

ARK Servant Evangelism Ideas

Idea	Description	Team	Cost
Bottled Water Giveaway	Many people prefer water to soft drinks. Ice down bottles of water in Igloo coolers for an alternative to Coke giveaways. Use the same drink connection cards. We don't recommend combining this with a soda giveaway because it offers too many options and gets complicated. You can do this anywhere there are a lot of people gathered.	3	moderate
Boxes to Merchants with your Logo and Number Imprinted	Larger retail stores will not go for this one, but most stores in a mall / shopping center will be grateful. Boxes are affordable when purchased in large numbers.	2	moderate
Breakfast Pop Tarts/Granola Bars	Pop Tarts may not be all that healthy, but they are popular among most students. They are good hot or cold. Students will take them to eat later even if they've already had breakfast.	2	inexpensive
Business Blasts	Bring a small gift, such as a basket of candy, into small businesses for their employees. Bring in one package to be shared by store employees and leave a connect card. What to say? "We appreciate how you serve the community with your business, and we wanted to do a random act of kindness to share God's love in a practical way." Make sure you only give items to employees, so they don't think you are "soliciting" customers. Ideas: Easter baskets in spring, Christmas stockings at Christmas. Leave a connection card that says, "Happy Holidays! This is a busy time of year for you. We want you to know how much we appreciate you and to show you God's love in a practical way!"	2	inexpensive
Business Window Washing	This requires the purchase of good equipment in order to do a decent job. You will need several different sizes of brass squeegees, a special wide mouthed bucket, a lambs wool cleaning head, and cleaning solution. Once you get the hang of using a squeegee it's not that difficult, it's quick and actually fun.	2	moderate

Candy Giveaway	This is an excellent way to do a "giveaway." Rather than ask "Would you like...?" say: "Happy (Holiday)" and give them a candy and a connection card. You'll get very few rejections. Purchase high quality chocolate for a greater effect. Make sure candy is prepackaged. Can be adapted for Valentine's day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, or Christmas.	5	moderate
Cappuccino	Portable espresso machines can be purchased at a reasonable rate. This outreach has been very popular on campuses. While the coffee drink is being made (takes a minute or two), a great conversation can take place.	2	high
Car Wash	week in the summer. Have a professionally made banner or sign	8	inexpensive
Carbon Monoxide Detectors	These have become very affordable recently. They can literally save lives during the winter. Attach your logo and phone number to the card that holds the CO detector button.	2	moderate
Care Package	Make up care packages for an entire dorm. Include such things as: packages of hot chocolate, microwave popcorn, cookies, mints, and gum. Total cost around 62¢. You'll need to get permission from the dorm. These can be distributed through student mailboxes or a box in the lobby.	1	inexpensive
Child Care during Christmas Shopping	There are some liability issues to take into consideration, but this can be a super helpful project during the holidays. Obviously you will need to get some help with professional child care workers to do this right and wisely.	4	free
Christmas Caroling and Candy Canes	Organize a caroling group and go "house to house" in neighborhoods. Take candy canes or a small gift to give as well. For another spin — go into low-income areas, especially inner-city urban, take hot chocolate and cookies and serve the residents.	8	free

Wrap Christmas presents free for mall shoppers. Depending on your mall, you may have to rent the space, purchase the materials, and do it at the hours they ask. On the other hand, some malls give free space, provide the materials and are very accommodating regarding wrapping hours. We've experienced both situations. A common question is, "Isn't this sort of outreach expensive?"

Answer: It can be, but not necessarily. There are one-time equipment investments that must be made. Beyond those, the cost is about a quarter per package. A second common question is, "Isn't something like this going to conflict with the other groups who are wrapping in the mall for their particular fund raiser?" Answer: We aren't in competition with the fancy department stores. They do a classy job. Ours isn't bad, but it doesn't compare with the nice wrapping places. We can help someone who is in a hurry, has a small gift, or just can't afford to spend the money to get it wrapped at the fancy place.

Christmas Gift Wrapping

12

high

Can one get anymore practical than giving away Scotch tape at Christmas? Everyone needs it. This giveaway is rarely rejected and much appreciated.

Christmas Scotch Tape Giveaway

2

inexpensive

Everyone needs to get rid of his or her tree. A few days after Christmas, offer to haul them away for the neighborhood.

Christmas Tree Collection

3

free

A few days before Christmas, lot owners are willing to give the trees away. With pickup trucks, deliver the trees to financially-stretched, single parent families.

