

## 51 Ideas for your small group's OUTWARD FOCUS

### Adopt Your Neighbourhood – Ideas 1-21

Pray with your small group about which neighbourhood you want to reach, whether it's the neighbourhood you meet in or one of your members' neighbourhoods. Then love this area for Jesus by interrupting peoples normal routines and blessing them with an unexpected gift. This program is effective because it is:

- Giving-centered rather than asking-centered
- Done in groups
- Culturally current
- Gives the Holy Spirit an open door to convict those who are searching
- Allows shy people to launch into effective outreach
- An approach families can do together
- Easily picked up by new Christians
- Friendly, non-pushy, non-aggressive
- Emotionally safe
- Provides a safe place for ambitious people to expend their energy
- Fun!

Just knock on the doors of your neighbourhood (easy to do when you're giving something away), announce that you are from Centre Street Church, and smile a lot!

Note 1: In our outreaches, we like to emphasis that we're neighbours. On our gifts, we often have an adhesive simply stating: 'Just because we're your neighbours.' We often include the church's web address and phone number.

Note 2: When people are not home, we either return another day or leave the gift on the front door or in the mailbox. We do not go to homes with 'NO SOLICIATATION' signs.

Note 3: Pray a lot

#### **Idea #1 Gift a Potted Flower**

Go to garden centres at Rona's, Home Depot, Walmart or Canadian Tire – if you wait until after the initial spring selling rush, you can often get potted geraniums on sale for about \$2.00 each.

#### **Idea #2 Gift a Packet of Flower Seeds**

Less expensive than the above (often less than a \$1.00). Even though not every home has a garden...the packet would be appreciated.

#### **Idea #3 Gift literature on how to Drug Proof your teenager**

What parent isn't concerned about this one?

#### **Idea #4 Gift 9-volt batteries encouraging people to check their fire alarms and smoke detectors**

This is more appropriate in older communities where fire alarms and smoke detectors are not tied into the electrical systems of the home.

#### **Idea #5 Gift Carnations on Mother's Day**

Remember to put your order in early at the Flower Shop. Cost is about \$1.50 a flower. Who could resist this one?

#### **Idea #6 Gift Chocolates on Valentine's**

Walmart sells high quality heart-shaped chocolate boxes for under \$2.00.

#### **Idea #7 Gift Pumpkins at Halloween**

Plan early, and shop around for the best deal. Pumpkins naturally make people smile. Add on an adhesive that this was a gift celebrating the harvest and Thanksgiving season.

#### **Idea #8 Gift a Small Christmas Present**

Gift beautiful aromatic Christmas candles that can be purchased at Walmart for \$2.00 each. These are very well-received! You may want to include an adhesive with details of our church's Christmas Eve programs.

#### **Idea #9 Gift a Scotch Tape at Christmas**

Inexpensive and practical. You will be thought of fondly when people wrap their presents. Again, you may want to include details of our church's concerts and Christmas Eve service.

**Idea #10 Gift Candy Canes at Christmas**

You may want to include the Christmas Story as it pertains to the striped candy cane.

**Idea #11 Gift Energy Saving Light Bulbs**

The best deal is at Ikea. Packages of 3 are about \$6.00 (\$2 each) but you can look around for specials. This shows creativity, and people will appreciate this great idea!

**Idea #12 Gift \$2-\$3 Gift Cards to Tim's or Starbucks**

You'd better provide people with an option on this one for 'no person can serve two masters; choose you this day!' Normally, gift cards are impersonal, but people will love this one.

**Idea #13 Gift a container of windshield washer fluid**

Best done in the month of March, this gift is practical and helpful. Don't buy at gas stations! Walmart often has them on sale for under \$2.00 (Note: You can put an adhesive on each container commenting on the problem of impaired vision and how at CSC we're trying to gain a clearer vision of life, relationship and of God – something like that).

**Idea #14 Gift a Centre Street Ice Scraper**

Again you could include a message like the one above.

**Idea #15 Gift a stamped envelope together with a blank thank you note**

Include an encouragement to send this card to someone they would like to thank.

**Idea #16 Gift a small first aid kit**

Just a few bandages, band-aids, gauze, etc...or check a drugstore for prepared kits. Could put an adhesive: 'For the hurts of body and heart, call Centre Street Church at 403.293.2900.' It might result in a call to our church one day!

**Idea #17 Gift a winter survival kit for cars**

Include a candle, matches, granola bar. Small enough to fit in a glove compartment – but a big idea when it's cold outside and your car is broken down.

**Idea #18 Before and during these outreaches, do a Prayer Walk through your Neighbourhood****Idea #19 After a period of outreach into your neighbourhood through these door-to-door encounters, throw a games night at the local rec centre**

By now, you've established relationships, shown interest, and met needs. People will be open to a block party where there is free food, games for the kids, and possibly someone who could briefly share their life story!

**Idea #20 After a period of outreach, throw a Stampede Breakfast**

Call Georgia at 403.520.1240 for information about the church gas grill.

**Idea #21 Adopt a Public School in your Community**

It seems that many Christians have abandoned this mission field. Provide cakes and cookies for the staff room.

