

Determining Your Ministry Preference

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Gilgal Press

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What Is My Ministry Preference?

I can hear you now, “Do you mean I get to choose a ministry that I really want to do?” In this day when the only way to fill a need in the church is to spend hours on the phone trying to recruit someone, it seems rare that we are given a choice of where we really want to minister. Usually we have to fill a need that no one else will. Even if we go to a church that promotes volunteerism, often the choices are outside our interests or we don’t know how to choose what is right for us. The purpose of this book is to help the church, by equipping you to volunteer, to take the initiative and find or create a ministry that will best use who you are to the glory of God. The church is ripe with opportunity just waiting for the congregations across this country to take ownership of ministry.

What Ministry Is Best For You?

Vocational testing is a huge business today. Companies spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year trying to save on the billions of dollars lost in mis-hires. Some of the best tests are based on extensive research. Researchers find people in certain vocational fields and ask them for information on themselves. Interests, college majors, personality traits and other critical data is all gathered. The information is then studied looking for variables and commonalities. The goal is to extrapolate from the studies what are major predictors for someone going into the same field. From this tests are created. These tests are then given to people in the field and these test scores are studied. The goal is to come up with a high percentage of correlation between the test scores and certain vocations.

Wouldn’t it be great if we could give you a test to help you decide on a ministry? It certainly would be much easier for us to take the results of your tests and say, “Based on other people with your same profile you would be best at...” That would be it. You could close this book and we could sleep at night thinking that we have done our job. The problem is none of the vocational tests are anywhere near 100% predictive of your final result. The best they can do is to show you what you could be good at. You may score high in science and math; therefore, they can predict that you would be good as a chemist, but they cannot tell you that you will be a chemist. Final results are much more complicated than that.

To make it even more difficult, for most of us, our ministry is voluntary. This opens up so many more variables. For example, a good vocational test may say that you would be good in a medical profession. Let’s say that the vocational test was right. You indeed have chosen a medical field. You work long hours as a nurse. But that doesn’t mean that you want to have a medical ministry, too. By the time your shift is over, the last thing you want to do is volunteer at a clinic. Besides, your vocation may only tap into one of your passions. It may be that you would much prefer a music ministry. This is why we have created a preference test. Because of the complexities in helping people discover a ministry, we find it most beneficial if we help you with different processes of selection and elimination. Our goal is to help you figure out what ministries, at this point in time, you would prefer to be involved in.

What Is A Preference?

What makes you prefer one ministry over another? Many times it’s things that are totally unpredictable. Given a chance to choose, there are a myriad of reasons why we may prefer one ministry over another. It could be the level of perceived need, the leadership, circumstances, the team participating, your schedule or any one of hundreds of other variables. We have taken some of the more common variables and have broken them into three levels of consideration.

First Consideration-Seeing The Need

One of the biggest considerations in choosing to get involved in a ministry is seeing the need. Notice that it is “seeing” the need. Need alone isn’t enough. Somehow the need has to make it into our con-

sciousness and create a response. What was the story of the Good Samaritan if not to illustrate that even “religious and seemingly moral leaders” can ignore an obvious need.

In 1964 in Queens, New York there was a crime that caught the attention of the whole country. It was the stabbing death of Kitty Genovese. She was chased by her assailant for over half an hour and attacked viciously three times. But what made this so horrific, was the fact that there were 38 bystanders that saw the whole thing and not one of them called the police or helped rescue Kitty. I remember the news story. America was in shock. Articles were printed in papers all across our country about the apathy that our overcrowded urban lifestyle had created.

I can’t help but make the comparison to the church today. All around us are urban areas with great needs. Right in our own community are people that are lonely, hurting and not knowing Christ and yet as a church we are almost non-existent. We have absolved ourselves from social responsibility. Are there so many needs, so many activities, so many other things clamoring for our attention that we have become apathetic toward those that need our help? Malcolm Gladwell, the author of *The Tipping Point*, suggests that there may be another reason for not reacting to the hurting needs of people around us.

