

MINISTRY TRAINING

“The step of Ministry Training is critical to the expansion of any movement. At this point most organizations (and may I add youth groups) reach their peak. If they do not train believers other than the pastor to do the ministry, their expansion stops ... No matter how dynamic the leader expansion will not continue if people are not trained to minister.”

...CARL WILSON

What do we mean when we say “minister”? The Christian life involves more than coming to church on Sunday, staying out of trouble and “letting our light shine.” God expects us to *use our lives to make a spiritual difference in the lives of those with whom we make contact.* This will serve as our definition of “ministry” as we now explain the purpose of our Ministry Team and the training that will take place for those involved on it.

The Lord desires to use each of our lives for his glory and purposes, that is why he saved us and pours forth his blessing upon us daily. The author of Ephesians wrote,

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance, for us to do.”
Eph. 2:8-10

The Lord knew that we would need someone to help us to accomplish all that He has planned for us, that is why he gave leaders to the church. In Ephesians we read,

“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...”
Eph. 4:11-12

Because the Christian life is a process, much like physical growth, not every Christian is to the point yet where they are ready or interested in being trained to do the “work of the ministry.” Therefore, it is very important that each Christian evaluate their own life and determine where they are currently in their spiritual growth process. To help you to do this, we’ve included several tools that will enable you to understand what ministry training is, the qualities of life that are needed to effectively minister to others and a test to evaluate our current spiritual interest level.

We hope that these tools will encourage and challenge you to seek the training that you will need to accomplish the ministry that the Lord has for you and your youth group.

UNDERSTANDING MINISTRY TRAINING

Ministry training is simply equipping others with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to perform the ministry before them. In the book of 1 Thessalonians Paul made mention of the “imparting of his life” he reproduces his life in the lives of those ready and willing listeners who took the time to be trained and taught. This is what he is referring to in 2 Timothy 2:2 where he says, **“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men, who will also be able to teach others also.”**

The following are some questions that will help you determine if you are ready to proceed into the area of ministry training:

* Check those that apply to your life:

- ___ Do you have a desire to share with others what God has been doing in your life?
- ___ Do you have a burden to meet the needs of other people?
- ___ Do you feel that you need to learn to better apply the Christian principles that you've learned over the years?
- ___ Have you seen a need to help those believers of similar age to you get along better, pray together and build closer relationships?
- ___ Would you be willing to set aside some time to receive training to accomplish the above things and to be held accountable for your spiritual development by a team of individuals?

If you checked more than one of the above statements, then there is a good chance that you are ready for ministry training.

MINISTRY TRAINING QUALITIES

Because of the nature of ministry training (skills development, intensive learning, high accountability, ministering to the needs of others, planning and evaluation), a deeper level of interest and commitment is required of those who are involved.

It is important to understand that we are looking for inner or heart qualities and trying to avoid outward rules, regulations and standards. From the story of Samuel and his anointing of David in 1 Samuel 16, we learn a valuable lesson, **“Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

This text is dealing primarily with physical standards for a king, but we know that often we as Christians use these same standards to determine a person's ability to “serve or minister” in the church. In addition, we sometimes add external rules/standards to determine a person's worth, spirituality, etc.

With all of this in mind, we want to suggest some inner qualities that are necessary in the lives of those who desire to minister to others. We are not asking or suggesting that a person be “perfect” but **that a person show evidences of these qualities in their daily lifestyle, have a desire to grow in their faith, and to make a difference for God in their sphere of influence.**

WHO OUGHT TO BE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY TRAINING?

1. Those who no longer just want to be ministered to, but want to minister to others.
2. Those who no longer just want to be served, but want to serve others.
3. Those who no longer just want to be taught, but want to teach others.
4. Those who are others-oriented and want to share in the work of the ministry!

THEY EXEMPLIFY THESE QUALITIES IN THEIR LIFE

1. Faithful A willingness to seek to live a consistent godly lifestyle.
2. Available A willingness to be open to the control of God's Spirit. This may mean that you will need to evaluate your activities and priorities and reorganize them so that you have the time to be trained and the time to minister to others. The Ministry Team must be a priority!
3. Teachable A willingness to learn and to be corrected if necessary.
4. Thankful A willingness to consistently acknowledge God as the source of all that we have and to exhibit a grateful spirit for all and to all whom God uses in my life.
5. Enthused A willingness to acknowledge with excitement the "God in us" to others around you.
6. Respect A willingness to commit ourselves to another's leadership and to cooperate together with others to reach common goals and objectives.

HOW MANY OF THE ABOVE QUALITIES DOES YOUR LIFE REFLECT NOW?

Upon examining the life of Christ, we notice three priorities. Ministry team members will be held accountable in these three areas: They are: SHARING THE GOSPEL (OUTREACH), CARING FOR THE YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS (INREACH), and MAINTAINING THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES (UPREACH), which, for our purposes, means participating in the Scholarship program.

