

The Belonging Initiative Week 5: Reach Out

So far with the belonging initiative we have encouraged you to help increase a sense of belonging at Central through ...

- Praying for your church
- Spending time getting to know your church
- Serving with your church
- Reaching in and loving your church

Today, as we continue with our belonging initiative, we want to challenge you to **"Reach Out"** evangelistically. Part of increasing a sense of belonging is also reaching out to those without Christ and letting them know that through Christ they can have a place to belong. There are many people we pass by every day that do not have the hope of Christ and the sense of belonging granted through Christ. Often we are guilty of assuming they already know, or that someone else will tell them. This week we want to challenge you to reach out to your neighbors, co-workers and others in the community.

Matthew 9:37-38 *"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* Here we see Jesus point to the fact that the problem isn't that there is no one who needs Christ, but that there are not enough people willing to tell them about Christ. Many statistics point to the fact that only about 1 in 10 people actually ever share their faith with others. That means 90% of professing Christians never tell anyone about the hope they have. As one man said, "we are to be salt to the world but we need to get out of the salt shaker." God wants us all to witness to the lost to those that are separated from God by their sins.

Several years ago LifeWay conducted a survey to try to determine which is the best-received means of reaching out. They concluded: 67% of Americans say a personal invitation from a family member would be effective in getting them to visit a church. 63% say a personal invitation from a friend or neighbor would be effective in getting them to visit a church. 63% of Americans are also very or somewhat willing to receive information about a local congregation from a family member. 56% are very or somewhat willing to receive information about a local congregation from a friend or neighbor. These statistics show that people are willing to hear about Christ and accept an invitation to church from someone they know. So, the question is, what are you waiting for?

Ways to "Reach Out"

- Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers (you)
- Reach Out to someone you know, and ask them whether they know Christ
- Pick up a gospel resource in the lobby and share it with a lost friend or coworker.
- Invite someone to church who doesn't have a place they belong.