

## The Uncommon Church Volunteer

We often quote Mt 6:33 "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you." Seeking first the Kingdom will often be seen in how you relate to the local church. The church is God's vehicle for the extension of His Kingdom. The concept of the local church is God's idea and when we relate to it correctly it results in a certain type of blessing in our lives. Perhaps you have been wounded in the church and as a result become disillusioned. I encourage to still go back to God's Word and make sure you have this as part of your foundation as a disciple. In order to form a benchmark for what is expected of us as church people, I have outlined in this message 10 Characteristics of the Uncommon Church Volunteer.

### 1. The uncommon volunteer does everything for GOD.

*Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

- They have a spirit of excellence.
- Their motives are pure.
- Their love has no hooks.
- They have covenanted with God.
- They are consistent with many or few.
- They know that God is their rewarder.

**When you do it for God your focus is on His reward and not man's.**

*Eph 6:8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free....*

*John 5:40-42 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. 41 "I do not receive glory from men; 42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves....*

### 2. The uncommon volunteer takes initiative.

*Eph 6:6-7 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,*

- **They serve beyond their job description.** E.g. you are an usher but see gaps in new venue
- **They are non-reliant.**
- **They do not wait to be asked.**
- **They see how their area affects everything else.**
- **Some people think they love the church but they just love their section.**

### 3. The uncommon volunteer has a servant heart.

*Mt 20:27-28 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

- They are willing to do menial tasks. Nothing is beneath them.
- They are teachable.
- They are always looking for opportunities to serve.
- Their focus is on adding value to others.
- They are not easily offended by how they are treated.
- Jesus washed their feet.

**If your expectation is very high with regards to being served, then you will always be disappointed.**

**4. The uncommon volunteer is first devoted to God before their ministry.**

*2 Cor 8:4-5* *4* *begging us with much urging for the favour of participation in the support of the saints, 5* *and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.*

- These are the easiest people to work with because they are completely yielded to God.
- Your service to the church cannot compensate for your relationship with Him
- Are you growing in HIM?
- When you do this, you deliver beyond expectation. PLUS 1 service.
- Are you a Mary or a Martha?

*Luke 10:40-42* *But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."* *41* *But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42* *but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

**5. The uncommon volunteer represents his or her leaders well.**

**Representational Volunteers VS Substitutional Volunteers**

*1 Cor 4:17* *For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.*

Substitutional Leaders and Volunteers represent themselves and their own views. Representational leaders recognise that they have been sent and are representing another person. All leadership is delegated authority.

**6. The uncommon volunteer is clearly identifiable.**

*Acts 4:13* *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

- They have a distinct culture.

- They are not ashamed of their identity in Christ.
- They like to be associated with their church.
- Where necessary they are branded and not ashamed.
- It's more important for them to be identifiable than look pretty.
- Everyone checks-in their bag when they come in

## 7. The uncommon volunteer is always prepared.

*2 Tim 2:15 NIV Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

***There is power in presenting yourself to God. As a leader do you let people give you their best?***

### **New Living Translation**

*Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.*

### **KJV**

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*2 Tim 4:2 I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.*

***There are things that you can do and there are things that God wants you to master. Do you know what these are?***

- They are prepared in the Word.
- They are prepared in prayer.
- They are prepared technically.
- Prepared people are on time. For them, on time is late and early is on time.
- They are flexible and can do things last minute if the situation warrants.
- I can't wait for the right spiritual atmosphere and music if I am praying for the sick on the streets.
- I have had to learn about activating the miraculous.
- The result is that in business you can say YES even if it's a last minute request. You are already prepared.

## 8. The uncommon volunteer is always getting better

- They are continuously improving and getting better.
- Your personal development is the best gift you can give those around you.
- What are you doing to grow in your area of natural gifting?

- Pray for growth
- Don't wait for seminars (YouTube helps e.g. Tracy and roses)
- Sign out library books
- You are doing the best with what you have.
- What do I need to do to get better?
- Take initiative with regards to learning.

*Hebrews 5: 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!*

### **New Living Translation**

*Heb 5:12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.*

*What should you be doing by this time?*

*Compare yourself with your potential?*

*Are you making disciples that are making disciples?*

*Is there anything you need to be taught again?*

The uncommon volunteer is like Daniel and his friends who were 10 times better than the magicians of Babylon. I wonder whether this was the case from the start.

**Find your "people spot".** They are always getting better because they have found their ministry SHAPE, a concept developed by Rick Warren (Saddleback Church).

**S = Spiritual Gifts**

**H = Heart (Your unique emotional heart beat)**

**A = Ability**

**P = Personality**

**E = Experiences**

**Eph 2:10 states that we have been created for good works**

**Eph 4:12 highlights that we are being prepared for works of service.**

- Get better in your area of strength. Wood workers say that it is easier to go with the grain when you are sawing some wood.
- There are many areas in which you can be involved beyond a church service e.g. offering extra lessons in marginalised communities, handy man work for widows etc

- Maybe you have passion for cancer patients and know how to look after them. Or perhaps you are good at renovations and repairs and want to bless widows. Studies show that the average person possesses 500-700 skills.
- The key is to 1. Discover your gift 2. Find alignment with the right area of ministry.
- Our role as church leaders is to decide whether we are structured for control or structured for growth. Go Church is structured for growth.
- Often people have seen active membership as just attending regularly.
- Some years ago, it was found that in USA 10% of church members were active. The good news is that 40% needed or wanted a ministry but didn't know what it was or how to get involved. We want to make it easier.
- Your gifts and talents are like muscles; use them or lose them.
- You might start off by filling the gaps in service but ultimately you want to discover your SHAPE.

#### **9. The uncommon volunteer is fully present**

*Hebrews 10:25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

- Not coming to church becomes a habit. E.g. winter
- They are available and accessible.
- They have a PEOPLE SPOT (This is a place where you are known and know the people)
- They are fully present unlike some who are at home but the lights are not on. The cage ring is turning but the hamster is dead.
- Consistency of presence helps with client retention.
  - I was blessed when an MTN cell phone lady remembered what package I was on after many months.
  - I was also blessed when a Woolworths Foods "till lady" remembering that I had 3 sons boosted her sales.

#### **10. The uncommon volunteer gives of themselves cheerfully**

*2 Cor 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**If you have any initiative that you feel is from the Lord, please talk to the leadership about it and we can see if we can facilitate it. We might say, "not now, not you or no". Or we might say a big "yes".**