We envision a team of people (students and adults) ministering to others in all of these areas so that we will fulfill God's purpose for our youth group. Specific ways that we can minister to others within these three general categories are:

OUTREACH

1. Evangelism - teach students how to effectively share their faith and encourage a lifestyle of friendship evangelism.
2. Outreach events
 - a) plan & execute the evangelistic programs of FSM
 - b) plan creative ways to publicize outreach events
3. Ministry/Service Projects
 - a) create a ministry mind-set into FSM
 - b) provide opportunities for youth group members to be involved in various ministry/service projects

INREACH

1. Get Love Flowing
 - a) create an atmosphere of love, acceptance & forgiveness in the youth ministry
 - b) create situation in which love can be both expressed & experienced by group members
 - c) promote birthday & other achievements of students
2. Group Image - to build a healthy group image and to promote that image both in and out of the group
3. Welcome Team
 - a) welcome new people to FSM clubs and events
 - b) talk to new people and introduce them to others
 - c) send them a postcard expressing our appreciation for coming

- d) call new and fringe people and invite them to upcoming events
4. Follow-up - follow-up new believers from outreach events by taking them through a new believers program
 5. Growth-level Activities - plan and promote FSM activities that will accomplish the above stated goals

UPREACH

1. Prayer: create situations/opportunities for prayer; both for team members and the students in FSM
2. Spiritual Disciplines: be consistent in a personal daily quiet time, scripture memory, and encourage others in this area, as well.

THE TIME COMMITMENT REQUIRED TO BE PART OF THE "MINISTRY TEAM"

- * We will meet approximately once a month on Sunday afternoons 12:30 - 4:00 p.m., eating lunch together and then having our meeting.
- * You will need to make a minimum commitment to attend 75% of all youth meetings, outreaches and activities. It is tough to minister to others if you are not available or reliable!
- * Your commitment to the ministry team will initially be for 9 months (September to May or January to September). At the end of your commitment you may feel free to either withdraw for a period of time or sign up again.

WHAT BEHAVIOR IS EXPECTED OF SOMEONE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY TEAM?

- * That you live an authentic Christian lifestyle in private, at home, in church, in school and work. Specifically, the qualities of Holiness, Honesty and Humility should be evident and practices.
- * While at the youth group meetings and activities, you should seek to display a maturing role of leadership as an example to those around you. You should try to help and maintain order within the group, welcome all students to each activity (especially new people), assist whomever is in charge of the various activities, if needed, and spread out during each activity (especially outreaches) so that you don't appear as a clique.
- * As members of a team, you are to help hold each other accountable for personal growth and completion of ministry assignments.
- * You are expected to be contacting both youth group members to help them grow in their faith, and non-Christians to help them come to faith in Christ, on a regular basis of ongoing ministry.

WHAT MUST A PERSON DO TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY TEAM?

- * New members can join each year in September or January.
- * An interested person must fill out the Ministry Team Application and Commitment Contract and submit them to Pastor Reist. The application will be reviewed for

acceptance. In addition, an interview will be conducted if deemed necessary.

We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to grow in your faith and to be trained and used in God's service.

MINISTRY TEAM APPLICATION

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE:

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE:

1. Briefly share how you became a Christian, and describe how your relationship with God is doing. What evidence is there in the way that you live that the Living God is in your life? (i.e. what makes you different from a non-Christian?)
2. What non-Christian friends are you praying for and sharing your faith with? What have been the results?
3. Do you clearly understand and accept the responsibilities and behavior expected of the ministry team and the time commitment involved? Are you willing to make a commitment to minister to youth group members, as well as actively sharing the gospel with the lost?

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Do you have a job? Yes _____ No _____

Where is the job? _____

What are your usual hours of employment? _____

How many hours per week? _____

List your school involvements: (clubs, choir, elected offices, etc.) How many hours per week are used in these activities?

List your sports involvements: _____

List your school involvements apart from work:

**FSM MINISTRY TEAM OF
EAST BAY CALVARY CHURCH**

COMMITMENT CONTRACT

I HEREBY COMMIT myself to service in the FSM Ministry Team of East Bay Calvary Church. This commitment includes sharing the gospel with others, caring for youth group members, and participating in the scholarship program (which includes taking the Verse Test). This commitment is understood to be for a period of nine (9) months, at which time it may be reviewed and renewed or terminated.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that this commitment is made in priority to other responsibilities that I may have. It is further understood that should I miss Ministry Team meetings three times without acceptable excuse, or more than 75% of youth meetings and FSM activities, my position in the Ministry Team will be surrendered. Acceptable excuses will be solely determined by the leadership of the youth group. Homework, household responsibilities, and free time should be properly scheduled and planned, so as not to interrupt with ministry assignments and obligations.

THIS COMMITMENT is made between the Lord and myself, and should be made in all seriousness and with full consideration of its responsibilities and consequences.

AS A PARENT, it is also made recognizing the necessity of sacrificing my time in providing transportation, and also holding my son/daughter accountable for time spent in Ministry Team responsibilities, realizing my child's spiritual growth should and will be our #1 priority.

Dated: _____

Ministry Team Applicant

Parent or Guardian of Applicant

COMMENTS: _____

FSM

**Frontline
Student Ministries**

**SWAT TEAM
TRAINING INFORMATION
PACKET AND APPLICATION**



East Bay Calvary Church
2225 Hammond Road East
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 946-4479