## Women’s Needs Assessment in the Local Community

Directions: Fill in the blanks in the quotations below and answer the questions in the spaces provided.

**1. “The Lord has a work**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They may take their places in His work at this crisis, and He will work through them. If they are imbued with a sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they will have just the self-possession required for this time. The Saviour will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women the light of His countenance, and will give them a power that exceeds that of men. They can do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_a work that men cannot do, a work that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labor is needed.” *Review and Herald*, Aug. 26, 1902.

One of the most important aspects of a successful evangelistic program is proper groundwork. No matter how well you conduct a campaign, it will not be successful if good preparation in the community has not been made first.

**2. Not all Women’s Ministries meeting have to be evangelistic meetings, but all meetings should have an evangelistic purpose.** In other words, you can, and should, plan a wide variety of programs that appeal to various groups of women. What 2 functions should these events meet?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3. For effective community outreach events**

* Be warm and welcoming.
* Make friends. Then when you hold evangelistic meetings, you will be inviting friends who know women in the church.
* Because they are familiar with the church and its quality of programs, prejudice will have been broken down.

**4. Selecting a focus.** In deciding on programs of interest to former members and women in the community, think of the needs of women in your area. You may want to consider the list the General Conference Women’s Ministries Department has identified as the six critical needs women face worldwide. They are illiteracy, health risks, poverty, abuse, workload, and lack of training/mentoring. What are some needs in your community that your church may be able to address?

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**5. Community research.** To decide which programs suit the needs of your community, do surveys and research. Who lives in your community? What do they feel their needs are? What groups make up your community? You can find out what the community is like (population, religious preferences, income, etc.) by learning the demographics of an area. Possible sources of demographic information are:

* Census studies, or the Institute of Church Ministry at Andrews University
* Office of Community Development
* Local Department of Commerce
* Local city, university or college libraries
* AdventSource: www.adventsource.org

**6. Community Programs and Ministries.** There are many ways to meet the needs of the people in your community. As you plan, keep in mind the trained personnel and resources available. Here are three general categories of outreach programs. Name 1 or 2 topics for each of these headings that might be helpful in your community.

* **Health Seminars**

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* **Family Matters Seminars**

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* **Self-Help Seminars**

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**7. Guiding principles for planning community outreach**

* First, since we are ambassadors for Christ, we must create within each event or ministry an atmosphere of loving concern for people. People are more important than programs or ministries.
* Second, to accomplish this, bathe the seminar or ministry in prayer. Pray that the Holy Spirit will use you and guide you. Pray for those you will minister to.
* Recruit people in the church to pray for you, for those who will attend the seminars, and for your team of helpers.
* Build friendships all along the way.
* Be intentional in helping your members make friends.

**8. Follow up.** It is vital to always follow up seminars and ministry with small groups, programs, events at your church, and other seminars and ministries.

Why is it important to include the follow up in the planning for an evangelistic event?

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**9. Planning a Community Program.** Planning a program that builds community interest is much like preparation for the evangelistic meetings themselves. Both take planning, thought, prayer, committees and commitment. List some necessary planning activities.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Obtaining Names.** One of the most valuable resources you can have for successful evangelism is names—names of people who can be invited, people who know something about the church, people who have attended programs in the past.

**List some ideas on how to obtain names in your community.**

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