

A photograph of a lighthouse with a bright light shining out against a dark, cloudy sky. The lighthouse is white with a dark top section and a bright light emanating from the top. The light creates a strong glow and illuminates the surrounding clouds.

# Light in the Darkness

**Engaging the Unchurched through Community Involvement**





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Home Mission Counselor

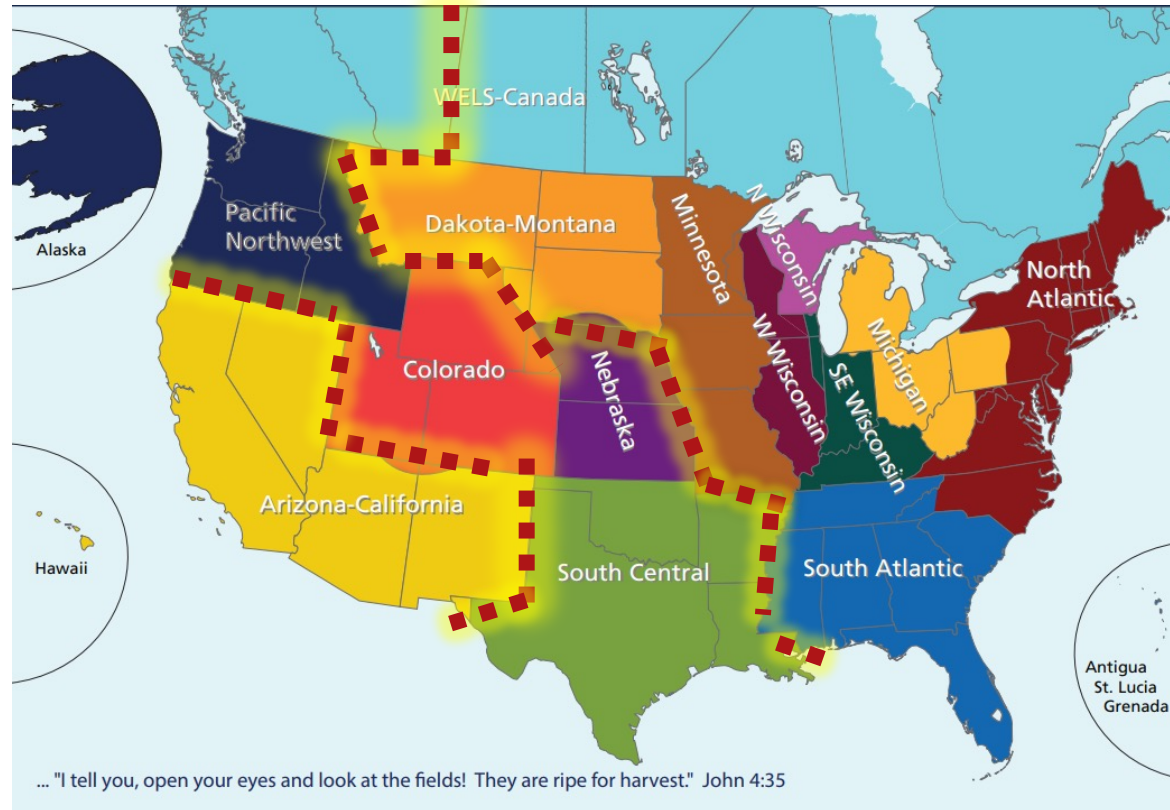


# Mission Counselor Territory

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2,304,000  
square miles

48%  
of the U.S.  
land area



70+  
mission  
locations

**“I am the Light of the world.”**

**“You are the light of the world.”**



“Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

(Mark 10:45)

# Young Adults Want to Serve

“Most young adults don’t just want more done for *them*.  
They want to do more for *others*.”

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“They desire to be involved in ministries that reach out to the community and the world. They want to be in churches that will take faith risks and get them involved in real life-changing ministries. . . . they are loyal to institutions that are making a difference and institutions where they can make a difference.”

*Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*  
by Thom and Sam Rainer

# Jesus Wants Us to Serve

“We are Jesus with skin on. . . .

Through our service people experience the care of Jesus.”

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“The good news is that Jesus has uniquely ripened the culture for the Church to once again go and *be* the Church in our neighborhoods . . . If the culture won't come to our church buildings, the Church can go to them and embody the very things for which they are longing. That's actually how Jesus had always designed his Church to operate, being the people through whom the grace and truth of God is experienced by others in real life.”

*Joining Jesus On His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary*  
by Greg Finke

# Jesus Wants Us to Serve

“It is important that people see Jesus in us before they hear about Jesus from us.”

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“The human needs we see in our neighbors, co-workers and friends no longer can be set aside and ignored but now are personal invitations from Jesus for us to *respond* (like the Samaritan who stepped in and not around when he saw the man on the road).”

*Joining Jesus On His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary*  
by Greg Finke



# Common Ground

~~Children's Ministry~~

Community Service / Volunteering

# A Scratch We Want To Itch

“Let your light so shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds  
and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)

# A Scratch We Want To Itch

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

(Mark 12:31)

# A Scratch We Want To Itch

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.”

