



INTENTIONALLY ENGAGE YOUR
COMMUNITY WITH CHRIST

Live Your Faith

Ministry and Leadership Development Guidebook

*Resources for travelers journeying
with Christ into their community.*

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ERIC SWANSON

CO-AUTHOR OF THE EXTERNALLY FOCUSED CHURCH, SERVED WITH LEADERSHIP NETWORK AND CAMPUS CRUSADE (CRU)

Phillip was dumbfounded. Jesus had just told him what to do. He and the disciples were asked to feed five thousand people. He even understood why he was to do it. The multitudes had been with Jesus the good part of the day and they were hungry—so hungry in fact that if they didn't have something to eat, many would not be able to make it back home. Phillip did not lack clarity nor motivation for the mission. What prevented him taking action was neither the “what” nor the “why” but the how. “How will we ever find enough food to feed these hungry people?” Once Jesus explained the “how,” with the disciples help, the feast began.

For the most part Christ-followers today really want to make a difference in their communities and in the world. Whether they are animated by seeing the Great Commission fulfilled in our generation, by loving their neighbor as themselves or redeeming something broken in the world because of sin—trafficking, hunger, clean water, third-grade reading, etc., they do not lack motivation (the “why”) or mission (the “what”). What keeps them from making a difference is the “how.” We, like Phillip, often don't know how to move the needle. What I like about this guide is that Live Your Faith Guidebook goes beyond telling people what they ought to do or even why they ought to do it to how to accomplish something great for God in their community and how to build great leaders in the process. Like any good tool, this guide helps the willing become able. And that is exactly what believers today are asking for.

In 2007 Baylor University researchers surveyed 50 congregations asking them to identify no more than three (of the 52 choices) topics that “you would like your church to help your family and other families with?” Here are their findings: “Almost without exception, in the more than 50 congregations we have surveyed...’help in serving others’ is the most frequently expressed need in every congregation.... Every kind of family asked for help serving. Never married adult families named it more often than items like dating, preparing for marriage, and romance and sexuality in single life. Divorced persons listed it more often than reconciliation and forgiving. Widowed families listed it more often than help with grief and coping with crisis. Families living with major stress—financial, health, relational –still want guidance in serving others.”¹

Sometimes as leaders we feel like we've done everything we can. We've fished all night and haven't caught a thing and it's time to call it a day. But Live Your Faith Guidebook shows us there is another side on our boat in making an impact in our communities. It is my hope and prayer that everyone who joins this journey, changes themselves and changes the world around them.

¹ Diana R Garland, *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide* (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2012), 639

K E N S A N D E

FOUNDER OF PEACEMAKER MINISTRIES AND RELATIONAL WISDOM 360

Drawing on the wisdom of Scripture and decades of experience in training, motivating and leading others, Dick Siever's *Live Your Faith Guidebook* provides a wealth of practical guidance on how to recruit, inspire and equip teams of believers for community service that reflects the love of Christ.

This guidebook will help you move from good intentions to life-changing action. It will show you how to develop the character, vision, discipline and relational skills needed to move out into your community and serve people with the love of Christ.

Having devoted over thirty years of my life resolving conflict among Christians, I am delighted to see Dick's focus on building authentic and fruitful relationships. What a refreshing way to counter the negative impact of social media on our churches and society!

The relational skills taught through the Ingage Program are as applicable in the family as they are in a ministry or workplace. Wherever they are applied, these skills will strengthen relationships, reduce conflict, increase credibility and impact, and enhance your ministry team's witness for Christ.

As you and your church embrace these concepts and put them into practice, you can experience the exhilaration of being transformed more and more into the image of the Ultimate Servant and seeing Him use your gifts and efforts to draw others into that same transformative process.

Best of all, you can look forward to the day of accounting forecast in Matthew 25, knowing you and your people will hear those marvelous words, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (v. 21).

