

Conspiracy of Kindness: Introducing the Father's love

Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor

July 21-22, 2007

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Kindness outreach, or servant evangelism is a way of demonstrating God's love for people by introducing them to the Father's love through simple (and sometimes practical) acts of kindness. These simple acts of kindness open the door for people to receive the love of a caring and involved creator.

### **God's kindness leads to repentance**

God's kindness leads you toward repentance

Steve Sjogren, the founding pastor of the Vineyard Community Church of Cincinnati, defines servant evangelism as "outreach that wins the heart before it confronts the mind." A small act of kindness nudges a person closer to God, often in a profound way as it bypasses one's mental defenses.

Kindness outreach makes evangelism possible for everyone.

God is a God of love. Love is a great motivator, it has within it the power to break through our defenses and embrace us, to lead us to healing, and reconciliation.

Kindness outreach reaches us through the thin spaces of our lives to reach our heart. The heart is a comprehensive metaphor for the self. The heart is deeper than our perception, intellect, emotion, and volition. Kindness speaks to our heart. It tells us that we loved by a caring, compassionate God who is interested in reconciling us to himself, and returning us from our exile.

### **We give away what we have received**

'... we must give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others what God has given us...' 1 Timothy 6:18  
(paraphrase):

Kindness outreach is like casting seeds, sometimes our seed take, and bear fruit, and sometimes they don't. We plant seeds of love into the hearts of those we serve, and maybe God will use those seeds to bring about fruit, lasting, transforming fruit.

Keep on sowing your seed, for you never know which will grow – perhaps it all will. (Ecclesiastes 11:6)

## **We join the Father at work**

Jesus says something interesting in John 5:17, “My Father is always at work to this very day...” Then he goes on and says, ‘I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing...’ The father is always at work... when we realize this, it changes something in us, it opens the door for us to stop and ask the question, how is the father working in my life and in the lives of those around me. It creates within us this expectation, it’s an invitation, and it’s our job to see how the Father is working and take a risk and join him at work.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the church is hosting a day of kindness. We want to open the door to the Father and see what he is up to. We have planned several kindness outreaches and I would like to invite you set aside Saturday between 10am – 2pm to join the church is sharing the love of God with our community

**Want to get started before August 4<sup>th</sup>, check out these resources:**

### **Books:**

*Conspiracy of Kindness* by Steve Sjogren

*Irresistible Evangelism: Natural Ways to Open Others to Jesus* by Steve Sjogren

*Reimagining Evangelism: Inviting Friends on a Spiritual Journey* by Rick Richardson

### **Websites:**

Servant Evangelism Ideas & Articles

<http://www.servantevangelism.com/>

Christianity Today – Servant Evangelism

<http://tinyurl.com/239nsp>

### **Post celebration songs:**

*Lift Him Up* by Yolanda Adams.

*Thankful* by Mary Mary.

*Could've Been* by J Moss, Kirk Franklin & Tye Tribbett.