Gladwell writes about the research of two New York psychologists who tried to better understand what they called the “bystander problem.” They staged “accidents” and observed how groups of people would react. They watched the different variables and gathered information about each incident. When they were through, one critical factor stood out. The one factor that seemed to make the biggest difference to whether a person would act or not, was the amount of people witnessing the event. They found that when people felt that others were watching, that someone else would take responsibility for what was happening. The more people witnessing the event the less a person felt that they needed to act. According to their research, responsibility for action gets diffused in large groups. The psychologist’s conclusion was that if Kitty Genovese’s attack was seen by only one or two people, it is probable that she may still be alive today!

When I first read this account, I realized that this may help explain why we can have so many churches in America and yet still are not making a social or moral impact. Could it be that many of us don’t react to the needs around us because we feel someone else is doing something about it? Or do we really believe that solving our spiritual, moral and social problems in this country is going to be done by someone else? Do we think that we are absolved from our responsibility to respond to the cries of those around us because there are so many listening? May God wake us up from this false thinking!

I’m sure that some of those that heard the screams of Kitty Genovese were apathetic. No doubt, some were cynical, others too busy to stop, but chances are that most of those thirty-eight bystanders would have helped had they really known no one else was going to. They did not see the need, they did not perceive the criticalness of the situation.

Now you and I cannot respond to every need around us, but we can allow the Lord to guide us and make us aware of those needs that we can help. There are two things that you and I can do that will allow us and our church to make a bigger difference in the community around us.

Step 1—Become a Need Finder

First, we must commit ourself, as an individual and as a church, to be a “need finder”. We need to go out into the community and see it as Jesus sees it. We claim to know Christ yet we know nothing of His compassion and love for those around us. We need to do prayer walks, surveys, talk to people, read the paper, talk to the police and town officials. What are the needs? What are the needs today and what do we anticipate the needs will be in the future?

What are the needs of the people in community, our neighborhoods or the needs of the people that we work with? Make finding needs in the surrounding communities a church project. Create a bulletin board with lists, put suggestion boxes out for people to put needs in, hand out cards to be filled out and

put in the offertory. Get every small group and every Sunday school class involved. From the elementary student to the oldest member of the church, everyone must become a “need finder”. Make finding needs the top priority of the church for a month or maybe two. The results will astound you. You will be amazed at the stories, the energy, the excitement as people uncover more and more needs. It will also break your heart. When is the last time we were broken hearted over the needs of our community? As we all start to see needs as Jesus does and we enlarge our list, we can move to the second phase, that is finding out what needs we should work with.

Step 2—Decide what needs we should work on

The second step to meeting needs is to decide what needs we should work with, both as a church and as individuals. As we look over the list, we can begin to find out if others in the community are meeting the needs or not. This will allow us to become more aware of the circumstances around us and hopefully keep us from “assuming” that someone else is going to take care of the problem.

We can let God speak to our hearts and begin to get a feel for what is “moving” us. Then we can do what good managers do. We can do something about those needs that we feel we must, we can delay action on those that can wait, we can defer or delegate some of the needs to other people, groups, churches or agencies that are already involved or more capable than us, or if the need is already being met (or was not a real need in the first place) we can decide to drop the item.

The beauty of this system is that it takes responsibility to see that the real needs are attended to, by us or someone else. Can you imagine if every church, in every community worked together like this? What a witness we would have.

Second Consideration - What Can I Do To Make A Difference?

It stands to reason that you will be happiest, and the most fulfilled, if your ministry preferences complement the way you are wired for ministry. Not only you, but the ministry will benefit too! If given a choice, it makes sense to minister in a way that best suits who you are.

When looking over the lists of ministries that we have later in this workbook, it would be good to ask yourself:

What ministries would use my Spirituals gift(s)?

What ministries work with the causes that I am passionate about?

What ministries seem to fit my skills and background?

What could I picture myself doing that would get me out of bed on a Saturday morning?

God has created us for ministry that takes full advantage of who we are, a ministry that uses our skills, our likes, our Spiritual gifts and our desires. Let’s spend some time considering what those ministries would be.

