



## **COR Values Guide**

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## 00 | Introduction

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# 1. Stats and Facts

Adventist young people are leaving the church at alarming rates.

In an effort to reverse this trend, the Center for Youth Evangelism, headquartered at the Andrews University Seminary, in Berrien Springs, Michigan, (CYE) has launched a ministry support initiative called **Church of Refuge (COR)**. The purpose of COR is to help churches deliver effective young adult ministry, and to assist young adults in finding churches that are prepared to support their spiritual growth.

What follows are stats and facts on youth dropout.

1. Kinnaman, David. (2011). *You Lost Me. Why Christians Are Leaving Church... And Rethinking Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
  - A. “The ages **18 to 29 are the black hole of church attendance**; this age segment is ‘missing in action’ from most congregations,” p.22.
  - B. “There is a **43% drop-off between the teen and early adult years** in terms of church engagement,” p.22.
  - C. “**59% of young people** with a Christian background report that they had or have ‘**dropped out of attending church**, after going regularly,’” p.22.
  - D. Dropouts say, “We did not leave the Church, but rather, **the Church left us**,” p. 23.
2. Dudley, R. (2000). *Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church. Personal Stories From a 10-year Study*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association.
  - A. “**40 to 50 percent of those who are baptized** members in their mid-teens **will drop out** of the church **by** the time they are halfway through their **twenties**,” p. 60.
  - B. “**The loss of young adults is one of the most serious problems in Adventism...** if the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to have a future, it will need to help its young people remain committed to the faith as they enter the stress and perplexity of adulthood,” p. 132.
3. Rainer, Thom. S. and Sam S. (2008). *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.



- A. “**More than two-thirds of young** churchgoing adults in America **drop out** of church between the ages of eighteen and twenty two!” p. 2)
- B. “The sweet sixteen birthday is not so sweet for the church. **The church begins losing teens instead of gaining teens at the age of sixteen.** The net gain of previous ages starts to become a net loss at around age sixteen for most congregations. The exodus from the church community picks up steam from age seventeen forward, and it becomes a flood when teens hit the ripe old age of twenty,” p. 51.

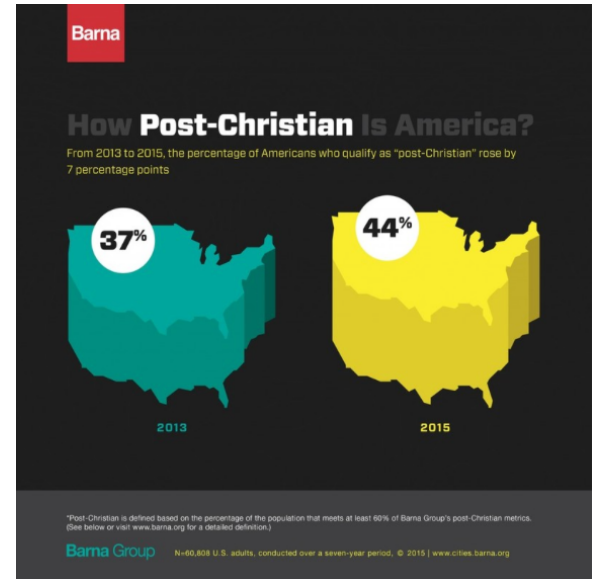
#### 4. Barna Group

- A. Nearly **six in ten (59%) young people who grow up in Christian churches end up walking away**, and the unchurched segment among Millennials has increased in the last decade from 44% to 52%, mirroring a larger cultural trend away from churchgoing in America. (*Research Releases in Leaders & Pastors*, April 6, 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.barna.org/research/leaders-pastors/research-release/the-priorities-challenges-and-trends-in-youth-ministry#.VzNe3GNWv-0>).
- B. “**Less than 1 percent** of Mosaics (ages 18 to 23) in the United States has a biblical worldview.” (*Research Releases in Faith & Christianity*, March 9, 2009. Retrieved from <https://www.barna.org/barna-update/transformation/252-barna-survey-examines-changes-in-worldview-among-christians-over-the-past-13-years#.VzNgS2NWv-0>)
  - (i) For the purposes of the survey, a “biblical worldview” was defined as believing that absolute moral truth exists; the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches; Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic; a person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works; Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; and God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today. In the research, anyone who held all of those beliefs was said to have a biblical worldview.
- C. “Currently, 78% of Americans describe themselves as ‘Christian,’ but in order to dig deeper than just self-affiliation, Barna Group looked at a variety of key faith indicators for both belief and practice... The percentage of Americans who qualify as ‘post-Christian’ rose by 7 percentage points, from 37% in 2013 to 44% in 2015.” (*Infographics in Cities & States*, August 12, 2015, retrieved from

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/728-america-more-post-christian-than-two-years-ago#.VzNfl2NWv-0>

(i) To qualify as “post-Christian,” individuals had to meet 60% or more of the following factors (nine or more). “Highly post-Christian” individuals meet 80% or more of the factors (12 or more of these 15 criteria).

- a. Do not believe in God
- b. Identify as atheist or agnostic
- c. Disagree that faith is important in their lives
- d. Have not prayed to God (in the last year)
- e. Have never made a commitment to Jesus
- f. Disagree the Bible is accurate
- g. Have not donated money to a church (in the last year)
- h. Have not attended a Christian church (in the last year)
- i. Agree that Jesus committed sins
- j. Do not feel a responsibility to “share their faith”
- k. Have not read the Bible (in the last week)
- l. Have not volunteered at church (in the last week)
- m. Have not attended Sunday school (in the last week)
- n. Have not attended religious small group (in the last week)
- o. Do not participate in a house church (in the last year)



## 5. Miscellaneous

A. According to LifeWay Research, **70 percent of young adults ages 23-30 stopped attending church regularly** for at least a year between ages 18-22. (LifeWay Research. (2007). *Church Dropouts: How Many Leave Church*

*Between Ages 18-22 and Why?* Retrieved from <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/LifeWay-Research-finds-reasons-18-to-22-year-olds-drop-out-of-church>)

- B. **More than one-third of millennials** now say they are **unaffiliated with any faith**, up 10 percentage points since 2007. (<http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/12/living/pew-religion-study/>)
- C. Just **11% of millennials call themselves mainline Protestants**. (Only 16% identify with Catholicism.) (<http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/12/living/pew-religion-study/>)
- D. Of America's major faiths, mainline **Protestants have the worst retention rate among millennials**, with just 37% staying in the fold, Pew found. (<http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/12/living/pew-religion-study/>)

## 2. Life Stories - You Lost Me

**These are two excerpts of two emails written by Charlotte.<sup>1</sup> She is in her early-30s. She has been a missionary on 2 different continents, has taught Cradle Roll at her current church, and been on church committees. She is a life-long SDA who received an SDA education. She is a fun, out-going person, not a fruit-nut who can't get along with people. She has spent time working for Habitat for Humanity and is passionate about service. Her discontent has grown over 3 years of involvement at her present church, which is not in a remote location.**

...

I have even gone to church [at the Methodist church] on Sundays. It is AWESOME. They are so kind and the message speaks to me. IT is a church that GIVES so much to the community through programs and outreach.

I struggle. What does it mean to be adventist? If I keep the sabbath because I believe it is the day of god but worship on Sunday what does that mean? God said to keep the sabbath holy not go to church.

**I am leaving because it hurts me to be a part of a church that I feel is dead and NO ONE is listening. I need church. I need fellowship and to share with others that love Jesus. I love to be a part of a group....**

...

I love being SDA I love all the people I have met even the weird ones.

I am not disbelieving in my church I do believe we have something special and of course totally believe in the sabbath. It isn't about the truth and it isn't even about being hurt by the church because that isn't it. The struggle is will God understand if I become a Methodist? Isn't that weird? **Will he forgive me for not being able to find a place in the SDA community here? For wanting a place my family can grow in and love Jesus and see what he means beyond the Sabbath?**

**I feel like I tried really hard at my church and only found resistance every step of the way and I can't understand why???**

I guess what I want to say is that I am positive. I wasn't a stick in the mud at my church I did my best to serve.

---

<sup>1</sup> Fictitious name

## **Questions for reflection**

- Do you personally know young people (ages 16 to 35) who have left church?
- What were the reasons behind their decision to leave the church?
- Could the church have done anything differently to attract and hold them?

### 3. What is COR?

**Church of Refuge (COR)** exists to **plant, build, launch, and network churches** that will not only **welcome** but **empower youth and young adults** for spiritual leadership.

COR focuses on meeting young adults' spiritual, social and community impact needs through **Nine COR Values**. These nine values are supported by biblical teaching, pastoral experience, the writings of Ellen G. White and original research conducted by the Center for Youth Evangelism. A **COR congregation** is a local church that can demonstrate the Nine COR Values in action.

The Nine COR Values are:

1. Sabbath
2. Discipleship
3. Acceptance
4. Community
5. Support
6. Service
7. Leadership
8. Budget
9. Change

## 4. Why COR?

Where does the concept of Church of Refuge come from?

If we go to Deuteronomy 19:1-7, we discover the concept of cities of refuge.

As Israel shifted its focus from the wilderness to the promised land of Canaan, Moses established a system for justice by calling for three **cities of refuge** (Deuteronomy 19:1-2). Individuals who had accidentally killed another person could escape vengeful family members by seeking shelter, security, and community in one of these cities (19:4-6).

**Easy access** to a city of refuge was of paramount importance (19:6). Consequently, Moses made three key provisions regarding access. First, he ordered that roads be built to these cities (19:3a) so those on the run would have an easier journey.

Second, the locations of the three cities were strategically placed by dividing the land into three regions (19:3b). This ensured that no one would have to travel a great distance to find rest and security.

Third, in Deuteronomy 19:8, Moses made plans for increasing the number of cities of refuge from three to six to match the expanding territory given by God. Because the existence of safe cities was so important, provision had to be made for future adaptations so the population would continue to have access to the desired benefits. The cities of refuge must be where the people were, not simply where tradition had originally placed them.

One significant benefit to using cities belonging to the priests was that these societal refugees could receive training from the religious leaders. “Hence, the place of refuge could become... a source of real blessing to the slayer as the priests and Levites taught him the way of Jehovah” (Nichol, 1976, p. 278).

Following this tradition, **churches of refuge are inclusive, accepting, community-oriented, strategically placed, safe, spiritual environments for young adults.** They are faith communities that **accept people for who they are, where they are.** That is, friendship and acceptance are not given or withheld due to personal history, appearance, current belief system or other factors. Also, members know they will not be disrespected or excluded because of mistakes, questions or doubts. **In these communities designed to meet their needs, young adults can seek God and grow in Him.**

Furthermore, COR congregations are safe places for members to experiment with innovative spiritual expressions and community outreach. Some projects will succeed, while others will not; however, creativity continues to be fostered and appreciated. COR congregations take seriously Ellen White's (1946) statement that, "God would have new and untried methods followed." (p. 125).



## 5. How to Become a COR Congregation

A **COR congregation** is a local church that can demonstrate it is following the Nine COR Values.

A church can become a part of the COR network by doing the following:

1. Apply online at [www.cye.org/cor](http://www.cye.org/cor) (link: <http://www.cye.org/article/111/cye-ministries/church-of-refuge/join-the-network>)
2. Set up a COR Summit for your church by contacting [cor@cye.org](mailto:cor@cye.org) or call (269) 471-8380.
3. Seek elders, board and business session vote to become a COR congregation.
4. Once you have formally voted to becoming a COR Congregation, you will be assigned a COR coach who will offer you ways to incorporate the 9 COR Values into your congregation DNA.
5. After you are certified, you'll need to provide a short online yearly report on how you are actively incorporating the 9 COR Values into your ministry mix.

## 6. Reflection and Discussion

- Discussion questions.
  - What comes to your mind when you think of a church of refuge? OR What does a church of refuge look like?
  - The Youth Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference states that young people “are leaving the church like water between our fingers.” (*Global Youth Ministry - 7 Strategic Themes & Emphases, 2006-2010*). How does COR address this issue? Why is the city of refuge concept explained in Deuteronomy 19:1-7 relevant today?

## 7. Further Reading and Resources

- You Lost Me: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jitHsBPGtUY>
- You're Losing Us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCqoMJIS0SM>
- Church of Refuge Position Paper, p. 1-7.
- Church of Refuge Certification Guide, p. 7-8.
- COR Research. Church Characteristics: Young Adult Preferences.
- Kinnaman, David. (2011). *You Lost Me. Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church And Rethinking Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Dudley, Roger. (2000). *Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church. Personal Stories From a 10-year Study*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association.



## **01 | COR Value #1 Sabbath**

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1. COR Value #1 Sabbath
  - A. Short description of value
  - B. Bible Text/s
  - C. Ellen G. White Quote
  - D. Non-denominational Quote
  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate the value
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #1 Sabbath

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to providing a meaningful Sabbath experience.**

## B. Bible Text

*And I gave them **the Sabbath—a day of rest every seventh day—as a symbol between them and me**, to remind them that it is I, the Lord, who sanctifies them—that they are truly my people.*

~ Ezekiel 20:12 TLB

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

“The **Sabbath meetings**..., unless wisely planned and vitalized by the Spirit of God, may become the most formal, unpleasant, unattractive — and to the youth the most burdensome, of all the school exercises.

The religious exercises should be **so planned and managed that they will be not only profitable, but so pleasant as to be positively attractive.**”

~ *Testimony Treasures Vol. 2*, p. 440.

## D. Non-denominational Quote

As leaders working with young people from many faiths, we are witnessing the beginnings of **a religious renaissance through an embrace of the Sabbath**. And for a stressed-out, anxious generation seeking strength and solace, it's just in time.

~ “Why Young People are Setting Time Aside for Faith”, *Washington Post*, Oct. 2012.

Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/stressed-out-young-people-are-finding-serenity-on-the-sabbath/2012/10/12/17ad35ae-12f7-11e2-ba83-a7a396e6b2a7\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/stressed-out-young-people-are-finding-serenity-on-the-sabbath/2012/10/12/17ad35ae-12f7-11e2-ba83-a7a396e6b2a7_story.html))

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations provide a meaningful Sabbath experience for senior youth and young adults by offering time and space for collective study, worship and socializing. Young leaders actively shape the activities and meetings for this age group.