MATT HEARD

FOUNDER OF THRIVE AND AUTHOR OF LIFE WITH A CAPITAL L: EMBRACING YOUR GOD-GIVEN HUMANITY

Our communities are filled with selfish people who ignore others, hurt people who hurt others, egotistical people who use others, and insecure people who mistreat others. Sadly, churches are not immune to such folks and the tragic result is religious institutions known for plenty of things other than offering Life-giving service and love to their communities. Many of us would like to help change that trend but we don't know where to start. A guide would be of invaluable help—which is why I'm so grateful for Live Your Faith Guidebook.

You're holding in your hand a phenomenal tool that is both practical and proven, authored not in an ivory tower by someone who merely likes the idea of loving and serving others, but by someone who's actually doing it and, consequently, one of the most Life-giving people I know. For many years, Dick Siever has been a friend and fellow ministry-leader and I'm thankfully delighted he has finally assembled these principles into a resource that can be both applied and multiplied, enabling more and more churches, ministries, and volunteers to learn to give away the grace and Life of Christ.

It's a powerful moment when a human being realizes his or her significance ultimately comes from being created in the image of God. Just as powerful is when she or he begins to see others as fellow image-bearers...and treats them accordingly. Practicing the ideas on these pages can transform individuals, churches, ministries, and communities—I've seen it happen first-hand. Allow this Guidebook to lead you down an adventurous path of not only receiving, but giving—a path marked with the footprints of people who are not only loved by God, but people who are also giving His love away. There's a world dying for it.

DOUG POLLOCK

AUTHOR OF GOD'S GPS AND TRAVELS THE WORLD
HELPING CHURCHES MOVE OUTSIDE THEIR WALLS

In the 20th century, the church was busy trying to figure out how to get our communities to come to church. In the 21st century, we need to figure out how to go and be the church in our communities. If this is going to happen, leaders will need a plan on how to transform inwardly focused Christians into outwardly focused Christ followers. You will find Dick Siever's Live Your Faith guidebook tremendously resourceful no matter where your faith community finds itself on the outward focused journey. It has been written by a "reflective practitioner" who has "been there and done that". The day of "home games" is just about over. If you are ready to start playing more "away games" Dick's guidebook will help you "baby step" out of the church in practical, doable, and authentic ways.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prologue.....	13
Background.....	19
SECTION 1	
Listen (Gather Data).....	21
Chapter 1 Leadership Development	
Topic 1 In Resemblance of Me	23
Topic 2 In Resemblance of Me (Love and Obedience)	24
Topic 3 Relational Wisdom 360 (RW 360).....	25
Topic 4 Use First Names.....	27
Topic 5 Pipe Theology	27
Chapter 2 Ministry Development	
Topic 1 A Call of the Heart	29
Topic 2 Leadership Team Roles	33
Topic 3 Meeting Structure	35
Topic 4 Interview Guidelines for Organization Being Served	36
Topic 5 Interview Guidelines for Church Staff To Set Pathway for Volunteer-Led Ministry.....	37
Topic 6 Importance of Prayer.....	37
SECTION 2	
Learning (Evaluating).....	39
Chapter 3 Leadership Development	
Topic 1 In Resemblance of Me (Patience, Attentiveness and Gentleness).....	41
Topic 2 Leadership Challenge.....	41
Topic 3 Categories of Poverty	51
Topic 4 Preserving Dignity	51
Chapter 4 Ministry Development	
Topic 1 Create Ministry Vision and Mission Statements	59
Topic 2 Develop Ministry Outcomes.....	60
Topic 3 Insurance and Liability	61
Topic 4 Volunteer Recruitment and Commitment.....	61
Topic 5 Partnership Development	62
Topic 6 Select a Name for Your Ministry	63
Topic 7 Importance of Hope.....	63
Topic 8 Emotional and Physical Health.....	64

SECTION 3

Lining Up (Planning)65

Chapter 5 Leadership Development

Topic 1 In Resemblance of Me (Courage and Humility).....67
Topic 2 Knowing is in the Going.....67
Topic 3 Engage Organizational System (IOS model)68