Choosing a Ministry

So how does this work? How do we choose a ministry? We do it by considering the needs around us and matching them with our skills, abilities, spiritual gifts, experiences and preferences. We do this in an attitude of prayer, asking God to guide us and give us wisdom. We have two tests for you to participate in. The first is a Ministry Preference Self-Assessment. We have listed ministries in broad categories for you to consider. It will be the broad category that will first attract your attention. Within the category are many suggestions of types of roles that you could participate in. This is where your interests can be determined.

For Example

The first category is Youth Ministry. Youth work may appeal to you so you pause to look at some of the suggestions of types of ministry within Youth Ministry. For the sake of an example, let's say that you are already happy in a vocation so that rules out being a youth pastor. However, there are many other choices left. You see "retreat volunteer" and "church youth task committee member" and think, "Yes, these ministries really appeal to me." You would then circle both ministries and where it says "Your Score", you would write an 8, 9 or 10 depending on how strong you felt about those ministries.

If the different ministries listed on the test are close but made you think of something else you would prefer, that is not written down, by all means write down your suggestion and then score the larger category of Youth Ministry appropriately. Scoring Youth Ministry high does not mean you want to do everything associated with the category. It means that the category is important to you and that there are specific ministries, as indicated, that you are very interested in.

Ministry Preference Self Assessment

Below is the list of church and local para-church ministries. Does the paragraph pretty well describe your feelings? Do any of the areas of service interest you? Please rate yourself on a scale 1 -5 (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) and circle the ministries that you are interested in or add ministries of your own.

Youth Ministry (1)

You like to work with young people. You believe in the great need for leaders and role models. You want to see the best programs for the young people and are willing to help any way you can. You relate well with teenagers and have their respect. You know about adolescence; the fears, temptations, the struggles. You are willing to be patient, loving and pray for them.

Areas Of Ministry:

Jr. high, high school or college age Sunday school teacher; youth director; youth counselor; Christian school teacher; camp counselor; youth night chaperone; host for youth activity; prayer supporter; church youth task committee member; retreat volunteer; games coordinator; volunteer on youth nights; driver to events; life skills mentor; tutor; support to parent/teen conflicts; drug counselor; big brother/sister; adolescent/family counselor; college/ career guidance counselor.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Children's Work (2)

Children are our future. You love to be with children and help them experience the love of Jesus. You have patience and a good sense of humor. Children like to be around you. You know about the different developmental stages and are able to help the child grow. You know how hard the parenting process is and feel great empathy for the parent(s).

Areas Of Ministry:

Sunday school teacher; Christian Education Supervisor; nursery attendant; Christian pre-school or elementary school teacher; song leader; games director; VBS volunteer; Bible Club worker; MOPS volunteer; day care specialist; teacher; special education worker; pediatric medicine, child psychologist; family counselor; respite care.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Evangelism (3)

You are burdened for the lost and believe in being proactive with the sharing of the Gospel. You are willing to share your testimony, share the plan of salvation, distribute literature, whatever it takes. Your house is a place where you participate in friendship evangelism. You believe in reaching the community by helping them through need-based evangelism. At work you share the love of Christ through your life and in appropriate ways. You try to be a witness in the way you live so not to bring reproach against Christ. You feel the church should reach out to the neighborhood and are willing to help anyway that you can. You are burdened for the lost throughout the world.

Areas Of Ministry:

Be on a church evangelism team; mission committee; set up literature distribution; teach evangelism; be a greeter at church, do visitation with new visitors; participate in door to door distribution of literature on the church and/or gospel literature; do evangelistic preaching; work in community projects, meeting needs and sharing testimony; lead prayer meetings for evangelistic revival; work with other churches about area wide evangelistic campaign; support ministries that evangelize; assist the church with different evangelistic tools such as radio, literature and video.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Visitation Of Sick And Elderly (4)

Your heart goes out to those who are shut in; you enjoy listening to people's personal stories; you enjoy keeping people "caught up" with current events of the church; you have studied the development stages of aging and empathize with their situation; you find great joy in taking meals, helping house clean or doing yard work for those that can't; you don't mind taking someone to the store, to the hair-dressers or out to eat somewhere; even though it breaks your heart you count it a privilege to pray for those that are dying and bring comfort anyway you can; you have a respect for those that have lived a full life and try to maintain dignity in their life, anyway you can.