## F. COMPONENTS

- A **space** is available for young adults to meet at a desired time on the Sabbath (Friday night, Saturday morning/afternoon).
- A second **service** is available if the main service does not meet the needs of this group.
- **Greeters** at church are friendly and reach out to visitors.
- **Visitors** are recognized, welcomed and invited to return.
- **Retention** is analyzed from database numbers.
- **Conversational Bible study groups** are informative and practical.
- **Music** is worshipful and desirable for local young adults.
- **Preaching** is engaging, biblical, relevant, grace-filled, Christ-centered and action-oriented.
- Alternate **vespers, Sabbath Schools, Sabbath afternoon activities and worship services** are developed as desired.

## 2. Video(s) to illustrate the value

- A. Devon Franklin - Sabbath in Hollywood. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_onulmgW8JE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_onulmgW8JE)
- B. Consumer Worship: [http://www.danstevens.com/store/consumer\\_worship/](http://www.danstevens.com/store/consumer_worship/)
- C. Worship Defined: <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/4516-worship-defined>



### 3. Questions for Reflection

- What is your favorite Sabbath memory? Why?
- Think about your local church. How can Sabbath hours be meaningful, purposeful and restful for senior youth & young adults?
- *Optional activity:* Read the excerpt below from [Reinvention Stories from an Urban Church, chapter Twelve](#). What can you learn about how we can rethink the way we do our worship service? What can you do to make the worship service of your church more meaningful?

#### ***Excerpt from Chapter Twelve: Meaningful Conversation***

“If we are going to create space for meaningful conversation as part of our church experience, preaching may have to be the catalyst. It is, after all, the one place in our worship where people have every right to expect some engagement with the question “What does this mean?” There is a reasonable hope on the part of worshippers that a sermon should serve to draw meaning out of the scriptural texts and other elements of the liturgy in a way that is comprehensible and relevant to their lives. If preaching is meaningful in this sense, it only seems reasonable that meaningful preaching should be the catalyst for meaningful conversations.

“Good preachers know this. They preach in ways that are engaging, telling stories and contextualizing so as to draw a response from their listeners. But rarely is there the opportunity for that response to be put into words. By the time the listener has the chance to utter any words in response, those words are often reduced to “Good sermon, Reverend.” The problem with performative preaching is that even, or perhaps especially, when it is done well, the take-away can be simply the feeling of having witnessed a good performance. Without personal engagement, the story the preacher tells on Sunday soon becomes overwhelmed by the many competing stories of our lives. The hour we spend at church on Sunday becomes disconnected from the other 167 hours of our week.

“So if we need a place to have meaningful conversations, and if preaching can serve as a catalyst for those conversations, what would happen if we created space during or after the sermon for worshippers to speak and to interact, if not with the preacher, then with the people sitting around them?”

“We follow the lectionary, which meant that the next Sunday after our cross-country ski outing was “The Baptism of the Lord,” and the gospel reading, appropriately enough, was the account of Jesus’ own baptism, as told by Luke. It is an event rooted in time, taking place in the 15th year of the emperor Tiberius of Rome. It is an event rooted in space, taking place by the Jordan River, just north of the Dead Sea. It is the story of a particular human being, Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary, 30 years old. It is the story of concrete actions, of being plunged into water. It is a story of the earth.

“But it is also a story of heaven. It is the story of a divine presence, which is seen and heard. When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened. And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

“The story of Jesus’ baptism tells of one of those places where heaven and earth touch each other — thin places, as the Celts liked to call them. But there are many thin places, places and moments where we can be deeply aware of the presence of God in our ordinary, daily lives.

“What would happen if I asked our community to talk about their thin places in response to this story? Would they be intimidated? Would they be able to articulate their own experiences of God? Would they have anything to say at all?

“It always helps if someone goes first. So I told people about one of the thin places that I still recall most vividly. I was on the corner of Division and Princess Street in Kingston, in the fall of 1981. It was my second year at Queen’s University and I was riding my bike to class, as I did pretty much every morning. On that particular morning, the light was red when I got to Princess Street, and so I stopped. And in that moment, as I sat on my bike with one foot on the ground for balance, the sun seemed to turn golden, and I had a wonderful sensation of warmth, and an overwhelming feeling that God was with me. In that moment, which may have lasted a second but seemed to last much longer, I knew, I just *knew* that all was well.

“So, after a brief pause, I asked the congregation, “Where are your thin places? When *were*, when *are* the moments in your life when heaven and earth touch? Perhaps you can turn and gather in a small group with those around you and share them with each other.”

“There was a moment’s hesitation. Some looked at me to make sure I was serious. Then, the sound of scraping chairs and rustling in pews, and soon, steadily and surely, the hum of voices starting to build. The space came alive with meaningful conversations.”

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Sabbath School Class** for young adults, that is led and operated by them.
- **Special Vespers.** Every third Friday the South Bend Seventh-day Adventist churches present a vespers program called “The Refuge” that is planned, prepared, and presented by young adults.
- **Corporate worship and style.** Try a blended worship service, where well known hymns and new songs are offered. Allow for creativity in the order of service as well as in what is presented.
- **Preaching.** The sermon each Sabbath is Christ centered, Bible based and visitor friendly. Occasional guest speakers provide a positive mix to the services. The consistently friendly services make them a viable place to invite friends. It is important to add a Sabbath focused on young adults with a guest speaker targeting this age group.
- **Greeters.** Add teenagers and young adults to the greeting team. Make it your goal to make sure that everyone is greeted five times before entering the sanctuary; that visitors are politely and personally directed to services; that they are greeted as they leave. Have a visitor’s package ready and make major changes in how you deliberately attempt to bring first time visitors to second time visitors, and second time visitors to a special Sabbath School class. This could include: 1) changing service so that offering is after sermon so that you can have a response card for all to fill out; 2) give a good, age appropriate book, to first time visitor; 3) send a gift card to first time visitor as a “thank you” for coming. 4) Deliberately connecting with visitors who a) may have come alone (without a connection to a member), or b) may have a particular need, such as needing special prayer or a place to go for lunch. Have designated members ready to take young adults home for lunch after church.
- **Sabbath Activities.** Friday evenings could focus on prayer time, music, and testimonies, while Saturday afternoons could focus on prayer, devotion, reach out to the community, fellowship, visit non attending church members, sharing Bible studies with interested individuals and then evening social activities such as game night, bowling, and other activities enjoyed by young people.
- **Prayer for young adults.** Find prayer warriors who have a burden for young adults.

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. God is spirit, and His worshipers must **worship in the Spirit and in truth.**  
~ John 4:24 (NIV)
- B. **Let us not give up the habit of meeting together**, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.  
~ Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)
- C. He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and **on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue**, as was His custom. He stood up to read.  
~ Luke 4:16 (NIV)
- D. "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, **if you call the Sabbath a delight** and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, **then you will find your joy in the LORD**, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." The mouth of the LORD has spoken.  
~ Isaiah 58:13-14 (NIV)
- E. **On the Sabbath** we went outside the city gate to the river, where **we expected to find a place of prayer.** We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.  
~ Acts 16:13 (NIV)

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. "**The Sabbath** has lost none of its meaning. It **is still a sign between God and His people**, and it will be so **forever.**"  
~ *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 156
- B. "**The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy.** In no better way can parents exalt and honor the Sabbath than by devising means to impart proper instruction to their families and

interesting them in spiritual things giving them correct views of the character of God and what He requires of us in order to perfect Christian characters and attain to eternal life. **Parents make the Sabbath a delight that your children may look forward to it and have a welcome in their hearts for it.**

~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 585.*

- C. “Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath and **God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy.** There was joy at the institution of the Sabbath. God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All things that He had made He pronounces “very good.” Gen 1:31. Heaven and earth were filled with rejoicing.”

~ *Counsels for the Church, p. 261.*

- D. **If there are those who prolong religious exercises to weariness, they are leaving impressions upon the mind of the youth, that would associate religion with all that is dry, unsocial, and uninteresting....** Ardent, active piety in the teacher is essential. Morning and evening service in the chapel, and the Sabbath meetings, may be, without constant care and unless vitalized by the Spirit of God, the most formal, dry, and bitter mixture, and, to the youth, the most burdensome and the least pleasant and attractive of all the school exercises. The social meetings should be managed with plans and devices to make them not only seasons of pleasantness, but positively attractive.”

~ *Christian Education, p. 47.*

- E. “The social meetings and all other religious services should be so planned and managed that they will be not only profitable, but so pleasant as to be positively attractive. **Praying together will bind hearts to God** in bonds that will endure; confessing Christ openly and bravely, exhibiting in our characters His meekness, humility, and love, will charm others with the beauty of holiness.”

~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 174.*

- F. “God desires His obedient children to claim His blessing and to come before Him with praise and thanksgiving. God is the fountain of life and power. He can make the wilderness a fruitful field for the people that keep His commandments, for this is for the glory of His name. He has done for His chosen people that which should inspire every heart with thanksgiving, and it grieves Him that so little praise is offered. **He desires to have a stronger expression from His people, showing that they know they**

**have reason for joy and gladness.”**

~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 364.*

- G. “Then **as you meet from Sabbath to Sabbath** sing praises to Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. “Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood” let the heart’s adoration be given. **Let the love of Christ be the burden of the speaker’s utterance. Let it be expressed in simple language in every song of praise. Let the inspiration of the Spirit of God dictate your prayers.** As the word of life is spoken, let your heartfelt response testify that you receive the message as from heaven.”

~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 367*

## **Additional Non-denominational Quotes**

1. *Why do we keep Sabbath?*

Source: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/3/31/why-do-we-keep-sabbath/>

- A. “**Sabbath keeping** is not something we do in order to please God; it **is something we do because God knows it will make us whole**, restore our spirits, and renew our lives.”
- B. “Perhaps most importantly, **the Scriptures teach us that Sabbath keeping is a community practice and not simply a matter of personal piety.** The cultural forces of our time would have us believe that our happiness lies in a lifestyle of constant work and “productivity,” punctuated by frequent binges of shopping. The Bible says otherwise: that our true happiness comes only from God and with God.”
2. Rainer, Thom S. and Rainer, Sam S. III. (2008). *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville TN: B & H Publishing.
- A. “**Prayer is the cornerstone of every ministry** in the church. The church’s support is found in the prayers of its people. Ministerial success is rooted in tapping into God’s power.” (p. 101).
- B. “Is preaching still important? Yes! Even in today’s hyper-techno-driven conversational-wiki-culture, **preaching is of the utmost importance.** Of the several church-related or pastor-related issues noted by dropouts, preaching came up several times as a critical issue in retaining college students and young adults.” (p. 127).

3. Vanderwaal, Howard. Editor. (2008). *The Church of all Ages: Generations Worshiping Together*. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute.
  - A. **“Intergenerational worship is a countercultural activity.** In a culture that segregates and isolates children, preteens, and teens, and then appeals to to them separately, the church is a truly countercultural community when it invites all generations to participate actively in worship” (p. 71, quotes Darwin Glassford in *“Fostering an Intergenerational Culture”*).
4. Cole, Neil. (2005). *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
  - A. “You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilizations to pieces, turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But **you treat it as if it is nothing more than a piece of good literature.**” (p. 61, quotes Mahatma Gandhi).

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 7-8. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKI86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKI86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

## VIDEOS

- A. Devon Franklin - Sabbath in Hollywood. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onulmgW8JE>
- B. Consumer Worship: [http://www.danstevens.com/store/consumer\\_worship/](http://www.danstevens.com/store/consumer_worship/)
- C. Worship Defined: <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/4516-worship-defined>



## **WORSHIP SERVICE:**

**101 ideas for better worship services (1991) (SDA).** <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1991/10/101-ideas-for-better-worship-services>

**Ways to involve children (SDA).** <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2009/05/simply-creative>

**Designing Worship Spaces with Millennials in Mind.** <https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/689-designing-worship-spaces-with-millennials-in-mind#.V4tM6lcn3jJ>

## **Non-denominational:**

**Five Tips for Meaningful Sabbaths:** <http://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2011/07/meaningful-services-tips-finding-meaning/>

**Worship Set Ideas:** <http://worshipsetideas.com/worship-ideas/>

**Worship Defined** <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/4516-worship-defined>

## **Sabbath Sofa (IDEA):**

Set a sofa in a hectic area of your city, and invite passersby to get some rest. A great way to introduce the concept of the Sabbath.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-ZdeWhEurk>

Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZoHcHNqro21mWEcP6E4S-A>

<http://sabbath.org.uk>

## **IDEAS FOR SPECIAL HOLIDAYS:**

Passion Play <https://www.facebook.com/aepp>

Journey 2 Bethlehem - live nativity scene.

Valentine's Day Ideas - link to uploaded document on Dropbox.

## **GREETERS (Thom Rainer):**

**7 Things Church Members Should Say to Guests.** <http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/seven-things-church-members-should-say-to-guests-in-a-worship-service/>

**10 Comments from Happy Church Guests.** <http://thomrainer.com/2016/02/ten-comments-from-happy-church-guests/>

**9 Surprises in Worship Services that Made Guests Return.** <http://thomrainer.com/2015/12/nine-surprises-in-worship-services-that-made-guests-return/>

**7 Situations Where Your Church Should Not Have Greeters.** <http://thomrainer.com/2015/12/seven-situations-where-your-church-should-not-have-greeters/>

Searcy, Nelson. (2008). *Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

## **USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**9 Ways to Use Twitter in Church Service.** <http://thomrainer.com/2016/05/nine-ways-your-church-can-use-twitter-on-sundays/>

**8 Effective Uses of Twitter for Churches.** <http://thomrainer.com/2016/02/eight-effective-uses-of-twitter-for-churches/>

## PREACHING

### [ReInvention Stories from an Urban Church, excerpt from chapter Twelve:](#)

“If we are going to create space for meaningful conversation as part of our church experience, preaching may have to be the catalyst. It is, after all, the one place in our worship where people have every right to expect some engagement with the question “What does this mean?” There is a reasonable hope on the part of worshippers that a sermon should serve to draw meaning out of the scriptural texts and other elements of the liturgy in a way that is comprehensible and relevant to their lives. If preaching is meaningful in this sense, it only seems reasonable that meaningful preaching should be the catalyst for meaningful conversations.

“Good preachers know this. They preach in ways that are engaging, telling stories and contextualizing so as to draw a response from their listeners. But rarely is there the opportunity for that response to be put into words. By the time the listener has the chance to utter any words in response, those words are often reduced to “Good sermon, Reverend.” The problem with performative preaching is that even, or perhaps especially, when it is done well, the take-away can be simply the feeling of having witnessed a good performance. Without personal engagement, the story the preacher tells on Sunday soon becomes overwhelmed by the many competing stories of our lives. The hour we spend at church on Sunday becomes disconnected from the other 167 hours of our week.

