

THE SALVATION ARMY · SOUTHERN AFRICA TERRITORY



CIRCUIT MINISTRY

GUIDELINES

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INTRODUCTION

Circuit Ministry is not a new concept. It has been used by many churches and has greatly influenced the spread of the Gospel as more and more people have become involved in ministry resulting in the growth of the church.

The most significant aspect of Circuit Ministry is that it creates opportunity for local officers and potential local leaders to take on responsibilities and leadership roles.

WHAT IS CIRCUIT MINISTRY?

It is a ministry where clusters of congregations, in a given area, co-operate by sharing resources. Resources like manpower, finance, skills, etc, to fulfil the mission of The Salvation Army to "Save Sinners, Grow Saints and Serve Suffering Humanity."

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CIRCUIT MINISTRY?

Circuit Ministry should first of all be seen as a “growth” initiative whereby Corps can rise to the challenge of developing healthy and growing congregations.

Research has shown that there are eight basic characteristics in healthy, growing churches. These characteristics form the basis for effective Circuit Ministries. They are:

- **Empowering Leadership**
- **Gift Oriented Ministry**
- **Passionate Spirituality**
- **Functional Structure**
- **Inspiring Worship**
- **Holistic Small Groups**
- **Need Oriented Evangelism**
- **Loving Relationships**

CIRCUIT MINISTRY PRINCIPLES

Linked with the eight basic characteristics we need to now link these activities so that they become integrated and commence a growth cycle.

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| Principle 1. | Interdependence – all parts of the circuit are aware of the impact of what they do on other parts and ensure that the impact is always positive. |
| Principle 2. | Multiplication – Every part of the circuit is looking to reproduce itself. |
| Principle 3. | Energy Transformation – all the ‘energy’ in the circuit is harnessed and directed towards achieving its God given goals. |
| Principle 4. | Multi usage – The Circuit invests its resources in such a way that its various parts become self-sustaining, freeing up resources to be used elsewhere. |
| Principle 5. | Symbiosis – Diverse parts of the circuit are encouraged to work together in a “win-win” relationship. |
| Principle 6. | Functionality – All areas of the Circuit are regularly assessed to ensure they are contributing to the overall healthy growth of the circuit. |

Circuit Ministry is not the Officer's job it is the Ministry of Laity. For too long, we have viewed the church as a building similar to the following diagram:-