Areas Of Ministry:

Taking meals; driving people to appointments or take them shopping; setting up events; reading to an individual or a group; visit regularly at a nursing home; pray regularly for shut-ins; advocate for the needs of the elderly in your church; set up a visitation team; organize work crews to help the elderly with home repairs; visit those that are sick from your congregation and pray for them; work at a retirement or nursing home; set up an emergency fund for those elderly on fixed income; bring the elderly to children's events; set up luncheons and events for elderly; take appropriate church work to those that are shut-in so they can be a useful member.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Community Ministry (5)

You are moved when you hear of the needs of others; you pray on behalf of the needy; you are action oriented and want to help anyway you can; you advocate with the church on behalf of those in need; you know about and volunteer to assist in community development programs; you are willing to mentor someone with needs; you give of your resources to those in need; you volunteer to be on committees to help in community projects; you believe that the church should witness to the community through getting involved and meeting needs, you get employers and other community leaders involved with the needs of the community.

Areas Of Ministry:

Volunteer to help various community programs; organize the church to assist in a food pantry, clothes drive, urban mission trips; volunteer to help those in church with needs; represent various Christian community development programs to the church; start a mentoring program at the church; advocate for the needs of children such as child care, foster care and adoption; link your church with an international Christian Relief agency; give where you can to organizations that are working with the needy; start an after school safe place for children; get involved with families in need; organize church for blood drives; mentor teenage mothers; work for a local ministry that participates in mercy ministry; help with job readiness, retention and advancement training; provide summer jobs or internships; get involved in community politics to bring about changes; be a big brother or sister; open your home for temporary shelter; advocate for healthcare for the needy; work on affordable housing; adopt a family in need; teach parenting skills; be a home visitor; volunteer medical expertise; be an advocate for health issues; offer respite for those who do foster care; care for sick and elderly.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Administration (6)

You know that it takes administration work to help a church or ministry function so you help where you can; you assist with office duties; you volunteer your accounting, marketing, office management, executive or clerical skills when needed; you help with acquisition of state-of-the-art office equipment.

Areas Of Ministry:

Volunteer to help with mailings, answer phones or help with bulletins; help with accounting; assist with computers purchase, set-up or maintenance; assist in printing needs; set-up bulletin boards; volunteer assistance with web site; volunteer training in your field of expertise; assist in the marketing and advertising needs of the church; help assist a committee by setting up meetings; sending out timely announcements.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Leadership (7)

You want to use your experience in management in the church or ministry; you want to see things done decently and in order; you do not hoard over people but are a servant leader; you are willing to sit on committees and help anywhere you can; you pray for the pastor and church committees and for the director and staff of local ministries that you feel called to support; you stand ready to assist with leadership issues if needed; you consider it a sacred duty to be a Deacon or Deaconess and live according to I Timothy 3; you strive not to be overtaken with spiritual pride but serve as a leader remembering God's grace and mercy; you keep up with the latest in church leadership materials, attend training when possible and disseminate what you learn to the rest of the leadership.

Areas Of Ministry:

Being a Elder/Deacon or Deaconess; serve on various committees; attend prayer meetings; meet regularly with the Pastor to pray; assist in leadership using your expertise; serve on Board of local ministry; participate in strategic planning and vision casting; help communicate vision for the church; assist in fund raising for the major projects in church or para-church ministry you are involved with.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Maintenance/Buildings/Grounds/Vehicles (8)

You are concerned about supporting ministry through the use of equipment, buildings and vehicles; you believe in the importance of the church's or local ministry's appearance and the testimony it gives the neighborhood; you believe in excellence, within the fiscal limitation of the church or ministry.