“So if we need a place to have meaningful conversations, and if preaching can serve as a catalyst for those conversations, what would happen if we created space during or after the sermon for worshippers to speak and to interact, if not with the preacher, then with the people sitting around them?

“We follow the lectionary, which meant that the next Sunday after our cross-country ski outing was “The Baptism of the Lord,” and the gospel reading, appropriately enough, was the account of Jesus’ own baptism, as told by Luke. It is an event rooted in time, taking place in the 15th year of the emperor Tiberius of Rome. It is an event rooted in space, taking place by the Jordan River, just north of the Dead Sea. It is the story of a particular human being, Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary, 30 years old. It is the story of concrete actions, of being plunged into water. It is a story of the earth.

“But it is also a story of heaven. It is the story of a divine presence, which is seen and heard. When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were

opened. And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

“The story of Jesus’ baptism tells of one of those places where heaven and earth touch each other — thin places, as the Celts liked to call them. But there are many thin places, places and moments where we can be deeply aware of the presence of God in our ordinary, daily lives.

“What would happen if I asked our community to talk about their thin places in response to this story? Would they be intimidated? Would they be able to articulate their own experiences of God? Would they have anything to say at all?

“It always helps if someone goes first. So I told people about one of the thin places that I still recall most vividly. I was on the corner of Division and Princess Street in Kingston, in the fall of 1981. It was my second year at Queen’s University and I was riding my bike to class, as I did pretty much every morning. On that particular morning, the light was red when I got to Princess Street, and so I stopped. And in that moment, as I sat on my bike with one foot on the ground for balance, the sun seemed to turn golden, and I had a wonderful sensation of warmth, and an overwhelming feeling that God was with me. In that moment, which may have lasted a second but seemed to last much longer, I knew, I just *knew* that all was well.

“So, after a brief pause, I asked the congregation, “Where are your thin places? When *were*, when *are* the moments in your life when heaven and earth touch? Perhaps you can turn and gather in a small group with those around you and share them with each other.”

“There was a moment’s hesitation. Some looked at me to make sure I was serious. Then, the sound of scraping chairs and rustling in pews, and soon, steadily and surely, the hum of voices starting to build. The space came alive with meaningful conversations.”



## **02 | COR Value #2 Discipleship**

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## 02 | Contents

1. COR Value #2 Discipleship
  - A. Short description of value
  - B. Bible Text/s
  - C. Ellen G. White Quote
  - D. Non-denominational Quote
  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate the value
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #2 Discipleship

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to discipleship through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

## B. Bible Text

*Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

~ Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT).

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

***A true disciple of Christ will seek to imitate the Pattern.*** His love will lead to perfect obedience. He will study to do the will of God on earth, as it is done in Heaven.

~ Ellen White in *The Faith I Live By*, p. 19.

## D. Non-denominational Quote

**Discipleship** requires real teaching and real learning. It **requires conversation, modeling, encouragement, debriefing, and practice, all of which need to happen in the context of relationship.** Without relationship between believers, there is no model to follow, no authenticity, no accountability, no application, and no support for the journey. These things come through personal contact. And because that relational context for learning is lacking, life change is rarer than it should be among Christians today.

~ Jim Putman in *Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches that Make Disciples*, p. 22-23.

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations foster a **deep experience with our Creator** by helping young members **grow in their relationship with Jesus and by training them to live for others as Jesus did.** Leaders model authentic spirituality and members are led to grow in the Spirit as they follow Jesus. Members spend quiet time alone with God. In-home groups foster faith and community. Ministry opportunities match members' spiritual gifts, passions, abilities and maturity.

## F. COMPONENTS

- Leaders routinely **pray** with members.
- Members are encouraged to spend **time alone with God** for **prayer, meditation, Bible and inspirational reading, journaling and listening.**
- **Prayer summits and retreats** are scheduled.
- Members **participate in ministry with their spiritual gifts**, rather than merely observe it. Opportunities are made available for both inreach and outreach.
- **Home groups for Bible study and community building** are encouraged and supported. Bible truths are applied to current life situations in ways that foster open and honest personal sharing.
- Members are trained to personally engage in **spiritual disciplines and discover their spiritual gifts.**
- Members are shown how to live for and like Jesus in all areas of their lives.



## 2. Videos to illustrate the value

- A. *Will You Be That Someone* <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/29911/will-you-be-that-someone>
- B. *Evangelism Inspiration* <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/33915/evangelism-inspiration>
- C. *Every kid needs a champion* [http://www.ted.com/talks/rita\\_pierson\\_every\\_kid\\_needs\\_a\\_champion?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion?language=en)  
“Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”

### 3. Questions for Reflection

- Watch Rita Pierson's TED Talk "Every kid needs a champion". She states that "every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." How does this speak to the importance of discipleship within the church context?
- Who has been the most influential person(s) in your spiritual life? Why?
- How can we as a church better disciple the next generation?
- Friendship grants permission to share knowledge. How can adults develop genuine friendships with the senior youth and young adults of their church in order to disciple them?

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Small groups.** Make holistic small groups a major component of the regular church life. Have young adults take part in the initial training and lead out in the formation of new groups.
- **Share a meal and form visitation teams.** You could have the young adult Sabbath School class invite all the elders out to a Saturday evening dinner at a restaurant with the purpose of the elders getting acquainted with the young people, and to form teams for visitation.
- **Retreats.** Have spiritual retreats each year for young adults.
- **Bible Study Training.**
- **Mentoring Spiritual Devotions.** Mentor young people in spiritual devotions. Teach them how to build and maintain a successful and vibrant personal devotional life.

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. ...We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but **our lives** as well...  
~ 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)
- B. The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, **whatever you did for one of the least of these** brothers of Mine, you did for Me."  
~ Matthew 25:40 (NIV)
- C. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, **strengthen your brothers.**  
~ Luke 22:32 (NIV)
- D. **Follow my example**, just as I follow the example of Christ.  
1 Corinthians 11:1 (ERV)
- E. **You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose**, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them...But as for you, **continue in what you have learned** and have become convinced of, **because you know those from whom you learned it**, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.  
~ 2 Timothy 3:10-11, 14-15 (NIV)
- F. After **Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples**, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.  
~ Matthew 11:1 (NIV)
- G. A student is not above his teacher, but **everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.**  
~ Luke 6:40 (NIV)

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. For three years and a half the disciples were under the instruction of the greatest Teacher the world has ever known. By **personal contact and association, Christ**

**trained them for His service. Day by day they walked and talked with Him,** hearing His words of cheer to the weary and heavy-laden, and seeing the manifestation of His power in behalf of the sick and the afflicted.

~ *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 17

B. The **youth** should have a chance to **give expression** to their feelings. It would be well to have a judicious leader chosen at first, one who will **talk little and encourage a great deal**, by dropping a word now and then to **help and strengthen the youth** in the beginning of their religious experiences. After they have had a little experience, **let one of their number take the leadership**, and then another, and in this way let workers be educated that will meet the approval of God.

~ *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 69

C. For three years and a half the disciples were under the instruction of the greatest Teacher the world has ever known. By **personal contact and association, Christ trained them for His service. Day by day they walked and talked with Him,** hearing His words of cheer to the weary and heavy-laden, and seeing the manifestation of His power in behalf of the sick and the afflicted.

~ *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 17

## Additional Public Quotes

1. Rainer, Thom S. and Rainer, Sam S. III. (2008). *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville TN: B & H Publishing.

A. “Teens are looking for more from a youth ministry than a holding tank with pizza. **They look for a church that teaches them how to live life.** As they enter young adulthood, church involvement that has made a difference in their lives gives them a powerful reason to keep attending” (p. 33, quotes Ed Stetzer).

B. “If there is one word that could best describe essential churches, it would be intentional. **The churches and their leaders are intentional about having a church structure that aids the discipleship process** rather than one that impedes it.” (p.234).

Stanley, Andy. (2012). *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

A. “We concluded that **the best discipleship or spiritual formation model would be one designed around growing people’s faith.** The model most of

us had grown up with was designed around increasing people's knowledge. The models we were exposed to were primarily teaching models. We wanted to go beyond that." (p. 107).

2. Putman, Jim. (2010). *Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches that Make Disciples*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress.
  - A. **"Discipleship** requires real teaching and real learning. It **requires conversation, modeling, encouragement, debriefing, and practice, all of which need to happen in the context of relationship**. Without relationship between believers , there is no model to follow, no authenticity, no accountability, no application, and no support for the journey. These things come through personal contact. And because that relational context for learning is lacking, life change is rarer than it should be among Christians today." (p. 22-23).
  - B. "Putting it all together, **a disciple is one who is:**  
**"Following Christ (head)**. A disciple has surrendered to Jesus as Savior and Lord of his or her life. A disciple is one who says "I know he is Lord and Savior and I accept Him as my authority."  
**"Being changed by Jesus (heart)**. Jesus said we would know a tree by its fruit (see Matt 7:17-20). He did not mean perfect fruit; he meant growing fruit. As we spend time following Jesus, He changes us internally--He changes who we are.  
**"Committed to Jesus' mission to save people from their sin (hands)**. Jesus saved us for a purpose. Some believe we are given a "get out of jail free" card and are free to do what we want with our lives--not true. God's mission is now our mission, and we recognize that we are responsible for our own slice of history. Our hands are for His service." (p. 32-33).
  - C. "I often hear people say our church is about small groups. I disagree. **We are about discipleship and we believe it happens best in small groups...** Our small groups are the conduit for real discipleship, which includes real teaching. Real teaching from the Word." (p. 52).
  - D. **"Spiritual growth requires both authenticity and accountability**. When people are transparent about their struggles they need to be held accountable to live out the changes Jesus wants them to make in their lives. But disciplemakers must earn the right to hold others accountable... If we are

loving shepherds, those we are discipling will know that we love them and care for their well-being and we will have credibility when we speak into their lives.” (p. 56).

- E. “I want to make sure that you understand your part in the spiritual growth process in the lives of the people you are discipling. First, **we must remember that those we disciple are really disciples of Jesus — not of us.** They must imitate us only as we imitate Christ. Second, as disciple-makers we play a part in the process and we are responsible to do things in Jesus’ way, however, young disciple-makers and even experienced ones, can forget they are not solely responsible for the failure--or success--of those they disciple. It’s easy to take too much blame or too much credit for the results or lack thereof. This either leads to pride and stealing glory from God, or it leads to discouragement. Always remember that God is the primary agent of salvation and change in a person’s life.” (p. 71)
3. Rainer, Thom S. and Geiger, Eric. (2006). *Simple Church: Returning to God’s Process for Making Disciples*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.
- A. **“New Christians who immediately became active in a small group are five times more likely to remain in the church five years later than those who were active in church services alone...** Discipleship of new believers does not just happen. It must be intentional. There must be a heartbeat and a plan to make it happen.” (p. 157).
  - B. “According to our research it is critical that you **use some type of new member training to move new people effectively into the life of the church...** After studying churches that effectively reach the unchurched, he [Thom] stated, “The relationship between assimilation effectiveness and a new member’s class is amazing. Churches that require potential members to attend a new member’s class have a much higher retention rate than those who do not. The impact is amazing.” (p. 158).
4. Waggoner, Brad J. (2008). *The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and The Future of Discipleship*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.
- A. “What does the Bible mean when it uses the term disciple? **The Latin term, discipulus, derived from its verb form discere, means “to learn.”** Some related words are pupil, scholar, apprentice, and adherent. The most common term used in the New Testament is mathetes. In early classical times it was

generally used to refer to a learner. . . . **The verb, mathano, occurs 25 times in the New Testament and generally means, ‘to learn something new.’ The term mathetes occurs 259 times.**” (p. 12).

B. “For this study, **disciple means, ‘to be a learner and a follower of Jesus Christ.’** It implies obedience. It implies a lifestyle that demonstrates spiritual formation in terms of character and service. It means “to be like Christ.” **The word discipleship refers to a deliberate process of moving Christians forward spiritually.**” (p. 14).

5. Cole, Neil. (2005). *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005.

A. “When I consider the cost of so many lives that were spent in the struggle to give free access to God’s Word, I am ashamed of how we have neglected it. **As long as we read books about the Bible, and not the Bible itself, the enemy has succeeded in keeping the Kingdom sterile, unhealthy, and weak.** He has snatched the seed away before it can ever penetrate our hearts and grow to life and fruitfulness. There is no substitute for God’s Word; it alone is the seed of His Kingdom.” (p. 67)

B. “In his classic book *Power through Prayer*, E. M. Bounds once wrote, ‘Men are looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.’ One of the driving convictions of our movement is summarized in the statement that **a church is only as good as her disciples. Healthy disciples make up a healthy church. Reproducing disciples make a reproducing church.**” (p. 96).

C. “**New converts often show more effectiveness than those who have been Christians for a long time.** Much of this is because the transformed heart is so evident to all who are around the new life. There is also the advantage of having relationships with friends who are not Christians that makes them more potent agents for the spread of the Kingdom. Additionally, these new workers still speak the language and know the culture of those who are part of their world prior to coming to Christ. All these advantages are lost if we immobilize new converts out of a desire to protect them.” (p. 151-152).



## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 9-10. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

## VIDEOS

- A. *Will You Be That Someone* <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/29911/will-you-be-that-someone>
- B. *Evangelism Inspiration* <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/33915/evangelism-inspiration>
- C. *Every kid needs a champion* [http://www.ted.com/talks/rita\\_pierson\\_every\\_kid\\_needs\\_a\\_champion?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion?language=en)  
“Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”

**Waggoner, Brad J. (2008). *The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and The Future of Discipleship*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.**

A comprehensive strategy for disciplemaking should include: preaching, discipleship classes, small groups men’s ministry, women’s ministry, parenting classes, etc and the following:

- i. Serve as a Role Model
- ii. Practice Personal Disciple Making
- iii. Disciple from the Pulpit
- iv. Commit to a Small Group Strategy
- v. Develop a Strategy for Involvement and Service
- vi. Equip the Laity to Feed Themselves
- vii. Push Against Arrogance
- viii. Guard Against the Juxtaposition of Evangelism and Discipleship

## PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

- Personal Bible Study (PDF document)

- Own It 365 [www.ownit365.com](http://www.ownit365.com)
- You Version [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)
- *Learn to Study the Bible*, by Andy Deane <http://www.learntostudythebible.com>
- *Bible Study Methods. Twelve Ways to Unlock God's Word*, by Rick Warren <http://www.zondervan.com/rick-warren-x2019-s-bible-study-methods>
- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell <http://www.amazon.com/New-Evidence-That-Demands-Verdict/dp/0785242198>
- *The Truth Link Series*, by Ty Gibson <http://www.lightbearers.org/resource/truth-link-2/>
- *Revived by God's Word. A Mini-Handbook for Bible Study*, by Melodious Echo Mason, ARME Bible Camp Ministries and Armando Miranda. <http://www.revivalandreformation.org/bible-study>
- *Adventist Discovery Centre* <http://www.discoveronline.org.uk/courses.php>
- *Bible Studies for Life*. <http://www.lifeway.com/n/product-family/bible-studies-for-life>
- Devotionals
  - Devotionals Daily from Gateway. <http://www.faithgateway.com/topics/devotionals/>
  - Proverbs 31 <http://proverbs31.org>
  - Daughters of the Creator <http://daughtersofthecreator.com>
- Prayer

## **FAMILY WORSHIP**

- Bible Study
  - Own It 365 [www.ownit365.com](http://www.ownit365.com)
  - Bible For Kids <https://www.bible.com/kids>
  - Seeds Family Worship <http://www.seedsfamilyworship.com>
  - *How to Help Your Child Really Love Jesus*, by Donna Habenicht <http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/how-to-help-your-child-really-love-jesus.html>
  - *The Beginner's Bible* <http://thebeginnersbible.com>
  - *Amazing Adventures*, by Amazing Facts <http://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/watch/archives/o/114/t/amazing-adventure>

- <http://www.cye.org/article/238/resources/bible-studies>
- Adventist Discovery Centre <http://www.discoveronline.org.uk/courses.php>
- Devotionals
  - *Hugs from Jesus* (Preschool)
  - *Llamas, Leopards, and Lizards* (Junior/Earliteen)
  - *God's Big Idea* (Primary)
  - *One-Year Devotions for Active Boys*, by Karen Whiting and Jesse Florea

## **SMALL GROUPS**

- Adventist Christian Fellowship <http://acflink.org>
- Seeker Bible Studies, by Rebecca Manley Pippert:
  - *How to Lead a Seeker Bible Discussion* [http://www.amazon.com/Seeker-Bible-Discussion-Saltshaker-Resources/dp/083082121X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1428524186&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Seeker-Bible-Discussion-Saltshaker-Resources/dp/083082121X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1428524186&sr=8-1)
  - *Discovering the Real Jesus* <http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/discovering-the-real-jesus>
  - *Uncovering the Life of Jesus* <http://www.thegoodbook.com/uncovering-the-life-of-jesus>
  - *Uncover* <http://www.ivpbooks.com/uncover/>
- Yo pensaba que... Revisando conceptos sobre alguien llamado "DIOS" (Spanish) <http://yopensabaque.com>

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

**New Research on the State of Discipleship.** <https://barna.org/research/leaders-pastors/research-release/new-research-state-of-discipleship#.V45J4Vcn3jJ>

**Why Are So Many Young People Falling Away from Faith?** <http://www.gotquestions.org/falling-away.html>

**Build Disciples in the Digital Age.** [http://explore.aware3.com/engage/?utm\\_campaign=Pastor-Resources-0524&utm\\_medium=cta&utm\\_source=email&channel=PR-email-0524](http://explore.aware3.com/engage/?utm_campaign=Pastor-Resources-0524&utm_medium=cta&utm_source=email&channel=PR-email-0524)



## **03 | COR Value #3 Acceptance**

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## 03 | Contents

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  - B. Bible Text/s
  - C. Ellen G. White Quote
  - D. Non-denominational Quote
  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate importance of value
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #3 Acceptance

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to accepting people just as Jesus did.**

## B. Bible Text

**Accept** one another, then, **just as Christ accepted you**, in order to bring praise to God.

~ Romans 15:7 NIV.

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

*It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that **we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity.***

~ *The Faith I Live By*, p. 38.

## D. Non-Denominational Quote

**Many** in the next generation **believe that Christians have an insider-outsider mentality that is always ready to bar the door to those who don't meet their standards... Inclusiveness, diversity...** are ideals that have shaped this generation.

~ David Kinnaman in *You Lost Me. Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church... And Rethinking Faith*, p. 171.

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations accept people for who they are. **We embrace all humanity regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, personal history, appearance, odor or any other characteristic.** We worship a God of variety, and we embrace those who are dissimilar to us. We acknowledge that our role is to love and to show respect. Regarding those who are dealing with sin in their lives (all of us), while we do not approve of sin, we also do not believe sinlessness is a precondition for friendship.

## F. COMPONENTS

- Greeters are **friendly and hospitable** to all.
- Members and visitors are **received warmly**.
- **Leaders embrace all** members rather than showing favoritism.
- Social and spiritual **inclusion** are quickly offered to all.

- **Opinions and ideas are valued** even if they are not accepted as orthodoxy.
- People of various backgrounds are valued as brothers and sisters. **Cultural diversity** is warmly **accepted and celebrated**.
- The **Golden Rule** is lived.
- **Social networks** are on-ramps to church life, not barriers to it.

## 2. Videos to illustrate the value

1. *Formalities* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6CONIESt3Q&index=11&list=PLO5NwwC11064pTSU2mXWsaq\\_NL2JAehg9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6CONIESt3Q&index=11&list=PLO5NwwC11064pTSU2mXWsaq_NL2JAehg9)
2. *How Friendly Is Your Church Really?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9tiCZB61QY>



### 3. Questions for Reflection

- **Accept** one another, then, **just as Christ accepted you**, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7 NIV.) What are the characteristics of a church that accepts other people just as Jesus did? What can we learn from Jesus' example and his interaction with sinful people?
- How could your church be more accepting towards senior youth and young adults? What specific changes do you need to make to show acceptance?
- Optional: "Accepting young adults also includes giving them the opportunity and freedom to seek and study the Bible through asking deep questions and exploring our faith. We are a people of the Book, and we have no creed except the Bible. Therefore we do not have to be afraid of challenging questions. Young adults want to explore and test the teachings of the Bible and the culture of our church." Center for Youth Evangelism (Corp. author). Throstur Thordarson. (2014). "An Invitation" in *The Youth Speak, the Church Responds*. Lincoln, NE: Advent Source.  
How does your church accept senior youth and young adults' questions?

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Church greeters.** Actively welcome and greet people when they come to church. Have greeters go through training to know how to welcome visitors and make them feel at home, no matter who they are, where they come from, or how they look. Purposefully greet visitors five times before they enter the sanctuary.
- **Respect for all & Cultural diversity.** As a church, make it your goal to embrace diversity and welcome variety in church life and worship.
- **Inclusion of visitors and new members into church life.** Invite new people to participate in church life and ministry. Some options for service are taking up offering or helping on the platform, before they become members. Social activities could be volleyball or ping pong on Sunday afternoons, basketball on Tuesday evenings, etc.
- **Worship.** Educate your church so different types of worship are welcome by all. Include more traditional and new songs. Focus a sermon on loving people, grace, and mercy every once in a while to communicate the vision of embracing cultural diversity and different worship expressions.
- **Connecting with others.** Plan and create opportunities for young people to mingle with others, while not becoming tempted to join the world. Connect an elder with each of your young adults, with the purpose of visiting non attending church members.

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

A. I will go home to my father and say, **“Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.** Please take me on as a hired servant.”

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, **his father saw him** coming. Filled with love and compassion, **he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.**

~ Luke 15:18-20 (NLT)

B. Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of **Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.** He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, **“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”** So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, **“He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”**

~ Luke 19:1-7 (NIV)

C. **Be willing to accept those who still have doubts about what believers can do.** And don't argue with them about their different ideas.

~ Romans 14:1 (ERV)

D. A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.

~ John 13:34-35 (NIV)

E. **Make allowance for each other's faults,** and **forgive** anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

~ Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

F. Later, **Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.** But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such

scum?” When Jesus heard this, He said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” Then he added, “**Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’** For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

~ Matthew 9:10-13 (NLT)

## Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. Christ ate with publicans and sinners, as well as with Pharisees. **When He was invited to their homes, He accepted the invitation.** In this He offended the scribes and Pharisees, who thought that a Jew should not thus forget the wall of partition that tradition had erected. But **with God there is no sect or nationality.**  
~ *Daughters of God*, p. 236.
- B. **Christ would have died for one soul** in order that one might live through the eternal ages.  
~ *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8*, p. 72.
- C. The entertainment was given in honor of Jesus, and He did not hesitate to accept the courtesy. He well knew that this would give offense to the Pharisaic party, and would also compromise Him in the eyes of the people. But no question of policy could influence His movements. With Him external distinctions weighed nothing. That which appealed to His heart was a soul thirsting for the water of life.  
**Jesus sat as an honored guest at the table of the publicans, by His sympathy and social kindness showing that He recognized the dignity of humanity;** and men longed to become worthy of His confidence.  
~ *A Call To Stand Apart*, p. 16.
- D. **These souls whom you despise, said Jesus, are the property of God.** By creation and by redemption they are His, and they are of value in His sight. As the shepherd loves his sheep, and cannot rest if even one be missing, so, in an infinitely higher degree, does God love every outcast soul. Men may deny the claim of His love, they may wander from Him, they may choose another master; yet they are God’s, and He longs to recover His own. He says, “As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark

day.” Ezekiel 34:12

~ *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 187.

- E. Arise and go to your Father. **He will meet you a great way off.** If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, **He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love.** His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The very first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him. Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear is shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble, but the Spirit of God goes forth to meet it. Even before the prayer is uttered or the yearning of the heart made known, grace from Christ goes forth to meet the grace that is working upon the human soul.

~ *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 206.

## Additional Public Quotes

- A. “...**diversity is about acceptance, about not expecting everyone to look like you.** A more diverse church is seen as more welcoming.”  
~ My Patient Revolution. Creating a place where everyone belongs. Interview with Mark Jobe. *Leadership Journal*, Spring 2005. Source: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2005/spring/1.20.html?paging=off>
- B. “I ran into Taylor recently at a shop in our hometown of Ventura. As she gabbed with a friend, I couldn't help but notice that she had “Empathy” embroidered across her handbag. Frankly I was curious why that word so resonated with her.  
“When I asked about it, Taylor said, ‘**Empathy is the ability to see a situation, an emotion, an action through Christ's eyes and through the other person's heart.** When I have empathy, I begin to understand the love Christ has for the hurting and see the situation from their point of view. **It is a way of humbling yourself and putting others' needs and emotions before your own.**’  
“‘But aren't you concerned that some Christians might think ‘empathy’ just means accepting everyone no matter what they do?’ I asked.  
“Yeah, a few people have kind of looked at me strangely. But empathy is taking on the nature of Christ. It's the ability to understand and take on yourself the burdens of others. I have a huge heart for those caught up in sex trafficking. It's an evil that rips away the innocence of children and treats women as if they are less than dirt. Though I cannot relate at all to their situation, it is through empathy that I am able to realize the inner hurt and despair created by this slavery. **In our yearning to become Christlike, we have the opportunity to embrace His character.**”

~ *You Lost Me. Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church... And Rethinking Faith*, p. 183-184.

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 10-14. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7tt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7tt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

## VIDEOS

1. *Formalities* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6CONIEST3Q&index=11&list=PLO5NwwC11064pTSU2mXWsaq\\_NL2JAehg9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6CONIEST3Q&index=11&list=PLO5NwwC11064pTSU2mXWsaq_NL2JAehg9)
2. *How Friendly Is Your Church Really?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9tiCZB61QY>

Rainer, Thom S. and Rainer, Jess W. (2011). *The Millennials. Connecting to America's Largest Generation*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group. See chapter 4 "The New Normal of Openness and Diversity", p. 77-100.

Stark, David. (2016). *Reaching Millennials. Proven Methods for Engaging a Younger Generation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Bethany House Publishers. See chapter 8 "Outsider Targeted Services", p. 109-120.

**7 Ways to Become a Welcoming Church.** <http://www.alliancenet.org/christward/6-ways-to-become-a-welcoming-church#.V09dTVdWv-0>

**10 Signals that Say "You Are Not Welcome in This Church".** <http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/joe-mckeeever/10-signals-say-you-not-welcome-this-church.html>

**5 Reasons Churches Need Diversity.** <http://www.faithstreet.com/onfaith/2015/02/24/5-reasons-churches-need-diversity/36221>

**Fourteen Characteristics of Genuinely Friendly Churches.** <http://thomrainer.com/2014/11/fourteen-characteristics-genuinely-friendly-churches/>

**We Will No Longer Be a Welcoming Church.** <https://daelcarev.wordpress.com/2013/03/12/we-will-no-longer-be-a-welcoming-church/>



## **04 | COR Value #4 Community**

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## 04 | Contents

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4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.



# 1. COR Value #4 Community

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to building a caring and friendly community.**

## B. Bible Text

*Above all, you must **live as citizens of heaven**, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that **you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose**, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.*

~ *Philippians 1:27 NLT.*

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

*Christian sociability is altogether too little cultivated by God's people. . . . By social intercourse acquaintances are formed and friendships contracted which result in a **unity of heart and an atmosphere of love** which is pleasing in the sight of heaven... **The warmth of true friendship... is a foretaste of the joys of heaven.***

~ *Ellen White in My Life Today, p. 204.*

## D. Non-Denominational Quote

*The future of the church depends on whether it develops **true community**. We can get by for a while on size, skilled communication and programs to meet every need, but **unless we sense that we belong to each other, with masks off, the vibrant church of today will become the powerless church of tomorrow.** Stale, irrelevant, a place of pretense where sufferers suffer, alone where pressure generates conformity rather than the Spirit creating life – that's where the church is headed unless it focuses on community.*

~ Larry Crabb as quoted by Randee Frazee in *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*, p. 13.

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations incubate **healthy, active relationships**. A friendly atmosphere is created where people can connect. Steps are taken to ensure that visitors and new members are included in formal and informal social activities.

## F. COMPONENTS

- **Meals** are shared in homes and at church.