Christmas Tree Giveaways

3

free

Coffee Packets for Time Change Weekend or Anytime!	<p>Wake Up and Smell the Pura Vida Coffee! A church in Grand Rapids, Michigan had a great idea-give out pre-packaged coffee grounds to help people get through the time change weekend. They contacted Pura Vida Coffee for individual coffee packets that any church can order for give-away in your community. We love the heart of this coffee company/ministry: Pura Vida Coffee's mission is radical- to combine the efforts of business and philanthropy to help the lives of at-risk children. 100% of their net profits benefit at-risk children in coffee-growing regions of the world. Many churches brew this great coffee for their weekend attendees. The bags come in quantities of 21 per box, and each bag makes 1 12-cup pot of coffee. If you want to add your own custom labels, Avery Diskette Labels are 2 3/4 square and should work well (Avery Product #08196) For coffee pricing and blend availability, contact Lisa at lisad@puravidacoffee.com, or visit the web site at www.puravidacoffee.com.</p>	4	moderate
Coffee/Hot Chocolate Giveaways	<p>Use Igloo containers, air pump thermoses, or better yet, one of our coffee backpacks. We suggest having three options: regular, decaf and hot chocolate. On a cool day, you will have folks swarming for a cup of something hot. We have paper cups with our name and logo printed. You will need three or four people to help give away coffee for each big canister. With each drink we give out a connection card. You can also try this at bus or subway stops. One group in California does this weekly. They bring coffee and donuts to bus stops and offer it to passengers. Sometimes they actually get on the bus and, if they have a sympathetic driver, give their goods out to about everyone on board with a connection card. Or, visit dorms and study spaces during exams. Build a cart that can be wheeled around from dorms to libraries to study areas. This one will have to be manned by non-students. A little TLC goes a long way.</p>	5	moderate

Coins Attached to Cards for Aldis, laundromats or Parking Meters	<p>Attach a coin to a card that reads, "It's time for some change!" We place the card between the driver's window and the bottom rubber seal. The driver can use the coin to pay the meter. This is a high volume project. Close to 200 of these can be placed in an hour in a crowded parking area. To attach the coin, use either rubber cement (smelly and slow) or a roll of adhesive. Several types of these are sold in the tape section of most office supply stores. Unless the weather is remarkably hot, even a quarter will stay attached. Thief alert: Often young kids or street people will follow and swipe the cards from cars. Ask them if they need money and how much. Usually they will ask for a buck or two. Make them a deal – allow these folks to get a quarter and give them the two dollars.</p>	2	inexpensive
Coke Giveaways	<p>This is a simple one: When the traffic light turns red, ask drivers, "Would you like diet or regular?" Place a connection card under the opener on the top. A word of caution: It's easy to get enthused with this project and forget to adequately scan traffic when the light changes. NOTE: Do not allow children under 10 to participate due to safety in traffic.</p>	4	inexpensive
Community Dinner	<p>Throw a dinner for the block. One family in a rough part of London has been doing grill outs for the past few years. The couple provides the grill and the hamburgers. Everyone else brings a part of the dinner. The result: Neighbors are talking to one another for the first time, they are watching out for each other and, naturally, the crime rate has gone down.</p>	2	free
Cookies	<p>Everyone likes a cookie. We purchase these in small packets of four. Although manufactured cookies aren't as good as homemade, folks are reluctant to receive unpackaged food from strangers. We have had our greatest success with this in downtown business areas. Go for quality of product - not low cost - people will receive a name brand like "Oreo" more than a generic brand. All kinds of snacks are appreciated by students, especially around exam time.</p>	3	inexpensive

Go door to door on particularly icy days. As the coordinator of outreach when our church was smaller, I made it a point to keep track of those who had flexible schedules so that when harsh or odd weather hit, we could spring into action. Here is a truth you can bury deep in your heart: The more inclement the weather, the deeper the impression we make on those we serve. For example, on a very icy morning, if you were to gather a team of 20 available souls to go out and serve for a couple of hours with lots of pre-purchased de-icing material (NOT ROCK SALT PLEASE) (it is important to think in advance for this sort of thing - whether you were in the scouts or not, begin now to BE PREPARED!) In that time frame you could blow away hundreds of homeowners with Jesus' kindness by scattering de-icer on their sidewalks. I'm getting chills just thinking about this opportunity!