Areas Of Ministry:

Help keep vehicles running; set up maintenance schedule; volunteer to drive bus or van; help set up and/or tear down chairs, tables, equipment; be on a committee to assure safety of building, grounds, vehicles and their appropriate use; oversee janitorial crew; volunteer for painting, carpentry, repairing and landscaping duties; donate any specialized expertise that you have; use your network to try and help the church get quality service at a reasonable or discounted price; donate toward needed equipment.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Christian Education (9)

You believe that the church body should know the Word and how to apply it to their lives; you like to teach; you have a passion for a specific Christian topic and like to share it; you like to find the best teachers for each class, one that knows how to best communicate to the audience; you have a good working knowledge of web-based teaching; you like to help in a Christian resource center and library; you believe that the church should be a resource to its people and strive to have the best educational resources possible.

Areas Of Ministry:

Set up a church library/resource center; teach Sunday school, adult home Bible studies, youth group or senior citizen groups; be a Sunday School superintendent; provide training seminar opportunities; provide teacher training; provide the best classroom equipment possible; strive to get others in the community to attend teaching sessions in the church; bring in specialized speakers to teach on relevant topics, represent learning opportunities to the church.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Counseling/Mentoring (10)

You have empathy for those that are hurting emotionally and socially; you believe that many people can change if they are shown how; you know that situations are complex at best and try not to be overly simplistic in seeking solutions; you believe that God has sent the comforter so you seek to work through the Holy Spirit and the Bible in dealing with people; you believe in the power of mentoring and try to get involved in areas that you can make a contribution; you try to get others involved in mentoring and helping those that need technical, emotion or spiritual help; you believe in support groups where people can comfort and assist others from their own experiences.

Areas Of Ministry:

Set up a counseling center and referral network; volunteer as a mentor in your area of expertise; organize self help groups; use your psychological and/or medical expertise to help in the church or para-

church organization; help start appropriate support groups, meeting the needs of church and community; be a friend to those who are hurting and help them follow up on their therapy or mentoring; help educate the church on Biblical responses to the many emotional and social issues facing Christians today; coordinate prayer, small groups and accountability partners for those needing assistance.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Music (11)

You believe that music is important to the church so you are willing to help anyway that you can; you know that not everyone has the same tastes so you maintain to be true to your calling while trying not to offend others; you believe that music has a wide range of uses and try to glorify God with all that you do.

Areas Of Ministry:

Participate in choir, band or orchestra; teach music; help in marketing music programs; assist as stagehand, lights, or sound; write music and/or lyrics; create or find good arrangements for performances at church; assist in a musical ministry, perform in musical group or as a solo.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Drama/Speech (12)

You want to help communicate Biblical principles through the medium of drama and or speech; you realize that serving God is the highest calling so you strive to do your best for Him; you make your skills available for groups in the church; you are willing to coach others; you know that writing is a scared trust so you dedicate your craft to Him and pray for His guidance.

Areas Of Ministry:

Perform in skits to illustrate sermons; perform in plays for special service; work with choir in performing musical; write dramas, skits and speeches to be used in church; direct dramas; tutor young people in acting; entertain children, elderly and other special groups; speak to different groups in church on various topics; assist in designing and building sets; work as a stage hand; assist in lighting and sound; sell tickets and help with marketing.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Art (13)

You use your creative force to serve God; artistic expression is something you really enjoy and you want to share it; you enjoy helping others learn more about their artistic self; you know that art is a way to make friends and reach out to non-church members.

Areas Of Ministry:

Express yourself through the fine arts, crafts, poetry, graphics or other form of art; help decorate church; use graphics to help communicate; work on web site or presentations; create mural; teach/tutor art; create items to raise money; use your art as a way to befriend someone; communicate and minister through your art.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Adult Ministry (14)

You have a burden for the adults and want to help them get assimilated into the church; you understand adult development and the differences in each generation; you desire to see adults involved in small groups; you seek to help in areas that you have experience and knowledge; you are a team player and want to work with the other adult ministries in the church; you have a passion for adults to be active in ministry; you believe that the church should be reaching out to adults in the community through various creative ministries.