- **Contact information** for members and visitors is kept current.
- **Social events** are planned outside of church time. They may include, but are not limited to, book clubs, music groups, trips, outdoor activities, sports.
- **Newsletters** keep all informed.
- Non-active members are invited to **belong even before they believe.**
- **Cards** are sent as appropriate.
- Missing members are contacted with **care and tact.**
- When activities are planned, extra energy is spent to ensure **members at the margins are included.**

## 2. Video(s) to illustrate the value

- A. I love Jesus but Hate Religion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IAhDGYIppqY>
- B. Why Church Community Matters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NUGNLgMWmE>
- C. Killer Community Tips. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1379-killer-community-tips>

### 3. Questions for Reflection

- “We must move past the idea of a ‘friendly church’ to the concept of a ‘church of friends.’” Brad J. Waggoner. Does this phrase resonate with you? Why? Why not?
- Read the following quote. **“Sometimes I wonder if community-building in many churches has fallen into the same trap that so many other things have fallen into: We talk about it more than we actually practice it.** Sermons, Bible study books, podcasts, tweets, Facebook rants—they've addressed community at some point. Home groups sit around and talk to each other about how great their community is when they may have someone sitting on the sofa right next to them who feels wildly disconnected from everyone else. We love the idea of community—everyone engaged and involved and connected—but **how many people show up like I did to the back of that church, longing for someone to reach out to them, shake their hand and have more than a two-second conversation?”**  
~ Shaun Stevenson in “3 Ways the Church Can Build Better Community,” *Relevant Magazine*, March 19, 2015. <http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/3-ways-church-can-build-better-community>
- Is this an accurate description of community at your church? How can your/the church build or improve community? What attitudes and elements are needed to truly make everyone feel welcome and appreciated at church?
- Optional. Read this article by Kathy Escobar: <http://kathyescobar.com/2010/01/14/the-difference-between-cultivating-communities-and-building-churches/> What are your thoughts on the difference between cultivating communities and building churches?

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Potlucks.** Plan fellowship meals for visitors periodically. You can also plan a larger fellowship meal for the whole church to come together.
- **Social activities.** Plan numerous activities on a regular basis, such as basketball, volleyball and ping pong to draw a crowd of young people, both church members and non members. Another idea is to run a pinewood derby circuit through the year with six races. These are excellent ways for parents and children to fellowship together. Start a book club, go paintballing, organise camping trips. Include young people in the planning process.
- **Home Invitations.** Make sure church members take interest in the young adults and invite them to their homes for Sabbath Afternoon. This is where younger generation can connect with the older generation, and friendship and understanding can blossom.

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.  
~ Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV).
- B. If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if His love has made any difference in your life, if being in a **community** of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care – then do me a favor: **Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.**  
~ Philippians 2:1-4 (MSG).
- C. **All the believers devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching, and **to fellowship, and to sharing in meals** (including the Lord's Supper), and **to prayer**. And all the believers **met together in one place and shared everything they had**. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. **They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity**— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. **And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.**  
~ Acts 2:42, 44-47

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. There is **sad lack** in the church, **of Christian love for one another**. This love is easily extinguished; and yet **without it we cannot have Christian fellowship**, nor love for those for whom Christ died.  
~ *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 164
- B. The church is a Christian society, formed for the members composing it, **that each member may enjoy the assistance of all the graces and talents of the other members**, and the working of God upon them, according to their several gifts and abilities. **The church is united in the holy bonds of fellowship** in order that each member may be benefited by the influence of the other. **All are to bind themselves**

**to the covenant of love and harmony.** The Christian principles and graces of the whole society of believers is to gather strength and force in harmonious action  
~ *The Remnant Church; Its Organization, Authority, Unity, and Triumph*, p. 52

- C. In the church of God today **brotherly love is greatly lacking.** Many of those who profess to love the Saviour neglect to love those who are united with them in Christian fellowship. We are of the same faith, members of one family, all children of the same heavenly Father, with the same blessed hope of immortality. **How close and tender should be the tie that binds us together.** The people of the world are watching us to see if our faith is exerting a sanctifying influence upon our hearts. They are quick to discern every defect in our lives, every inconsistency in our actions. Let us give them no occasion to reproach our faith.  
~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8*, p. 242.

## Additional Non-denominational Quotes

1. **“Sometimes I wonder if community-building in many churches has fallen into the same trap that so many other things have fallen into: We talk more about it more than we actually practice it.** Sermons, Bible study books, podcasts, tweets, Facebook rants—they've addressed community at some point. Home groups sit around and talk to each other about how great their community is when they may have someone sitting on the sofa right next to them who feels wildly disconnected from everyone else. We love the idea of community—everyone engaged and involved and connected—but **how many people show up like I did to the back of that church, longing for someone to reach out to them, shake their hand and have more than a two-second conversation?”**  
~ Shaun Stevenson in “3 Ways the Church Can Build Better Community,” *Relevant Magazine*, March 19, 2015. <http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/3-ways-church-can-build-better-community>
2. Among emerging adults, we turn to the idea of **seeking a home, that is, searching for belonging in a safe, communal sphere** that provides an established worldview and access to peers, mentors, and elders...empirical research demonstrates that spiritual and religious communities and role models represent an enormously significant resource for the value formation and development of religiousness in emerging adults.  
~ Gina Magyar-Russell, Paul J. Deal, and Iain Tucker Brown, “Potential Benefits and Detriments of Religiousness and Spirituality to Emerging Adults” in Carolyn McNamara Barry and Mona M. Abo-Zena, ed., *Emerging Adults' Religiousness and Spirituality:*

*Meaning Making in an Age of Transition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), p. 47-49.

3. Rainer, Thom S. and Rainer, Sam S. III. (2008). *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville TN: B & H Publishing.
  - A. In fact **60%** of formerly churched eighteen- to thirty-five-year-olds **are willing to return to church if a friend or acquaintance invited them.**" (p. 122).
4. Rainer, Thom S. and Geiger, Eric. (2006). *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.
  - A. **Sadly**, most **churches** are like poor relay teams. Instead of caring about the handoffs, they are preoccupied with the programs. They **pay little attention to how people are moved to greater levels of commitment. They ignore what happens between the programs.** Simple churches pay attention to the handoffs. They have grasped the truth that assimilation effectiveness is more important than programmatic effectiveness (p. 73).
  - B. **When a church is fully aligned all ministries are operating from the same ministry blueprint...** Without alignment, the church can be a multitude of sub-ministries. In this case each ministry has its own leaders who are only passionate about their specific ministry. They rarely identify with the entire church but are deeply committed to their own philosophy of ministry. In a church that lacks alignment everybody is competing for the same space, resources, volunteers, and time on the calendar (p. 75).
5. Waggoner, Brad J. (2008). *The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and The Future of Discipleship*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.
  - A. **If leaders are to biblically shape the faith to come, we must move past the idea of a "friendly church" to the concept of a "church of friends."** We must get past our superficial smiles and handshakes to build significant relationships and create a fellowship of friends within our congregations. A culture of fellowship includes these elements:
    - People over Programs**--The things we value in our congregations are revealed in our priorities. . . . To biblically shape the faith to come, we will constantly scrutinize our priorities, making sure religious activity never supplants the priority of building relationships.
    - Showing Up**--we must encourage our churchgoers to show up, gathering



together on a regular basis.

**Transparency**--We will model a culture of fellowship through appropriate levels of transparency, teaching our members that a loving safe environment creates an openness that allows them to experience deep meaningful relationships

**Spiritual Time**--We will routinely emphasize the biblical admonition to guard our hearts and keep a safe distance from those who are not pursuing God . . . The point is that we cannot allow unbelievers or even misguided unbelievers to have access to our hearts

**Forgiveness**--In a culture of forgiveness, we will teach members about God's ever-present grace encouraging them to release the heavy burden of unforgiveness. We will show members the spiritually practical need to let go of pride, fear, or old resentments.

**Prayer**--We will consistently remind our congregations that biblical prayer binds our hearts to God and to one another. We will teach our people to pray, and then give them many, many, opportunities to pray together. (p. 261-263)

- B. If leaders are to biblically shape the faith to come, **we must move past the idea of a “friendly church” to the concept of a “church of friends.”** We must get past our superficial smiles and handshakes to build significant relationships and create a fellowship of friends within our congregations.  
~ Brad J. Waggoner in *The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and The Future of Discipleship*, p.261.

6. Frazee, Randy. (2001). *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

- A. “You can have a small group and not experience community--but **you cannot have community apart from a small group experience.**” (p. 22).
- B. “From a physical standpoint a community is a collection of individuals, but **the residents of a true community act like members of something that is larger than themselves.**” (p. 56-57, quotes John Locke)

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p.14-15. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

### VIDEOS

- A. I love Jesus but Hate Religion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IAhDGYlpqY>
- B. Why Church Community Matters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NUGNLgMWmE>
- C. Killer Community Tips. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1379-killer-community-tips>

Bridges, Jerry. (2012). *True Community*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

Vanier, Jean. (1989). *Community and Growth*. New York: Paulist Press.

**Blessing of Bikes** <http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2015/summer-2015/blessing-of-bikes.html>

**Unity and Diversity: the church, race and ethnicity.** <http://www.jubilee-centre.org/unity-and-diversity-the-church-race-and-ethnicity-by-sujit-sivasundaram/>

**How To Build Church Community Organically, Without Rigid Structures.** <http://www.christianpost.com/news/how-to-build-church-community-organically-without-rigid-structures-71697/>

**3 Ways the Church Can Build Better Community.** <http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/3-ways-church-can-build-better-community> and **3 Remarkable Ways the Church Can Build Better Community.** <http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/3-remarkable-ways-the-church-can-build-better-community.html>

**5 Secrets for Ordinary People to Build Extraordinary Community.** <http://www.churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/167883-daniel-darling-build-community-in-your-church.html/3>

**6 Ways You Can Create Authentic Community in Your Church.** <http://www.justindeeter.com/archives/2108>

**The Church and Building Community in the Digital Age.** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/the.church.and.building.community.in.the.digital.age/32698.htm>

**5 Ways to Connect with Millennials.** <https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/682-5-ways-to-connect-with-millennials#.VzCaoGNWv-0>

**GREETERS (Thom Rainer):**

**7 Things Church Members Should Say to Guests.** <http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/seven-things-church-members-should-say-to-guests-in-a-worship-service/>

**10 Comments from Happy Church Guests.** <http://thomrainer.com/2016/02/ten-comments-from-happy-church-guests/>

**9 Surprises in Worship Services that Made Guests Return.** <http://thomrainer.com/2015/12/nine-surprises-in-worship-services-that-made-guests-return/>

**7 Situations Where Your Church Should Not Have Greeters.** <http://thomrainer.com/2015/12/seven-situations-where-your-church-should-not-have-greeters/>



## **05 | COR Value #5 Support**

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## 05 | Contents

1. COR Value #5 Support
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  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate importance of value:
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #5 Support

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to supporting senior youth and young adults with their life challenges.**

## B. Bible Text

So **encourage each other and build each other up**, just as you are already doing.

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT.

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

**Many have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, whom one word of kindly cheer and courage would have strengthened to overcome.**

*Never, never become heartless, cold, unsympathetic, and censorious. **Never lose an opportunity to say a word to encourage and inspire hope.** We cannot tell how far-reaching may be our tender words of kindness, our Christlike efforts to lighten some burden.*

~ Ellen White in *Counsels for the Church*, p. 255.

## D. Non-denominational Quote

**The more adult leaders who are investing in a teens's life, the more likely that teen is to stay in church.** *The more adults who are involved in a teen's life, the lower the dropout rate.*

~ Thom S. Rainer and Sam S. Rainer III in *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*, p. 124.

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations **provide a physically and emotionally safe environment** for people to deal with life's stresses and their deepest questions. We also acknowledge that meeting people's material needs is a highly spiritual act.

## F. COMPONENTS

- Individuals in need are treated **respectfully**.
- Pastor makes **referrals** as necessary to supporting agencies.

- **Support groups** are available for members, where they can encourage one another emotionally and physically.
- Support in the form of **health care, career advisement, financial management training and other life issues** is available as far as possible.
- Members dealing with **emotional issues** (depression, suicide, self-esteem, etc.) are encouraged, not excluded.
- Members dealing with **lifestyle issues** (sex, gambling, shopping, etc.) receive support.
- Members dealing with **substance issues** (alcohol, smoking, drugs, etc.) find help to be free.
- Members dealing with **family issues** (marriage difficulties, divorce, death, infidelity, etc.) receive help and support.

## 2. Video(s) to illustrate the value

Together. Team Hoyt. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/9-together-team-hoyt>

People. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/44999/people>

Change the Story. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/64097/change-the-story>

Skit Script. Group Insurance. <https://skitguys.com/scripts/item/group-insurance>

Regrets. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1087-regrets>

Something Beautiful. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/61601/something-beautiful>

The Weight I Carry. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1349-the-weight-i-carry>

It's Never Enough. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/2584-it-s-never-enough>

Broken Together. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/4241-broken-together>



### 3. Questions for Reflection

- Watch one or both of these videos:  
The Weight I Carry. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1349-the-weight-i-carry> It's  
Never Enough. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/2584-it-s-never-enough>  
What are some of the issues and challenges of your church's senior youth and young adults?
- How can your congregation provide support for the senior youth and young adults in their life challenges?

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Counseling.** Offer counselling options (pastoral, personal, marriage, health, etc.) to help your young adults. You may also vote a formal Boundary Policy that all staff and elders are required to follow, in order to maintain proper etiquette.
- **Seminars Available.** Sponsor programs such as a Depression Recovery, and Coronary Health Improvement Program every year.
- **Create a Resource Directory.** Create a directory of professionals who are members of your church, or neighboring SDA churches, so that you can provide service and support to your young adults. This may also serve as a directory where your members can direct business to your church members, and your young adults can develop a network with other Adventist professionals.
- **Identify specific skills and interests to support young adults.** You may conduct a survey to see which members would be impressed to take on this ministry. You may choose a leader to coordinate both talent information available and the process of connecting young adults to members that can be of support. Your data base could include:
  - i. Mechanics for those with car trouble
  - ii. Car salesperson for those in need of a car
  - iii. Marriage counselors for those in troubled relationships
  - iv. Financial advisors for those with financial issues
  - v. Government workers for those who may need Government assistance (i.e. food stamps, welfare, etc.)
  - vi. Medical professionals, such as Dentists, Doctors, and Physical Therapist
- **Greet Young Adults.** Actively watch the doors to your church with the intent of connecting with all young adults who come to the church.
- **Create a Needs Assessment Team.** As some young adults face special challenges as they begin to plant roots and establish themselves professionally, you could make it your goal to create a team of church members, who will work alongside your young adults and provide support and seek relevant assistance from church members. This

support may range from help with mechanical repairs, to professional networking, to seeking medical or dental services.

