

Dear ladies,

As I visit the churches in our MidAmerica district, the question that is asked most often is, "How do we attract young ladies to Christ?"

Based on this question, I have compiled the following pages. I am in no way an expert on this subject, but I have asked for the input of young ladies who regularly work with young ladies. At the end of this document, you will see their names, as well as recommended resources.

I cannot stress strongly enough that any endeavor to bring people to Christ must be bathed in prayer. Examine the biblical model of evangelism, your motives, your strategy, your community, your love for these ladies.

I welcome your feedback and additions. I hope this will be a mutual way to share. Of course, not every strategy will work for every church, but I pray that this document will be an asset to your women's leaders and church ministry.

I am visiting the women leaders in every church of our district. If we have not had this opportunity yet, please reach out to me.

Blessings,

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## Attracting Young Ladies to Christ

### Goals –

- To bring young ladies into a saving relationship with Christ and then incorporate them into the local church body so that all generations will gather together as a mature and complete church.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:14-16

- Succession

The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. II Timothy 2:2

### Foundations –

- Prayer and Fasting

Read stories of movements of God that started with prayer -

Haystack, Concerts of Prayer, Moravian, George Mueller, George Williams (YMCA), Joseph Lanphier

Ask God to give you love for these ladies

Pray that God would give you eyes to see and wisdom to serve these ladies.

- Examine your motives - Ulterior VS Ultimate (Pathak and Runyon)

Ulterior – Serving for the purpose of evangelism

Ultimate – Serving out of love, while praying that ultimately you'll be able to share Jesus

- Word of God

How do these scriptures impact this ministry?

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. John 6:63

Since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways, we do not use deception, not do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, made this light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. II Corinthians 4:1-6

When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. I Cor 2:1-5

That they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:22-23

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

Teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands

and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Titus 2:3-5

### Values and Strategies –

Isaiah 55:8-9 – Are your thoughts/methods/strategies God’s thoughts?

Are your disciple-makers women of God? Do they truly love Jesus and young ladies?

- **Include one or more young women in leadership roles in your women’s ministry.** Consider inviting a young woman who is respected by other women of her generation and is already demonstrating servant-leadership skills. Have her help plan and promote women’s events.
- **Demonstrate authenticity and vulnerability.** Millennials and younger generations in the church place a very high value on openness and authenticity about one’s spiritual journey. If you aren’t willing to share the highs and lows of your own past and present honestly, they won’t feel safe to be themselves, which means they will stay away rather than be inauthentically present.
- **Provide events for a wide range of interests and personalities.** Only holding events that cater to women with stereotypically "feminine" interests distances women who don't share those interests, and can make them feel like they don't belong. The stereotypically "masculine" events that the men's ministries are doing will sound more appealing to some.
- **Be mindful of single women.** The percentage of adults in the U.S. who are single has been growing rapidly over the past couple of decades, and church ministries in many cases have not adjusted their language and programs to match this aspect of their context. We often talk to women's ministry groups with language that assumes all the women are married (or will be). Be inclusive toward single women (and childless women) in your communications, discussion topics, and programs.
- **Be inclusive of minorities and invest in getting to know them.** Inclusivity is one of the particularly high values of the younger generations, so if you're using language, facilities, and programs that discourage minorities from joining you, you will also be discouraging the majority of young women from joining you. While you might not share some key experiences of someone who is a racial or ethnic minority, disabled, LGBTQ+/same-sex attracted or gender dysphoric, or a minority in some other way, you can get to know them and listen well about how to help them experience belonging in your group. Do some research on your own; don't put the load on them to educate you about all the experiences and needs of the minority of which they're a part. There may be obstacles to their engagement that would never cross your mind since you're not "in their shoes", but good listening and personal research can change that.
- **Practice Hospitality** – See the C&MA series – Hospitality: College Outreach Series  
This 4-part video series is directed at college age adults – but many of the principles apply to all young adults. Practice hospitality within your church building – as well as in your homes.
- **Be relationally involved with the lives of young ladies.**  
Care about them – not just their behaviors. Walk with them through adulting tasks, hobbies, Bible studies. Make friends with young ladies. Many ideas are given in [The Art of Neighboring](#) by Pathak and Runyon and [Organic Outreach for Ordinary People](#) by Harney
- **Invitational Practices** for churches and individuals – (Beth Seversen)  
Initiate – close friendships with non-Christians, be comfortable talking about faith and church  
Invitation – to a church service or activity that is hospitable and welcoming. Develop a church culture that is inviting to unchurched (doesn’t necessarily require “seeker-sensitive” service)  
Include – Include young ladies immediately (into Christian community or meaningful service)  
Involve – Give young ladies appropriate responsibilities

Invest – Mentoring, conferences and retreats, Bible studies. Places where they are valued and can explore their identity

- **Monthly Events-** Once a month events for young ladies to meet other young ladies. (believers/non-believers) and connect relationally. Have a proportional number of older believers, too. Ideally the same few older adults each month, to facilitate future friendship and mentoring relationships. Offer a wide variety of events to help bring those who would not come to church but would be interested in getting to know new people at a fun event with friends.
- **Offer small groups** – Bible studies or book clubs – with a mix of ages
- **Many young ladies want a coach or mentor** (from Danita Bye's Ted Talk)

Spot-light her talent and core passion. Combine these to serve others and turn a talent into a strength. Listen and respect her. Listen and pray so you can teach her to love God and his word in a way that meets her needs.

- **Missional Motherhood** – monthly event with one mentor per small table group. Offer support for mothers.

- **Reverse Mentoring** – (from Ryan Jenkins)

Offer opportunities for younger women to help the older women with technology challenges, etc. These young ladies come in with skills and knowledge the previous generations don't have. Possibly a ministry to seniors. Incorporate younger women in leadership teams. Opens opportunities for younger generations to learn from older women as well – with prospect of future friendships and mentoring in Christian life.

- **Practical Support** - Financial instruction, choosing a spouse, choosing a job, living on your own, managing a first house, cooking, gardening. Think about passing on this knowledge and experience through having a younger person do these things with you. Develop the friendship.

### **Resources –**

Millennial Leadership: Stop Complaining, Start Coaching – TED talk by Danita Bye

How to Close the Generation Gap with Reverse Mentoring – Ryan Jenkins (YouTube)

Alisa Childers Podcast – apologetics on progressive Christianity beliefs

Faith for Exiles – Kinnaman and Matlock

Not Done Yet, Reaching and Keeping Unchurched Emerging Adults – Beth Seversen

The Art of Neighboring – Pathak & Runyon

Organic Outreach for Ordinary People – Harney

Hospitality: College Outreach 4-part video series – created by the Church Ministries department of the C&MA.

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