Areas Of Ministry:

Sunday school teacher; host home group meetings; one on one discipleship; lead support group for one of many topics relevant to needs in church and community; mentor adults; teach marriage seminars; assist in parenting skill training; help those that are suffering; be a lay-pastor over small group of adults; help with career set backs; coordinate your services with others in the church; set up career planning and job center in the church; be an adult counselor; host-small home Bible-fellowship group; participate in home visitation; plan social activities for various adult groups; set-up adult resource center.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Computer Technology (15)

We are in the electronic age. You like to work with computers and software and believe that the church should take advantage of technology; you want to be able to help the church or para-church ministry using your skills; you believe in working with a team and understand that in a church there may be different opinions and want to work together for the glory of God; you realize that the church is depending on you so you finish your tasks in a reasonable turnaround time; you are professional in all your endeavors as a volunteer.

Areas Of Ministry:

Setting up networks; work on web site; installing software; teaching software to staff; maintain the system; tutoring/mentoring people in computer skills; help computerize all areas of church ministry; help with web site; set up a computer learning center.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Food Service (16)

You know the importance of food and the role it plays in fellowship and ministry. You believe in the importance of a good kitchen and fellowship hall and having adequate food service. You believe in service and the testimony that it gives to the community and those visiting the church. You want to make sure that weddings, celebrations, funerals, conferences, daycare and other crucial ministries get the food service they need.

Areas Of Ministry

Participate on food service committee, volunteer to cook; help schedule events; volunteer to clean-up; help update and install new food service equipment; participate on regular basis in area of food service; plan meals and organize cooks.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Electronics/Sound/Video (17)

You know that communications is a key to effective ministry. You believe in using electronics, sound and video to produce the best communications possible.

Areas Of Ministry

Installation of new sound system; running sound for services; doing the camera work for a video; creating the story boards for an effective video; editing video; creating a complete electronic suite for the auditorium; managing the sound, light, video team for church services.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Missions (18)

You believe that God has called us to go into the whole world to preach the gospel and as a church we should be involved in missions; you do what you can to keep the cause of missions in the forefront of church business; you take prayer and the raising of support for the missionaries as a sacred trust; while the missionaries are on the field, you are an advocate for them.

Areas Of Ministry:

Being on the Mission Board; praying faithfully for the missionaries; collecting gifts, supplies and support for those in the field; help missionary with furlough plans; work on annual Missions conference; coordinate short term mission trips for members of the church, circulate missions articles and stories to the church.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Pastoral Duties (19)

You have a "call" in your life to oversee a congregation (or a specialized group like seniors, youth, prisoners, homeless, sport teams, mission groups etc.); you see preaching and teaching as a sacred call and therefore prepare diligently both in prayer and study before you preach or teach the Word of God; you take time to be with God so you can be the person that He wants you to be; you resist being proud and strive to be a servant leader; you trust God for your ministry and go where He is working; you like to assist in pastoral duties of visitation, comforting the hurting, welcoming new people and helping them assimilate into the church; assist in leadership and vision of the church.

Areas Of Ministry:

Preaching; teaching; administration; overseeing the spiritual welfare of those entrusted to you; visit members of the church; perform various ceremonies, i.e. weddings, funerals, dedications, baptisms, communion; responsible for church services; contribute to the vision of the church; assist in the leadership.

Leisure and Recreation Ministry (20)

You believe that church buildings should serve the church and community through leisure and recreational activities. You like to assist with sports programs like softball, basketball and soccer that help give the congregation an outlet and an opportunity to invite the community. You would like to assist in having cultural events on campus. You believe that the church can be a witness by providing wholesome, well organized and supervised sports programs for the community.

Areas Of Ministry:

Using a gym and fields for special events, sports and cultural activities; camping programs; senior day care program; Awana, Brigade, Pioneer programs; Upward Basketball; art training; exercise facilities, walking trails, boys and girl scouts, after school programs; and community center.

Using a scale of 1 - 5, rate whether you feel you would like to serve in this ministry (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much so) Your Score _____

Ministry Preference Survey

The next test is the Ministry Preference Survey. This is a series of ministries that you rate according to how much they interest and appeal to you. You rate them on a scale 1 being the lowest interest to 5 being the highest interest, without using 3's. You want to rate each ministry as to how much you would enjoy participating in it and considering it one of your areas of service.

