



*"UNITING THE CHURCH TO TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITIES"*

THE  
SERVE  
SUSANVILLE



PARTNERSHIP

SERVE SUSANVILLE WEEK  
JUNE 21-27, 2010

# ***WELCOME TO SERVE SUSANVILLE 2010!***

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Thanks for investing time from your busy schedule to be a part of this great week. For many, it is one of the most memorable experiences they have ever had. It is our hope that this will be true for you as well. During the coming week, you may experience the "Body of Christ" in ways you never imagined. The power of **The Serve Susanville Partnership, (a partner of Serve Partnerships Unlimited)** is what Jesus refers to in John 13:35, "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, by your love for one another." For the world to want what we have, they have to see something in us worth desiring for themselves. We know from experience that the Grace and Mercy of God is so awesome, and as He expresses Himself in our relationships with each other, the world can see and be drawn to Him (by His Spirit). Wouldn't it be so incredible if our "service" to people was a result of our thankfulness and love for Jesus? You will have the opportunity this week to serve and be used by God in ways you may have never thought possible. You will meet children and their families and help them see how **real** Jesus is by your words and especially in the way you live. (Actions really do speak louder than words.) You will have the opportunity to work as a team and love as a family. You will meet and build friendships with people that you may have never known outside of your commitment to be a part of The Serve Susanville Partnership. Most importantly, you will have many opportunities to grow in your relationship with Christ (or begin one for the first time). One thing is for sure, God has an incredible plan not only for the Serve Susanville week, but He has a plan for you this week. So, strap on your seatbelt 'cause God's gonna move in some awesome ways! Remember: As we love each other, we love Him and as we **Serve Susanville**, We serve Him.

Get ready for a life-changing week!

**The Serve Partnerships Unlimited Leadership Team**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### ***ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK***

*The handbook you are reading is the second most important book that you will have throughout the week. Your Bible is the most important. You should have this puppy, your Bible and a pen or a pencil whenever we meet together as a group. You will also need these items each night before you go to bed. In your handbook you will find a rough schedule of the week, guidelines to make this a successful week, and many other items of interest. Do not lose your handbook, or you just might not make it through the week...*

# SPU WEEK GUIDELINES

Because we will be living together as **A FAMILY** in the community, we will...

- Eat every meal together on time
- Be at all meetings together on time
- Get up and go to bed at the same time
- Stop talking and start sleeping soon after lights out.
- Be responsible in everything we do.
- Remain with your ministry team throughout the entire week.
- Follow the *SPU Family Survival Guide*.

Because we are here to serve others and learn more about God, we will...

- Leave all of our stereos/music at home (exception: Worship music used during quiet time)
- **Not couple up during this week.** If you are already a couple, we ask that the focus and passion during the week not be each other. Ask others to hold you accountable.
- Joyfully do any assignments given.
- Make the children, the community, and the local church our number one priority.
- Make sure we show our appreciation and respect to the local church fellowship.

Because we are in a different cultural environment, we will...

- Dress in an appropriate manner. (See "Dress Code" below)
- Not leave the church grounds alone for any reason whatsoever.
- Not use any language that could be interpreted as racial, prejudicial, and/or offensive to others.

Because we value safety and being above reproach, we will...

- At **no time** enter anyone's home in the neighborhood, except the church members.
- At **no time** allow anyone from the neighborhood to come into our sleeping areas. (**security, privacy, etc.**)
- Stay with the team for scheduled events or have permission from the adult staff leaders.

## DRESS CODE:

- ⇒ Serve Susanville shirts are to be worn **at all times** in the community, *except some work projects*
- ⇒ Bring shoes you can work in – tennis shoes, work boots if you have them
- ⇒ Bring "grubby" clothes for our community projects

## PLEASE DO **NOT** BRING TO SERVE SUSANVILLE WEEK. . .

- ⇒ **blue or red bandanas or hats**
- ⇒ **"Short shorts/Daisy Dukes, or "Britney Spears/Christina Aguilera outfits."**
- ⇒ **Tank tops, mid drift shirts/"half shirts"**
- ⇒ **No Speedo swim suits for guys**
- ⇒ **No two piece swim suits for girls**

## PLEASE **DO** BRING TO SERVE SUSANVILLE. . .

- ⇒ **Cup, bowl and plate (with your name on them)**
- ⇒ Sleeping bag/pillow, toiletries, Sun block/screen-very important
- ⇒ Bible, pens/pencils-2, Flashlight
- ⇒ 2 Towels (bathe/swim)

OPTIONAL: Cot or air mattress

# FAMILY SURVIVAL GUIDE

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❖ **Remember that love is a choice.**

You must choose to love those around you. This includes treating them with respect.