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. **When God's people are in need, be ready to help them.** Always be eager to practice hospitality.  
~ Romans 12:13 NLT.
- B. We should **help others do what is right and build them up** in the Lord.  
~ Romans 15:2 NLT.
- C. A **spiritual gift** is given to each of us **so we can help** each other.  
~ 1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT.
- D. But you must **help us too by praying for us.** For much thanks and praise will go to God from you who see his wonderful answers to your prayers for our safety!  
~ 2 Corinthians 1:11 TLB.
- E. **If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself.** You are not that important.  
~ Galatians 6:3 NLT.
- F. Christ has put each part of the church in its right place. **Each part helps other parts. This is what is needed to keep the whole body together.** In this way, the whole body grows strong in love.  
~ Ephesians 4:16 NLT.

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. The **youth** should have a chance to **give expression** to their feelings. It would be well to have a judicious leader chosen at first, one who will **talk little and encourage a great deal**, by dropping a word now and then to **help and strengthen the youth** in the beginning of their religious experiences. After they have had a little experience, **let one of their number take the leadership**, and then another, and in this way let workers be educated that will meet the approval of God.  
~ *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 69
- B. As followers of Christ **we should make our words such as to be a help and an encouragement to one another** in the Christian life. Far more than we do, we need

to speak of the precious chapters in our experience.

~ *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 338.

C. Christ came to this world to reveal the love of God. His followers are to continue the work which He began. **Let us strive to help and strengthen one another.** Seeking the good of others is the way in which true happiness can be found. Man does not work against his own interest by loving God and his fellow men. The more unselfish his spirit, the happier he is, because he is fulfilling God's purpose for him. The breath of God is breathed through him, filling him with gladness. To him life is a sacred trust, precious in his sight because given by God to be spent in ministering to others.  
~ *The Review and Herald*, June 25, 1908.

D. We have loved and petted ourselves, and excused ourselves in waywardness; but we have been unmerciful toward our brethren, who may not be as faulty as ourselves. The Lord loves us, and bears with us, even when we are ungrateful to him, forgetful of his mercies, wickedly unbelieving; but consider, brethren, how relentless we are to one another, how pitiless; how we hurt and wound one another, when we should love as Christ has loved us. **Let us make a complete change. Let us cultivate the precious plant of love, and delight to help one another. We must be kind, forbearing, patient with one another's errors;** we must keep our sharp criticisms for ourselves, but hope all things, believe all things, of our brethren.  
~ *Gospel Workers 1892*, p. 429.

## Additional Non-denominational Quotes

1. Rainer, Thom S. and Rainer, Sam S. III. (2008). *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville TN: B & H Publishing.

A. **"The more adult leaders who are investing in a teens's life, the more likely that teen is to stay in church.** The more adults who are involved in a teen's life, the lower the dropout rate." (p. 124).

2. Benz, Jonathan and Robb-Dover, Kristina. (2016). *The Recovery-Minded Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

A. If the story of the prodigal son is ultimately a story about a prodigal God who lavishly forgives detours and wrong turns — a God for whom "recovery" isn't just about getting clean but about finding wholeness, restored relationships and the joy of being truly alive—then **churches seeking to know and love this prodigal God need to love and learn from people with addiction and to**

**be part of the beautiful work of restoration that God is doing** through faith-based recovery. (p. 13-14).

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 15-16. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7tt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7tt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

Organizing Support Groups in Your Church (SDA). [http://www.adventistwomensministries.org/assets/files/Resources/Organizing\\_supportgroups\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.adventistwomensministries.org/assets/files/Resources/Organizing_supportgroups_brochure.pdf)

Cummings, Des and Reed, Monica. (2011). CREATION Health Discovery. Your Path to a Healthy 100. Orlando, FL: Florida Hospital Publishing. (SDA).

Youth Ministries Department of the General Conference of SDA. (2013). Senior Youth Ministry Handbook. p. 76-93. (Common Problems of Senior Youth, How to Help the Senior Youth, Counseling Senior Youth).

Sticky Faith Leader. *The Church Sticking Together. The Vital Role of Intergenerational Relationships in Fostering Sticky Faith.* <http://stickyfaith.org/articles/the-church-sticking-together>

## VIDEOS

<https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/4241-broken-together>

**I Am Second Stories on Struggle (convertir en PDF y link cada struggle).**

<http://www.iamsecond.com/struggles/>

Other Churches' Support Groups: Ideas for Support Groups that may be needed in your Church

<http://www.myfirstchurch.com/support-groups/>

<http://www.willowcreek.org/support>

<http://crossings.church/careseries/>

<http://www.nacr.org/referral-center/finding-a-group>

<http://fhchurch.org/get-connected/groupssupport-groups/>

<https://www.cc-ob.org/supportgroups>

<http://www.elmbrook.org/need-help/support-groups/>

<http://www.southeastcc.org/support-groups/>

## **Budgeting**

**3 Important Budgeting Principles to Pass to Your Youth.** <http://ministrytodaymag.com/life/money/21943-give-your-youth-a-financial-jump-start>

## **Addictions**

1. Benz, Jonathan and Robb-Dover, Kristina. (2016). *The Recovery-Minded Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

A. Here are some suggestions for what to include on your referral checklist:

- Twelve-step groups with personal contacts for each of these groups.
- Clergy and churches in your area with thriving support-group ministries and recovery expertise (if your church does not have these),
- Physicians and psychiatrists with addiction and dual-diagnosis specialties,
- Hospital facilities and detox centers providing services to alcoholics and addicts,
- Outpatient and inpatient treatment programs with good reputations,
- Halfway houses and other follow-up programs for addicts coming out of treatment programs,
- Mental health professionals with addiction expertise, as well as therapists trained in stress management,
- Treatment programs for homeless addicts, such as the Salvation Army. (p. 31).



## **06 | COR Value #6 Service**



1. COR Value #6 Service
  - A. Short description of value
  - B. Bible Text/s
  - C. Ellen G. White Quote
  - D. Non-denominational Quote
  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate importance of value
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study. (also add a video testimony of church - ALC)
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #6 Service

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to demonstrating God's love through acts of service.**

## B. Bible Text

*Our people must learn to **use their lives for doing good and helping anyone who has a need.** Then they will not have empty lives.*

~ Titus 3:14 ERV.

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

**Seize upon every opportunity for contributing to the happiness of those around you.** Remember that true joy can be found only in unselfish service.

~ Ellen White in *Ministry of Healing*, p. 362.

## D. Non-denominational Quote

So in every church, regardless of size and resources, **there are two very practical ways to build a bridge of irresistible influence**, two ways to effectively connect the church to the community, two ways to be salt and light. **One way is by equipping your congregation to directly influence your community through the lifestyles they pursue and the good works they effectively initiate...**

~ Robert Lewis and Rob Wilkins in *The Church of Irresistible Influence*, p. 186.

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations **actively engage the community** in practical and relevant ways. Taking care of "the least of these" is in fact helping Jesus in his most distressing disguise. Service opportunities exist at three levels – giving fish, teaching people how to fish, and advocating for all to have equal access to the pond.

## F. COMPONENTS

- **Acts of service** are done in a way that respect the person served and evoke praise for our Father in heaven.
- **Partnerships** are formed with local service agencies (Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, Amnesty International, United Way, etc.)

- Acts of service benefit and **meet the needs** of church members as well as the local and global community.
- Activities may include:
  - Renovating homes
  - Tutoring children
  - Responding to disasters
  - Cooking meals
  - Visiting homeless shelters
  - Hosting homeless individuals
  - Offering ESL classes
  - Conducting conflict resolution and peace initiatives
  - Advocating for those without a voice
  - Advocating for environmental stewardship
  - And countless others

## 2. Video(s) to illustrate the value

- A. Help. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/4494-help>
- B. The Least. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/3832-the-least>
- C. Strangers. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/2201-strangers>
- D. The Christian Bubble. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/39612/the-christian-bubble>
- E. Get Service. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/14972/get-service>

### 3. Questions for Reflection

- What are some of the needs of your community?
- What can your congregation do to meet these needs as an act of service to the community?
- Optional. Watch the video “Get Service” <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/14972/get-service> and read Luke 10:25-37. How can focusing on our own needs blind us to the needs of others? In what ways does our prejudice hinder us from truly loving our neighbors?

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Hope Rescue Mission.** Every month, a group of your members, young and old, could serve at a local rescue mission by providing and serving a hot meal, followed by a worship service and opportunities to mingle with those in need.
- **Prison Ministry.** Get some of your members involved in a strong prison ministry. Inmates who are released could be provided with a place to stay at while they are establishing new patterns and finding work.
- **Mission Trips.** Plan to go on both foreign and domestic mission trips.

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. **Let each of you look out** not only for his own interests, but also **for the interests of others.**  
~ Philippians 2:4 ESV.
- B. The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands: **“See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern,** and humbly obey your God.”  
~ Micah 6:8 CEV.
- C. **Pure and genuine religion** in the sight of God the Father **means caring for orphans and widows** in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.  
~ James 1:27 NLT.
- D. **Do what is right and fair.** The Lord loves that more than sacrifices.  
~ Proverbs 21:3 ERV.

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. They knew not that the explanation lay in the very words they had uttered as a scornful charge, “This man receiveth sinners.” The souls who came to Jesus felt in His presence that even for them there was escape from the pit of sin. **The Pharisees had only scorn and condemnation for them; but Christ greeted them as children of God, estranged indeed from the Father’s house, but not forgotten by the Father’s heart.** And their very misery and sin made them only the more the objects of His compassion. The farther they had wandered from Him, the more earnest the longing and the greater the sacrifice for their rescue.  
~ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 186
- B. Upon your faithfulness in this work not only the well-being of others but your own eternal destiny depends. Christ is seeking to uplift all who will be lifted to companionship with Himself, that we may be one with Him as He is one with the Father. **He permits us to come in contact with suffering and calamity in order to call us out of our selfishness; He seeks to develop in us the attributes of His character—compassion, tenderness, and love.** By accepting this work of ministry we place ourselves in His school, to be fitted for the courts of God. By rejecting it, we

reject His instruction, and choose eternal separation from His presence.

~ *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 388.

- C. **There are those who would think it lowering to their dignity to minister to suffering humanity.** Many look with indifference and contempt upon those who have laid the temple of the soul in ruins. Others neglect the poor from a different motive. They are working, as they believe, in the cause of Christ, seeking to build up some worthy enterprise. They feel that they are doing a great work, and they cannot stop to notice the wants of the needy and distressed. **In advancing their supposedly great work they may even oppress the poor.** They may place them in hard and trying circumstances, deprive them of their rights, or neglect their needs. Yet they feel that all this is justifiable because they are, as they think, advancing the cause of Christ (COL 382:3)

~ *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 382.

- D. **The qualities which it is essential for all to possess are those which marked the completeness of Christ's character,—His love, His patience, His unselfishness, and His goodness.** These attributes are gained by doing kindly actions with a kindly heart.... Christians love those around them as precious souls for whom Christ has died. There is no such thing as a loveless Christian; for "God is love." ... "This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you." This is the fruit that is to be given back to God.

~ Manuscript 133-1899, September 20, 1899, par. 22.

- E. **Let not the youth be ignored;** let them share in the labor and responsibility. **Let them feel that they have a part to act in helping and blessing others.** Even the children should be taught to do little errands of love and mercy for those less fortunate than themselves (6T 435, ChS 31:2).

~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 435.

## **Additional Non-denominational Quotes**

1. Stanley, Andy. (2012). *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

A. **"People are far more interested in what works than what's true.** I hate to burst your bubble, but virtually nobody in your church is on a truth quest. Including your spouse. They are on happiness quests. As long as you are dishing out the truth with no here's the difference it will make tacked on the



end, you will be perceived as irrelevant by most of the people in your church, student ministry, or home Bible study. You may be spot-on theologically, like the teachers of the law in Jesus' day, but you will not be perceived as one who teaches with authority. Worse, nobody is going to want to listen to you" (p. 114).

2. Keck, David. (2014). *Healthy Churches, Faithful Pastors: Covenant Expectations for Striving Together*. London, UK: Rowman and Littlefield.

- A. **Healthy, meaning-filled churches have identities and roles in their communities.** They have a sense that they are sharing in something larger than themselves--indeed, that they are responsible stewards of their own corner of the kingdom of God. Through their experience of working hard together on challenging tasks, they come to know the power of God. Whether they have a formal mission statement or not, every member of a healthy congregation trusts that they have a common purpose that brings out the best in them (p. 17).

3. Lewis, Robert and Wilkins, Rob. (2003). *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids, MI: ZondeRvan Publishing House.

- A. "We do not, as many think, live an age that despises belief. Rather, it is an age that wants to believe, desperately so. Deeply disillusioned by the failure of human reason and logic, it is open to outside--and even supernatural--explanations... **But it trusts nothing except what it can see and, more importantly, experience.**" (p. 40-41).

- B. "I saw that more preaching is not the answer to today's spiritual hunger. Neither is the writing of more books, the hosting of more conferences, better technology or special effects. . . . the world is tired of the church impersonally talking down and chewing it up. **What the world waits to see is whether what we have is better than what they have.**" (p. 45-46).

- C. **"The church we believe should be a force of irresistible influence in its community.** By building bridges of real spiritual integrity between itself and an increasingly skeptical society, we possess the power and authority to be a catalyst for change and an engine of influence." (p. 56).

- D. **"The true measures of a church are not 'how many' but 'how loving', not 'how relevant' but 'how real.'"** (p. 72).