Go through the following list of behaviors and rate them **1, 2, 4 or 5** (Please no 3's) according to how much they interest and appeal to you. How much you would enjoy participating in this and consider it one of your areas of service.

Please write the corresponding number in the space at the left of phrase. Mark 1, 2, 4 or 5 (no 3's)

5 = This really interests you very much, want to serve this way

4 = This is of interest to you, could see yourself serving this way

2 = A little interest, perhaps, if you had to, you could serve this way

1 = No interest at all, do not feel this is your area of service

SAMPLE

4 Provide meals for the suffering (5)

BEGIN

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work on the church strategic plan (7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Write skits (12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take meals to shut-ins (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in yearly Spring clean-up at church (8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead youth Bible study (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read children stories (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on missions committee (18) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead support group (10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach evangelism course (3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead single adult ministry (14) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help prepare meals for social (16) | <input type="checkbox"/> Comfort those that are sick (4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in disaster clean-up (5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with large banquet (16) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organize basketball ministry (20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Help people learn the Bible (9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set up computer network (15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Use desktop publishing for materials (13) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct a play (12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead children in games (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preach a sermon (19) | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in camping program (20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in church landscaping (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up accounting/database on computer (15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in nursery (2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Help make phone calls for meetings (6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach teaching skills (9) | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with community blood drive (5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach adult Sunday school (14) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spend time with youth on a retreat (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manage an office (6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute gospel literature (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide meals for the suffering (5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Repair and maintain vehicles (8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compose songs (11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Organize short-term missions trip (18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make signs (13) | <input type="checkbox"/> Play in orchestra (11) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help keep church on budget (7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Perform marriages and funerals (19) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pick up elderly for special meetings (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautify the front of sanctuary (13) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fix computers (15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in cultural event at church (20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plan youth activities (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray with Pastor over church issues (7) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Work in church library (9) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in mailings (6) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with the sound system (17) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to people's problems (10) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Share about the love of God (3) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for a vision for the church (19) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Do home repairs for elderly in community (5) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep in contact with missionaries (18) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Help a person finish a task (10) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead a topical Bible study (9) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Drive young people to socials (1) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Help serve food at church conference (16) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit a lonely person (4) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Speak in front of a group (12) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Update church on mission news (18) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Do accounting (6) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Edit video (17) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on recreation committee (20) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Organize and run a meeting (7) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing in a choir (11) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Work in church-based job center (5) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet and pray with members of the church (19) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach parenting skills (14) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Spend time in conversation with elderly (4) |

- Coach a person (10)
- Share my personal testimony (3)
- Take minutes at meetings (6)
- Oversee the day to day functioning of the church (19)
- Make sure church is run efficiently (7)
- Volunteer to help with sports program (20)
- Organize men's breakfast (14)
- Chaperone youth retreat (1)
- Paint a mural (13)
- Preside over meetings (7)
- Volunteer children's Bible Club (2)
- Representative at mission conferences (18)
- Organize marriage seminars (14)
- Storyboard videos (17)
- Participate on building committee (8)
- Lead games on youth night (1)
- Maintain food pantry for church kitchen (16)
- Play in band (11)
- Write a Christian drama (12)
- Teach word processing (15)
- Teach toddler Sunday school (2)
- Help clean church (8)
- Consult on sound system (17)
- Help referee sports events (20)
- Answer phones in office (6)
- Lead singing (11)
- Work with city wide evangelistic outreach (3)
- Express myself through photography (13)
- Recruit teachers (9)
- Perform in drama (12)
- Collect food for the hungry (5)
- Run camera for video production (17)
- Assist with senior recreation program (20)
- Be accountability partner (10)
- Help paint church (8)
- Install software (15)
- Help with pre-schoolers (2)
- Organize Sunday school (9)
- Chair Deacon/Deaconess meetings (7)
- Play in orchestra (11)
- Visit elderly in nursing homes (4)
- Serve on quarterly kitchen clean-up (16)
- Illustrate literature (13)
- Counsel at youth camp (1)
- Do dramatic story telling (12)
- Run audio/visual during church service (17)
- Help build affordable housing (5)
- Teach crafts and games to children (2)
- Get Christmas gifts for missionaries (18)
- Help decorate for banquets (16)
- Create and maintain web site (15)
- Create or find good music arrangements (11)
- Give gospel presentation to group (3)
- Host adult small group fellowships (14)
- Find age specific church curriculum (9)