1.The Church upside down

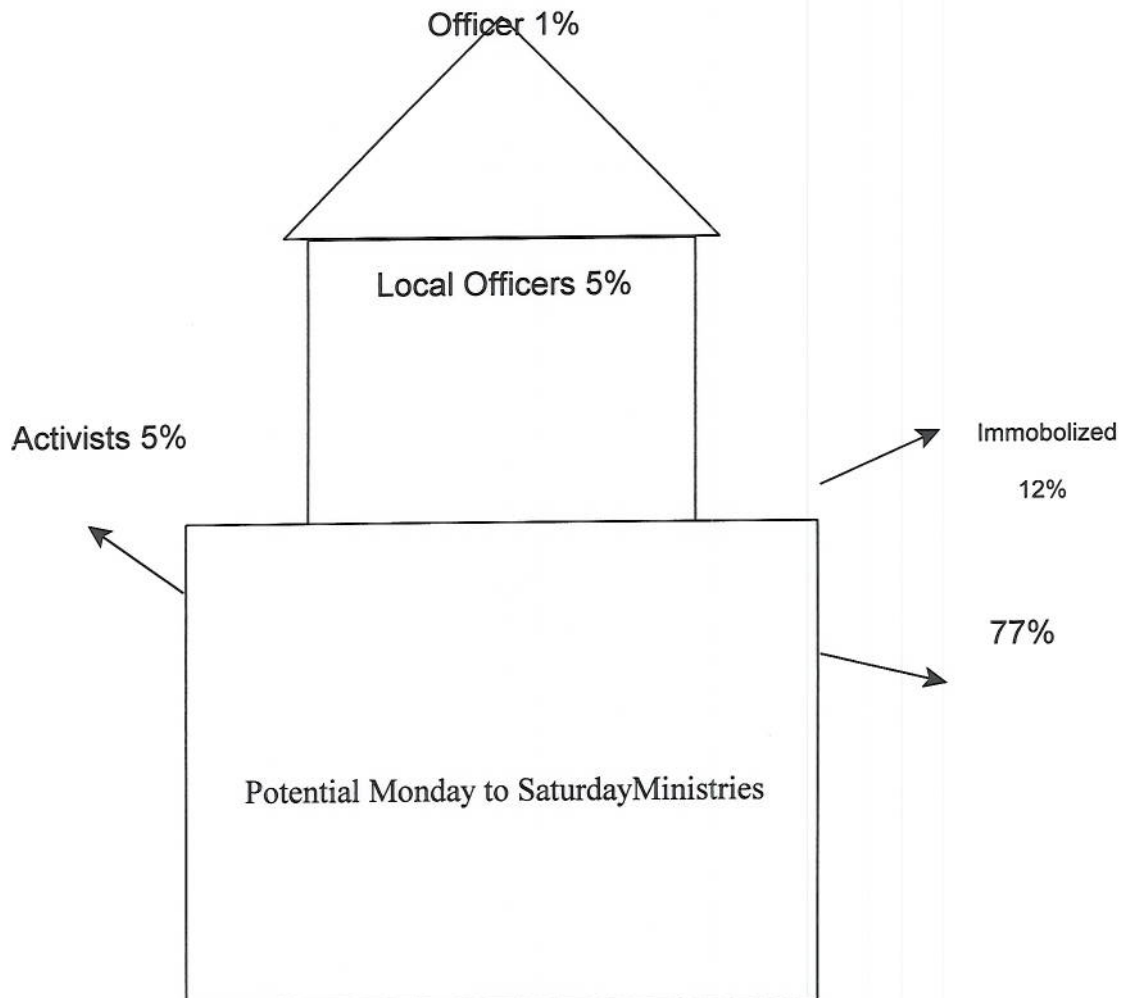


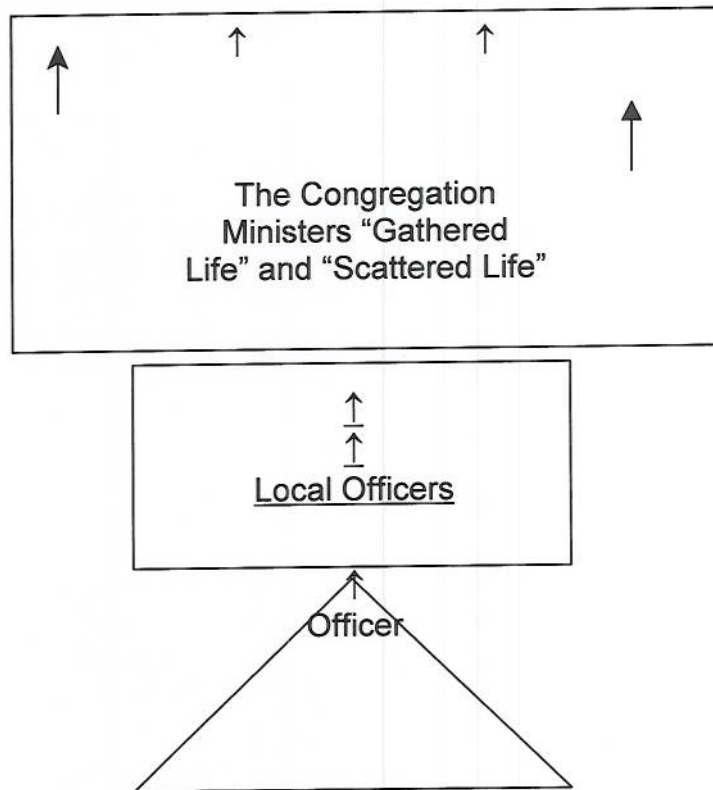
Diagram explained

Top Ordained officers
 Local Officers
 Activists – controversial group
 Immobilised – People in crises, death, divorce, etc
 needs caring ministry
 The Majority – Potential Ministers

This is a negative view of the Church.

II.

THE CHURCH – RIGHT SIDE UP



This diagram show the potential of the Circuit Ministry as it releases and empowers local lay people to be involved in Ministry.

THE ADVANTAGES OF THE CIRCUIT MINISTRY

- Creates opportunities for shared Ministry between Officers, Local Officers and Salvationists.
- It involves leadership skills over a much wider area.
- It empowers local leadership by building their capacity and giving responsibility.
- It gives a bigger financial base to cover expenditure.
- It enables Corps to share in a better integrated fellowship.
- It stimulates growth locally as growth does not depend on the officer but on the people.

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF CIRCUIT MINISTRY?

- If allowed it can cause power struggles, e.g. My Corps, My officer, My money, etc, (No Corps in any circuit is less important than another).
- Poor local or selfish leadership that relies on an appointed officer and selfishly won't allow the officer the freedom to minister in a wider circuit ministry.
- Properties can be neglected.

THE CIRCUIT MINISTRY OFFICER

The Circuit Ministry Officer is appointed to the circuit and has responsibility to ensure that the principles and procedures of The Salvation Army are maintained and adhered to and that the mission of the Army is foremost in all the planning of the circuit.

In addition to the ministry and responsibility of Corps Officer this responsibility is now extended to include the whole circuit.

For the smooth running of the circuit the Circuit Officer needs to give quality attention to the following matters.

Arrange and conduct a monthly circuit meeting with the Corps Circuit Ministry Leaders.

Recruit someone who will record and submit Statistical Reports to DHQ

Draw up a check list for Salvation Army properties and do regular inspections to ensure that properties are well maintained.

ROSTER OF MEETINGS/SPECIALS

A comprehensive roster be drawn up for each Corps to indicate who will be responsible for meetings. The roster needs to be circulated and a responsible person needs to follow-up to remind meeting leaders of their responsibilities. The Circuit Ministry officer can include on the roster:

- Retired Officers
- THQ Officers
- Young People who can take leadership of meetings.

A copy of the Roster needs to be displayed at the corps, a copy should be kept by the Circuit Ministry Officer and a copy should be sent to DHQ and a copy to the DYO.

