

## To Do

- ⇒ Read these verses from the Bible which were mentioned in the presentation: Romans 12:4-8, I Corinthians 12:1-30, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 28:20.
- ⇒ Thank someone who equipped you—who helped you become better at what you do.
- ⇒ When you work alongside someone, comment on what they do well—their skills, attitude, etc.
- ⇒ If your workplace has given you training in areas such as teamwork, human resources, or supervision, consider if and how the principles might apply to working together in your church.

## Want to know more?

About equipping churches: read *The Equipping Church* by Sue Mallory, which tells the story of a church tried equipping, and/or *The Equipping Church Guidebook*, a practical guide, by Mallory and Brad Smith.

About the theology of equipping: read *Everyone a Minister* by Oscar Feucht. This 1974 book, published by Concordia Publishing House, is out of print but used copies are available on amazon.com.

About finding your best place to serve: Read *What You Do Best in the Body of Christ* by Bruce Bugbee and/or *The Call* by Os Guinness.

Karen Kogler  
Equipping Resources and Service  
karen.kogler@sbcglobal.net

## Together in His Service: The Body of Christ Helping Each Other Serve Jesus What is Equipping?

*This handout for participants accompanies the presentation "Together in His Service" by Karen Kogler. The presentation is available free on CD by contacting Karen at [karen.kogler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karen.kogler@sbcglobal.net). Permission is given to make unlimited copies of this handout for your own congregation.*

## Summary

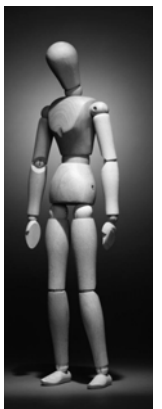
When it is difficult to recruit volunteers, when too few do too much of the work and burn out, the church suffers in its ability to share Jesus with a broken and hurting world that desperately needs him.

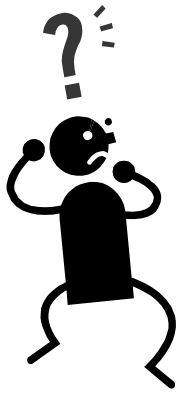


Just as the military equips their soldiers to enable them to do their job, so the church would be more effective at its task by equipping its people for ministry.

The church is the body of Christ, and each person, like each part in our bodies, is:

- uniquely designed by God
- for specific purposes
- that are needed and important for the body to be healthy and function fully





If a church is not intentionally encouraging and supporting its volunteers, it likely is unintentionally discouraging them.

When volunteers experience significant frustration, discouragement or disappointment, they are likely to get out as soon as they can and avoid future volunteer involvement.

Recruitment - Focuses on the task and is done when the position is filled.

Equipping - focuses on the person. It encourages ministry, offers help in selecting the right ministry, and trains, supports and affirms each volunteer.

Everything isn't done by pastors and staff. All the parts of the body help each other serve.

Take note! Equipping is better than recruiting, but it is also more difficult and takes more time. It is a new way of doing all the programs of the church.

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## To Think About



1. What good and bad experiences have you had as a volunteer (at church, your kids' school, in community groups, when you were a teen, etc.)? How have those experiences shaped your current feelings about volunteering at church?
2. Everyone likes some tasks and dislikes others. Do you volunteer for tasks you enjoy? If time were no object, what would you most like to do?
3. What do you need from others in order to do a task well?
4. In what ways have people recruited you for volunteer positions? What effect did these techniques have: positive, negative, or neutral?
5. What would your church look like if it became more of an equipping church? How would it affect you? What would you do differently? What might be the results?

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have blessed me with Your great love and with many gifts. Help me use those gifts in serving others, and show me the tasks You created me to do. Help me help others do the same, so more and more people may enjoy the blessing of Your love. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*