- Visit and pray with people in their home (19)
- Create artistic bulletin boards (13)
- Give respite to those caring for dying (4)
- Mentor someone in your own skills (10)
- Work as stage hand for play (12)
- Help with parking on Sunday (8)
- Prepare desserts for meals (16)
- Assist in church mailings (6)
- Organize men's (or women's) group (14)
- Serve as deacons/deaconesses (19)
- Teach seminars on emotional issues (10)
- Set up power point presentations (17)
- Organize mission conference/ministry fair (18)
- Invite people to contemporary gospel programs (3)
- Set up computer learning center (15)

YOUR SCORE

When you are through, please score your test. Please note that there is a number in parentheses () at the end of each phrase. Please look at all the phrases with the same number after them. Write down the score you gave to each phrase.

FOR EXAMPLE: All phrases with (1) after them. Let's say you scored; 1,2,4,2,1,5. Please write your scores in the long horizontal box next to number 1. Then add them, in this case the total is 15, and put the sum in the TOTAL box.

1. Youth Ministry TOTAL

1, 2, 4, 2, 1, 5

15

Please put in your own scores below

1. Youth Ministry TOTAL

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2. Children's Ministry

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3. Evangelism

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4. Visitation of Sick and Elderly

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5. Mercy Ministry TOTAL

6. Administration

7. Leadership

8. Maintenance/Building/Grounds/Vehicles

9. Christian Education

10. Counseling/Mentoring

11. Music Ministry

12. Drama/Speech Ministry

13. Artistic Ministry

14. Adult Ministry

15. Computer Technology

16. Food Service TOTAL

17. Sound/Video/Multi-media

18. Missions

19. Pastoral Duties

20. Leisure/Recreational Ministry

Interpreting Your Score

The most you could score for any one category is 35 points. That's seven scores with the maximum of five points each.

What Does Your Score Mean?

When you add up a group of ministries in each category, the collective score represents your preference as far as a category is concerned. If you rated it high, then from all appearances it seems that this ministry category may be a passion that you should pursue more. There are many opportunities to serve professionally or as a lay person in the different categories.

A good way to validate your score is the buddy test. Have a close friend or relative rate the sheet with you in mind. See if their conclusions are the same as yours. If not, you may want to inquire why and test it some more with other friends. If everyone rates you lower in the ministry preference than you did, it does not mean you cannot pursue this ministry. Rather, pray about it and find someone who is already doing it well. Ask them if there are some tests they can

give you or questions that they can ask and then give you an opinion. This might help you come to a conclusion as to pursue this ministry or not.

35 – 30 Very dominant preference. If not already busy in this ministry, you should consider it. If you don't minister this way already, perhaps you should take this test result to someone in the church or para-church ministry you are interested in helping and even consider training.

29 – 25 A strong desire to serve in this type of ministry. If not involved already, you could find someone who needs help and volunteer. You could also seek training. We encourage you to talk to someone at the church or local ministry about this test score.

24 – 20 This is not a real strong preference, but nevertheless, one that you are comfortable with. There will no doubt be occasion when you will be called upon to minister in this capacity. You should not hesitate, but think seriously before you make any long-term commitment.

19 and below It isn't that these are bad ministries or that you cannot do them. It means that they are not a strong passion of yours at this time.

Want to know about what ministry you should serve in? If so, go to www.layministry.com and download your free copy of *How Am I Wired For Ministry?*

Do you know what your Spiritual Gifts are? If not, go to www.layministry.com and download your FREE Spiritual Gifts Test and Workbook.