

March into Spring...Unite, Organize and Revitalize!

Step 1 UNITE: Psalms 133:1 "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers (& sisters) dwell in unity!" To be effective witnesses for Christ, people need to see that what they have is worthy of their time, energy, loyalty and devotion. Neighbors and friends are watching and listening...do your words and actions match your belief in Jesus? Romans 12:10 "Love one another with brotherly (& sisterly) affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." We must find ways to show that we treasure each other as family and that we are truly united together in Christ.

Step 2 ORGANIZE: Find your passion and share it! It doesn't matter what we choose to do for Jesus, individually or as a congregation. What does matter is that we are willing to step out in faith and try something new, confident that our church family will support our efforts thru prayer, encouragement and assistance, if needed. Should your congregation decide on a joint venture, plan ahead. Timing is a critical component for success. Yes, there will always be glitches along the way, but if the congregation is on board, any issue can be corrected so the program maintains its integrity.

Step 3 REVITALIZE: John 10:10 "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Celebrate the successes, large or small! Baby steps are just as important as giant leaps forward. Be prayerful, patient and joyful! We are called to offer lasting hope, joy, peace and purpose in a world by genuinely loving and caring for each other and then generously reaching out to those in our circle of influence.

An Idea for March: Prayerfully consider a month-long challenge. Commit to inviting one person, friend or stranger, to church with you in preparation of Easter. Pray that the speaker will be sensitive to the needs of new comers (not using unfamiliar terms) and that the congregation will reach out in hospitality and love to minister to all present. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be present and touch their hearts. As you step out in faith, know that this is God's plan for His church, too.

Pat Reaves, Mission Center Invitation Support Ministries

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