De-Ice Walkways		2	moderate
De-icing	After an ice storm, a few shovels of rock salt can make a big difference on a slippery sidewalk or driveway.	2	inexpensive
Doggie Dirt Cleanup	It's an unsavory job, but someone has to do it. Jesus said, "If you want to be great in God's kingdom, be the servant of all." Does that include all breeds? Actually, it's not that tough with the right equipment. (You can find scooper equipment at a local pet store.) Give a connection card to pet owners and park officials in the area.	2	free
	People often love their pets like family members. Either make a great doggie treat from scratch, or buy them from a gourmet pet shop. Wrap several with a ribbon and a connection card and give them out at parks or dog runs.		
Doggie Treats		2	inexpensive

Doggie Wash	<p>Go through the park looking for dogs and their owners or organize a neighborhood "doggie wash." Use the recommended dog shampoo sold in pet stores. This is best done around your neighborhood. The best workers and organizers of a dog wash are kids. Two ten year old boys recently touched their entire neighborhood by blanketing all the houses with a homemade flyer explaining their project. They later reported washing sixteen dogs and one reluctant cat. They also provided a flea collar to each clean pet.</p>	2	inexpensive
Dollar Drop	<p>At local malls where any sort of programmatic evangelism is not allowed, this is a way to get the attention of many quickly. We attach a connection card explaining our project to a dollar bill. We use Post-It note removable glue (available at local business supply stores). Then we go around the mall and nonchalantly drop dollar bills on the ground. For some free entertainment, stand a distance away and watch who picks up the dollar and how they respond to the message.</p>	1	inexpensive
Donut Giveaway during Morning Traffic Times	<p>A couple of grandmas at our church have had great success giving away pastries in the morning. Who could say no to a sweet grandma type? As with any giveaway, there are a couple of options. These gals set up on a traffic island at a light. When it's red they step into traffic and ask, "Would you like chocolate, maple or glazed?" They then give them a connection card.</p>	2	inexpensive
Drinks for Cashiers	<p>For several years now I have been practicing showing simple respect to retail workers - especially cashiers. In almost all retail locations, there are several opportunities to make "impulse purchases" such as packs of gum or softdrinks. In my case there is nothing impulsive about my purchase - it is well thought out! I always buy a drink for the cashier. I ask the cashier, "What's your favorite softdrink?" Without hesitation they tell me - then I walk back to the machine and pick up a cold one for them. Of course they ask me why I am doing this. A brief conversation ensues.</p>	1	inexpensive

Easter Baskets	These are great for both "business blasts" and "house to house." Purchase inexpensive Easter baskets (around sixty cents) and fill with candy such as wrapped small eggs and other inexpensive Easter candy. You can make a nice basket for around \$2.00 including the basket.	3	inexpensive
Fireplace Kindling	Bundle it up and give it out in the Fall. On the binding attach your logo and phone number.	2	inexpensive
Flower Seeds	Give out flower seeds to celebrate spring or Easter. Some companies offer the option of having your church name printed on the outside of the packet. This giveaway works great downtown, in front of stores, placed on parked cars, or at Spring festivals. Staple connection card to seeds and give them away! You can also place flower seed packets (with stapled connect card) on cars on driver side window between rubber and glass. Don't place on the windshield because sometimes the driver doesn't notice it until they begin driving. Some parking garages don't allow this — so curbside parking is the best place to begin.	2	inexpensive
Food Delivery to Shut-ins	Find legitimate shut-ins in your neighborhood. Start a system with interested neighbors for a weekly hot food delivery. Keep in mind, many pre-Christians are very interested in helping others even though they don't yet know Christ. A project such as this could easily be an entry point to their hearts.	2	moderate
Freshen-up Packs (mints & moist towelettes)	At sporting events, festivals and public places it's difficult to wash hands. A moist towelette is a practical, small gift. Package a few with some starlight mints and make a "freshen-up" pack. See cards for special connection card. Towelettes can be printed with your church name and logo and only cost about 1¢ per towelette. Mints are around 2¢ - total cost per packet 6¢.	2	inexpensive

Fruit give away	I was surprised at the popularity of this one. People really like fresh fruit and they will readily take it. I have tried this one across the US and it has gone over great guns. An orange, an apple and a banana are enough along with a connection card in a clear plastic bag. It works well door to door. Great way to invite neighbors to small group meetings!	1	inexpensive
Garage Cleaning	With a homeowner and half a dozen people, this unsavory task can be fun. You could do this one for your entire street each week. Usually garbage pick up is done early in the morning. Be the first one out.	3	free
Garbage Can Return from Street	Return them near their garage but do it quietly.	1	free
Gasoline for Your Neighbor	How many people do you see buying less than a tank of gas when you fill up? I see that happening all the time. They can't afford a tank of gas at today's prices. Add \$5.00 to their total and blow their minds. Of course, add in a connection card.	1	moderate
Gatorade at Biking Trails	Some health conscious folks like runners, bikers and generally healthy people, don't drink soda. Offer them Gatorade or bottled water instead.	2	moderate
General Interior Cleaning	Not everyone will let you come in at random and clean his or her house. It's best to stop by a prospective house to schedule a day before the cleaning team comes.	2	free
General Yard Cleanup	After the winter weather is over, all sorts of debris become obvious. Go door to door with gloves, rakes, and trash bags.	2	free
Glow in the Dark Necklaces / Bracelets	These are a hit! They run about \$1.00 each, so they're a more expensive but effective touch!	3	inexpensive
Golf Balls	Imprinted balls are surprisingly affordable. The average golfer loses three or four balls per outing. If it's lost on the course, another golfer will pick it up later with your logo and phone number on it.	2	inexpensive
Golf Tees	Imprinted tees cost just a couple of cents per tee. Golfers can never get enough of these. Some golf courses will give them away for you at their counter.	2	inexpensive

