

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS *In Ministry*

STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS. GREATER IMPACT.

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## LISTENING BEFORE LEADING

**Why it matters:** Effective engagement begins with understanding, not assumptions. When churches lead without listening, efforts can miss real needs or duplicate what is already being done.

**Practical example:** Instead of immediately launching a new outreach program, host a small listening session with community members or local leaders. Ask simple questions about challenges and needed support.

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## RELATIONSHIPS BEFORE PROGRAMS

**Why it matters:** Programs may attract attention, but relationships build trust. Without trust, even well-designed efforts may not be sustained or embraced by the community.

**Practical example:** Attend community meetings, visit local organizations, and build connections with leaders before developing new initiatives.

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## CONTEXT MATTERS

**Why it matters:** Every community has its own history, culture, challenges, and strengths. What works in one setting may not work in another.

**Practical example:** Consider how location, economic conditions, and community dynamics influence what types of support are most needed.

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## CONSISTENCY BUILDS TRUST

**Why it matters:** Trust is built over time through presence and reliability. Communities respond to what they can depend on.

**Practical example:** Move beyond one-time events by creating ongoing engagement efforts, regular check-ins, or recurring support initiatives.

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## EVALUATION STRENGTHENS IMPACT

**Why it matters:** Without reflection, it is difficult to know what is working. Evaluation allows ministries to grow and improve over time.

**Practical example:** After an outreach effort, gather feedback, review participation, and identify areas for improvement.



Meaningful community engagement is not built on activity alone, but on understanding, relationships, and consistent presence over time.