

# *Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life*

## **Small Group Guide: “Participating in Community”**

(LifelongFaith Associates)

### **Preparation**

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#### **Materials**

- The following handouts are included with this session:
  1. *Identifying Gifts and Talents*
  2. *Stewardship Ideas for Teens and Adults*
- Paper, pens/pencils for everyone
- 3x5 file cards (Enough to give person 4-5 cards.)

#### **Identifying Community Witnesses**

Incorporate members of your church community who are engaged in church ministries and civic and world communities into the presentation of the Christian teaching on the practice. After the first part of your presentation “Participating in the Church Community” have several church members share why and how they are engaged in the church. After the second part, “Participating in the World,” have several church members share why and how they are engaged in the civic community and in the world community. The goal of the “community witness” stories is to have people share how their faith in Jesus Christ is expressed in their engagement in the church, civic, and world communities, and how they benefit from their participation. Be sure to invite a variety a people so that people see that participation is for everyone! Invite children, teens, young adults, adults (single and married couples), parents, “empty-nest” couples, adults in later life, etc.

#### **Presenting Information on Ways to Participate in Community**

Here are three ideas that you can use alone or together to present ways that people can strengthen their involvement in community: a booklet of ideas and projects, exhibits, and a panel. You can also create a PowerPoint presentation or DVD with photos and illustrations of the variety of ways people can participate in church, civic community, and the world community. Each will take advance preparation.

##### **Community Involvement Booklet**

You can develop a booklet with ways that people can be involved in the church community (e.g., church ministries), civic community (e.g., organizations and projects), and world community (e.g., organizations and projects). Research your church, local organizations, and global projects on a variety of justice issues. Research websites of recognized organizations for information. You also use the ideas on the handouts, *Stewardship Ideas for Children* and *Stewardship Ideas for Teens and Adults*. For examples of national and global projects see Chapter 12, “Transforming the World,” in *Living Well* and the Transforming the World learning activities online at [www.lifelongfaith.com](http://www.lifelongfaith.com).

**Display**

You can organize displays/exhibits of ideas for participating in a community. Staff the displays with people representing church ministries, community organizations, and global projects. You can access national and international organizations, such as World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Habitat for Humanity, UNICEF, and Heifer Project, via their web sites to download project ideas, pictures, and descriptions.

**Panel**

You can organize a panel of presenters, representing parish ministries, community organizations, and national/international projects, who speak briefly about the ways people can get involved. Instead of using organization representatives, you can invite church members who are involved with the ministry or organization to share their firsthand experience.

# **Small Group Plan**

## **Part 1. Yearning: Stories of Participating in Community**

### **1. Yearning—Stories of Community Engagement**

Have some present this introduction to the session (from page 9.2 in *Living Well*):

*Looking for a community to belong to? We all are; no one really wants to be alone. But when it comes to belonging to and participating in a community, we're confused. Do we have time to become involved in a community? What type of community? How can we find ways to participate meaningfully in our church, our civic community, and our world?*

Read or present the three opening stories the three opening stories, “You’re Telling Us to Work on Sunday,” “City on a Mission,” and “A Typical Wednesday Night,” on pages 9.2–9.4 in *Living Well*. Use a different reader for each story.

## **Part 2. Reflecting**

### **1. Reflection Activity: How Are You Participating in Community**

After reading the stories share with your group how you are currently participating in the life of the community: church, civic community, and world community. Share your responses to one question at a time. After everyone has shared, moved to the second, then third question.

1. In what ways are you (and your household) involved in your church community throughout the year?
2. In what ways are you (and your household) involved in activities and projects in your civic community? How do you and your household make a positive contribution to your civic community?
3. In what ways are you (and your household) involved in the world community – making a positive contribution to people around the world?

### **2. The Benefits of Participating**

Read the commentary on pages 9.5 and 9.6 in *Living Well* describing the benefits of participating in community.

As a group identify the benefits that come from participating in the church community, civic community, and/or world community.

## **Part 3. Exploring: The Christian Practice of Participating in Community**

**(Optional Additional Activity: Community Witness:** Invite people to present their stories of participation in the church community and world during this part of the session.)