Grass Edging	If you don't have time to mow an entire lawn, edge the driveway and sidewalks. Most homeowners don't edge very often, so they are in need of it and are grateful.	1	free
Grocery Bag Loading Assistance	Moms with lots of kids hanging on them like koalas often need assistance getting their bags loaded into the car from the cart. The elderly need the same sort of help. On this one almost everyone will try to give a tip. As with all kindness projects, to receive money would taint what we are trying to communicate – "God's love in a practical package with no strings attached." This project may require permission from the store manager on the day of the event. The servers on this one need to be particularly safe-appearing folks. Smiling can help ease people's fears. Name tags or T-shirts identifying connection to your organization is a plus for this outreach because it makes the loading assistants look more official. Approach shoppers as they finish unloading their carts with the offer, "Hi, can I take that back for you? We're showing God's love in a practical way to shoppers." The shoppers will appreciate it, and the grocer will love you for it.	3	free
Grocery Cart Returns	Increasing numbers of grocery stores offer rock bottom prices. One of the ways they can afford this is by cutting out services such as bag packing. We have our own aprons with our logo on the front. The first time we volunteered to do this, the manager was skeptical; but that feeling quickly melted. I've gotten reports from all over the US that this project is very effective. To top it off, this is honest work. After all, it's how David Letterman got his start. Name tags or T-shirts identifying connection to your organization is a plus for this outreach because it makes the baggers look more official. We provide free candy for our congregation for them to give out to trick-or-treaters. Included with this candy were special Halloween connection cards (example).	2	free
Grocery Store Bag Packing		4	free
Halloween Connect Cards		1	inexpensive

Halloween Reverse Trick-or-Treat	<p>Although many churches do not endorse this holiday, it's the second largest holiday in the United States in terms of money spent. It's a part of the culture of America and by using this event we can connect with pre-Christians in ways they can understand. The Saturday before Halloween, during the day, throw a costume party. (Positive costumes, nothing scary.) Team everyone in teams of 4-6. Go house to house and give away candy. Say: "No tricks, just a treat to show God's love." Don't let them accept any candy from residents... only give away bags of candy. Leave a connection card or have a special one designed for this (example). Give out high quality candy. We tried this, and it was very effective. People were caught off guard at being given something!</p>	4	inexpensive
Hand Cleaning Towelettes	<p>On a Friday afternoon, when the heat is on, who doesn't need a little refreshment on the drive home. Instead of giving away a soft drink, offer them a towelette. Pretty much everything in downtown shopping areas is a bit dirty. Problem is there's no place to wash up. Give away towelettes. Pumping your own gas can get messy. Therefore, we distribute towelettes with our name and phone number printed on them. When purchased in quantity, these are as little as 1.5 cents per packet, including two color printing.</p>	3	inexpensive
Helium Balloons for Kids	<p>Balloons are festive. Kids are attracted to them from hundreds of yards away. We give them to the children while we talk to the parents and offer them an explanation with a connection card.</p>	3	inexpensive
Holiday Giveaways	<p>Plan 3-4 times during the year to go house to house with a holiday giveaway. Examples: small poinsettias at Christmas, Easter baskets at Easter, picnic on Independence day (include hot dogs, chips, beans, buns, and a watermelon), mum plants in the Fall.</p>	2	inexpensive

Hot Dog Grilling	<p>Like 'em or not, grilled hot dogs bring everyone nearby together. Even with providing the dogs, buns and condiments, this is an affordable outreach. We put up a banner that reads, "It's Party Time!" Provide music and you've got a party that will draw strangers like a magnet.</p>	3	moderate
House Number Painting on Curbs	<p>With stencils, spray paint house numbers on curbs. Find decent looking stencils. Leave a connection card when you explain how you are showing God's love in a practical way.</p>	2	inexpensive
House to House giveaways	<p>You can go house to house on the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mother's day and any other holiday. <p>Go door to door with a free picnic. Give away hot dogs, chips, buns, beans, and cookies, maybe even a watermelon.
 Mum plants: A wonderful house-to-house gift.
 Turkey dinner: Great for needy areas!
 Holiday potpourri: Great alternative to food product or plant.
 Poinsettias: take small poinsettia plants as "house to house" gifts.
 Fruit: People really like fresh fruit and they will readily take it. Place one orange, apple, and banana inside a clear plastic bag, and tie it with a connection card attached. See Fruit Giveaway.
 Carnation Giveaway: Carnations are affordable, and everyone likes them. This project could be done anytime, but Mother's Day is a particularly good excuse. See flower giveaway.</p>	2	inexpensive
Ice Cream Coupons	<p>Approach a local ice cream store and explain your desire to give away thousands of ice cream coupons. Chances are the owner/manager will be willing to give you a good deal on ice cream coupons. Attach a connection card to the coupon and you'll have a project that just about everyone in town or on campus will respond to.</p>	2	moderate

Independence Day (Fourth of July)	Most communities have festivals to celebrate this holiday. Get a group of people together and plan a Kindness Outreach! Blow-pops and gum balls are a big hit. Small American flags are also popular. After it is dark, glow-in-the-dark necklaces are effective. These necklaces run about \$1.00 each. Parks are a popular place on the 4th of July. Bring a team of clowns and give away helium balloons and small candy items.	3	inexpensive
Interior Vacuuming	Locate at gas stations or shopping center parking lots. Set up signs that explain what you're doing. Give a connection card to those you help. I recommend you establish a designated communicator to connect with drivers and explain why this is all taking place. Which is dirtier, the inside or outside of your car windows? Often the inside is worse. Set up a cleaning station similar to the one above. Use paper towels to do the cleaning. If you want to get fancy, have scented cards printed with your church logo and phone number to hang in the car.	3	free
Interior Window Cleaning	Some who have been sick or depressed might need a good kitchen cleaning. Don't try this one by yourself. Two or three can clean up a super dirty kitchen on a Saturday morning.	3	free
Kitchen Cleanup	Throw a sit-down lunch party for residents at a low-income housing development. (See the appendix to Steve Sjogren's out-of-print book, <i>Servant Warfare</i> , for more information on this outreach.)	5	moderate
Lamb's Lunch	Several mowers make mowing the lawn short work. Look for long grass, knock on the door, and go for it. "We came, we saw, we raked!" Several people in small group can rake an entire neighborhood on a single Saturday morning. Maybe you don't like raking your own yard; but when you're with a group of friends serving in the name of Christ, a chore becomes a joy. Many yards take only fifteen to twenty minutes to polish off. Note: If possible go to neighborhoods where the city vacuums leaves left on the curb (some do). If you bag them, leave the bags by the curb for later pick up.	2	inexpensive
Lawn Mowing			
Leaf Raking		4	free

Light Bulb Replacement	Sounds simple, but for some reaching up to a nine foot ceiling is a difficult chore. We offer a 60-watt light bulb with a connection card, and if they'd like we replace burned out ones.	2	inexpensive
Lollipops / Blow pops	These are great giveaway items for parks, festivals, and college campuses. Purchase at Sam's for around 6¢ a piece — it is an inexpensive but effective way to show God's love.	3	inexpensive
Matthew's Party	Out of his joy in finding Jesus, Matthew threw a party for his friends after his conversion. This is similar to a Lamb's Lunch but with games and activities added. This is a great outreach for those who are still unsure of their gifts, or unsure how to go about using them. (See the appendix to Steve Sjogren's book <i>Servant Warfare</i> for more information on this outreach.)	10	high
Microwave Popcorn	During colder months popcorn goes with DVD watching. When you purchase decent brands of popcorn (see above regarding quality versus cheap) in bulk at stores such as Sam's or Costco, the price per pack is less than a quarter - not bad! Some groups photocopy a sticker with their information and place that on the pack of popcorn. I don't recommend fancy packaging. Think about it. The person opening it will simply throw away that information on the package. If you give them a super duper, well thought through, great looking card as I often encourage readers of <i>Serve to have done...</i> that they will keep... for a long long time.	2	inexpensive
Mother's Day Carnation Giveaways	Carnations are affordable, and everyone likes them. This project could be done anytime, but Mother's Day is a particularly good excuse. Give these flowers to all women to honor them, instead of asking if a woman is a mother. This day can be powerful for some who wish to be mothers - but are not. Also works for Secretary's Day.	3	inexpensive
Move in Welcoming Party	Greet new neighbors to your neighborhood with some cookies or a home cooked meal and a smile.	1	free

Newspapers	Some convenience stores allow the entire stack of newspapers to be purchased. We place a sign on the top of the stack that reads, "Free Newspapers – Courtesy of Vineyard Community Church." Each paper has a card attached with removable adhesive.	1	moderate
Package Check-In	Shoppers are terribly burdened at Christmas. Build a booth at the mall and set up a package checking system. You will be able to talk with them when they drop off their packages and when they return.	4	free
Pay Laundromat Washer and Dryer	Bring a roll or two of quarters and dimes. As patrons enter ask them if they'd like hot or cold wash. You can also provide detergent. Note: This project works best for women. It's a bit odd for men to reach out to women in this setting.	2	inexpensive
Peanuts	With most food giveaways, people are generally not comfortable with unsealed items. Check around for sources on this one. You should be able to find small bags that cost less than a quarter.	2	inexpensive
Pen and Pencil Giveaways	For a very small investment, you can place your church name and phone numbers on the pencils and pens.	2	inexpensive
Pictionary in the Park	This was a popular game in the late 1980's – similar to Charades but allows for the use of a white board to draw hints. We play this in parks, and complete strangers join us. When they correctly guess the answer, we allow them to take the next round. After 15-20 minutes, we take a break, serve soft drinks and talk to the crowd one-to-one.	4	free
Pizza on Move-In/ Move-Out Day at the Dorms/ Apartments	If you want to get the attention of an entire dorm, give away pizza. You will hardly need signs — the aroma will do all the marketing you need. Negotiate a discount with the pizza restaurant for large volumes, or the vendor may be willing to give you the pizza in return for an endorsement.	4	moderate
Polaroid Family Photos at Carriage Rides or Special events	A couple will hold on to a decent photo of themselves for years. If you want to get fancy, have a photo frame that is tailor made for the instant photo-sized picture. Attach a sticker of your church's logo and phone number.	2	inexpensive

Popcorn	You can either make bags of popcorn before you get there, or rent/purchase your own "carnival style" popper and do it on the spot. You will draw more of a crowd with the machine on hand. (Requires dry ice, and takes several days to freeze solidly) Works well in county parks on hot summer days. The "Mr. Freeze" push up kind are the easiest to distribute and the least messy. Drivers in some areas of town probably won't go for popsicles. Blue-collar areas and college campus areas are more likely to take one. We purchased our own ice cream truck complete with the cheesy music.	3	high
Popsicles	College students actually do write home on occasion. Provide postcards complete with postage with a sticker that reads, "It's good to write your mom!" Include your connection card.	3	inexpensive
Post Cards and Stamps	Marigolds and Impatiens can be purchased affordably in numbers. Mums are great in the fall. Small poinsettias are a great touch at Christmas.	2	inexpensive
Potted Plant Giveaways	On a hot day at an amusement or theme park, there's nothing as refreshing as a quick blast of cool mist. Use with caution, some people don't enjoy being sprayed! The person who came up with this idea tried it at Walt Disney World in 103°F weather with his family and had great feedback.	3	moderate
Pump-up Spray Water Bottles	One small group meets regularly at the mall for their group. Occasionally, they take a spontaneous offering among themselves. They then approach one of the managers of a fast food restaurant and offer, "We'd like to pay the bill for as many customers as this amount of money will pay for." On one recent outreach, this group paid for \$125 worth of food — that was about one hour's worth of sales. The manager became so excited he was explaining the gospel himself to the customers even though he was a burned out church attendee. Go figure!	2	inexpensive
Purchasing Meals at the Food Court		1	high

