

Simple Outreach Ideas for Church Planters

How To Let Your City Know You Love Them Before You Launch

The goal of this list is to provide outreach ideas that are simple, cheap (preferably free), and easy for a church planter to pull off with few people or many.

Pre-launch outreaches should be able to impact the many people without maximum effort in a season when you are still team building and fundraising. A good outreach will both serve your community and make them aware of what kind of church you are planting.

Tips for creating an effective outreach:

1. Have your team wear t-shirts with your churches logo when serving.
2. Bring invite cards to every outreach and plan to give them to each person you serve.
3. Document outreach and tell the stories through social media and videos at your church services.
4. Be ready to share about the outreaches you have been a part of during pre-launch on your launch day.
5. When food is involved make sure to follow food safety guidelines.
6. Consider outreaches based around different times of the year, holidays, sporting events, festivals, school calendar, university calendar.
7. Your outreach should be something that contributes without taking away (Don't giveaway free coffee outside a local cafe).
8. Prioritize safety and make sure people have the appropriate amount of training and experience before attempting a specialized serve (cutting down tree branches, changing oil in a car).
9. Remember to leave everywhere better than you found it. Make sure there is a plan to clean up after your outreach.
10. Serve with no strings attached. Be sensitive to the opportunity to pray for someone or share the gospel, but don't make serving them about them having to come to your church or listen to you preach.

Outreach Ideas:

1. Hand out bottles of water on a hot day.
2. Hand out bottles of water at a local race.
3. Offer to bring a cheer team to cheer people on at a local race.
4. Hand out bottles of water, hot chocolate, or coffee at a local festival.
5. Hand out bottles of water, hot chocolate, or coffee at a popular park.
6. Hand out bottles of water at a neighborhood entrance near your launch location.

7. Hand out hot chocolate or coffee on a cold day.
8. Hand out water, hot chocolate, or coffee where home people people gather.
9. Hand out bottles of water, hot chocolate or coffee on a cold day at the train station or bus station.
10. Bring a food truck to a popular park for families.
11. Bring a food truck to a homeless shelter for an outside living room hangout.
12. Offer to include marketing merchandise with your church logo on it to be in the giveaway bags your visitor bureau uses.
13. Offer to include marketing merchandise with your church logo on it to be included in the giveaway bags for large races and fitness expos in your city.
14. Check your cities calendar of events to see when people are gathering and offering to help clean up with your launch team.
15. Give a way small LED flashlight keychains with your church logo on them after a Fireworks show, sporting event, or concert as people are walking back to their car in the dark.
16. Plan a clean up day in a neighborhood near your launch and have your team show up to pick up trash along the streets, parks and intersections in your church logo shirts.
17. Hand out \$5 gift cards outside of the local grocery store and let people know you are a church that wants something for people not from them.
18. Hand out \$5 gift cards outside of a popular coffee and let people know you are a church that wants something for people not from them.
19. Hand out McDonald's gift card for a free dessert during busy times at the restaurant.
20. Have a tailgate party and invite everyone for free hotdogs and soda or bottled water.
21. Give out bottled water while people are tailgating before football games.
22. Volunteer to clear up the venue after a local sporting event.
23. Volunteer to run the concession stand at a local school for a sporting event.
24. Offer to purchase a free soda for every person that comes up the concession stand a school sporting event.
25. Put on a free car wash and advertise, "No tips accepted!"
26. Coordinate with your city to clean up or paint a park.
27. Coordinate with your city to clean to plant a garden.

28. Find a park that is active and pass out free popsicles.
29. Adopt the mile in front of your meeting place (to pick up litter). The city will put up a sign with the church's name on it for free.
30. Partner with restaurant in town to upsize meals for free during lunch, and pass out church cards.
31. Pick a neighborhood and cut every lawn in the neighborhood for free.
32. Movies on the lawn in neighborhoods in town. Set up a projector and shoot a movie off of your house, or a blow up screen.
33. Pass out gas gift cards at a local gas station.
34. Place snacks in the local hospital waiting room with church info.
35. Drop off food regularly to the local first responders.
36. Host a neighborhood block parties or cookout.
37. Pass out movie ticket gift cards at the local movie theatre.
38. Purchase game tickets to a local school sporting event and hand people an invite card as they enter.
39. Coordinate with a school in advance to sponsor tickets for the first certain amount of people. They will promote that your church is covering the cost in hopes to have more people attend the game.
40. Take doughnuts to all of the local business in town with church information (especially those near your venue).
41. Purchase digital Starbucks gift card and place the bar code on your church instagram for your city to use no strings attached. Reload it and re-share it.
42. Offer to do a free oil change for all single moms, widows, and wives of service members on mother's day weekend. While they wait for an oil change wash their car. Don't turn anyone away.
43. Give free coffee to those in the emergency-room waiting area.
44. Organize a gutter cleaning day for a neighborhood near you launch location.
45. Organize a leaf raking day for a neighborhood near your launch location.
46. Coordinate with your city to help build a playground.
47. Coordinate with your city to paint over graffiti.