The Exploring section of the “Participating in Community” chapter on pages 9.7–9.10 in *Living Well* presents biblical teaching and examples in two section: Participating in the Church Community, and Participating in the World.

Together as a group review the “Participating in the Church Community” section: Scripture readings, the key points, and examples in the *Living Well* book. Identify examples of how people are engaged in your own church community.

Together as a group review the “Participating in the World” section: Scripture readings, the key points, and examples in the *Living Well* book. Identify examples of how people in your church are engaged in the civic community and world community.

Conclude with a group discussions using the following question. Display the question on a PowerPoint presentation or on newsprint for all to see.

- What did you learn about the Christian teaching on participating in community that can be beneficial for you and your household? How were you affirmed by the biblical teaching, examples, and witness stories? How were you challenged?

## **Part 4. *Living*: Application of the Christian Practice of Participating in Community to Daily Life**

### **1. Identifying Gifts and Talents**

Everyone will complete a gifts and interest inventory using the handout, *Identifying Gifts and Talents*.

Read (or have someone present) introduction to activity on page 9.11 of *Living Well*.

Take time to complete the two inventories on the handout (and on pages 9.12-13 in *Living Well*).

### **2. Findings Ways to Participate in Community**

Review a variety of ways that people can strengthen their participation in community: church, civic, world using the resources prepare for the session: PowerPoint presentation, booklet, exhibit, or panel.

### **3. Connecting Gifts with Ways to Participate in Community: Church, Civic Community, and World**

Now that you have explored the many ways to participate more fully in community, review the gifts you identified and the potential involvements you selected on the *Identifying Gifts and Talents* inventory.

Using the variety of community participation ideas that you explored, identify specific ways you can participate more fully in community. Connect what you discovered from the inventory with the variety of ideas. List the best ideas on one file card.

To strengthen your participation in community consider making one new commitment to your church community, one to the civic community, and one to the world community. Write one commitment per file card. For each idea complete a simple action plan:

1. List 2-3 actions you would like to take to implement this commitment.
2. Describe what you will do to put each action into practice, and the steps you will take to ensure that it will happen.

After everyone has completed their Participation Commitment Cards, share one commitment and action plan with group.

## **Part 5. Praying**

Pray together the “Prayer for Our Community and World” on page 9.16 in *Living Well* and/or the prayer below.

*Generous God,*

*We thank you for all the gifts you have given us.*

*We know that all we have received is from your hand.*

*Gracious and loving God, you call us to participate in the life of our communities,*

*our church community*

*our civic community*

*our world community*

*Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.*

*Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message of love to those we serve.*

*May we bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives every day.*

*We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.*

*Amen.*

# Identifying Gifts & Talents

*Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God. (1 Peter 4:10)*

*Each of us is like a gift package from God. Our combination of gifts is unique. Not one of us has ever been replicated on this earth! Our giftedness includes our talents and abilities, styles, interests, experiences, preferences, and passions for serving in the world. Our gifts are part of an abundant web of giftedness in our faith community. These gifts were given to us so that we might minister together as partners in God's work in the world. And our gifts are meant for us too! When we live out our gifts, we discover the joys of an abundant life.  
(Jean Morris Trumbauer, *Created and Called*)*

Begin the process of strengthening your involvement in church and community by identifying your God-given gifts and talents. Involve everyone in your household in the "gifts inventory."

## My gifts are...

Check up to a dozen things you do well. Have each member of your household do this. Feel free to add other gifts not specifically listed. (Adapted from *Created and Called* by Jean Morris Trumbauer.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> accounting/finances/budget           | <input type="checkbox"/> mechanical work                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> acting/drama                         | <input type="checkbox"/> mediating and problem-solving    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> artwork/crafts                       | <input type="checkbox"/> medical/nursing care             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> caring and compassion                | <input type="checkbox"/> mentoring/tutoring               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carpentry/building                   | <input type="checkbox"/> music: instrumental or voice     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child care                           | <input type="checkbox"/> photography                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clerical work                        | <input type="checkbox"/> planning/visioning               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communication                        | <input type="checkbox"/> praying                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer skills                      | <input type="checkbox"/> promotion/advertising            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cooking and serving food             | <input type="checkbox"/> public speaking                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> coordinating and organizing projects | <input type="checkbox"/> researching                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dancing                              | <input type="checkbox"/> sewing                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> decorating                           | <input type="checkbox"/> social justice work              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> facilitating and working with groups | <input type="checkbox"/> sound recording/audio production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> faith-sharing                        | <input type="checkbox"/> teaching/training                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising                          | <input type="checkbox"/> video and video production       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gardening                            | <input type="checkbox"/> visiting others                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> graphic design                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Web design                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hospitality                          | <input type="checkbox"/> writing                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> housekeeping                         | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> legal services                       | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> listening                            | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> maintaining buildings/grounds        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                            |

