them into a finished product. Whether you know it or not, that process is happening in you. Your character, not your accomplishments or acquisitions, determines your legacy.

seven practices of effective ministry: *The Big Idea* Dave Ferguson, Jon Ferguson, Eric Bramlett, 2009-05-26 Community Christian Church embraced the Big Idea and everything changed. They decided to avoid the common mistake of bombarding people with so many “little ideas” that they suffered overload. They also recognized that leaders often don’t insist that the truth be lived out to accomplish Jesus’ mission. Why? Because people’s heads are swimming with too many little ideas, far more than they can ever apply. The Big Idea can help you creatively present one laser-focused theme each week to be discussed in families and small groups. The Big Idea shows how to engage in a process of creative collaboration that brings people together and maximizes

missional impact. The Big Idea can energize a church staff and bring alignment and focus to many diverse church ministries. This book shows how the Big Idea has helped Community Christian Church better accomplish the Jesus mission and reach thousands of people in nine locations and launch a church planting network with partner churches across the country. This book is part of the Leadership Network Innovation Series.

seven practices of effective ministry: *Practical Theology for Church Diversity* Ken J. Walden, 2015-04-20 Cross-racial pastoral ministry and multicultural ministry are wonderfully complex endeavors. *Practical Theology for Church Diversity* suggests that they include a substantial amount of conversation, preparation, and prayer if they are to be done faithfully. Sacred spaces within Christian churches can have a meaningful witness through diversity in their particular locations. This book skillfully informs, gently challenges, and respectfully questions some widespread components of church life along demographic lines. Most importantly, it focuses on pragmatic approaches to cross-cultural pastoral ministry and multicultural ministry for readers to utilize. All persons of faith, religious institutions, professors, seminarians, and others interested in church diversity on any level will find this book a valuable resource.

seven practices of effective ministry: *Deep and Wide* Andy Stanley, 2016-02-09 A Close Look at What It Takes to Create an Irresistible Church. This isn't a book about how to make your church bigger. This is a book about how to make your church more appealing to the people who don't usually—or have never—gone to church. *Deep and Wide* provides church leaders with an in-depth look into North Point Community Church and its strategies, its goals, its methods, and its story. You'll learn how to create a church that unchurched people absolutely love to attend. Pastor Andy Stanley explains: His strategy for preaching and programming to both mature believers and skeptics. North Point's spiritual formation model: The Five Faith Catalysts. Three essential ingredients for creating irresistible environments. How to tackle the challenge of transitioning a local congregation. Updated & Expanded edition includes discussion guide, church staff resources, and a Q&A with Andy! Andy Stanley is on the front lines of a major shift in how both Christians and non-Christians experience church in America. In *Deep and Wide*, Andy opens up his playbook for how North Point Community Church grew into one of the nation's most effective churches, openly shares their victories and failures, and shows you how to take your own church deeper in the Word and wider in appeal. —Dave Ramsey, New York Times bestselling author and nationally syndicated radio show host.

seven practices of effective ministry: *Center Church* Timothy Keller, 2012-09-04 Practical and Gospel-centered thoughts on how to have a fruitful ministry by one of America's leading and most beloved pastor. Many church leaders are struggling to adapt to a culture that values individuality above loyalty to a group or institution. There have been so many church growth and effective ministry books in the past few decades that it's hard to know where to start or which ones will provide useful and honest insight. Based on over twenty years of ministry in New York City, Timothy Keller takes a unique approach that measures a ministry's success neither by numbers nor purely by the faithfulness of its leaders, but on the biblical grounds of fruitfulness. *Center Church* outlines a balanced theological vision for ministry organized around three core commitments: Gospel-centered: The gospel of grace in Jesus Christ changes everything, from our hearts to our community to the world. It completely reshapes the content, tone, and strategy of all that we do. City-centered: With a positive approach toward our culture, we learn to affirm that cities are wonderful, strategic, and under-served places for gospel ministry. Movement-centered: Instead of building our own tribe, we seek the prosperity and peace of our community as we are led by the Holy Spirit. Between a pastor's doctrinal beliefs and ministry practices should be a well-conceived vision for how to bring the gospel to bear on the particular cultural setting and historical moment. This is something more practical than just doctrine but much more theological than how-to steps for carrying out a ministry. Once this vision is in place, it leads church leaders to make good decisions on how to worship, disciple, evangelize, serve, and engage culture in their field of ministry—whether in a city, suburb, or small town. —Tim Keller, *Center Church*

seven practices of effective ministry: Reformed Resurgence Brad Vermurlen, 2020-11-02

One of the most significant developments within contemporary American Christianity, especially among younger evangelicals, is a groundswell of interest in the Reformed tradition. In *Reformed Resurgence*, Brad Vermurlen provides a comprehensive sociological account of this phenomenon known as New Calvinism and what it entails for the broader evangelical landscape in the United States. Vermurlen develops a new theory for understanding how conservative religion can be strong and thrive in the hypermodern Western world. His paradigm uses and expands on strategic action field theory, a recent framework proposed for the study of movements and organizations that has rarely been applied to religion. This approach to religion moves beyond market dynamics and cultural happenstance and instead shows how religious strength can be fought for and won as the direct result of religious leaders' strategic actions and conflicts. But the battle comes at a cost. For the same reasons conservative Calvinistic belief is experiencing a resurgence, present-day American evangelicalism has turned in on itself. Vermurlen argues that in the end, evangelicalism in the United States consists of pockets of subcultural and local strength within the cultural entropy of secularization, as religious meanings and coherence fall apart.

