



*EXAMPLE OF OPERATIONAL FAILURE.
DO NOT, REPEAT, DO NOT USE THIS METHOD.
READ ENCLOSED BRIEF FOR ALTERNATIVE.

OPERATION:

TITLE MAKE A FRIEND

ASSIGNMENT DURATION ONGOING

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY URGENT.

 **MISSION:
POSSIBLE**

MISSION: MAKE A FRIEND Use this booklet to inspire you to develop an ongoing, meaningful relationship with a neighbor or co-worker who does not yet know Jesus.

REMEMBER: God is love. People who do not yet know Jesus have *no idea* how much God loves them. Jesus has sent us on this Mission:Possible to spread His mercy, love, and grace to others. We can let them know, by our lives, our actions, and our loving attitudes toward them, how much He loves them.

READ: Listen to what Jesus says about you in Matthew 5:13-16. "Let your light shine before others ..."

IDENTITY: Remember who you are as well as what your mission is. Jesus promised, "... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses ..." Acts 1:8.

PRAY: Ask God to show you who it is that He'd like you to get to know better. Walk your neighborhood and ask Him where He is already at work, and where you can participate. Pray for your co-workers and ask God how you can show love to one in particular.

CHOOSE: God may reveal one or two people to you, or you may feel a burden for your whole neighborhood! Start with what you can realistically manage. This document assumes you will be increasing your level of friendship with between one and three people this year.

CHOOSE TO ACT: Assess your current relationship level with your neighbor or co-worker. Evaluate where you are in your life right now: in what ways could you reach out to that person in a manner that's natural for you and fits your personality? How is God asking you to step outside your comfort zone? Become a blessing to your neighbor/co-worker.

PITFALLS: Friendship is a serious commitment. In your enthusiasm, watch out for overdoing it at the beginning: you could burn out—or worse, totally overwhelm or weird out the other person. Stick to reaching out to someone of the same gender or, if you're a couple, reach out to another couple.

Remember: it's not your mission to "win" anybody to Christ: He can handle that part Himself! It is your mission to be yourself and, out of the overflow of your love for God, to show love, do acts of service, be a good listener, and especially to pray for the other person. Listen for the Holy Spirit. He'll guide you.

Phase 1:

Conduct
Friendship
assessment

Gather data.
Pray. Evaluate.

Ascertain:

How well do
I know my
neighbor/
coworker?

"I PLANTED THE SEED,
APOLLOS WATERED IT,
BUT GOD HAS BEEN
MAKING IT GROW."
ACTS 3:6

"BECAUSE IT'S GOD'S WORK,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO 'CLOSE THE
DEAL.' IT'S NOT YOUR DEAL--
IT'S HIS DEAL!"
-RANDY HURST

Level 1 - I recognize them if I see them in the mall.

Level 2 - I know their first name and some general family details.

Level 3 - I know enough tidbits about their life to feel comfortable introducing them to others.

Level 4 - I know their family members, hobbies, likes, some life issues, where they live, their phone number, some events in their past.

Level 5 - We share occasional life events together, we do things together, we have been to each other's home. I feel comfortable sharing life questions and issues with them. They invite me to participate in their joys and sorrows.

Circle what level you think you are at with your
neighbor/co-worker currently

Name _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Name _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Name _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Phase 2: Decide what level you believe you can
take these relationships to by the end of 2010.

Name _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Name _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Name _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Phase 3: Taking a friendship to the next level.

Living for others involves a continual heart change, where our natural tendency to focus on ourselves instead becomes a focus on others. A changed heart is followed by deliberately choosing to love another person through our actions. See below for ideas to get you thinking about the course of action that works best for you. Be deliberate. Be proactive. Pray!

Getting to Level 1: Introduce yourself

You probably already have someone in mind that you'd like to reach out to. The key is to be yourself; be natural and unforced. This doesn't mean, however, that you can hide in your comfort zone! Take the time to open yourself up to a new relationship.

A simple idea is to take your neighbor a plate of goodies and maybe include personal info card/recipe (see sample on inside back cover) to help them remember you.

In the workplace, there might be someone you see on the train every day, or see in the elevator all the time. If you sense the mutual recognition, take a minute and say, "Hey, I see you almost every day; I just wanted to introduce myself . . ."

When they introduce themselves, pay attention. Repeat their names out loud, ask them how they spell it, ask them what they like to be called. When you go back home or to your workspace, write down what you have learned so you don't forget.

Getting to Level 2: Begin to get to know the person; begin to share your life with them

Take advantage of "over the back fence" encounters with your neighbor. With a fellow commuter or co-worker, you might make it a point to sit next to them on the train or bus, or join them in the cafeteria over lunch. Get to know them and begin to share your own life with them.

To do so, ask simple questions like these:

"How long have you lived or worked here?"

"Tell me how you came to live in this area or work for this company?"

"Tell me about your family?"

By making "tell me about" statements, you avoid the awkward one-word answers to questions that go nowhere. Listen, learn, jot things down when you return to your house or workplace so you remember.

Look for common ground between yourself and the other person. You'll find that you often have more in common than you thought possible!

