

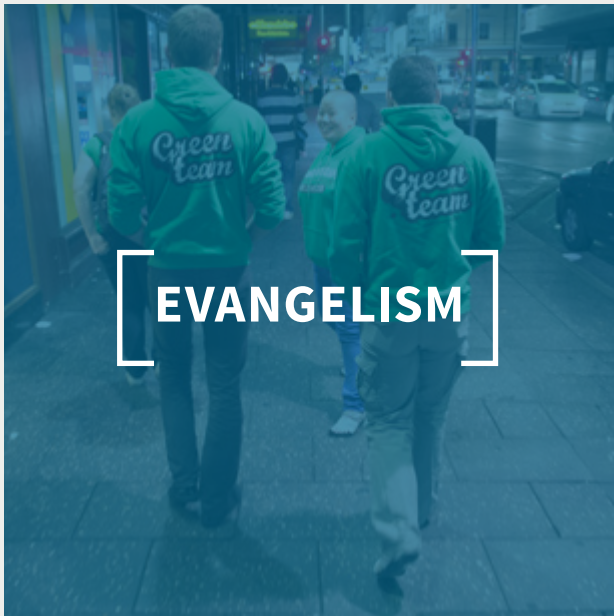
GUIDE TO CHURCH MINISTRIES AT *TEAM*



INSIDE CHURCH MINISTRIES

We believe the Gospel of Christ, and communities formed by that Gospel, are the hope of the world. That's why church ministry is at the core of every TEAM missionary's work — whether they spend their days running sports camps or filling traditional church roles as pastors or counselors. Wherever you find TEAM missionaries, there will be a community of believers or one on the horizon.

From leading worship to biblical counseling, church ministries take many forms.
Click one of the buttons below to learn more about three major aspects of church ministries.



EVANGELISM

Evangelists use creative means to share the Gospel with those who have yet to believe. Some missionaries use tools like English classes or youth camps, while others take a more organic approach.

No matter the strategy or location, the goal of all evangelism efforts is to help people find new life in Christ and community in a church body.



EVANGELISM SPOTLIGHT

Espaço NorteVerdadeiro in Portugal

When Steve and Pat Mosley started their outreach ministry at the University of Minho in Portugal, they estimated there were fewer than 50 Christians on a campus of 19,000.

“Most people here are not religious at all. They’ve counted religion out,” Steve said. “God is irrelevant to their lives.” To bridge that gap, Steve and Pat opened an inviting storefront, *Espaço NorteVerdadeiro* (True North Space), to provide a physical space for students to relax, attend events and, most importantly, encounter the gospel.

Steve and Pat have a strong natural gifting for personal evangelism and have been part of the evangelistic events and campaigns throughout their decades-long ministry in Portugal. Steve, who became a Christian as a

college student, especially has a heart for university students.

“I really think that God has called me here to Portugal to make a difference. ... A new community of believers here [at the University of Minho] has the potential to reach and be a part of God’s kingdom growing in a whole region,” Steve says.

Steve and Pat started their ministry by inviting students into their home for English classes and Bible studies on Wednesday nights. They followed up with individual students in coffee shops or restaurants and planned outreach activities such as dinners or hiking excursions.

But Steve and Pat saw potential to have a more permanent witness on campus, so in 2013, they opened





Espaço NorteVerdadeiro, located just 250 feet from the main entrance of the university. The modern and attractive second-floor storefront has a warm atmosphere with tall windows, wood floors, a coffee bar, and comfy sofas and chairs.

NorteVerdadeiro is a disarming place to invite students who might have a question about God but are reluctant to visit a stranger's home.

Among the many events Steve and

Pat hold in the space, informal English nights have proven popular, as students are eager to practice conversational English and are curious about American culture.

"We try to have some sort of spiritual moment at every English class," Pat said. "We pray for them. Here in Portugal, no one has even been prayed for personally. It's the first time anyone has interceded for them with God, and they are really touched by it."

Ultimately, Steve and Pat hope the impact of their ministry lasts long after the students graduate.

"Our vision is to evangelize and disciple them during their time here in Braga. We've got to prepare these students to go back to their homes, to be a disciple and know how to disciple other people," Steve said. "When they return to live in their communities, they may very well be the only evangelicals. Our hope is that they will be able to share their faith."



Interested in exploring how you could serve through evangelism? Click the button below to get started.

EXPLORE EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITIES



CHURCH PLANTING

All of TEAM's ministry flows from and toward local bodies of believers. Our missionaries are sent from churches and work to see churches planted, encouraged and multiplied.

Church planters are those members of a ministry team who are uniquely gifted in evangelism, discipleship, teaching, training elders or other critical tasks necessary to get a new church on its feet.



CHURCH PLANTING SPOTLIGHT

5 Things No One Tells You About Church Plants

1 A Church Planter Never Gets to Stop Asking, “Where Does God Want Me to Serve?”

Location is a constant question in a church planter’s career. Kathy and David North originally planned to work among Muslims in Indonesia. But TEAM asked them to wait in the Philippines for their visas to Indonesia.

While they ministered there, they realized many Filipinos believed the Bible was true but had no idea what it said. Since then, the Norths have worked with five church planting teams, which has meant moving to new communities and learning new languages and cultures.

2 Planting a Church is Way More Than Handing Out Tracts and Leading Bible Studies.

Before you invite people to church, you have to build relationships. But much like location, the strategy for this might be different with every church you plant.