seven practices of effective ministry: Gospel Renewal Timothy Keller, 2013-09-03 It is quite easy to assume that if we understand the gospel accurately and preach it faithfully, our ministry will necessarily be shaped by it—but this is not true. Many churches subscribe to gospel doctrines but do not have a ministry that is shaped by, centered on, and empowered through the gospel. Its implications have not yet worked their way into the fabric of how the church actually does ministry. These churches' theological vision has likely arisen from something other than sustained reflection on the gospel. Gospel-centered ministry is more theologically driven than program driven. To pursue it, we must spend time reflecting on the essence, the truths, and the very patterns of the gospel itself. This eBook contains the second part of *Center Church, "Gospel Renewal."* In it, Keller reflects on the history and patterns of revival—how individual and corporate gospel renewal occurs—and what happens as a result.

seven practices of effective ministry: Sustainable Children's Ministry Mark DeVries, Annette Safstrom, 2018-01-23 Are you a children's ministry leader on the edge of burnout? *Sustainable Children's Ministry* shows you how to recruit volunteers, partner with parents, navigate politics, and care for your own soul instead of frantically scrambling to do it all yourself. This practical resource will help you build a ministry foundation that will still be standing long after you are gone.

seven practices of effective ministry: Church, Come Forth Todd Hudnall, 2015-10-02 The majority of American churches are stalled or in decline. *Church Come Forth* is a strategic model for renewing and revitalizing plateaued and dying churches into prevailing and growing congregations. Todd Hudnall combines Biblical insights, church revitalization research and his experience as a turnaround pastor to provide a guidebook for transformation. It is God's desire to renew His church and most church leaders will find this plan a Godsend in effectively revitalizing their congregations. Steve Pike, Director of the Church Multiplication Network says: Three words came to mind when I read *Church Come Forth* by Todd Hudnall - Biblical, Practical, Real. Biblical - A book about God's Church would be useless if not filled with wisdom from God's Book! Hudnall carefully makes the Biblical case for revitalization, unpacking scripture after scripture to lay a firm foundation for why and how a drifting church can once again join God on His mission. Practical - Todd Hudnall is a seasoned and successful practitioner whose walk aligns with his talk. His counsel is based on the best research and his actual experience of applying that research. As a result, *Church Come Forth* is loaded with great advice that is tried and true. Real - Todd's honesty about his personal growing pains is refreshing. His diverse experience in churches small and large make his counsel relatable to every pastor. He writes as a pastor friend writing to a pastor friend. *Church Come Forth* is a must read for every leader of a plateaued or declining church.

seven practices of effective ministry: Life in Student Ministry Tim Schmoyer, 2011-04-05 If you're in the front lines of youth ministry - as a leader, volunteer, pastor, parent - you know that youth leadership can be tough. Teens are moving targets, congregations have high expectations, and

sometimes even the most experienced youth leader can't shake the feeling that they really don't have a clue about what to do next. Life in Student Ministry offers more than a clue. Jammed packed with practical how-to advice, this book is a must-read for any youth leader committed to building a thriving, long-lived ministry that impacts the spiritual lives of teenagers and their families. Based on a decade of youth leadership experience, author Tim Schmoyer provides on-target advice on everything from getting started, to recruiting and utilizing volunteers, to welcoming visitors, to dealing with lack of commitment from teens and parents. He also includes input, advice, suggestions, even disagreements from a host of experienced youth workers who discussed the book's overall content and weighed in with their own feedback. The result is a collection of many voices on the hurdles and frustrations common to many youth ministries. Life in Student Ministry encourages, challenges, and equips youth leaders to move through the barriers and thrive in their ministries.

seven practices of effective ministry: Kingdom People Living by Kingdom Principles Dr. Dalton Jenkins, 2013-07-08 We do not have to travel to some foreign country to locate the mission field. Right here, literally in our backyards, the world has come to us. The church's basic mission is to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God; this message has social and political aspects to its application. This is the fundamental responsibility of the church. This message is holistic and affects the total person. As the church develops a comprehensive and practical understanding of missions, this will propel Christians to act out their missional call. The challenge as to how to be truly missional requires those people considered to be disciples to engage their communities in their everyday lives. To capture the full essence of missions, this book introduces a process called strategic evangelism. This process serves to raise awareness by helping to clarify the nature of the structures and practices of the church relating to its missional focus, to develop a better awareness of local missions, and to introduce a process that will assist people to live out the mission by engaging their communities.

seven practices of effective ministry: Where Life is Found Kim Lanman, 2009-12-15 The central teaching of life with God is the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus invites us to turn, shine, change, offer, desire, relate positively, watch out, build. I hope you will wind up compelled to read and meditate and pray through the Sermon for the rest of your life, like I will have to. As a part of that process, I hope you will walk with me through the words of Jesus to discover the things we can do to open ourselves up to Him, to let Him give us His own spirituality. It may not always be easy, but it will be a trip worth taking.

seven practices of effective ministry: It's Just a Phase - So Don't Miss It Reggie Joiner, Kristen Ivy, 2015-05-15 Every church knows that kids matter. A better question is, does your church act like every kid matters at every phase? A phase is a timeframe in kids' lives when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. That means the whining infant, the dramatic fifth grader, and the stressed-out tenth grader are not just going through a phase that should be wished away. Instead, they are transitioning through a critical phase that you are called to discover, celebrate, and navigate strategically with them. This book presents a challenge to churches to treat every kid who breathes like they are made in the image of God. When you keep acting like every kid and teenager has the potential ... to believe, imagine, and love ... to care, relate, and trust ... to reason, improve, and lead It can change ... how the parents next door see your church. how the elders value teenagers. how the executive staff views children and youth ministry. how you organize what you do every week. how first graders see themselves. But more importantly ... it can change how every kid sees God, and that could change every kid's future.

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