- E. **People want purpose, meaning, and fulfillment in their serving.** Anything less will feel like Israel's "forced labor" in Egypt: empty and oppressive (p. 102)
  - F. So in every church, regardless of size and resources, there are **two very practical ways to build a bridge of irresistible influence**, two ways to effectively connect the church to the community, two ways to be salt and light. **One way is by equipping your congregation to directly influence your community** through the lifestyles they pursue and the good works they effectively initiate. . . The other way to irresistible influence is by developing the life and leadership skills of a young bridge builder. . . . Despite all that today's churches are consumed with (or consumed by), finding and training young godly leaders is of supreme importance. The future of the evangelical church rests in how well we do. (p. 186)
4. Cole, Neil. (2005). *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- A. Church attendance, however, is not the barometer for how Christianity is doing. Ultimately, transformation is the product of the Gospel. **It is not enough to fill our churches we must transform our world. Society and culture should change if the church has been truly effective...** The measure of the church's influence is found in society--on the streets, not in the pews. We are not alone in this ecclesiastical descent. All around the world whenever the church follows the Western institutional pattern, its influence is on the decline (p. xxiii)
  - B. As the world looks at our churches in the West, it sees only what people have done, and is not impressed. We scheme, "What can we do to make our churches more appealing to the people in our community?" This is, once again, the wrong question. Once the world begins to see Jesus in our midst, many more people will be attracted to our churches. **A better question is, "Where is Jesus at work in our midst?" Where do we see lives changing, and communities transforming simply by the power of the Gospel?** Where do we see fathers restored to a life of holiness and responsibility? Where do we see daughters reconciling with fathers? Where do we see addicts who no longer live under the bondage of chemical dependency? Where are wealthy businessmen making restitution for past crimes that went unnoticed? These are

the questions that lead you to the presence of God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven (p. 52-53).

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 16-18. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7tt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7tt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

We Will No Longer Be a Welcoming Church. <https://daelcarev.wordpress.com/2013/03/12/we-will-no-longer-be-a-welcoming-church/>

## VIDEOS

- A. Help. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/4494-help>
- B. The Least. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/3832-the-least>
- C. Strangers. <https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/2201-strangers>
- D. The Christian Bubble. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/39612/the-christian-bubble>
- E. Get Service. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/14972/get-service>

## IDEAS

**Building Community from the Inside Out.** [http://www.buildingmovement.org/reports/entry/building\\_community\\_from\\_the\\_inside\\_out](http://www.buildingmovement.org/reports/entry/building_community_from_the_inside_out)

**6 Ideas from the Columbia Union Conference (SDA).** <http://www.columbiaunion.org/building-bridges-your-community>

**Take What You Need.** <http://www.rethinkingyouthministry.com/2012/10/take-what-you-need-prayer-station.html>

**101 Outreach Ideas for Small Churches.** <https://chuckwarnockblog.wordpress.com/2008/11/24/101-outreach-ideas-for-small-churches/>

**Kindness Outreach.** <http://hopefornorthtexas.org/blog/?p=2593>

**Valentine's Day Ideas.** (PDF).

**Low Budget Outreach Ideas.** [http://www.ehow.com/list\\_5860048\\_low\\_budget-outreach-ideas.html](http://www.ehow.com/list_5860048_low_budget-outreach-ideas.html)

**10 Neighborhood Christmas Outreach Ideas.** <http://www.nbs2go.com/2013/12/01/10-neighborhood-christmas-outreach-ideas/>

**7 Simple Outreach Ideas and a Giveaway.** <http://www.karenehman.com/2014/06/7-simple-outreach-ideas-a-giveaway/>

**94 Servant Evangelism Ideas for Your Church.** (PDF File).

**Outreach Ideas.** <http://www.christianoutreachtools.com/outreach-ideas.html>



## **07 | COR Value #7 Leadership**

1. COR Value #7 Leadership
  - A. Short description of value
  - B. Bible Text/s
  - C. Ellen G. White Quote
  - D. Non-denominational Quote
  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate importance of value
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #7 Leadership

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to senior youth and young adult leadership.**

## B. Bible Text

*Get the word out. Teach all these things. And **don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life:** by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that **special gift of ministry you were given** when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use.*

~ 1 Timothy 4:11-14 MSG.

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

*With such an army of workers as **our youth, rightly trained, might furnish**, how soon the message of a crucified, risen and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!*

~ Ellen White in *Education*, p. 271.

## D. Non-denominational Quote

There is **no greater investment** in the future of the church **than by identifying, encouraging, and providing training for the young leaders** in our midst.

~ Robert Lewis and Rob Wilkins in *The Church of Irresistible Influence*, p. 179.

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations **develop leaders** by involving individuals with leadership potential in ministry and administration. The pastoral staff mentor and encourage young leaders and involve them in ministry planning and implementation.

## F. COMPONENTS

- Senior youth and young adult **leaders are recognized** as such by existing church administrators.
- Senior youth and young adults are in church **leadership positions** beyond just youth and young adult ministry.
- Churches provide **involvement opportunities** for senior youth and young adults.

- Churches provide **training and support** for senior youth and young adult leaders.
- Senior youth and young adults are included in the process of **budget and calendar development.**



## 2. Video to illustrate the value

A. Let's Talk - Jan Paulsen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRLi1wxHDn0>

### 3. Questions for Reflection

- How can we help our senior youth and young adults discover their spiritual gifts?
- How can the church incorporate senior youth and young adults in positions of leadership?
- Optional. Read the following excerpt: If we segregate the youth, not only do we lose all they have to teach us, but we also inadvertently teach them that the church is really only for adults—those who are married and have families of their own. **And then we wonder why they don't get involved in church as college students or young singles, when in reality, we've been telling them all along that the church isn't yet for them.**

~ Mark Howard in “Youth Need the Church, and the Church Needs Youth”, *The Gospel Coalition*, April 30, 2012. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/youth-need-the-church-and-the-church-needs-youth>

What are the dangers of not involving senior youth and young adults in church life (worship service, leadership positions, etc.)?

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Leadership opportunities.** Provide opportunities for your adults to be involved in numerous parts of church operation, including serving as elders, Sabbath School superintendant, finance committee, and leading worship.
- **Mentoring.** Initiate a mentoring program to nurture senior youth and young adults and help them grow and develop their talents and spiritual gifts.
- **Sabbath School Teacher Seminar.** Offer training for those who want to help with teaching Sabbath School classes.
- **Leadership Training**

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. **Josiah was eight years old when he became king**, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem... **And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord**, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.  
~ 2 Kings 22:1-2 NKJV.
- B. "O Lord God," I said, **"I can't do that! I'm far too young! I'm only a youth!"**  
**"Don't say that," He replied**, "for you will go wherever I send you and speak whatever I tell you to. And don't be afraid of the people, for I, the Lord, will be with you and see you through."  
~ Jeremiah 1:6-8 TLB.
- C. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"  
Then **Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."**  
~ 1 Samuel 3: 10 NIV.

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. The **youth** should have a chance to **give expression** to their feelings. It would be well to have a judicious leader chosen at first, one who will **talk little and encourage a great deal**, by dropping a word now and then to **help and strengthen the youth** in the beginning of their religious experiences. After they have had a little experience, **let one of their number take the leadership**, and then another, and in this way let workers be educated that will meet the approval of God.  
*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 69
- B. **In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal, and courage.** He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies.  
~ *Evangelism*, p. 476
- C. **The Lord is calling for the youth**, for He would make them His helpers to do good service under His banner  
~ *The Adventist Home*, p.358

- D. **The church is languishing for the help of young men [and young women] who will bear a courageous testimony**, who will with their ardent zeal stir up the sluggish energies of God's people, and so increase the power of the Church in the world.  
~ *Messages to Young People*, p. 25.
- E. **The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand.**  
~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7*, p. 64.
- F. **Preachers**, or laymen advanced in years, **can not have one half the influence upon the young that the youth**, devoted to God, **can have** upon their associates.  
~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7*, p. 204.
- G. **Educate the youth to help the youth**; and in seeking to do this work each will gain experience that will qualify him to be a consecrated worker in a larger sphere.  
~ *Messages to Young People*, p. 203.

## Additional non-denominational Quotes

1. I love youth ministry, I really do. But the thing is, **we have to be sure that we don't segregate the youth for our sake and theirs.** They are part of the body of Christ too, and no part of the body can remain healthy if one of its members is cut off and put to the side. If we segregate the youth, not only do we lose all they have to teach us, but we also inadvertently teach them that the church is really only for adults—those who are married and have families of their own. **And then we wonder why they don't get involved in church as college students or young singles, when in reality, we've been telling them all along that the church isn't yet for them.**  
~ Mark Howard in “Youth Need the Church, and the Church Needs Youth”, *The Gospel Coalition*, April 30, 2012. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/youth-need-the-church-and-the-church-needs-youth>
2. “If I have not equipped the students in my ministry to share the Gospel, disciple a younger believer, and lead a Bible study, then I have not fulfilled my calling to them, no matter how good my sermons have been,” says Nielson, who is also the college pastor at College Church in Wheaton, Illinois. “We pray for conversion; that is all we can do, for it is entirely a gracious gift of God. But after conversion, it is our Christ-given duty to help fan into flame a faith that serves, leads, teaches and grows. If our students leave high school without Bible-reading habits, Bible-study skills, and strong examples of discipleship and prayer, we have lost them. **We have entertained, not equipped them... and it may indeed be time to panic!**”

~ Michael F. Haverluck in “3 Factors Keeping Youth in Church Through Adulthood”, *One News Now*, May 4, 2015. <http://www.onenewsnow.com/church/2015/05/04/3-factors-keeping-youth-in-church-through-adulthood>

3. Stanley, Andy. (2012). *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
  - A. **“Experience has taught us that the sooner we can get people into ministry environments, the better.** Even if they are not fully trained. Once they are actually in the environments several things happen. First, they are confronted with what they don’t know but need to know and they become extraordinarily teachable. . . . The second thing that happens is that they usually recognize immediately if they’ve chosen an appropriate place to serve. But perhaps **the most important thing that happens, happens in their hearts.** When individuals step into a ministry environment, what was once a category of people becomes people with names, faces, and stories” (p. 128).
4. Vanderwaal, Howard. Editor. (2008). *The Church of all Ages: Generations Worshiping Together*. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute.
  - A. “Intergenerational worship is a countercultural activity. In a culture that segregates and isolates children, preteens, and teens, and then appeals to to them separately, **the church is a truly countercultural community when it invites all generations to participate actively in worship.**” (p. 71, Quotes Darwin Glassford, “Fostering an Intergenerational Culture”)
5. Lewis, Robert and Wilkins, Rob. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.
  - A. **There is no greater investment** in the future of the church **than by identifying, encouraging, and providing training for the young leaders** in our midst (p. 179).
  - B. But for the church to rise above a “spiritual maintenance” mentality to be more than a club, or spiritual retreat center, the right kind of leader must be found first. . . . George Barna is absolutely right when he says, **“We must commit ourselves to the process of leadership development so that we can empower leaders to succeed.”** We must not only find these leaders; we must “set them up for success” (p. 180)

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 18-19. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

## VIDEOS

A. Let's Talk - Jan Paulsen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRLi1wxHDn0>

## IDEAS

### Working together

Having considered some ways to meet the needs of youths, let us now consider how we can work together to see that these things are happening more consistently and intentionally in our congregations. I recommend the following strategies:

**1. Provide at church a setting in which teens can gather to express and discuss their needs and fears.** One way to do this is to providing a teen small group moderated by a caring and mature Christian adult. The small group could meet before or after services, or during the teaching part of the main service (though the better strategy is to make the main service teen friendly, and have the teen small group before or after main church).

**2. Provide times when youths can get away together and with caring, mature Christian adults.** Retreats are great. So are trips to fun places. Many churches offer weekends, summer camps and other events for youths. Take advantage of these opportunities to build closeness among your youths, and for them to bond more closely with adult sponsors and leaders.

**3. Plug your youths—your teens in particular—into meaningful, consistent ministry within your congregation.** Do not just have a youth day at church a couple of times a year when the teens do most of the worship service. Rather, give them a place in ministry week-in and week-out.

**For example,** do you have youths on your worship team? How about a drama team? Are youths frequently offering congregational prayers and helping with ushering. **Do you have a mature youth on your congregation's advisory council?** Think about how youths can be active in all the ministries of the congregation.

<https://www.gci.org/church/youth/youth8>

Rainer, Thom S. and Geiger, Eric. (2006). *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.

- A. **Simple church leaders are strategic with their programming.** They are abhor the concept of doing programs because of tradition or the need to have something on the calendar. **They view programs as tools to place people in the pathway of God's morphing.**

Lessons on strategic programming:

**Begin with your clearly defined process**--you must begin with the process not the programs

**Choose one program for each phase of your process**--multiple programs for each phase of the process divides attention and energy

**Design each program for a specific aspect of the process**--each program should be distinct from the others

**Place the programs in sequential order** (P. 140-142).

**PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR INVOLVING YOUTH.** (Youth Ministries Department of the General Conference of SDA, Youth First. Involving Our Youth. [http://gcyouthministries.org/Portals/0/Document\\_Downloads/YouthFirst.pdf](http://gcyouthministries.org/Portals/0/Document_Downloads/YouthFirst.pdf))

- Hold spiritual gifts seminars to assist young people in discovering and developing their gifts. Empower your young people for leadership by learning what spiritual gifts and natural abilities each has. Train them to employ those gifts in church leadership. Provide the necessary resources, skills, and support to do the job well and then step back and allow them to do it.
- Examine committees at all levels of the church to ensure that youth are represented at the decision-making committees.
- Instruct churches to develop a policy to safeguard the necessity of youth involvement in all aspects of church life.
- Support youth through mentoring and skills-building opportunities.
- Hold seminars for churches on youth involvement.



- Invite local churches to appoint mentors for youth involvement purposes. Ensure that the appointed mentors have sufficient time and energy to excite youth.
- Make sure the nominating committee will choose youth and young adults to fill real and significant roles in church life, not just “token” positions.
- Check that the finance committee will make spending on youth activities and projects a priority.
- Monitor the needs of youth and older church members.
- Examine each level of church organization to assess the current level of youth participation in that particular level.
- Instruct the church board or executive committee to clarify types of youth needed and how they will be involved in the mission of the church.
- Share decision-making power within the church.
- Provide training. Young people may need training in communication, leadership, preaching skills, and other areas. Older church members may also need training in working with youth as well as in technical areas.
- Develop an intern program for youth.
- Promote a strong volunteer program that will be an outlet for participation/involvement.

How Do You See the Church Engaging Youth in Worship Services? <http://youthministryconversations.com/how-do-you-see-the-church-engaging-youth-in-worship-services/>

Getting Kids Involved at Church. <http://www1.cbn.com/family/getting-kids-involved-at-church>



## **08 | COR Value #8 Budget**

1. COR Value #8 Budget
  - A. Short description of value
  - B. Bible Text/s
  - C. Ellen G. White Quote
  - D. Non-denominational Quote
  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate importance of value:
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #8 Budget

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to investing financially in senior youth and young adult ministry.**

## B. Bible Text

*For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.*

~ Luke 12:34 NKJV.