After 37 years in France, Steve and Donna Niles still research new cities at the library and talk with local people to see what will be truly effective there.

Their last city, Annecy, is known for its artistic community, so they began holding “artistic afternoons,” with painting, performances and other activities. The eventual result was a church with an orchestra, regular skits during the service and artistic visuals. Now, in Aix-les-Bains, they put more focus on academics by tutoring children and holding English club for adults.

3 Discipleship Begins Before Salvation.

“Some people say the discipleship process is from when you become a Christian,” Steve says. “I personally, with the French setting, believe it begins even before that.”

One new believer, Guillaume, asked Steve what to do about his live-in girlfriend. He knew it was wrong, but he believed leaving her after living as a married couple would be like getting a divorce. So the team invited Guillaume’s girlfriend to join a discipleship group, and through that discipleship, she realized she needed a Savior. The now “equally yoked” couple got married in August.



4 The Exit Plan Can Start as Early as Discipleship.

It may seem premature to think about leaving just as things are getting started, but it's important that new Christians have time to think about and prepare for eventually leading the church themselves. That's why the Norths start leadership training when they start their first Bible study.

As local believers grow and learn their roles, the larger church body can be established. When the Norths see that a church can stand on its own, they hold an official ceremony to pass the baton from David to the new pastor — and then they leave, letting the church leaders do their jobs as God leads.

5 Church Planting is Both Miserable and Glorious.

In foreign countries, with a seemingly impossible task, church planters go through times of discouragement and even questioning their callings. And just as those trials pay off with a fully-functioning church, it's time to move on.

Really, church planting is a commitment to constant transition in order to create long-lasting stability for others. But in the end, that is what makes it worthwhile.

“We’re not just starting ministries that end, you know?” said David North. “But we’re establishing something that’s gonna keep going on, hopefully till the Lord returns.”



team.org/opportunities



Interested in exploring
how you could serve
through church planting?
Click the button to get
started.

EXPLORE CHURCH PLANTING OPPORTUNITIES



DISCIPLESHIP

Becoming a disciple of Christ is a life-long journey best walked with other believers. TEAM workers help other Christians deepen and strengthen their faith through mentoring, counseling and friendship.

As believers grow in their faith, missionaries aim to see them disciple others, teaching them to follow Christ in the same way they were taught.



DISCIPLESHIP SPOTLIGHT

Celestino's Apple Stand

It wasn't that Celestino wasn't interested in church. As an apple-seller who worked seven days a week to make ends meet, he simply couldn't afford to go!

Maybe that's why TEAM missionary AJ got a craving for apple crisp his first week in Guatemala. That fall day, the grocery store was out of apples, so AJ stopped by the apple stand near his house — Celestino's apple stand.

That first meeting looked like a simple economic exchange, but God was already working. AJ soon found that his daily life often took him by Celestino's stand, allowing the men to say hello.

Then one day, Celestino opened up about why he knew so little about God, why he couldn't go to church. AJ asked him to come over for dinner instead.

As the relationship grew, Celestino patiently helped AJ with his Spanish skills while AJ shared what he knew about God and the Church. Celestino

was intrigued by AJ's stories of other believers. And after a slow week of selling apples, he decided to meet them.



A Church He Didn't Expect

The evangelical church in Guatemala has experienced explosive growth in recent decades. But much of that growth has been infected by prosperity gospel teachings.

As Celestino walked to church with AJ, he thought he knew what to expect: The pastor would ask for his money. People would ignore him when they found out he was poor.

But that didn't happen.

The pastor shared about God's holiness and faithfulness. The church members welcomed Celestino with hugs and talked to him like their equal. When he asked about baptism, someone answered his questions without pressuring him to make a decision.

That evening, Celestino announced he was going to stop selling apples on Sundays. God's goodness and riches were worth more.



A Changed Man

After Celestino's decision, AJ continued to meet him at the apple stand for discipleship.

"It looks like ... asking him how his heart is, asking him how I can pray for him and talking through a Bible story or Scripture that he will love hearing about," AJ said.

As God's love filled his life, the apple-seller started giving up his bad habits. After a year, he decided to be baptized.

He still has much to learn, like any Christian, but now he has a whole church to help him. And day by day, Celestino is learning to trust the God who arranges friendships, provides for lost wages and seeks to save the entire world.

Interested in exploring how you could serve through discipleship? Click the button below to get started.

EXPLORE DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES



NEXT STEPS

READY TO GET STARTED? HERE ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS.

1 Explore church ministry opportunities.

Currently, there are 300+ open opportunities to serve in church ministries around the world. [Click here](#) to start exploring them now.

2 Talk to a TEAM missions coach.

TEAM missions coaches are ready to answer your questions about becoming a missionary and help you get started. [Click here](#) to begin the conversation.

CONTACT US:

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(800) 343-3144



ABOUT TEAM

There are many ways to serve others, and we believe all can point to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. TEAM exists to help the church live out God's call to go, to be present in the heartbreak of this world and to bring real hope.

We partner with churches in North America and around the world to send out workers and plant churches that will do the same. We work holistically to make society-wide change with initiatives in evangelism, education, health-care, media, community development, agriculture and whatever else God uses to open doors to share his message. We strive to mobilize disciples from anywhere to serve everywhere, focusing on the places where the most need exists.

In over 125 years of ministry, strategies and needs have changed countless times, but one thing never will: Where Christ calls us, we will go.