Radon Detectors	Radon gas is a problem in many parts of the world. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US. Detectors are steadily coming down in price. Presently they run about five dollars, or you can purchase a machine for over \$1,000. This could be a decent investment for a small group that wants to systematically reach out to the area surrounding their neighborhood.	2	high
Rain Gutter Cleaning	You will need some ladders, trash bags and gloves. Messy work but very appreciated by homeowners especially in the fall.	2	free
Restroom & Toilet Cleaning at Public Places	This is Steve Sjogren's favorite project. There's nothing like walking into a gas station, restaurant or retail store and offering, "We'd like to clean your toilet for free!" Put a little cleaning kit together. The essentials: brush, air freshener, window cleaner, paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner, rubber gloves, doormat. There's nothing magical about the technique here. Steve has cleaned commodes all over the world and says they are all pretty much the same as the ones in your home. This is probably one of the most frequently rejected projects we do – probably because the offer to clean a toilet is a bit overwhelming. No matter. Give them your connection card, smile, and say, "OK! We'll come back some other time and clean when you need it. We're just trying to show you God's love in a practical way."	2	free
Restroom Deodorizer	What restroom couldn't stand to smell a bit nicer? Either hang or attach one to the wall. On the front place your church logo and a slogan along the lines of, "This restroom has been Vineyardized! Give us a call if we can be of more help."	2	inexpensive
Roses	Hand out roses or carnations in busy downtown areas or in front of busy stores. Even men find this appealing because they can give them away! Hand a flower and a connection card. Perfect for Valentine's Day.	2	moderate
School Supplies	Take school supplies house to house especially in needy neighborhoods whose residents include many children. Perfect for Labor Day.	3	moderate

Screen Cleaning	Screens will have to be removed. Apply a bit of soapy water and use a soft brush. Hose them off and reinstall. Most homeowners never do this, though it is an easy way to improve the view.	2	free
Shoe Shines	Small investment + some elbow grease = big return. Set this up in front of a grocery store on a Saturday or in front of a barbershop. This is a great project for talking to folks. You have a captive audience while you serve them!	3	inexpensive
Shopping Assistance for Shut-ins	This would come by referrals. Work with shut-ins to get a list of needs, shop and deliver.	1	inexpensive
Sidewalk Sweeping	In urban areas this is a huge hit. In some communities in Europe, residents are required by law to sweep the area in front of their apartment. Why not sweep your area as well as your neighbors'? This is a great stand-alone project for a Saturday morning in the church parking lot. We provide this service strictly to single moms, though not necessarily just those in our church. This will require a team of folks with knowledge of the basics. About the only variable here is oil filter size. There are hundreds of sizes, so getting a sign up before the event is vital. This will not work at a filling station.	2	free
Single Moms' Oil Change	The liability to the owner is unreasonable.	3	inexpensive
Smoke Detector Batteries	All older and some newer detectors use 9-volt batteries. These should be replaced yearly. We do massive battery replacement outreaches on the October time change weekend. Attach a sticker with your logo and phone number to the detector face if it's possible.	2	inexpensive
Snow Shoveling	Men's groups take on their neighborhood with snow shovels and snow blowers. We go door to door explaining our project. The snow blowers aren't necessary but very helpful. Most drives and sidewalks can be finished in a matter of minutes. Be sure to bring coffee and hot chocolate for the workers.	3	free

Soft Drink Giveaways	Fill coolers with ice and drinks. We always offer at least two options. We set up at grocery store entrances and say, "Hi, would you like regular or diet?" (It's easier to say yes when there are only two options!) Small home-use coolers usually are too small for this. We have purchased the mega Igloos that hold over 100 cans with ice. We buy Coke brand drinks instead of the cheaper stuff. (Over the years we've received hundreds of comments of appreciation that we thought enough of those in our community to invest in decent beverages.) Our connection cards on this one are coated to be water and wilt resistant. The card goes under the opener – we now affectionately call these "card holders."	4	moderate
Stamps in Front of the Post Office	One church holds a major stamp outreach on April 15th for late tax filers. Not only do they give out stamps, but they also offer coffee and donuts – stress recovery food. They just stand by the mail drop-off boxes with a card table filled with food and stamps.	3	moderate
Steaks and Salmon for Firefighters	Since 9/11, the public has been aware of the tremendous job that firefighters do for us. Show a little kindness by providing some steaks or salmon to grill. Let them know in advance that you are coming so they can have the grill fired up. Firefighters are a great group to serve – they talk in the community.	4	moderate
Summer Survival Kit	Similar to the winter kit, but with lip balm, small disposable pack of suntan lotion, and a package of moist towelettes.	2	inexpensive
Sunday Morning Paper and Coffee Giveaways	Purchase a number of Sunday papers, brew excellent coffee and visit your neighbors. Look for the houses that don't have a paper in the driveway but be sure you don't knock on the door too early.	3	moderate
Sunglasses (cheap ones!)	Have you ever left home for a sporting event only to forget your sunglasses? Many sporting events attendees experience this every weekend. We have purchased large quantities of sunglasses for as little as a quarter a pair.	3	moderate