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

**Money is a blessing** when those who use it consider that they are the Lord's stewards, that **they are handling the Lord's capital**, and must one day give account of their stewardship.

~ Ellen White in Education, p. 271.

## D. Non-Denominational Quote

Don't tell me what you value. **Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value.**

~ Vice President Joe Biden quoting his dad. Daily Kos, *Obama Nightly News: "Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value."* November 3, 2012. <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/11/3/1155042/-Obama-Nightly-News-Show-me-your-budget-and-I-ll-tell-you-what-you-value>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBVyZZvdGso>

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations **financially support senior youth and young adult ministry by budgeting** a set amount per person in this age group. This amount should reflect the size of this group relative to the rest of the church body and may be a constant percentage of the budget or a set amount for each senior youth and young adult.

## F. COMPONENTS

- Church budgets include **funds designated for senior youth and young adult ministry**.
- **Senior youth and young adults are involved** with the use of the budget.
- **Fundraising** activities are undertaken.

- Monies are used for **resources, activities and projects** valued by senior youth and young adults.

## 2. Video to illustrate the value

- A. Obama Nightly News: "Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/11/3/1155042/-Obama-Nightly-News-Show-me-your-budget-and-I-ll-tell-you-what-you-value>

### 3. Questions for Reflection

- How is your church investing in the lives of the senior youth and young adults?
- “Don't tell me what you value. **Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value.**” Vice President Joe Biden quoting his dad.

Do you resonate with this quote? Why or why not? What does your church budget say about your priorities?

## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Budget for youth and young adult ministry.** Set aside a percentage of the budget for senior youth and young adults and youth ministries. Senior youth and young adults may also raise funds.
- **Young adult involvement with the use of budget.** Money designated for youth and young adult ministries is fully in the hands of the young people directly or through the Youth Ministry Board.



## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel **the least they can do in return is to help them financially.**  
~ Romans 15:27 NLT.
- B. But **let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.**  
~1 Corinthians 14:40 NASB.
- C. **Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,** not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV.
- D. For **which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—** lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’?  
~ Luke 14:28-30 NKJV.

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. **Use your God-entrusted capital of means to arm and equip men [and women]** to enlist in the army of the Lord as soldiers of Jesus Christ. Teach them that it is not the indulgence of every whim which youth may suggest that will facilitate their growth in Christian experience.  
~ *Manuscript Releases, Vol 6, Paragraph 128*

### Additional non-denominational Quotes

Randy Kinnison of Bethany Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon, says, "if you don't put money into it, it's not a goal." [https://www.elfiphc.org/sites/extensionloanfund/uploads/documents/Church Budget Between the Lines.pdf](https://www.elfiphc.org/sites/extensionloanfund/uploads/documents/Church%20Budget%20Between%20the%20Lines.pdf)

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 19. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

## VIDEOS

A. Obama Nightly News: "Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/11/3/1155042/-Obama-Nightly-News-Show-me-your-budget-and-I-ll-tell-you-what-you-value>

**Church Budget. Between the Lines.** [https://www.elfiphc.org/sites/extensionloanfund/uploads/documents/Church\\_Budget\\_Between\\_the\\_Lines.pdf](https://www.elfiphc.org/sites/extensionloanfund/uploads/documents/Church_Budget_Between_the_Lines.pdf)

**Preparing the Church Budget.** <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1971/11/preparing-the-church-budget>

**101 Fundraising Ideas By Youth Leaders Everywhere.** Compiled by Meredith MacKinnon and Sam Townsend. <http://www.youthencounter.org/files/101-Fundraising-IDEAS-Ebook.pdf>



## **09 | COR Value #9 Change**

1. COR Value #9 Change
  - A. Short description of value
  - B. Bible Text/s
  - C. Ellen G. White Quote
  - D. Non-denominational Quote
  - E. Extended description of value
  - F. Components of value
2. Video(s) to illustrate importance of value:
3. Questions for Reflection
4. Implementation Ideas. South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Case Study.
5. Further Reading and Resources: videos, articles, ideas on how to implement.

# 1. COR Value #9 Change

## A. Short description of value

**COR Congregations are committed to change that leads to improved senior youth and young adult ministry.**

## B. Bible Text

*Don't be like the people of this world, but **let God change the way you think**. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to Him.*

*~ Romans 12:2 CEV.*

## C. Ellen G. White Quote

*We are to study the field carefully and are not to think that we must follow the same methods in every place... Whatever may have been your former practice, it is not necessary to repeat it again and again in the same way. **God would have new and untried methods followed.***

*~ Ellen White in Evangelism, p. 125.*

## D. Non-denominational Quote

There is an inexorable link between an organization's vision and its appetite for improvement. Vision exposes what has yet to be accomplished. In this way, vision has the power to create a healthy sense of organizational discontent. A leader who continually keeps the vision out in front of his or her staff creates a thirst for improvement which, in turn, produces an appetite for change. In this way vision contributes to developing a culture that is comfortable with change. **Vision-centric churches expect change. Change is a means to an end. Change is critical to making what could and should be a reality.**

*~ Andy Stanley in Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend, p. 274.*

## E. Extended Description of Value

COR congregations recognize that **new programs, methods, styles and services will always be needed**. What was effective yesterday may not meet the needs of people tomorrow. And new methods will be needed to reach those not engaged with the current ministry mix.

## F. COMPONENTS

- There is an **ongoing evaluation** of programs and processes
- **Experimentation** with new ideas is celebrated. Unsuccessful experiments are viewed as learning/training experiences.
- **Ideas for change** are sought, listened to, and fairly evaluated.
- **Thinking outside the box** is encouraged.
- **Creativity** is praised.

## 2. Video(s) to illustrate the value

- A. Bankruptcy for Borders. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIIJfp5N9r8>
- B. Kodak Bankruptcy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZplzStAfTw>
- C. How Wolves Change Rivers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

### 3. Questions for Reflection

- Read the additional Bible Texts, Ellen G. White and Public Quotes (p. 8-12). Which one stands out for you and why?
- Does your congregation have the capacity to make change that will attract and retain senior youth and young adults?
- How can it incorporate each of the nine COR values in order to attract and retain senior youth and young adults?



## 4. Implementation Ideas.

**Source: South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

- **Ongoing evaluation of programs and processes.** Embrace an active process to look at senior youth and young adult ministries. Involve the church board, elders, and the church in general.
- **Experimentation with new ideas.** Be willing to allow senior youth and young adults to try new things. Encourage them to follow where the Lord leads.
- **Feedback.** Invite your members to write down questions, concerns and suggestions on 3x5 cards that they can drop in the offering plate.

## 5. Further Reading and Resources

### Additional Bible Texts

- A. Let the Spirit **change** your way of thinking.  
~ Ephesians 4:23 CEV.
- B. There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. **You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others.** Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. **You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.** Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.  
~ Hebrews 5:11-14 NLT.
- C. I will give you **a new heart** and put **a new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.  
~ Ezekiel 36:26 NKJV.
- D. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a **new person.** The old life is gone; **a new life has begun!**  
~ 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT.

### Additional Ellen G. White Quotes

- A. **Men are needed** who pray to God for wisdom, and **who, under the guidance of God, can put new life into the old methods** of labor **and can invent new plans and new methods** of awakening the interest of church members and reaching the men and women of the world  
~ *Evangelism*, p. 105.
- B. In the cities of today, where there is so much to attract and please, the people can be interested by no ordinary efforts. Ministers of God's appointment will find it necessary to put forth extraordinary efforts in order to arrest the attention of the multitudes. And when they succeed in bringing together a large number of people, they must bear messages of a character so out of the usual order that the people will be aroused and warned. **They must make use of every means that can possibly be devised for**

**causing the truth to stand out clearly and distinctly.**

~ *Evangelism*, p. 122

- C. As you work, **devise, and plan, new methods** will continually present themselves to your mind, and by use the powers of your intellect will be increased. A lukewarm, slack performance of duty is an injury to the soul for whom Christ has died. If we would find the pearls buried in the debris of the cities, we should go forth ready to do the work required by the Master.

~ *Ministry to the Cities*, p. 96

- D. As field after field is entered, **new methods and new plans will spring from new circumstances.** New thoughts will come with the new workers who give themselves to the work. As they seek the Lord for help, He will communicate with them. They will receive plans devised by the Lord Himself. Souls will be converted, and money will come in.

~ *Testimonies for the Church Vol 6*, p. 476.

- E. **The prevailing monotony of the religious round of service in our churches needs to be disturbed.** The leaven of activity needs to be introduced that our church members may work along new lines, and **devise new methods.** The Holy Spirit's power will move upon hearts when this dead, lifeless monotony is broken up, and many will begin to work in earnest who never before thought of being anything but idle spectators. A working church on earth is connected with the working church above. God works, angels work, and men should work for the conversion of souls

~ *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 204.

- F. God selects His messengers, and gives them His message; and He says, "Forbid them not." **New methods must be introduced.** God's people must awaken to the necessity of the time in which they are living.

~ *Manuscript 5, 1902 (November 2, 1901)*, Paragraph 15.

## **Additional Non-denominational Quotes**

1. Rainer, Thom S. and Rainer, Sam S. III. (2008). *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville TN: B & H Publishing.

- A. **"Changing the atmosphere of the church is just not enough. Changing the setting or the physical features of the church won't solve the problem.** The people of the church must make a conscious decision to stop looking inwardly and begin to reach outwardly. An inwardly focused church

community is a dying community because they are letting go of the bond that holds them together” (p. 50).

2. Stanley, Andy. (2012). *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
  - A. “The most ineffective way to begin a conversation about change is to talk about what needs to change. **You should never begin a conversation about change by addressing where you are now. You should always begin with where you want to be.** When you begin a conversation about change by discussing what needs to change, you generally begin with something that someone is emotionally invested in. That’s a recipe for failure. Or termination... So **the best place to begin any conversation about change is the future.** What could be, perhaps what must be!” (p. 271-2)
  - B. “There is an inexorable link between an organization’s vision and its appetite for improvement. **Vision exposes what has yet to be accomplished.** In this way, vision has the power to create a healthy sense of organizational discontent. A leader who continually keeps the vision out in front of his or her staff creates a thirst for improvement which, in turn, produces an appetite for change. In this way vision contributes to developing a culture that is comfortable with change. Vision-centric churches expect change. **Change is a means to an end. Change is critical to making what could and should be a reality.**” (p. 274).
  - C. “One of the primary reason **churches are empty** is **because church leaders love their models more than they love people.**” (p. 281).
3. Lewis, Robert and Wilkins, Rob. (2003). *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids, MI: ZondeRvan Publishing House.
  - A. George Barna--”Americans are not going to patronize an institution which appears **incapable of living** what it preaches” (p. 40).
  - B. **The stumbling block** for the church is not its theology but **its failure to apply what it believes in a compelling way...** Christians have been their own worst enemies when it comes to showing the world what authentic, biblical Christianity looks like--George Barna (p. 213)
4. Cole, Neil. (2005). *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

## A. 6 Myth-Debunking Truths About the Church

1. **The Church is a Living Organism Not a Static Institution** – Most of the metaphors and explanations for the Kingdom of God and the church in the New Testament use natural concepts for identification and description: the body, the bride, branches, the field of wheat, the mustard seed, the family, the flock, leaven, salt, light. When the New Testament uses a building as a metaphor for the Church, it is quick to add that it is made up of living stones (1 Pet 2:5) (p. 34-35)
2. **The Church is So Much More Than a Building** – At least four times in the Bible the Scriptures come out and say plainly that God does not dwell in buildings made by human hands. . . it is important to note that the early Church did not have any buildings for the first three hundred-plus years. . . . Buildings are not wrong or immoral. It is not the buildings that are really the problem. Unfortunately, we often begin to function as though the church buildings are our life source. . . . A building can become an artificial life support system that keeps a church alive even though it died long ago (p. 37).
3. **The Church is Not to be Bound to A Single Location** – we are always asking the wrong question: Where? All along, the right question is--Who? Where you worship is nothing compared to who it is you worship (p. 39)
4. **The Church is Much More Than a One Hour Service Held One Day A Week** – When you imagine the amount of resources, energy and time invested in a service held only one day a week it is remarkable. With all the importance placed on this event you would expect there to be a lot of Scriptural directives to make sure people get it right. But if you search all of the New Testament looking for the commands or injunctions having to do with this important weekly event, you will find them sadly missing (p. 39-40)
5. **The Kingdom of God is Meant to be Decentralized, but People Tend to Centralize** – God has always intended for humankind to spread out and fill the earth with His glory. . . . The Church has been given a command to spread out and fill the earth as well. . . . it seems mankind always wants to settle in a single location. We always tend to

settle for lesser things as well. . . . Jesus' plan was to decentralize and he paid a dear price to make it possible. We need to discover the power of a decentralized movement with power distributed to each part that can in turn generate new life. Jesus' plan was ingenious (p. 43-44)

6. **We are Each God's Temple and Together We Are Also His Temple**

– God dwells in His people! We are His temple, all of us from the smallest to the biggest (2 Cor 3:16; 6: 19). Our hope of glory is not in the buildings we use but in the Master who is building His life in us. . . . The world is not very impressed with our sacred houses of worship, in fact, other religions have built more beautiful ones. We must let them see something they cannot reproduce: a new life in Christ. A transformed soul . . . now, that is something that the world cannot accomplish and is dying to see! (p. 44-45)

## Resources

COR Position Paper, p. 19-20. ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+\(180+Symp\).pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tij12q7ttt6j1zl/AABs3NKl86r53hXnl03nRuNZa?dl=0&preview=Church+of+Refuge+-+Position+Paper+(180+Symp).pdf))

## VIDEOS

- A. Bankruptcy for Borders. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlJfp5N9r8>
- B. Kodak Bankruptcy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZplzStAfTw>
- C. How Wolves Change Rivers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

**Don't Be That Couch.** <https://marybethstockdale.wordpress.com/2008/11/20/catalyst-one-day-session-4-andy-stanley/>

Kinnaman, David. (2011). *You Lost Me. Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church And Rethinking Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. See chapter 12, "Fifty Ideas to Find a Generation".