

Finding Your Niche

David Mays

Twenty questions to help you
- or help you help someone else –
find a unique personal role
in outreach.

In generations past we lived primarily among Christians. The non-Christian world was far away. We, recruited, commissioned, sent, prayed for and supported special individuals who ventured to distant places to represent Christ and start churches.

That's still very important. But today we are surrounded by non-Christians. We live in a world characterized by massive migration, cheap transportation and instantaneous global communication. Today, we have unlimited opportunities to help reach out for Christ at home and around the world. We are limited only by our desire and creativity.

This exercise will help you find a role or niche that is specifically unique to you, your situation, your experiences, your interests, your skills and the way God has put you together.

As you go through this process, may God give you a burning desire to see people come to Christ, to see His name glorified by people in all the world.

Twenty Questions:

1. What is your vocation?
2. What are your main hobbies?
3. What are your spiritual gifts?
4. Do you have a collection? What?
5. What do you read?
6. Who do you keep in touch with?
7. Who do you know in another part of the world? What do they do?
8. Where have you traveled?
9. Who do you know that is not American-born?
10. What periods of time do you have available? weekends? summers? evenings? Tuesdays? sabbaticals?
11. What kinds of people interest you?
12. Who are your nearest neighbors?
13. Who do you spend time with that is not a Christian - at work, clubs, neighborhood, community groups?
14. Who do you know who has a Muslim, Hindu, or other non-Christian background?
15. Who serves you at the donut shop, bank, service stations, library, dry cleaners?
16. Who looks up to you?
17. Where are you going on vacation?
18. Where do you go on business?
19. What do you like to do for other people?
20. Do you enjoy children?

Potential Areas for Outreach

Look at your answers to the above questions and see if you can imagine a way to apply some of them in any of the following categories.

- Assisting a neighbor who is reaching out, a missionary, a campus worker, or a local community outreach project
- Assisting your denomination or a mission organization
- Building relationships with non-Christians
- Building cross-cultural relationships with non-Christians
- Connecting individuals with one another or with resources
- Creating new outreach methods
- Communicating with others who are reaching out
- Giving to support outreach ministries
- Influencing other Christians for outreach
- Interpreting our culture and the world for outreach
- Learning about God's expanding Kingdom around the world
- Praying for a non-Christian, a missionary, a people or country
- Serving your church in its outreach and missions ministries
- Supporting those who are sent to do outreach
- Teaching children or adults

Following are some real examples

Debbie uses her hobby of “stamping” to invite neighbors to classes that include a Bible Study.

Jim owns a welding business and helps missionaries and mission organizations purchase, ship and repair generators and welders.

A vineyard owner in Lawton, Michigan, hired a retired missionary to work alongside his Hispanic migrant workers.

Keith runs an international import-export business. He transports items to missionaries in Southeast Asia.

A man in Michigan installed e-mail for his denomination’s district offices.

Some people mail the newsletters or handle home affairs for a missionary.

Dave meets internationals and invites them to church.

Thousands have spent days to years overseas as accountants, house-parents, secretaries, nannies, doctors, evangelists, veterinarians, & teachers.

A retired teacher in St. Louis writes a missions supplement for each of the children’s Sunday School lessons.

Dennis cooked the meals for the church’s international student dinners.

A retired teacher in Michigan went on a China tour and visited the homes of her former Chinese students.

David helped gather care packages for Russian children. The next year he helped pack them. The following year he helped distribute them in Russia.

Clint and Darla are host parents for a student from Central Asia.

Jenny, a graphic designer, does missions bulletin boards and brochures.

Dr. Chuck provides dental service to missionaries supported by his church.

Jim and Linda provided funding to help publish a missions book.

Carol reviewed the manuscript for publication.

Jack set up the PowerPoint for missions presentations.

Glen is a good strategic thinker and provides a sounding board for ideas.

Bob serves as accountability partner.

Doug reviewed a ministry plan and provided feedback for improved goals.

Jim and Ginny provide a ranch for weekend retreats for missionaries.

Lorrie designed a seminar brochure.

Kevin gave a computer for a ministry.

Tim and Carmen teach missions for all ages in their Sunday School.

Scott and Jeff meet incoming internationals at the local university and provide help and friendship.

Derrick is moving his medical practice to Portugal.

Finding Your Niche

in



Twenty Questions

to help you find
your unique role

David Mays

www.davidmays.org

ACMC

Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment