# Sunday October 14, 2007 Topic: Volunteering

#### Volunteer Video

Prophet Amos Jayarathnam's message on joining the army of the unknown, was entirely orchestrated by God.

The church is not built around the talent of a few, but by the sacrifice of the many.

God is restoring the church to a place of strength and glory.

# Ephesians 4:11,12

- God wants every believer to be doing ministry
- At APC every believer is a minister

# Ephesians 4:7 Romans 12:4-8 1 Peter 4:10,11

- Every one has been graced and gifted by God in some way
- Use your gifts to serve in the house of God.

## 1 Corinthians 12:28

The ministry of helps is an important part of the body

While all of us must discover our gifts and function in the body and start serving there, there are some areas of service that do not need any "special" talent or gifting.

Start serving any where – where ever there is a need. This will help develop important character traits such as servanthood, obedience, commitment, etc.

As you start doing so you will slowly discover your gifting and calling.

<u>Stephen and Philip</u> began by serving food for the widows (Acts 6:1-8). Yet God used Stephen to work great miracles. Philip went on to become a key evangelist in the Early Church.

#### Barnabas

Acts 4:36,37 began his involvement by giving to the kingdom in the church at Jerusalem He must have served there faithfully although there is no mention of his service.

He was instrumental in brining Saul/Paul to the apostles (Acts 9:27)

About 12 or more years later Barnabas is sent on a mission to "pastor" the church at Antioch. He brought Paul in to the church at Antioch. After serving here for two years, he is called in to his first missionary journey along with Paul.

He now come to be called an apostle (Acts 14:14)

# Areas where you can serve

Parking lot attendant, greeters, hospitality, visitors welcome, Information desk, hospitality, ushers, Stage set-up, Audio/Visual team, ministry areas (P&W, etc.).

At the office/outside of the Sunday services: Visitors followup, member care, publications, church office, Audio/Video editing, graphics design, etc. etc.

## The way we are organized

- Volunteer teams with team leaders
- Team leaders are responsible for that area of service

Team leaders set the guidelines, provide instruction/training, etc.

### Attitudes to maintain while you serve

- 1. Serve with a servant's heart Matthew 20:26,27
  - Serve willingly, not grudgingly or out of compulsion
  - Serve anywhere where there is a need. There are some areas that do not need great talent or special skill, just a willingness to serve (Personal testimony Chicago 1998-2000. Personal Testimony when APC started, did every kind of task)
  - Serve passionately Romans 12:11
- 2. Serve without desire for reward from man
  - Do it for the Lord and not unto man Colossians 3:17,23,24
  - Personal Testimony: Started ministering from the age of 13. Served in Manipal, Ohio, NH, IL. Started APC in 2001. In all these years have not taken salary from the church.
- 3. Serve with commitment 2 Timothy 2:2 (faithful=trustworthy) 1 Timothy 1:12
  - Be there at your post, be dependable,
  - Stay with the vision and direction of the church
- 4. Serve with excellence
  - Whatever you do, do it well

Judges 4, Deborah judges Israel. She ordered Barak to lead a battle against Jabin, king of Canaan.

Judges 5:2,9,15-18

- Isaachar: joined in the battle. Perhaps were key strategists being men of great understanding
- **Reuben**: had great thoughts of heart, they had great searchings yet remained among the sheepfolds taking care of their own business.
- **Gilead** (along with the tribes of Gad and Manasseh) stayed in their own area, taking care of their own profit instead of the common good.
- **Dan**, a tribe involved in navigation and merchandise. Why did they remain on their ships? to continue their trading or to escape in the waters, in case the Canaanites won?
- **Asher**, lived on the shore by the Mediterranean sea where they conducted their business. Their homes had been broken down and perhaps they used this as an excuse ('we need to protect ourselves'), not to join the battle. (Example: of the Elder at FFC, who served in church faithfully every Sunday, even when his wife was fighting cancer).
- **Zebulun and Naphtali**: the two tribes who were primarily involved, offered themselves willingly and jeopardized their lives in battle.

Psalm 110:3



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