48. Coordinate with your city to paint park benches.
49. Become a drop of point for the Samaritan's Purse.
50. Collect unused makeup, perfume and other cosmetics for abused women.
51. Offer to serve lunch to your local chamber of commerce.
52. Partner with your City's Parks and Rec to get involved in the city events like--4th of July (set up a family resource tent and have sunscreen, hand sanitizer, bug spray, first aid, baby wipes, and a nursing moms tent),
53. Partner with your City's Parks and Rec to get involved in the city events like Christmas in the Park--serve free Hot Cider or Hot Chocolate.
54. Find ways to help make a difference at events your City is already hosting and just serve the community and love on people.
55. Offer to spread mulch in the landscaping of your host school or a local school or park.
56. Buy lunch for the office staff of your host school during the summer.
57. Buy lunch for the teachers of a school in an impoverished area of town.
58. Buy lunch for the teachers in your host school.
59. Put gift cards in all the classrooms of your host school for the teachers to buy supplies for their class.
60. Leave goodie bags of coffee mugs stuffed with sweets and information for you church for all the teachers in your school.
61. Give large gift cards to any maintenance people who help open up, clean up, or lock up the building you use.
62. Find out when a local school is doing a spirit night at a local fast food restaurant and offer to carry the trays of food for the customers and hand out free desserts with an invite card.
63. Offer to sponsor an ice cream truck at a local school's field day.
64. Sponsor a booth at local school festival and give-a-way church swag whether they win the challenge or not (putt putt, but everyone wins whether they sink the ball or not/basketball and portable hoop, but everyone gets a prize, cornhole but everyone gets a prize, etc.).

65. Hand out free popsicles (or snacks) to parents waiting in the pickup line outside of the local school.
66. If you are meeting in a school, find ways to serve the teachers and the staff. Cater in coffee and breakfast for the first day of school from a local coffee shop in town.
67. If you are meeting in a school offer to update the break room. You will be surprised how much you can accomplish on a budget compared to what they are using now.
68. Partner with another non-profit that is already serving families and kids but just needs more manpower to reach more people.
69. Purchase popsicles for all the kids at the elementary school, print coloring pages for the elementary schools with the church information telling parents it was on the church that day.
70. Pack school teachers lounge with snacks, and drinks.
71. Host a tailgate party at the high school football game.
72. Bring Gatorade to the sports teams after practice. Giveaway sports bottles with your churches logo on it or other swag athletes would enjoy.
73. Pass out Pop Tarts at the high school and colleges with church invites.
74. Give away school supplies.
75. Find out when move-in day is at your local University and have your team help students move in wearing your church logo shirt.
76. Load students down with Study snacks at college campuses.
77. Host game nights at a nursing home.
78. Do a worship performance at a nursing home.
79. Offering free dog walking.
80. Serve donuts and coffee early in the morning as teachers are arriving at school.
81. Start a Christian Club that meets before school and serve donuts.
82. Plan a big giveaway outreach the week before your launch to let people know you care and you are starting a new church.
83. Hand out bottled waters late at night as people are leaving bars and clubs with the bottles wrapped with your church name and website.

84. Offer to have your worship team play an acoustic set at a local coffee shop.
85. Offer to do free portraits for a nursing home.
86. Coordinate with a school in an impoverished area of town to offer free family portraits. Families would come to the school for the photos and you can have snacks and drinks set up with information about the church, and just love on them.
87. Offer to throw a free pizza and soda party for freshmen entering their first semester of college.
88. Coordinate with a school to offer a 5th quarter hangout after a high school football game at the school's gym. Offer to purchase pizza and soda and provide some form of entertainment (Play a movie, or set up video games on a big screen, etc.). Schools want to keep kids safe after games and are willing to help.
89. Ask another church in your area with dwindling attendance if you can pressure wash their sidewalks and parking lot.
90. Ask another church in your area with dwindling attendance if you can touch up their building with paint on the door frames or paint the outside if you can swing it.
91. Coordinate with Walmart to giveaway free barbecue meals as people leave. People are used to fundraisers and it will surprise them that you are just giving it away for free with no strings attached.
92. Buy a ton of mint gum and pass it out to students at a local college. Let them know it is just a little something to remind them that God loves them.
93. Pass out exam supplies on campus during college exams.
94. Pass out new pairs of socks to the homeless people.
95. Pass out sack lunches (peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bag of chips, apple, and juice) to homeless people.
96. Rent blow ups and bounce houses for family fun day in a neighborhood.
97. Provide an egg hunt for your community.
98. Organize a trunk or treat for your community.
99. Participate in a community parade and plan for a ton of giveaways.

100. Set up a giveaway table at a local sporting event and giveaway church logo t-shirts, water bottles, coffee mugs, keychains, band aid holders, hand sanitizer and anything else people will keep around to remind them of your church.
101. Giveaway reusable shopping bags with your church logo on them in front of grocery stores.