## Identifying Ways to Be Involved in Church, Community, and World

Equipped with a list of your gifts and talents and those of your household, you can now start to consider the type of activities you and members of your household might want to be involved in. Take a look at the two lists below, one for the church community and one for the civic community and world. Think about which interests best match with your gifts and talents. Some activities may be more traditional, such as teaching or singing, while others may be new, such as Web ministry. (Adapted from *Created and Called* by Jean Morris Trumbauer)

### I have experience or interest in these areas of involvement in the church...

Mark the three greatest areas of experience (E) with a 1, 2, and 3. Mark the three greatest areas of interest (I) with A, B, C.

E	I	Potential Involvement
_____	_____	aging
_____	_____	arts
_____	_____	children's ministry
_____	_____	consolation/grief ministry
_____	_____	communications/media
_____	_____	community outreach/service
_____	_____	data administration
_____	_____	education: children
_____	_____	education: youth
_____	_____	education: adults
_____	_____	family ministry
_____	_____	finance
_____	_____	global mission
_____	_____	health ministry
_____	_____	media ministry
_____	_____	music
_____	_____	new member welcome
_____	_____	pastoral care
_____	_____	prayer ministry
_____	_____	property management
_____	_____	recovery ministry
_____	_____	sacramental preparation
_____	_____	singles ministry
_____	_____	small faith communities
_____	_____	social justice
_____	_____	social/community life
_____	_____	spiritual growth
_____	_____	stewardship
_____	_____	visual communication
_____	_____	Web ministry/cyberministry
_____	_____	worship/liturgy
_____	_____	young adult ministry
_____	_____	youth ministry
_____	_____	other: _____
_____	_____	other: _____

### I have experience or interest in these areas of involvement in the community and world...

Mark the three greatest areas of experience (E) with a 1, 2, and 3. Mark the three greatest areas of interest (I) with A, B, C.

E	I	Potential Involvement
_____	_____	abuse
_____	_____	addiction and recovery
_____	_____	the arts
_____	_____	care for and dignity of the elderly
_____	_____	disabilities
_____	_____	disaster relief
_____	_____	discrimination
_____	_____	economic/community development
_____	_____	education: children, youth
_____	_____	employment
_____	_____	environment
_____	_____	governmental and political reform
_____	_____	grief and loss
_____	_____	health care
_____	_____	homelessness
_____	_____	human rights
_____	_____	hunger
_____	_____	literacy
_____	_____	mental health
_____	_____	poverty and economic disparity
_____	_____	prisons and rehabilitation
_____	_____	violence
_____	_____	war and peace
_____	_____	other: _____

# Stewardship Ideas for Teens and Adults

## Being a Good Steward of Your Treasure

### Consider This. . .

- \$.25 can feed a refugee child for a day.
- \$10 would buy a box of nails for a new house.
- \$25 would buy five pounds of seed corn in Honduras
- \$25 would buy a month's care for an orphaned child
- \$25 would buy school supply kits for two children in Africa
- \$200 (the price of a new modest TV set) would allow farmers in Peru to purchase several llamas or a woman in India can buy an income-producing sewing machine
- \$500 spent on the UNICEF child survival program saves a child's life
- \$500 (the cost of a new appliance) would give some family a heifer that would provide milk and income or two water buffalo for plowing rice fields
- \$1000 would buy all of the wallboard for a new Habitat for Humanity house
- \$2500 (the price of a family vacation) could build three adobe homes for hurricane victims in Central America

## Ideas for Being a Good Steward of Your Treasure

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking about how to share your treasure:

