

STEP TWO: CARE

Look for ways to CARE for those on your prayer list.

One of the best ways to build a relationship with others is to care for them in tangible ways. From spontaneous daily actions all the way to organized community outreach efforts, there are so many ways to meet real needs. In the attempt to bring people to Christ the following saying is true... "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." We believe that many of these "care" ideas will flow out of your prayer times as the Holy Spirit shows you tangible ways to love people by meeting their needs.

STEP THREE: SHARE

Expect the Holy Spirit to give you opportunities to SHARE with people and when these opportunities arise - share with love and boldness.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." Eph. 6:19

There are many different ways to share Christ with others. Begin with common events of life and transition to what/who is most important in your life...Jesus! Use a tract, book, personal testimony, invite to Church service or outreach event, etc. Each case is unique and individual. Jesus and the apostles used many different approaches with people based on Holy Spirit sensitivity to the person and situation. In addition to individual witnessing, each family and Home Group can discuss ways as a group to intentionally care for and share Jesus with people – (service project for a needy person, plan a "Matthew" party – Luke 5:27-32, invite to a Home Group special event/outing, invite to Home Group meeting, invite to Church in the Park, etc.)

Remember, to persevere in this process. Only the Holy Spirit can bring a person to Jesus. And it may take many years (even decades) of God using our prayer, care, share lifestyle before some will finally surrender to Jesus Christ.

BRIDGES List of Names:

Family

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Neighbors

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Work

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

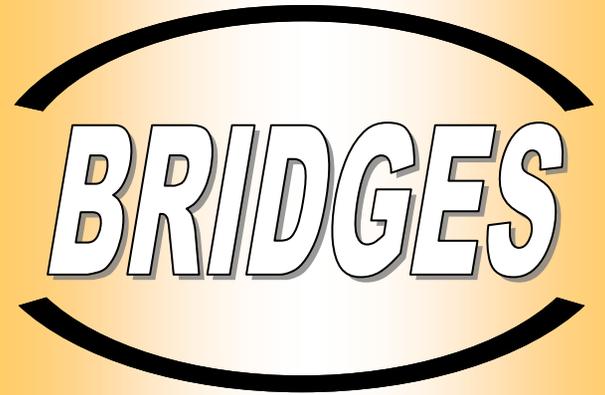
School/Sports

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Other

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

Prayer → Care → Share



...Sharing Jesus in our daily lives

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BRIDGES

“Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent...because I have many people in this city.”
- Acts 18:10

“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” - Philemon 1:6

The BRIDGES Vision:

BRIDGES is a unified effort of the River Valley church family to build relational bridges with unbelievers through praying and caring for them, eventually leading to God given opportunities to share with them the message of Jesus Christ.

Our passion is that each believer in the River Valley family have the conviction that they are called by Christ to be his ambassadors and witnesses to this community - Acts 18:3

The BRIDGES Lifestyle Defined:

The objective is to build a massive spiritual army of prayer warriors to pray on behalf of the many unbelievers in our community. Committing to intentionally build spiritual *BRIDGES* helps us as believers to assume the spiritual burden and responsibility for reaching the unbelievers within this community at a very grass roots level.

How Does BRIDGES Work?

Make a commitment to live a BRIDGES lifestyle

BRIDGES places a heavy emphasis on prayer evangelism with the realization that it is God alone who opens the eyes of the unbeliever bringing conversion and salvation. *BRIDGES* is not a program...it's a lifestyle and the combination of many Christians' lifestyles to reach an entire community for Christ.

(Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 2:47; 5:28; 19:10)

Take some time and pray who God would have you begin to intentionally pray for, care for and share Christ. This list of people should be big enough to stretch you, but small enough to be manageable and personal. Obviously, it's OK to pray for, care for and share with people that are not on your list as God gives you opportunity. The designated list simply insures that we are staying committed to impacting the people God has placed on our hearts. Use the spaces provided on the back to write down these names.

The BRIDGES Process:

Prayer → Care → Share

STEP ONE: PRAYER

Start to PRAY and keep praying for these people on a regular basis.

As we begin to pray for unbelievers, Jesus changes our hearts and gives us His Heart toward them. (Romans 9:1-3, cf. 10:1)

Start using your list of people as a regular prayer list. Ask God to...

- show you ways to get to know them better
- show you what some of their needs are
- use you to appropriately care for those needs
- prepare and open their hearts to their need for Jesus

Establish a lifestyle of prayer. You can pray for these people in your quiet time, when you're exercising, washing the dishes, taking a shower, mowing the lawn, driving, etc.

“Prayer-Walk” your neighborhood, campus, work place, etc.

Group Prayer - with family, Home Group, and other believers at church/work/school. Take some time with these groups and together pray for your list of people.

The Home Group environment is critical for the continued fruitfulness of the *BRIDGES* ministry. It is in these groups (we hope every Home Group at River Valley) that ongoing prayer, sharing, mutual encouragement and accountability will take place - keeping the *BRIDGES* lifestyle fresh and alive. A core value for healthy Home Groups is that group members see themselves as a “gather to scatter” people, understanding that a primary purpose for their group “gathering” is to be motivated and strategic about their individual “scattering” as daily witnesses for Christ.

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