(James 1:27)



# A Scratch We Want To Itch

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

<sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

(I John 3:16-18)

# Post/Pre-Christian Gospel Outreach

~~“What do we need to do to get all  
those people out there in here?”~~

“What do we need to do to get all  
these people in here out there?”

*Light Into the Darkness*

# Service

A core value of your congregation

Service in the community is an equal win (and celebrated as such) as service in the church

# Partnering with Secular Nonprofits

They create the program, fund the program, have the facilities for the program, provide materials for the program, train people, advertise and get the people there, etc.

. . . just starving for volunteers



# Post/Pre-Christian Gospel Outreach

## FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

Expanding our FRAN network

Establishing Relationships /  
Earning Trust / Spending Time

# Post/Pre-Christian Gospel Outreach

## BUILDING BRIDGES

- ▶ Beneficiaries of the service
- ▶ Fellow volunteers
- ▶ Organizers/leaders of the nonprofits

# Community Service Ministry Team / Coordinator

- Vetting nonprofit partners
- Developing relationships
- Lining up opportunities
- Promoting
- Recruiting
- Sending out reminders

# Partnering with Secular Nonprofits

## Vetting

- % won't want to work with you because you are a church
- % you won't want to work with due to fellowship reasons (run by other churches)
- Preferably not an agency where lots of other churches participate (the whole idea is to be rubbing shoulders and spending time with the unchurched)



# Partnering with Secular Nonprofits

Model this corporately as a congregation, with the hopes that in time people in the congregation just start doing some of this on their own as well

Quarterly? With at least one a year being more than a one-off (3-6 weeks running)

Invite nonprofit representative to address the congregation after worship one Sunday

- explain the program, the service they provide, opportunities to serve

# Examples

## Local festival

- Booth
- Volunteers – setting up, handing out tickets, emptying trash cans, etc.

# Examples

Housing community events/activities  
association – *Cross of Glory, Vistancia, AZ*

Handing out Idaho State Rodeo programs  
– *Cross of Christ, N. Nampa, ID*

# Examples

## Neighborhood Clean Up

- *Savior of the Nations, Vancouver, BC*

## Food drive outside grocery store

- *Windsor, CO mission*

## Kids Meals Houston

- *Hope in the Heights, Houston, TX*


# Examples

## Food Drive canvassing

Three opportunities for contact

- 1) handing out the note – and grocery bags – the week prior
- 2) collecting the food
- 3) stopping by with a thank you to those who donated a week later





# Amazing Grace FOOD BANK

## Help Us Fight Hunger in Amarillo This Summer!

A new church called **Amazing Grace Amarillo** has kicked off. The people forming this Christian church have partnered with **High Plains Food Bank** to help relieve hunger in the area.

We put this bag on your doorstep to make it easy if you want to help. All you need to do is gather some extra food (see list below), toss your donation in the bag, and set the bag out on your porch on **Saturday morning, June 25th<sup>th</sup>**.

Our volunteers will then pick it up from your porch/entrance that Saturday, June 25th. If you would like, you can also message us directly @ 702-827-8866 and let us know whenever you have placed your items outside so we can pick it up early.

In addition, we would also appreciate your thoughts on the needs of the community. Amazing Grace Amarillo would like to learn about our community and its needs. We would love to address any of your input with the following:

1. How long have you lived in the community?
2. What are the community strengths?
3. What do you think are the **top three social needs** that a church which loves the local community should provide?

### Items needed @ High Plains Food Bank:

Peanut Butter and Jelly  
Canned beans  
Any canned fruit  
Any canned Vegetable  
Flour (small bags)



Sugar (small bags)  
Canned Tuna  
Canned Chicken  
Canned chili  
Macaroni and Cheese



If you would like to give a monetary gift to High Plains Food Bank you can mail it to: High Plains Food Bank @ 815 Ross St, Amarillo, TX 79102. You can also donate by using the QR code above and designating to: "Special Funds."

Thank you and it's Grace that Leads us Home!  
Check us out at [amazinggraceamarillo.com](http://amazinggraceamarillo.com) or our Facebook and Instagram! :)

 **Amazing Grace**  
— LUTHERAN —



## High Plains Food Bank

22 hrs · Instagram · 🌐

Thank you to [Amazing Grace Amarillo](#) for their donation today! They leave bags on doorsteps and collect non-perishable food items for HPFB!

Today they donated a total of 1,095 pounds of food which will provide over 912 meals to neighbors in need! [#wefeedtxph](#)



# Examples

- Clothing Drive canvassing  
(same as food drive, but clothing – especially for teens)
- Yard cleanup / snow removal / hanging outdoor Christmas decorations (for the elderly)
- Tutoring for immigrants

# Examples

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church members will make an impact in our community through defined service projects. All age groups will be encouraged to use their gifts in service to their community and Savior. SVL will continually evaluate our community's pulse to identify ways SVL members can share the love of Jesus to bring joy and hope to our community.



“Let your light so shine before others,

that they may see your good deeds  
and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)

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