Chapter 6 Ministry Development

Topic 1 Setting Expectations of Ministry Team and Organization Receiving Service71
Topic 2 What, Why and How.....72
Topic 3 Select Easy First-Step and Long-Term Projects72
Topic 4 Develop Project Plan With Timelines73
Topic 5 Adopt Process for Measuring Ministry Impact74
Topic 6 “WOW” Factor.....75

SECTION 4

Leading (Executing).....77

Chapter 7 Leadership Development

Topic 1 In Resemblance of Me (Encouragement, Compassion, Mercy).....79
Topic 2 Pinch-Crunch Model.....79
Topic 3 Productive Feedback81
Topic 4 Developing Momentum82

Chapter 8 Ministry Development

Topic 1 Create Linkages for Church Staff, Organization Being Served, and Church Attendees.....85
Topic 2 Celebrate Successes.....86
Topic 3 Launch.....87

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Matt Heard and Lynn Williams cleared the path, provided amazing resources, and helped cast the vision for the A.C.T.S. (A Call To Serve) ministry at Woodmen Valley Chapel. The faithful and committed A.C.T.S. ministry volunteers were so patient as we learned how to journey into our community together. Without these dedicated volunteers, the ministry would not have thrived.

The Salvador Foundation and three individual donors have provided funds to launch this ministry. I am so grateful for their expression of confidence and encouragement.

Cindy Limbrick has been a source of encouragement from the very beginning. She stimulates my creative thinking and makes me “think out of the box”. She created the heart touching “In Resemblance of Me Journal”, which is the foundation of “Deepen Your Faith.” I am also indebted to James Shank for authoring his outstanding “Share Your Faith Handbook.”

Niki Scott replaced me when I left my leadership position at Woodmen. She is one of the most capable people I know. The Ingage Ministry Program would not be a reality without her counsel and guidance. Ray Walkowski is a wonderful accountability partner. He provided countless hours of helping me develop the Ingage business strategy and funding mechanisms. Tom Hutchkraft is a weekly “coffee friend” and is a true man of God. He provided most of the scriptural foundation for the “Live Your Faith Guidebook.”

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I am married to an incredible woman of faith. She is my best friend and has sacrificed a great deal as we launched this ministry. This would never have become a reality without her love, support, encouragement and honest feedback. She has been a heart-connected partner on this journey. Thank you Nancy.

PROLOGUE

This guidebook is based on an amazing journey that was led by God and has blessed many lives, including my own. It is a training tool that will help you and members of your team create or enhance a community outreach ministry.

The Externally Focused Church, written by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, set the stage in 2004 for a new vision and mission for churches everywhere. It is the seminal book on helping churches decide to become externally focused. It was a very important element in helping Woodmen Valley Chapel move outside its walls. This Ingage guidebook will provide you a road map on how you can become involved in serving your community once your church has made the decision to become more externally focused.

In one of his Sunday messages, Matt Heard, the senior pastor of Woodmen Valley Chapel, a church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, asked the following question, “Would anyone in this community miss this church if it wasn’t here?”

God used that question to touch hearts that morning, including mine. I felt like God wanted me to help make sure our church would be missed. I am so excited to have an opportunity to share what I learned over 10 years of local outreach ministry and pray that God will use it to bless your life and those you will serve.

Woodmen Valley Chapel, with an average weekly attendance of six thousand, shifted in one year from having forty people attend a service project event to a church that has averaged over twenty-five hundred volunteers meeting community needs every year for 10 years. This guidebook is a “road map” to help your church navigate its way to the heart of your community. God’s word tells us:

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”
1 Corinthians 14:40 (NIV)

The principles and processes presented in this guidebook will help you maximize your effort and develop a ministry that will fit the capacity of your church and the real needs in your community. This is not a cookie-cutter how-to manual, but is rather a guidebook to follow that will help you avoid obstacles and tempting, but frustrating, wrong turns.

This Ministry and Leadership Development Guidebook is designed to help you develop your volunteer leadership skills and create a sustainable community outreach

