

Meet The Need's mission is to "Reinvigorate the Church and equip it to lead millions more to Christ by following His example of meeting those in need exactly where they are". But it takes time, planning, and communication to shift the mentality of a church from "serving at occasional events" to "serving as a lifestyle". Our experience working with churches has shown there are 10 proven methods you can deploy today to facilitate that transformation in your church.

1. Advocacy From the Senior Pastor

Why? When the Senior Pastor advocates a servant mentality, it will "soak" into the DNA of your staff and members.

How? One idea is to ask your Senior Pastor to teach a sermon series on serving and direct members to your website to search/meet needs.

2. Include "Serving" In Your Discipleship Process

Why? As we grow in Christ, we can't help but see the need to serve others. When your members are discovering their gifts, passions, etc., remind them that your church provides (through Meet The Need) a "window" to a wide variety of opportunities to use them to bless others.

How? During discipleship classes, encourage your new members, group leaders, etc. to search for needs through your website and to connect with local ministries.

3. Organize a Recurring "Serve Day"

Why? Recurring Serve Days build excitement, momentum, accountability, and consistency – all keys to the transformation of your church's culture.

How? Kick off a special church-wide Serve Day, and then continue to hold one each month as an on-going project, meeting needs already posted by local ministries.

4. Share Testimonies

Why? When you share members' testimonials about their experiences serving, it excites other members and makes the needs much more "real" and personal for them.

How? Encourage your members to leave testimonials on the Meet The Need section of your site. Communicate them on Facebook, Twitter, blogs, videos and bulletin inserts.

5. Mobilize Your Small Groups

Why? Serving as a group creates lasting connections and overcomes hesitation and fears about serving others.

How? One idea is to let small groups "compete" to see who can do the most to serve the community. Ask them to serve together regularly (monthly, quarterly, etc.), finding needs that match the group's heart on your website.

6. Hold an Internal Needs Campaign

Why? God tells us, "Love your neighbor". Do we know the needs of the ones sitting beside us in church?

How? Find out who in your church has needs. Post those needs on your website through Meet The Need and direct members to see who they can help.

7. Host a Missions Fair

Why? Get members excited about the work being done by your ministry partners. Give them a live "serve shopping experience" – a chance to plug in to their "heart beat"!

How? Invite your ministry partners to showcase their ministries at a mission fair. Set up display tables and have ministry representatives present to answer questions. Have members connect with their favorite ministries on your website.

8. Get Connected

Why? Communication and relationships are so critical to culture transformation. Many of your members connect through social media - use it for God's glory!

How? Ask your members to connect to your church's social media outlets. Post comments, scripture, and encouragement related to serving. See Meet The Need's Facebook, Twitter, and blogs for examples and resources.

9. Send Church-Wide Emails

Why? The more times your members see where to search/meet needs on your website, the better. Meet The Need will also send automatic emails when you or your ministry partners post new needs!

How? Send an email urging members to search/meet needs and connect directly with the ministries that they want to serve. (Customize the sample email found on the "Downloads" section of www.meettheneed.org.)

10. Print Bulletin Announcements

Why? Visual reminders to "connect" reinforce verbal and "virtual" (online) announcements.

How? Post a notice every week – it makes sense because looking for chances to bless others should be a weekly occurrence for all of your members!