CIRCUIT MINISTRIES LEADERS

The Circuit Ministries Officers in consultation with the Corps Local Officers need to carefully select a Circuit Ministries Leader who will be responsible for the corps and report all matters to the Circuit Ministries Officer. The Circuit Ministry Officer will report to the Divisional Commander on all circuit related matters.

CONTACT POINTS

Each of the Corps within the circuit need to identify three contact people who will supply their telephone contact details to the Circuit Officer and Divisional Headquarters.

FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

Each Corps within a circuit will maintain separate finance records using regulation books. The Circuit Officer must ensure that all books, entries, etc are kept according The Salvation Army Standards.

Corps Treasurers and Corps Secretaries will be held accountable for accurate recording of all finances and for maintaining good stewardship principles according to Salvation Army Standards.

A responsible person needs to assist the Corps Circuit Ministry Leaders with the accurate recording of all Statistical information that needs to be submitted to Divisional Headquarters at the appropriate time.

There will be a procedure that needs to be followed to ensure a fair contribution to expenditure related to the circuit ministry. This procedure needs to be discussed with the Divisional Commander. A separate letter will be issued to give guidance on financial matters.

Arrangements should be made to meet with the Finance Locals at the close of each month to finalise all Financial Books and transactions and submit the Transmission of Funds to DHQ.

AUTHORITY OF LOCAL OFFICERS

Corps Local Officers need to keep the Circuit Officer informed about all matters relating to their Corps.

All Local Officers will be held responsible for the smooth running of their respective responsibilities.

Census Local Officers need to take a responsibility to assist with Salvation Army ceremonies including infant dedications and conducting funeral services.

The Department of Home Affairs appoints marriage officers and they are the only individuals who can legally perform marriage ceremonies.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Disciplinary measures will be adhered to as per the Orders and Regulations for Soldiers and Local Officers.

The Circuit Ministry Officer should be fully informed about any misconduct that he needs to forward to the Divisional Commander.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Circuit Ministry gives opportunity for the Circuit Ministry Officers and Circuit Ministry Leaders to advance The Army's operations amongst the young as one of the most important responsibilities. All-round care needs to be given to the young from earliest infancy until the age when they can fully enjoy the ministry of the corps. The Circuit Officer and the Corps Circuit Leader should keep before them, and before those engaged in work among young people, the Army's supreme purpose in all such work. Children and youth are not only to be instructed in the things of God, but also led to the Saviour and are disciplined into Christian maturity.

The Circuit Ministry increases the need for greater support of DYO'S and it is suggested that in addition to YP Local Officers that suitable youth be considered for involvement in the wider area of the circuit. Where it is possible and feasible that some financial assistance be given to these young people to fully fulfil their responsibility.

DEFINING CIRCUIT CORPS MINISTRIES

PASTORAL

Includes:

Care Groups, Discipleship Program, Shepherding,
Mercy Seat Counselling, League of Mercy.

PROGRAMME

Includes:

YP Programmes
Women's and Men's Ministries, Seniors/Over 60's
Music (Band/Songsters/Singing Company, etc.)
Worship/Fellowship, Ushers/Greeters
Bible Study/Prayer, Community/Social Services,
Outreach/Evangelism. Every effort needs to be made
to create opportunities for outreach into new areas and to
explore opportunities for evangelism in trains, taxis, taxi ranks
etc.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Includes:

Finance, Property maintenance
Stewardship, Self Denial, Statistics.
Where there are vacant quarters efforts must be made to
secure good tenants. Rent needs to be predetermined and a
contract needs to be signed covering: Rent, maintenance and
electricity card system.
An inventory of the quarters needs to be made covering all
furniture.

CORPS CIRCUIT MINISTRY LEADER

The Corps Circuit Ministry Leader's responsibilities include the following:-

- Co-ordinates all Corps activities to ensure that the Mission of the Army is advanced.
- Co-ordinates all the statistical information. Works with all Local Officers to secure the required information to be forwarded to DHQ on a timely basis.
- Reports directly to the Circuit Ministry Officer to whom he/she is responsible.
- Works with the Circuit Ministry Officer to draw up the meeting roster for the Corps. Needs to be pro-active in contacting meeting leaders on a timely base to remind them of responsibilities.
- Be in regular contact with the Circuit Ministry Officer to report on Corps activities and progress.
- Meet on a monthly basis with the Corps Local Officers and the Circuit Ministry Officer for ongoing training and reporting.
- Corps Circuit Ministry Leaders together with Local Officers should ensure that all Salvation Army buildings are well cared for and maintained.



CONCLUSION

AN APPEAL TO WORK TOGETHER

We appeal to you on behalf of all our Local Officers and potential leaders to work together to fulfil the mandate and the mission of The Salvation Army. Let us empower our lay people to rise to their full potential.

It was Ford Madison, himself a layman, who had this to say to ordained ministers: "We do not want your job, nor your pulpit! But neither do we want to be stuck on the sidelines, limited to cheering from the spiritual grandstand. We want to be full partners with you on Christ's team: everyday women and men working wholeheartedly for Christ in the world".

