

Ten Suggestions for Ministering to Young Adults

Many churches are asking the question of how to best keep connected and how to minister to their young adults who have moved away. Here are some practical suggestions.

1. Have a bulletin board where you can post their picture, new address and email so people can easily send notes.
2. Have someone send them the church bulletins each month. Ask them to continue praying for their home church using these bulletins.
3. Ask them for a short update/prayer concerns which can be put in the bulletin or used in prayer meetings.
4. Have someone or a group in the church periodically send care packages. If they are university students, they may appreciate a surprise around mid-term season.
5. If they are home for Christmas, Easter or on break, think of ways to include them in the service or to acknowledge their presence. Allow them to see that they are still needed. Main Street Baptist in Saint John asks these young adults to lead an evening service over the Christmas break.
6. Sit down and discuss how you can help them get connected to a church in their new area. Maybe they would ask you to call ahead to a local church to let them know they are coming.
7. Link up your young adults with an older mentor. The young adult years can be ones of testing and trial and it would be helpful to have someone they could always turn to. Also, as youth pastors or youth leaders change, a mentor would be the constant contact person.
8. Encourage them to plug into events like Converge: Young Adult Worship Festival, where they can connect with other Christians their age.
9. Ask them in what ways you may best serve them. Also, ask them to continue serving the church even though they are living away.
10. Send them money. College students are graduating with increasing amounts of debt, and a little spending money might come in handy.