

Community: where the sacred and secular meet

PHOENIX ANAM – Fall 2013

Areas of development:

Leadership
Character
Relationships
Communicator
Protector

Community - Your mission goes beyond your specific organization. Your purpose should be to impact your community as well as other organizations - both sacred and secular. This will require involvement at many levels and in various capacities.

Scot McKnight says, “Missional gets its start when we discern what God is doing in this world, and particularly doing in our community, and what God is calling the ecclesia to do in the light of that big mission of God.”

“God chooses not only the places but also the times in which we live. He has privileged us to live not only in the greatest expansion of human population but also with the greatest opportunity for the spread of the gospel.” - Erwin McManus

“An Unstoppable Force”

Village Missions:

“To glorify Jesus Christ by developing spiritually vital churches in North America”

My church:

“A Community of Faith Bringing Faith to the Community”

Why does your ministry exist?

If your organization ceased to exist would your community know (or care)?

Scripture:

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matt. 5:16

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples,” Jesus said, “if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

In Jesus' prayer in John 17, he carries this a step further when he gives others the right to judge the truth of the Father sending the Son by our display of visible, Christ-like love and unity. (John 17:21-23)

Impacting Your Community

1. Embrace Community Vitality:

Strong, vital communities are those in which everyone can participate. They are resourceful and resilient. Build local leadership and embrace partnerships. More can be accomplished when we act together. Work with other organizations to initiate support based on shared vision and mutual responsibility.

2. Understand Your Community:

Come to know the **economic**, **demographic**, and **environmental** impact on your area and town. Each town is in constant change, even those that are dying.

Locate an individual with some history that you can trust to answer some questions and give you some insight into the people and culture etc.

You need to accept them and their culture and not try to impose your culture on them.

3. Create Opportunities for Inclusion and Diversity:

All communities have people with different experiences and points of view. Bring people together to create an atmosphere for respectful dialogue and problem solving.

Love for people –
Patience –
Faithfulness –
Wisdom –
Prayer –

Adaptability -
Competence -
Conversation -
Appearance -
Sensitivity -
Relationship -

4. Tackle Important Issues:

Working with others helps us to address important issues, whether they are spiritual or secular. Coming alongside to remedy issue important to others sets a stage for cooperation and relationship building.

“...a demonstration ...that there is a life possible on earth which is fed from no earthly source, and that the things spoken of on Sunday in the church are realities”

5. Learn and Share:

We have the opportunity to learn from the people we minister to not only in our specific ministry area, but around the nation and in our secular communities. As we learn our culture we can more readily have a positive impact for change.

“Before you can change the culture, the culture must change you.”

- a. God called you to your place and you need to stay until He sends you away.
- b. Walk your talk - Practice what you preach.
- c. God wants you to be faithful to the ministry to which you are called.
- d. Only the Holy Spirit can produce fruit.

6. The B's of Accountability:

We need to be

-reputable stewards in community.
-committed to financial integrity
-responsive to real needs
-transparent with no hidden agenda
-genuine in purpose
-fair in dealings
-objective and without prejudice
-flexible yet firm
-timely in approach

Look for ways to invest assets to meet your mission purpose in our community.

“It is not enough just to be compassionate and caring. We also need to live uncompromising, exemplary lives, so that our actions set the standard and example for others.”

Practical Ideas

Blood Pressure Screening
Colon Cancer Test Kits
Plant Giveaway

Free Farmer Market
Food Box Ministry
Free Meals

Community cleanup
Community Parades

Volunteer - local agencies, school, civic clubs, hospital
Share your facility

Teach skills –
Serve on other organization boards – EI is an example

Funding a local church VBS
Join in local kids programs