- Give a donation to UNICEF and their efforts to meet the essential needs of poor children all around the world through education, nutrition, and health care. Go to the UNICEF web site.
- Give a donation—large or small—to Habitat for Humanity to build a home in the U.S. or another country around the world. Build a house online with Habitat's interactive tool. Donate the cost of items such as nails, shingles, and plumbing. Consider becoming a monthly donor. Go to the Habitat for Humanity web site.
- Donate money or books to Room for Read. Room to Read partners with local communities throughout the developing world to establish schools, libraries, and other educational infrastructure. Donate new, children's storybooks, ABC and 123 books, picture books for young children, hardcover books that are thick and durable, educational books that are fun - science, geography, math, world history, etc. Go to the Room to Read web site for more information.
- Protect the environment creation through "Adopt an Acre" of the Nature Conservancy and preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Adopt-A-Rainforest through Rainforest Alliance.<http://> Protect Endangered Species through the World Wildlife Fund. Go to their web sites for more information.
- Adopt a village through "My Global Village," a Catholic Relief Services project, and help a whole community build a clinic, a source of potable water, decent classrooms, farming, and so on. Go to the Global Village website at CRS to make a donation and then get updates, news, and stories about the people you are helping.
- Support one of the 56 Catholic Relief Service Projects around the world through "Gift of Hope." CRS has an online and print catalog of the projects with descriptions and the per share cost of supporting the project. Visit the Catholic Relief Services web site for more information.
- Purchase products from organizations funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development that produce everything from organic cheese produced by family farmers to soaps made by low-income women. Go to the CCHD web site for more information.

- Donate money to Food For The Poor to provide direct relief assistance to the poor by purchasing specifically requested materials and distributing them through the churches and charity organizations already operating in areas of need. Purchase a gift from their catalog, support a project, recycle inkjet and toner cartridges. Go to their web site for more information.
- Sponsor children and the aging through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging and connect with a poor child or aging friend at a Catholic mission site. The poor that CFCA serve suffer from malnutrition, inadequate medical care, and/or poor housing, with little chance for the children to receive an education. Go to their web site for sponsorship information.
- Purchase fair trade products through Catholic Relief Services' "Work of Human Hands," Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and Global Exchange that support farmers and artisans in poor communities pay for food, education, health care and housing. Fair Trade encompasses a range of goods, from agricultural products like coffee, chocolate, tea, and bananas, to handcrafts like clothing, household items, and decorative arts. Go to the web sites of the organizations and discover the products you can purchase.

## **Being a Good Steward of Your Time**

### **Ideas for Being a Good Steward of Your Time**

In just one or two hours per week or month, you could:

- Prepare and serve a meal at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Collect food for the local food bank.
- Collect clothes for those in need at homeless shelters and child care centers in a poor community.
- Visit the elderly at a senior citizen facility.
- Visit the homebound in the parish and/or do grocery shopping for them.
- Tutor children.
- Serve in a parish ministry by being a eucharistic minister, lector, youth leader or teacher, or serving on a leadership committee.

In just one day each year, you could

- Help the Red Cross during local emergencies.
- Work with the Special Olympics.
- Weatherize, repair, and/or paint a home for those in need. Contact your local Habitat for Humanity chapter.
- Plant trees in your community through the Global Releaf Program and National Arbor Day Foundation programs. See their web sites for more information.
- Organize a "clean-up the community day" and mobilize teams of people to clean-up litter and junk in specific areas of the community.

In one week each year, you could

- Build a house with habitat for humanity in the U.S. through a Habitat "volunteer vacation."
- Organize a craft fair featuring fair trade crafts, or create a gift catalog for your parish community and sell fair trade items. For more information go the web sites for Catholic Relief Services, Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and Global Exchange. Consider organizing a fair trade gift sale at Christmas or Easter or anytime throughout the year.