**Other ideas:****Idea #22 Adopt a Single Parent/child**

Take the child for ice-cream, or go to a Hitmen game. When you do things with your kids, often look to take another child. Include a single Mom in your family or small group activities. Encourage and pray for them.

**Idea #23 Adopt a Prisoner and/or a Prisoner's Family**

Call Harry Voth (CSC@Work) for information: 403.520.2669

**Idea #24 Adopt an Immigrant Family**

Call Lois Derksen for information: 403.520.6502

**Idea #25 Adopt a Missionary**

Share newsletters, provide care packages, write notes of encouragement, PRAY for them. Call May Lee for information: 403.277.9761.

**Idea #26 Adopt a Piece of the Environment**

Invite non-Christian friends/neighbours to participate with you in cleaning up part of the community. Everyone is buzzed about the environment these days. Plan a recycling project. Christians should be the greatest environmentalists of all. Didn't you talk to the Creator this morning?

**Idea #27 Visit a Seniors' Care Home**

Sing old time hymns, listen, visit, drink tea, visit, smile a lot, and listen. Tell them you'll return. They'll anticipate it. And, of course, be sure to return. Take children with you.

**Idea #28 Find a Senior...shovel snow**

Mow grass. Do spring clean-ups. Paint a fence. Shovel snow. Enough said.

**Idea #29 Provide Transportation for Seniors**

Call a seniors' agency and offer rides to doctors' appointments and for shopping trips. Access Calgary can do this, but they can't do it in the name of Jesus and with the warmth you could.

**Idea #30 Collect Teddy Bears for an Orphanage**

Through the H.A.R.T. ministry we can get teddy bears to orphanages in Ukraine. Your small group will receive a picture of the children receiving your generous gift.

**Idea #31 Collect Clothing and Shoes for an Orphanage**

(See Above)

**Idea #32 Put together a Shoe Box full of Christmas Presents**

Like Operation Christmas Child, H.A.R.T. ministries will take your shoe box to an orphanage in Ukraine. As above, your small group will receive a picture of the children receiving their shoe box. Be sure to get the kids involved in this one! Visit [www.hart.ca](http://www.hart.ca) for all the information.

**Idea #33 Take members of your small Group to an Orphanage**

Big, Bold, Expensive, Life-changing! Take your kids.

**Idea #34 Prepare Care Packages for the Homeless**

Granola Bars, other little snacks, bus tickets, a pair of ear muffs, etc. Call Ron Irwin for information on our Monday Night evangelism teams: 403.520.2683.

**Idea #35 Collect Food for the Food Bank during the year****Idea #36 Distribute Christmas Hampers**

Call Harry Voth (403.520.2669) for names.

**Idea #37 Visit in Hospitals**

Call Life Care (403.520.2672) for names of the hospitalized who need visits.

**Idea #38 Children's Ministry Needs You**

Each weekend service in Children's Ministry is a challenge. Your small group could be of great service. Remember, parents hear the gospel when you serve in this ministry. Call Heather Kniss: 403.520.2678.

**Idea #39 Support the CSC Spring Cleanup**

Every Spring (usually in May) our church collects garbage from our church neighbours (what the city will not pick up). This has been a tremendous success.

**Idea #40 Be a Snow Angel**

Forget that the city is trying to get you to do this, do it to please Jesus!

**Idea #41 During the Summer, your Group could Serve at River's Edge Camp for a Week**

Think of how close your small group would become!

**Idea #42 Provide a Meal for Mustard Seed**

Call Harry Voth (403.520.2669) for dates.

**Idea #43 Provide Christmas Shoe Boxes for Third World Children**

Samaritan's Purse: 403.250.6565

**Idea #44 Help Samaritan's Purse Inspect Shoe Boxes (see above)****Idea #45 Help H.A.R.T. in their local ministry**

Prepare materials for international distribution. Serve at Fundraiser Banquets. Help in their office. [www.hart.ca](http://www.hart.ca) for information.

**Idea #46 Provide a Meal for Inn from the Cold**

Call Harry Voth (403.520.2669) for dates.

**Idea #47 Start a little Book Club in the Local Coffee Shop. Why Not?**

Pick 'Mere Christianity,' 'The Case for Faith' or another great title for seekers. Invite them to a coffee shop for discussions on these titles. It's a fantastic idea!

**Idea #48 Find a need...They're out there!**

Ask your group members if they know of anyone who is in need or of any situation where the group could meet a particular need. We're surrounded by need!

**Idea #49 Pray a little bit more about an idea!**

**Idea #50 Pray a whole lot more about an idea!**

**Idea #51** Can your small group support a foster or adoptive family? There's an immediate need for small groups (in Central-North Calgary) to come alongside two CSC families that are welcoming new children into their homes. Some of these kids come from tough places. We want to love these families by praying, providing meals, and, when appropriate, spending time with their children! Please contact Ryan or Julie Lidstone for more info, [FosterAdoptionCSC@gmail.com](mailto:FosterAdoptionCSC@gmail.com)

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