



Greater Sydney SDA Conference

Engaging Your Congregation in Serving

I'm not looking for an audience to fill up the church; I'm looking for an army to change the world – Pr Danny Carroll

- Your congregation is wired up for serving. If people are not serving they are not fully alive.
- Establish a biblical worldview that sees serving as a life purpose. People need to see that serving is not so much something they 'do' but one of the reasons that they are on this planet.
- The greatest factor working against serving in the church (or anywhere for that matter) is a consumeristic world view. This needs to be addressed in order for a serving ministry to flourish.

Time = Money = Things = Happiness

- People serve as a response to and a catalyst for spiritual growth (reveal study)

As difficult as it is to get the church to go to the community, there is one thing even more difficult – getting the community to go to the church. As difficult as it is for the church to engage the community with works and words of love and grace, it is exponentially more difficult to try to entice the community into the church. Pastors and Christian leaders have the chance every week to influence the behaviour and actions of the people who do come to church but have very little influence on those who do not come to church. Where are you focusing your influence? - Rick Rusaw

- Start with a strong scriptural foundation - Preach and teach the values of servanthood regularly
- Model a servant's heart. Use stories and illustrations to show you are engaged in serving outside of the church environment.

- Shift the focus from internal to external in the language and life of the church

Ask:

- Who would miss our church if it closed down right now
- What does it mean to be the best church for the community
- Invite your congregation into a story that is about God's Kingdom and changing the world.
- Change the rules of partnership from 'do you believe what I believe?' to 'do you care about what I care about?'
- Partner with existing service opportunities whenever possible.
- Create paradigms over programs
- Infuse service into small groups
- Infuse service into your children's ministry plans
- Deploy kingdom labourers, not just volunteers who seeing growing God's kingdom as their mission.

Be patient:

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together
African Proverb

Summarised From:

Eric Swanson and Rick Rusaw, *The Externally Focused Quest*, JosseyBass, 2010

Steve Sjogren, *Irresistible Evangelism*, Group 2004

Steve Sjogren, *Changing the World Through Kindness*, Regal, 1996

John and Agnus Sturt, *Celebrating Service*, Guildford Surrey, 2000