❖ **Put the needs of others before yourself.**

Not just the people you like.

❖ **Do not talk about anyone behind his or her back.**

If you have a problem with someone, please respectfully talk to him or her about it. If you feel that you cannot do that, then talk alone to a staff person. If you cannot even do that, then it is your problem and keep it to yourself.

❖ **Do not spread gossip or rumors.**

If you hear any gossip or rumors, tell that person to keep it to themselves or resolve the issue, then please keep it to yourself.

❖ **Any confrontation with someone needs to be done in love.**

In other words, your goal is to build people up, not tear them down.

❖ **Do not complain.**

There **will** be things that you will not like, or that will make you feel uncomfortable, or that inconvenience you. If you whine it is contagious, so stop it before it begins.

❖ **Take initiative.**

Don't wait to be asked to do something; **Go be Jesus!**

❖ **Do constant attitude checks on yourself.**

Constantly ask yourself if your actions towards others are building trust in relationships or tearing trust away. Remember: You do these checks on yourself.

**Note: Adults may struggle in some of these areas as well. This is a spiritual war. Let's all keep each other accountable.**

# KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH MINISTRY

“God invites you to join him in what he is doing”

## **Tongue**

Guard your tongue. Watch what you say. Be sure it is uplifting.

## **Attitudes**

Make sure you have a servant's attitude.

*We want to equip you to be successful in reaching your community, so here are some tools to help.*

## UNDERSTANDING THE MISSION FIELD

- ◆ *People matter to God* -“Community ministry”: (Matthew 9:35f)  
What are some reasons for us to reach out to the community?  
Because this is a “family ministry”, bring your family and minister together
- ◆ You relate more than you know...don't assume you are so different we look at the outward difference (homeless, alcoholism, etc. but we have many shared experiences)
- ◆ Events vs Relationships > What actions will establish trust with people we meet? What actions might hinder trust?
- ◆ Lifestyle Evangelism – How did Jesus communicate the Good News?  
(*Earning the right to be heard*) “People don't care how much you know...know you care”
- ◆ God has His own agenda - explaining God's work is not always like we planned  
It's not about your *ability*, it's about your *availability* to God (In our weakness, he is strong)  
Expect the unexpected (and realize God is *still* in control)
- ◆ The world **will be** “worldy” – How do non-Christians act? You may encounter uncomfortable situations...**KEY:** use as a teachable moments (for you and for your kids)  
(We're referring here to hoochie lookin' females, “foul mouthed” kids -or adults-, etc.)  
How did Jesus respond?

## Benefits

- ◆ Discovering purpose: In what ways could your involvement benefit you?  
(How God will use you and *fulfill* you in the process)
- ◆ “*Experiential Discipleship*” – If you were to involve your family in ministry together, what could be some of the effects of your children observing you?  
learning by doing, multiplication by modeling (bring your family)
- ◆ Great Commission – You are answering the Call!
- ◆ Quality family time – Can you think of many more valuable uses of your time?

## **Tools**

- ◆ Get to know their name – What is one of the best ways to communicate you care for someone after you first meet them?
- ◆ Testimony – How many people have shared their story with someone in the past week? Month? Year? Are you able to tell *your* story?
- ◆ “Can I pray for you?” What is a loving response when someone shares a need with you?
- ◆ Let *them* love you – If someone wants to bless you, receive it as you would want them to
- ◆ Time: many people, especially children spell love T-I-M-E
- ◆ P.I.N.C.H. ‘em! (See below)

## ***KEYS TO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS***

### **P***ray*

Always begin in prayer. Prayer should be the foundation of relationships. (Spiritual Warfare is real, especially when eternity is at stake...

### **I***nquire*

Don't be afraid to ask questions and to learn more about others. Don't assume you are always in the “teaching role.” People have much to teach you.

### **N***otice*

Be aware of actions and the emotions of those around you. Ask yourself “what is the root of how someone behaves and how can I help. Do what you can to support and compliment.

### **C***ompassion*

True compassion comes from the love of Christ. Compassion does not come from pity; it comes from a desire to love and to serve.

### **H***ug*

Proper physical contact can be a positive reinforcement. Be careful to make “appropriate touch” a goal. (“High fives”, pat on the back, “side hugs”, wrestling – it's a guy thing...)