## Being a Good Steward of Your Talent

### Ideas for Being a Good Steward of Your Gifts and Talents

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking about how to share your talents:

- Use your gifts and talents in service to the elderly in your community. For example: create a network of people to drive elderly persons, do fall and spring housecleaning for the homebound, write letters for nursing home residents who can no longer write, entertain the elderly in nursing homes.
- Use your gifts and talents in service to the children in your community. For example: tutor children, teach computer skills, get involved in a recreation or an arts and crafts program, help with summer programs for children, be a Big Brother or Big Sister, coach children in sports.
- Weatherize, repair, and paint homes for those in need. Check with the local Habit for Humanity affiliate in your area.
- Use your gifts and talents in service to people with disabling conditions. For example: work with Special Olympics or programs for the developmentally-challenged, read for the blind, offer a shuttle service, make your church facility accessible for all.
- Use your gifts and talents in service to the parish community through parish ministries and programs.
- Share your time and talent, and donate goods and materials to an organization initiated and led by poor and low-income people as they empower themselves and become leaders in their communities. Visit the Catholic Campaign for Human Development web site to find local opportunities in which you might invest your energy, talent, and experience.

# Resources for Developing the Christian Practice of Participating in Community

*The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering.* Jenny Friedman. Beltsville, MD: Robins Lane Press, 2003.

Volunteering is an important way to cultivate compassion, gratitude, and empathy in children and to bring families together in meaningful ways. For busy parents who want to spend time with their kids while still contributing to their community, family volunteering is an opportunity to combine two commitments into one. This book is -perfect for every family because it offers flexibility – volunteer for long-term projects or one-time events. Whether you have a two-year-old or an eighteen-year-old, you'll find everything you need to know to have a fulfilling and fun volunteer experience, from finding the right opportunity for your family to answering hesitations you may have. The perfect book for families who want to do good things for their community, spend quality time together, and have fun!

*Created and Called: Discovering Our Gifts for Abundant Living.* Jean M. Trumbauer. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1998.

True to its title, *Created and Called* emphasizes that we are co-creators with God and that each person is gifted and called to ministry. Unlike manuals with similar themes, *Created and Called* explains how our gifts are more than our most visible talents and skills: they include our interests, motivations, styles, values, hopes, and vulnerabilities. Jean Trumbauer helps us to recognize and integrate our gifts and apply them to needs in both the church and the larger community. *Created and Called* includes reflection guides, exercises, samples, and resources in each chapter,

*Everybody Wants to Change the World: Practical Ideas for Social Justice.* Tony Campolo and Gordon Aeschliman. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2006,

All over the world – and in your community – people are lonely, hungry, sick, struggling to make ends meet, bitter, imprisoned, dying. Do you feel powerless to make a difference? You don't have to be helpless! From the simplest acts of kindness to more complex works of mercy, you'll find more than 100 practical ideas for compassionately responding to the needs of others. It's all here, from suggestions about working with the poor to honoring and assisting the elderly; helping immigrants assimilate and supporting the sick; respecting and serving the disabled, showing compassion to those in prison, and caring for the environment. You'll discover practical ways to begin making a difference in your community today, and helping others catch a vision for changing the world! A leader's guide makes this adaptable for group study, as well as individual reading. Jesus calls us to creatively and courageously share the good news by loving our neighbor. It's time to begin!

*The Externally Focused Church.* Rick Rusaw, Eric Swanson, Authors. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2004.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." This quote expresses the book's thesis that "service is, and should be, the identifying mark of Christians and the church." Through community service, the church engages with its community – thus allowing the church not only to tell the gospel, but also to show it. In today's culture, passionate and relevant community service may be the most effective way to communicate the gospel. Externally focused churches are "convinced that effectiveness is not measured by what happens inside the church but rather by the impact the people of the church have on their community." The eleven chapters of this book provide clear, honest, and practical answers to why a church should be externally focused; what an externally focused church tries to accomplish; and how a church

can start or improve upon community service. The appendix lists scriptures that “reveal God’s heart for the poor, the needy, widows, orphans, and aliens” and scriptures “concerning good works and good deeds.” Each chapter begins with a brief thematic story and ends with a summary statement, discussion questions, suggested actions, and sermon ideas. Also included are examples illustrating the successes and challenges of church community service.

*Growing Compassionate Kids: Helping Kids See Beyond Their Backyard.* Jan Johnson. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2001.