Write down some commonalities between yourself and your friend here:

Getting to Levels 3 and 4: Developing friendship

You may remain in Levels 3 and 4 for some time—maybe for years. Be patient and open to the other person's needs and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Don't be pushy, but don't let the relationship die on the vine by giving it no attention. Remember that God is in charge of this relationship!

- Invite your co-worker/neighbor to have lunch or coffee with you. While you are there, ask a few “tell me about” questions like these:

“Tell me about your favorite sport, hobby, interests . . .”

“What do you think about _____ (fill in the blank)?”

Try to stay in topics that do not evoke controversial tension.

“Tell me what your spouse/kids are interested in.”

“How are the kids enjoying school?”

Mostly listen and learn. Use the conversation to unpack bits of your story, but the primary focus is to allow them to share who they are with you. Most people are hungry to be known by others. Since you're connected in a church community, you may be surprised at how lonely people without a faith life can be. Be sensitive to their needs.

- Share the material things or skills God has blessed you with.

Here are a few examples:

“I see you are a Phillies fan. Would you like to come over and watch the game on my big screen?”

“Any time you need to use my truck to make a Home Depot run, let me know. I'd be happy to come with you and help you haul lumber.”

- Notice details about the other person and pay them heartfelt (never phony or forced!) compliments. “Your lawn really looks great. What do you do to get it so green?” “I love your earrings. Where did you get them?” “
- If you commute, maybe there's someone in your neighborhood you can commute with, if only for a season. It's amazing how quickly friendships can deepen when you spend an hour or so on the highway together every day.
- If the person is a business owner, patronize their business.

You will have lots of other great ideas specific to your relationships.

Jot down your ideas here:

Getting to Level 5: Doing life together

By now you and your neighbor or co-worker have a genuine friendship! You will have developed affection, mutual trust, and respect for each other. What a blessing friendships like these are! Continue to ask God how you can bless and serve your friend. Continue to thank Him for bringing this person into your life.

- Invite your neighbor or co-worker to join you in things you're already doing—lunch in the cafeteria; a backyard barbecue; going to a movie or concert.
- Schedule a movie night, sports event night, favorite show night, Mexican food night, something that connects to interest areas you have learned.
- Invite them to your Life Group.
- Invite yourself to attend their kids' events or their activities:
 - “Will you let me know when he/she plays soccer? I want to come cheer.”
 - “How cool that you have a part in the new play! I love community theater. Let me know when the show is!”
 - “I want to be the first person your daughter visits when it is time to sell Girl Scout cookies.”
- Use normal life activities as an opportunity to serve. For example, if you are heading to the store, ask them if you can pick up anything for them.
- Invite a neighbor or co-worker who is alone for a holiday to share it with your family.
- Take advantage of groups and classes MAG offers which meet people's life needs. These include Divorce Care, Grief Share, marriage and parenting classes, the Alpha Course, and more. If you think your friend could benefit, offer to attend with them.
- If you're a parent who is home during the day with your kids, invite a fellow stay-at-home parent over for a play date.
- Celebrate their achievements and joys with them. “That's great about your promotion! Let me take you to lunch to celebrate.”
- Deliver appropriate cards of sympathy or good wishes. Don't underestimate the value of sending cards or notes. People are always surprised and blessed to get a note in the mail.
- Demonstrate how much you value their expertise or experience. “Your dog is so well-behaved. Can you give me any advice on how to train our new puppy?”

- Take conversations to a deeper level:

“I'm so sorry you're dealing with that. I know when I'm going through hard times, I ask God to help me, and I believe He does. Would you mind if I prayed for you?”

- Make yourself available. “Here is my cell phone number. If you need anything, let me know.”

ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE. BUT DO THIS WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT . . .

1 PETER 3:15

That's the general idea.
Now make it your own!

Try making a
"neighbor card"
to hand out to
new neighbors or
friends.

For example, you
could jot down
info about your-
self on the back
of a recipe card
if you bring them
baked goods.

Use your
imagination and
do what suits
who you are.

Maybe you can
"friend" your new friend on Facebook, The point is to open yourself up to friendship.

Write down what you learn about a new friend. This may seem cheesy, but come on. You know you need help remembering this stuff at first.

Name _____

Contact info _____

Spouse's name _____

Kid's name _____ Age _____

Kid's name _____ Age _____

Kid's name _____ Age _____

Hobbies/interests/things we have in common: _____

Remember to pray! Pray for this person. Pray for yourself. Pray for this relationship. Listen for guidance. Resolve to be disciplined enough to obey.



The Jones Family
13289 Stagnant Water Court since 1999
Contact Phone Number: 703-283-4005

Who we are: John & Mary Jones, Cat – Frostbite, Dog – Phydeux.
We have three adult kids who are married and live out of state.
What we do: John works full time for AOL. Mary works full time for Verizon and loves to scrapbook.
What we like: We love to hike VA trails, watch movies on Fridays, grill steaks on the weekends, take ballroom dancing lessons, go to church. We are diehard Michigan fans. We love impromptu game nights.



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ASSEMBLY
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HELPING PEOPLE
FOLLOW JESUS.

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 **MISSION:**
POSSIBLE