## **TIPS IN THE COMMUNITY**

- ◆ Never walk anywhere alone. Always do things with other team members around.
- ◆ Be cautious about going into anyone's apartment and never alone (accusations/above reproach)
- ◆ Do not give anyone money or personal items as a rule. If you do give them something, don't do this in front of others and tell them to keep it to themselves. In my experience, people get offended and see us as playing favorites.
- ◆ Be very careful make promises. If you say you will do something, do it! We destroy trust and our witness when we are not people of our word.
- ◆ **Responsible evangelism** – If you care enough to pray with someone to receive Christ, care enough to follow through and get a “new born baby” what they need to grow. We will talk more about this in our training on sharing your faith.
- ◆ Phone #'s – be careful about giving out your phone number.

## *MINISTERING CROSS-CULTURALLY*

- Always maintain a teachable attitude. Be observant and do not be afraid to ask Q's.
- Be careful not to make value judgments. Employment, education, parenting, "cleanliness" and other conditions tend to have us rank people according to value.
- Do not classify! Stay away from typical stereotypes.
- Do not refer to the community as a "ghetto" or "the projects." The term "neighborhood" is good, or use "community." Stay away from the word "hood." (See next tip.)
- Do not try to imitate or copy. Don't try to talk as though you belong there. Be yourself and you'll go a long way.
- Don't be afraid to identify yourself with the children and youth. They can relate to many of your experiences.

### **Think about this...**

...get to know the children as individuals with different personalities, not just as a "culture group."

...recognize the positives in the family situations.

...let God break down your stereotypes.

...consider what you can learn from the community...the extended family, the multi-cultural community.

...consider the positive characteristics of being poor. Look into Christ's esteem for the poor.

...give thought to why people act and react the way they do.

...talk to some of the older members of the neighborhood. Learn from their experiences.

***See the world through their eyes.***

### **BECOMING "STREET WISE"**

1. Always look like you have a destination and a purpose. Don't just wander around aimlessly.
2. Look both ways before crossing the street.
3. Never walk anywhere alone. Our male students or adult staff member will honor our sisters by accompanying them at the ministry sites. ***This includes during the day.***
4. Do not carry around cash; you have no need for it. This includes leaving your wallets/purses behind.
5. Don't act paranoid or uptight! The vast majority of people you meet will not be negative towards you in any way.

**NOTE: Anyone who has any trouble in the neighborhood in any way needs to report it to the Site Director.**

# THE WORD FOR TODAY – SMALL GROUP Q'S

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## Tuesday

**Isaiah 58:10** “If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness...(The Message)

1. What does it mean to be truly generous?
2. Who are the hungry and “down-and-out”?
3. What does it mean to “glow” in the darkness?
4. What is “the darkness?”

**Take some time to pray as a group about what you have learned today and about the day ahead...**

## Wednesday

**John 13:34-35** “By this will all men know you are my disciples: by your love for one another.”

1. What did Jesus say was the mark of His Followers?
2. Why is it so important to love each other, as Christians specifically
3. How is this “love for each other” lived out and visible to a lost world? Give examples.
4. What does it mean to be the Family of God?

**Take some time to pray as a group about what you have learned today and about the day ahead...**

## Thursday

**John 15:5** “I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in Me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do NOTHING.”

1. What is the relationship between the vine and the branches?
2. What does it mean to “remain in Him?”
3. Why must we remain in Him?
4. What are some examples of the “much fruit” that we bear?
5. How much can we do apart from Jesus? Can you think of any areas in your life that you trust *yourself* instead of “remaining in Him?”

**Take some time to pray as a group about what you have learned today and about the day ahead...**

## Friday

**Proverbs 31:8-9** Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for justice! Stand up for the poor and destitute!" (The Message)

1. What does it mean to have “no voice?”
2. Who in our world today have “no voice?”
3. How can we speak up for the rights of those who have no voice?
4. What does it mean to speak up for Justice? In what ways is our world unjust?

**Take some time to pray as a group about what you have learned today and about the day ahead...**



# THE WORD FOR TODAY Q'S . . . CONTINUED

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**Saturday**

**GALATIANS 6:9** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

1. What does it mean to "grow weary in doing good?"
2. Why do you think Paul made a point to say this?
3. What is meant by "the proper time?"
4. What does he mean by "reap a harvest?"
5. What are some things we can do to avoid giving up?

