

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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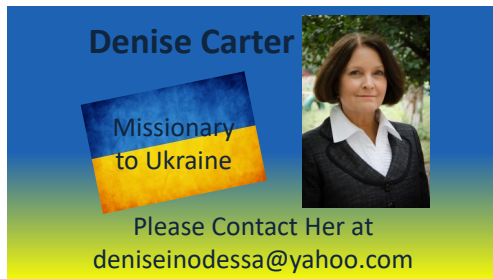
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## Discovering Joy Through Service

A quick internet search will confirm the simple truth that most of us see with our own eyes when we’re at church. In many churches less than 40% of the adults in attendance are men. That also means that women are shouldering more than their share of the ministries around the church. Churches need more men in attendance—but just as important, perhaps more important, churches need men to serve in the various ministries of the church.

You may wonder why it is so important for men to be involved in service. There are many benefits, but I think these three ideas stand:

### 1. Christians—all Christians—are created and gifted to serve in ministry.

God makes us new creatures in Christ, but we’re certainly not all alike. Nor are we created in a haphazard way. God’s workmanship is evidenced in our lives. He shapes us, makes us, and has specific good works that he prepared ahead of time for us to accomplish. That’s amazing. God uses us to accomplish His plan. And He gifts us, uniquely for the benefit of the church.

Brothers, the Lord has gifted us for ministry and desires that we serve. Our churches need us to serve in order to accomplish the good things God has in mind for His church to do.

### 2. Kids need to see men involved in service in the church.

There’s all kinds of research behind this idea—but let me speak as a father and grandfather. I wanted my daughter growing up in a church where she saw me and other men serving faithfully. I wanted her to know—to believe—to expect—that one day, the man she would marry would naturally be involved in the church.

And I want my grandchildren to have this same experience. I want my grandson to know that when he is a man, he can serve the Lord in any number of ways in the church. As he grows up seeing his dad, me, and other men throughout the church fulfilling this calling in our lives, he’ll know that’s what he needs to be doing, too.. The old saying is that values are more caught than taught. It’s true. That’s why we need men serving in the church.

### 3. Men serving in the church attract other men to Christ.

This is one of the most amazing benefits I’ve seen in the church I’m a member of now. It’s a place where men are welcomed by men at the doors. They encounter men throughout the church as their children go to Bible study and as they enter the worship service. They are challenged to join other men in service and missions around our community and around the world. And when they hear the gospel, they see the truth of the gospel lived out in men all around them. When they are challenged to repent and turn to Christ, they see the transformation of lives in men all around them. This is the gospel lived out in a way that honors Christ. That’s why churches need men who serve.

## KEY VERSE

Philippians 2:22 (NKJV)

*“But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. “*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Philippians 2:19-30**

### Compassion

1. Who is a man in your life that you admire? What makes him admirable?
2. In your own words, what does Paul say about Timothy in Philippians 2:19-21? What are some examples from your life where you seek the things of Christ and not your own?

**Tuesday: Philippians 2:22; Proverbs 10:9; Proverbs 20:7**

### Consistency

3. Are there any inconsistencies in your integrity? How can you become more consistent?
4. People watched Timothy and people are watching you. How can a consistent walk with Christ impact others?

**Wednesday: Philippians 2:25; I Corinthians 3:5-11**

### Cooperation

5. How does Paul describe Epahproditus?
6. What are some ways that you can seek unity? How can cooperation cause joy?

**Thursday: Philippians 2:27-28; Acts 20:24**

### Commitment

7. How would you describe the commitment level of Epaphroditus to the Lord?
8. Are there any things in life that cause you to think about giving up? How can you persevere?
9. Are there areas of your life that you haven't fully committed to Jesus? What are some things that may be holding you back?

**Friday: Philippians 2:29-30; Joshua 1:3-9; Psalm 56:3-4**

### Courage

10. In what ways did Epaphroditus demonstrate courage? In what ways did Paul demonstrate courage?
11. Why is it so easy to choose comfort and security over God's plan?
12. Is there an area of your life where you need more courage? How can you have courage today to accomplish God's plans?
13. If you knew you wouldn't fail, what is something that you would like to attempt for God?