



CityServe

A ministry of the Eastern District of the EFCA

URBAN or INTERCULTURAL MISSIONARY HANDBOOK

WHO IS A CityServe URBAN or INTERCULTURAL MISSIONARY?

The CityServe Missionary is someone who has been saved by Jesus, loves God, wants to minister for a year or two in an urban or intercultural church in the district, and is willing to raise support to make it happen.

DESCRIPTION OF CityServe

The goal of CityServe is to strengthen and expand the impact of the Gospel in the churches in our district. We will do this by:

1. Calling young men and women (that's you!) to minister in churches as a fully supported Urban Missionary for one year or more.
2. The Urban Missionary (that's you!) will receive incredible "field experience" (you can't get this anywhere else in the world) by working to expand ministry in the church and to the community.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT

The Eastern District has churches in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Lebanon and Metro-NYC. Thousands of people packed into a few square city blocks, store signs that you can't read, expensive condos, schools where over 20 languages are represented, different dress, different smells, neighborhoods where the ethnic mix is changing and the church is struggling to keep up, areas that look pretty nice but a few blocks away it is a different story. These are some of the communities in which our churches serve.

These people need the Lord. New immigrants working low income jobs to put food on the table, "old-timers" who long for the former days and question the ways of the newcomer, young urban professionals commuting into the business district by day and returning in the evening looking for community and meaning of it all, those drawn to the

city by opportunity, those who are afraid for their safety but don't know where else to go. CityServe needs your help to reach out to them.

DESCRIPTION OF CityServe MINISTRY SITES

CityServe serves the urban and intercultural churches of the EFCA (The Evangelical Free Church of America). Some of the churches have older established congregations with a multicultural flavor; others have been planted more recently and serve specific ethnic communities such as Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and Russian.

Some churches are more traditional while others are more contemporary in their worship and culture. We serve in a range of communities. Brooklyn is ethnically diverse and heavily urban. Staten Island is also experiencing an influx of many new communities as traditional church goers are leaving the city. Hoboken, NJ has a lot of young urban professionals who commute across the river to Manhattan; Jersey City, Newark, West Orange, NJ have the same dynamics as NYC. Baltimore is truly urban with the issues of the poor and disenfranchised right at their front door. The list could go on, but you get the picture.

APPLICATION AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Every CityServe missionary needs to fill out an application form. Please see our district website (www.edaefca.org) to download an application or write/call/e-mail us to request one.

The Executive Director who will be in contact with you will review the application. We cannot guarantee placement with CityServe but we will sure try. Once your application has been processed and approved we will match your talents with the needs of a local church. In the selection process, the Executive Director will act as the intermediary between you and the local church.

The participating church will provide you with a job description outlining the main aspects of your ministry. Remember that you are coming to serve! Flexibility is very important and will be both needed and expected.

The job descriptions will vary so the more help you give us on the application in getting to know you, the better we can make a match. There may be ministry with high school youth, junior high, and/or smaller children. The youth will be from families in the church and from your outreach in the community. Some churches will be looking for worship and music help. Some are working with 1st generation immigrants and English as a second language training is needed. Various ministries may involve sports, children, drama, computers or other medium. Each church will have a different need to fill.

10 POINT EFCA DOCTRINAL POSITION

In the application, you will find the website link for the doctrinal statement of the Evangelical Free Church. We try to major on the major issues and minor on the minor issues and show love in all areas. You will be asked to indicate if you are “in sync” with these doctrinal positions.

SALARY AND HOUSING

The Missionary from the USA will need to raise \$600 a month in salary support. U.S based supporters should send their contributions to the Eastern District of the Evangelical Free Church office. This will ensure that they get a tax-deductible receipt. **Supporters should make their checks out to CityServe.** They should include one of the following with their check:

1. the pledge card you give them
2. the gift reminder that comes with the receipt if they have already given
3. anything that has your name on it so they know whose account to credit

Send to: EFCA Eastern District, PO Box 220, Macungie, PA 18062.

The Missionary coming from outside the USA will need to raise \$600 a month in salary support. Contact us to figure out what that means in your local currency and how the money can be transferred to you while serving in the USA.

You are also required to have a basic health insurance policy while you are with CityServe. The cost of this policy may also be raised along with your salary support.

CityServe will pay you what you raise. In other words we do not take out a portion of what you raise for administrative services. What you raise is what you get!

You may ask “can I live on \$600 a month?” Yes you can! BUT, you won’t be able to afford makeup from Macy’s, or eat at McDonalds every night! You can survive and it is a great lesson in budgeting. Others have done it and so can you. The \$600 a month is intended to cover your basic expenses such as food, clothes, and personal transportation. Remember that all your housing and related costs are covered by the church. The point of the \$600 a month deal is...you are an Urban Missionary, you have come to **WORK IN MINISTRY AND NOT BE A TOURIST.** Broadway shows are expensive so bring extra money with you if you want to do the tourist thing on your days off!

You will be provided a place to stay. The church has committed to provide you with an apartment. Where possible we may cluster other urban missionaries with you to share the cost of an apartment, house, parsonage or condo. Thus, community living may also be a part of your experience. The utilities will be paid by the church who hires you.

The CityServe missionary is expected to be faithful in tithing in their local church.

LENGTH OF STAY

You will be asked to commit yourself to at least one year but hopefully you will decide to do two years. If you want to stay longer at the church you are serving, that is up to you and the church. We hope you want to stay longer, but understand if you can't. We hope you fall deeper in love with the Lord and the people of the neighborhood/church where you serve during the time you are here.

VACATION, AND TIME OFF

You will be given 15 days of vacation while you are a part of CityServe. You will be expected to take a Sabbath rest day every week and this is not a part of your vacation time. Last time we checked the Bible, God still cared about our physical, emotional and spiritual health so you will take a Sabbath rest – Okay?!

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERNS

Internationals will need to secure an R1 Visa. The Director of CityServe will be able to help you in this process.

YOUR SUPERVISOR

Your main supervisor will be the pastor of the church that you are serving. Some of the churches will also have previous CityServe missionaries that have become part of church staff. They will be able to give you a lot of help and direction as you minister in the neighborhood and the church. You will also be accountable to the Elders and Deacons in your church.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH AND CityServe

CityServe is the organization that brought you to the church. CityServe and the local church are working together to further the Kingdom of God. Just as you are coming to serve the church, CityServe's purpose is to bless and serve the churches. Without the local church, there is no purpose or need for CityServe. The Pastor and the Elder/Deacon board of the church where you serve will be your primary supervisor and the CityServe Executive Director will be available to help with any issues that may arise.