**Take some time to pray as a group about what you have learned today and about the day ahead...**

**Sunday**

*Write a letter to God about your experience this week. Tell him the ways you saw Him work in your life, teach you, change you and draw you closer to Him. Thank Him for who He is and what He has done. If there are any commitments you made this week to Him or other, ask Him to enable you to fulfill those commitments. This is for you to keep and look at in the future to help you keep your commitments to God and others. We are glad you are part of the Family... Thanks for being here this week!*

# EVENING PERSONAL TIME -LIFE LESSONS

"God Things:" "Ah-has", "Ouches", "Huhs?", and "Yes Lords... "

## "GOD THINGS"

We have all seen them.... Maybe we are one. Situations where God does the unexpected, the "impossible" or just "shows up" in a really cool way where there is no doubt that it's HIM not us. Sometimes, only the eyes of your heart can see them. At times they are exciting and fun, other times painful and difficult. Still other times they are experiences that cause us to ask good questions. They may also be *decisions that become commitments*. Sometimes these experiences cover many or all of the God Things listed below. The bottom line is **God Things are Life Lessons** that can benefit our lives and relationship with God in incredible ways.

### \*AH-HAS\*

"Oh...now I get it!" An "Ah-ha" is a *spiritual discovery* of God's Truth. He may reveal His purposes to you such as why you are in (or *not* in) a certain relationship, or why something is happening/happened to someone. It could be a deeper level of understanding about something you already have a basic understanding of. They are realizations that encourage us to "go deeper."

### \*OUCHES\*,

"Thanks, I needed that..." Ever had something difficult or hurtful happen, and then at some point realize something really *helpful* resulted? Maybe God revealed an area of your life that was not right with Him, and dealing with it spared you a truck-load of grief in the future. Or He allowed/caused a relationship to end that you later realize was not good and never had a future to begin with. (Ever attempted to rationalize missionary dating? Ouch!)

### \*HUHS?\*

If you are anything like me (and most other people on the planet), you probably have experienced those times where you *just... don't... get it*. You have more questions than answers. Don't despair! A "Huh?" can be a good thing! *When you stop asking questions, you stop learning and growing in life and relationship with God*. The closer we grow to God, and deeper we search for Truth, the more questions arise. Throughout the Bible God's people had a lot of "Huhs?" Use to your advantage, ask questions!

### YEA GOD!

So often God does incredible things in our lives that we don't take time to recognize and *thank Him* for. This fingerprint of God is just "telling of His wonders" (Psalms) each day.

### \*YES LORDS...\*

It is one thing to have God reveal something to you, answer a question, or discipline you. It is quite another to say "Yes Lord..." and choose to submit to *His way, His timing – His WILL for you*. A "Yes Lord" is a commitment of *surrender* to Him – Him being in charge. His Word being our source for Truth and life. What is he saying to you? Are you willing to answer..."Yes Lord."

**WORD FOR TODAY:**

**Isaiah 58:10** "If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness...(The Message)

**Talking with God**

*Lord, I thank you for...*

*Jesus, what I appreciate about you is...*

*Father, I admit that I have "missed the mark" when I...*

*Lord, I ask you...*

**LIFE LESSONS - "GOD THINGS"**

**"AH-HAS"** – Something that God revealed to me today was...

**"OUCHES"** - Something that was hard, but good was...

**"HUHS?"** – Something that made me go "Huh?" today was...

**YEA GOD!**- Something incredible that God has done today is...

**"YES LORDS..."** – Something that I am saying "Yes Lord" to today is...

***Tuesday Journal...***

# TIME ALONE WITH JESUS

WEDNESDAY

## WORD FOR TODAY:

**John 13:34-35** "By this will all men know you are my disciples: by your love for one another."

## Talking with God

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***Wednesday Journal...***

**WORD FOR TODAY:**

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in Me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do NOTHING."

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**Thursday Journal...**

## WORD FOR TODAY:

**Proverbs 31:8-9** Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for justice! Stand up for the poor and destitute!" (The Message)

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**"YES LORDS..."** – Something that I am saying "Yes Lord" to today is...

**Friday Journal...**

# TIME ALONE WITH JESUS

*SATURDAY*

## WORD FOR TODAY:

**Galatians 6:9** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

## Talking with God

*Lord, I thank you for...*

*Jesus, what I appreciate about you is...*

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## LIFE LESSONS - "GOD THINGS"

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**"HUHS?"** - Something that made me go "Huh?" today was...

**YEA GOD!**- Something incredible that God has done today is...

**"YES LORDS..."** - Something that I am saying "Yes Lord" to today is...

***Saturday Journal...***

# TIME ALONE WITH JESUS

*SUNDAY*

*Write a letter to God about your experience this week. Tell him the ways you saw Him work in your life, teach you, change you and draw you closer to Him. Thank Him for who He is and what He has done. If there are any commitments you made this week to Him or other, ask Him to enable you to fulfill those commitments. This is for you to keep and look at in the future to help you keep your commitments to God and others. We are glad you are part of the Family... Thanks for being here!*

**Dear**