



*All you Need is Love!*

### Practical Concepts for Nurturing a School Ministry

- Identifying the individual who will lead the School Ministry at your church is the most critical decision that your ministerial staff will make. (See: "Desirable Qualities in a School Ministry Lay Leader", following)
- A team of capable lay leaders in the church who serve as a "Leadership Team" for the School Ministry can provide valuable leadership, guidance and ideas to the leader of the School Ministry as it begins to take form. The team can also offer significant support and guidance to the leader in the effort to expand and grow the School Ministry in the future.
- The more church members who are involved, the greater ownership and commitment the church will have to the school ministry.
  - ✓ Enlist teams of church members to complete specific tasks, e.g., plan for collecting school supplies; plan for recruiting and preparing school volunteers.
  - ✓ Identify team leaders who can accept responsibility and ownership for successful completion of team tasks.
  - ✓ Insure that team tasks and team members' roles are clearly stated.
  - ✓ Seek to involve all age groups in age-specific tasks, e.g., Children Sunday School classes make Christmas/greeting cards for school staff; Youth SS Class members sort collected school supplies; Adult SS Classes deliver school supplies; Team of bakers prepare cookies for school staff on special occasions; Team of chefs prepare box lunches for school staff on special occasions.
- Partnerships with other nearby churches, area community ministries, senior-care facilities, and local businesses can greatly expand the number and quality of services your church can offer.
  - ✓ Enlist other churches to join in creating a combined roster of volunteers available to serve at school.
  - ✓ Seek opportunities to engage capable residents at nearby senior-care facilities.

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(continued from previous page)

- ✓ Consider ways that local businesses may be willing and able to become involved.
- ✓ Establish contact with the Community Area Ministry in your area and volunteer to make a presentation to their Board and member Pastors.
- Church members who serve at the school regularly need to be nurtured and supported.
  - ✓ Conduct a Volunteer Orientation Meeting for all school volunteers before they serve.
  - ✓ Provide a folder of important information for those who volunteer at the school, e.g., JCPS Calendar, Roster of all school employees and school contact information.
  - ✓ Schedule a volunteer's lunch during each semester.
  - ✓ Send a monthly e-newsletter, or other form of regular communication, that restates the vision, mission, purpose and principles of the School Ministry, while informing of important information and events, etc.
- The congregation as a whole should be regularly reminded of the vision, mission, purpose and principles of the School Ministry, as well as being regularly informed of activities related to the School Ministry.
- The effectiveness of existing activities at the school will improve with meaningful improvements in organization and implementation. Further more, the School Ministry will grow and flourish with the addition of new strategies for serving the school. Therefore, it is imperative to regularly solicit ideas for new strategies and suggestions for improvements of existing activities from school staff and school volunteers, as well as from church members, church staff and lay leaders.

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