Open a new world of possibilities for your kids, where making a difference for others becomes a way of life! *Growing Compassionate Kids* illustrates practical everyday ways for parents to help children develop empathy and seek justice in the world. As one reviewer says, “This book is a wonderful antidote to both ‘compassion fatigue’ and the frustrations of Christian parenting in a selfish society.” Jan Johnson, a well-known author who deals with Christian spirituality, helps moms and dads and grandparents learn to incorporate social outreach and mission into the often- hectic everyday realities of family life. When children see these living examples, they’ll grow to be disciples of Christ and learn to consider others above self. “Teaching kids to care for people is one more way to teach our children to love God,” writes the author. “A child growing in empathy is moving from isolation to connection, from self-centeredness to others-awareness, from hostility to hospitality.” Couldn’t the world use more people like that? There’s no greater legacy we could leave to our kids and to humankind. Questions for reflection plus personal and family devotions are included in each chapter.

*Our Day to End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make a Difference.* Shannon Daley-Harris, Jeffrey Keenan, Karen Speerstra. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2007.

This book is organized around the typical activities of an ordinary 24-hour day and then showing how to see them as part of the path out of poverty. For example, making breakfast, taking the kids to school, and checking email are connected to addressing world hunger, making education available to all, and ensuring access to appropriate technology. The authors presents hundreds of steps we can take to combat poverty and all its attendant evils. The chapters are designed to animate our ethical action behind the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which all deal with poverty-related problems. *Our Day to End Poverty* is divided into sections on morning, afternoon, and evening. Here are the topics covered in evening: Extend Hospitality and Create Community, Spread Literacy, Improve Transportation Options, Travel with a Purpose, Save the Lives of Mothers and Newborns, Improve Access to Clean Water, Increase International Development Aid, and Speak Up for Justice: More Thoughts on Advocacy.

*The Power of Serving Others: You Can Start Where You Are.* Gary Morsch and Dean Nelson. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2006.

Helping others can give our lives a sense of meaning and purpose that nothing else can. And yet many of us think that serving others just isn’t an option. We think we don’t have the time. We don’t have the skills. We don’t have the resources. We don’t know where to start. The problems of the world are just too big for us to possibly make a difference. In *The Power of Serving Others*, Gary Morsch and Dean Nelson show that everybody has something to contribute and that our ability to transform our lives by transforming the lives of others is within our reach. Offering step-by-step advice, they address the common mental blocks that keep many of us from discovering the joy and power of serving others, and they will teach you how to establish meaning through daily service. Drawing on their own experiences in places like Calcutta, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Tanzania, and right here in the United States, and featuring moving personal stories from people ranging from a former Black Panther Party member to Mother Teresa, Morsch and Nelson show how people from all walks of life have found a deep

sense of fulfillment through simple gestures of service. Many of the problems the people in this book are helping with--reconstruction in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Asian tsunami, combating AIDS in Africa, healing the wounds of the Balkan civil war – seem utterly daunting. What can you possibly do in the face of such need? *The Power of Serving Others* shows that no matter who you are – regardless of your age, expertise, or position – you can enrich your own life and the lives of others through service.

*Sharing the Ministry: A Practical Guide for Transforming Volunteers into Ministers.* Jean M. Trumbauer. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1999.

Jean Trumbauer presents a new paradigm of volunteer ministry based on the assumptions that each person is uniquely gifted for ministry, that church ministry is shared, and that staff and lay leaders are to help identify, develop, use, and support the gifts of all members. After explaining the shared ministry systems model, Trumbauer explores the model's processes: planning, discovering gifts, designing, recruiting, interviewing, matching, training, supervising, supporting, evaluating, and managing data. *Sharing the Ministry* includes reflection exercises, sample models, and further resources listed in each chapter. Readers may also purchase "personal reflection guides" that facilitate gifts discernment.

*Teaching Kids to Care and Share: 300+ Mission and Service Ideas for Children.* Jolene L. Roehlkepartain. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

This volume provides over 300 inventive, hands-on activities that involve children in service to one another, their churches and local communities, and the world. Within these pages, children's workers and leaders will find short and long-term active service/learning opportunities that encourage the youngest members of their congregation to follow Jesus' example of living their faith by caring for others. The book features: lively, age-appropriate projects and activities for 3- to 5-year-olds, 6- to 9-year-olds, and 10- to 12-year-olds; guidance for working with children of different ages and abilities; ready-to-use reproducible pages and a Scripture and topic index; and contact information for numerous national and international service organizations and programs that work with and relate to children