Suntan Lotion	Suntan lotion representatives talk to a thousand people a day using their product. We can do better. We bring along large bottles of cream and spray on lotions of various SPF ratings and offer to give people some.	4	inexpensive
Tattoos or Face Painting	Set up a little station and offer free temporary tattoos or face painting. Children love to have pictures painted on their cheeks or foreheads. Even an amateur artist can make a child's day by painting a face. Purchase paints designed for face painting – tempera paints can leave a rash. Don't use tempera or poster paints! This is popular with kids and teens alike. An advantage to this project is the time you can spend with the person as you paint their face or apply their tattoo. As you paint or tattoo them, pray that God will touch them with His Spirit. Perfect for Fourth of July or parks. Note: We recommend you don't paint the child unless the parent is nearby and gives permission.	5	inexpensive
Time Change Reminder Flyer	Simply distributing a nicely done flyer the first weekend of October and April will be impressive to your neighbors. You can also include a Keurig coffee with the card.	2	inexpensive
Tire Pressure Check	A tire pressure gauge is a small investment. Checking this is easy for anyone.	1	inexpensive
Toilet Seat Covers	At public events where there are only portable toilets, women especially appreciate a toilet seat cover. Buy in bulk and fold up into smaller sizes for distribution with a connection card.	2	inexpensive
Tree Limb Trimming	Purchase an extending trimmer with a saw and pulley clipper. Beware of electric lines. Before trimming any limbs, get approval from the home owner.	3	inexpensive
Tutoring	Upper classmen can serve younger students by helping with course work. At the end of the session, pray for success in the coming project or exam. When the student does well in the test, they naturally connect that favor with God. This relationship will quickly grow into a mentoring one that will facilitate the younger student either growing toward or deepening their relationship with Christ.	1	free

Umbrella Escorts	Moms and the elderly find it tough to make it from stores to their cars in the rain. We use huge golf umbrellas to help them to their car with as little wetness as possible.	3	free
Vinyl gloves	Pumping gas is both troublesome and smelly. Disposable gloves are an inexpensive way of saying to strangers, "God loves you -- and has a wonderful, lead-free plan for your life." We attach a sticker or card to these \$.06 gloves (gloves available at Sam's). Self-serve stations have been very willing to allow us to place an acrylic dispenser by their cash registers.	2	inexpensive
Warm up and Fill up	Pick a day where the weather is particularly unpleasant. Talk to the station manager, and offer to pump patron's gas for them while they wait in their cars. When finished, hand them a connection card.	3	free
Washer Fluid Fill	Most tend to use their windshield washers more in the winter, but a refill project will work about any time of the year. This works well at self-serve stations. The liquid is affordable – as little as 79 cents a gallon. A caution here: Make sure you are refilling the washer fluid tank (blue liquid) and not the radiator overflow tank (green fluid). We've made that mistake — \$200 to repair.	2	inexpensive
Weed Spraying	Spray for weeds in cracks in the sidewalk and areas where weeds thrive. Wear rubber gloves.	2	inexpensive
Window Washing	Picture windows aren't that difficult to clean once you get the hang of using a wide squeegee. (See "Windshield Washing" for more details.)	2	inexpensive
Windshield Ice Scrapers	Have scrapers with your name imprinted on them, or a sticker with your name on it. Scrapers last a year or less, so early in the season most drivers need another one.	3	moderate
Windshield Ice Scraping (at Apartment Complexes)	Scrape first, ask questions later. Place a connection card on the clean windshield when done.	2	free

Windshield Washing	<p>This was one of our first projects when we first started serving years ago. It's a perennial favorite, and we still do it just about every weekend. The materials list is short and inexpensive: a good squeegee, a wiping rag, a connection card and windshield cleaner. (We recommend you not use Windex style cleaner – ask your car parts store what they recommend). If it's too hot (above 85°F) or too cold (below freezing), you might end up making a dirty windshield even worse. If you are doing this at random in a parking lot, don't wash high-end cars. Their owners are unlikely to see your service as helpful. Car alarms? If you accidentally set one off, finish cleaning, and move on. We've set off plenty. They will reset themselves shortly. Try it at a self-serve gas station - just like the good old days. Use a quality squeegee and work quickly. Give each customer a connection card to remember your service. Secure permission from gas station manager.</p>	4	inexpensive
Winter Car Washes / Desalting	<p>In the eastern part of the US, roads are de-iced with salt and sand. Salt corrodes the underside of cars. This is similar to summer car washes, except the emphasis is on desalting the underside of the car more than the top. Soap is not necessary. Note: If the weather is too cold (under 20°) you could do more damage than good. We've frozen a few doors shut.</p>	5	inexpensive
Winter Survival Kit	<p>In a zip lock bag, put everything someone could need to get through a day of adverse winter weather: tissues, cough drops, lip balm, coins to make a pay phone call, and a connection card.</p>	3	moderate