

2014-2015

Light Up Missouri

GPS + One Million Bibles
mobaptist.org/light

Pastor/Church Preparation Guide



Purpose...

- transforming your community with God's Word through servant evangelism
- days, seasons, and moments of service

Light Up Missouri

"...let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

Matthew 5:16 (HCSB)





Your Church experiencing ...

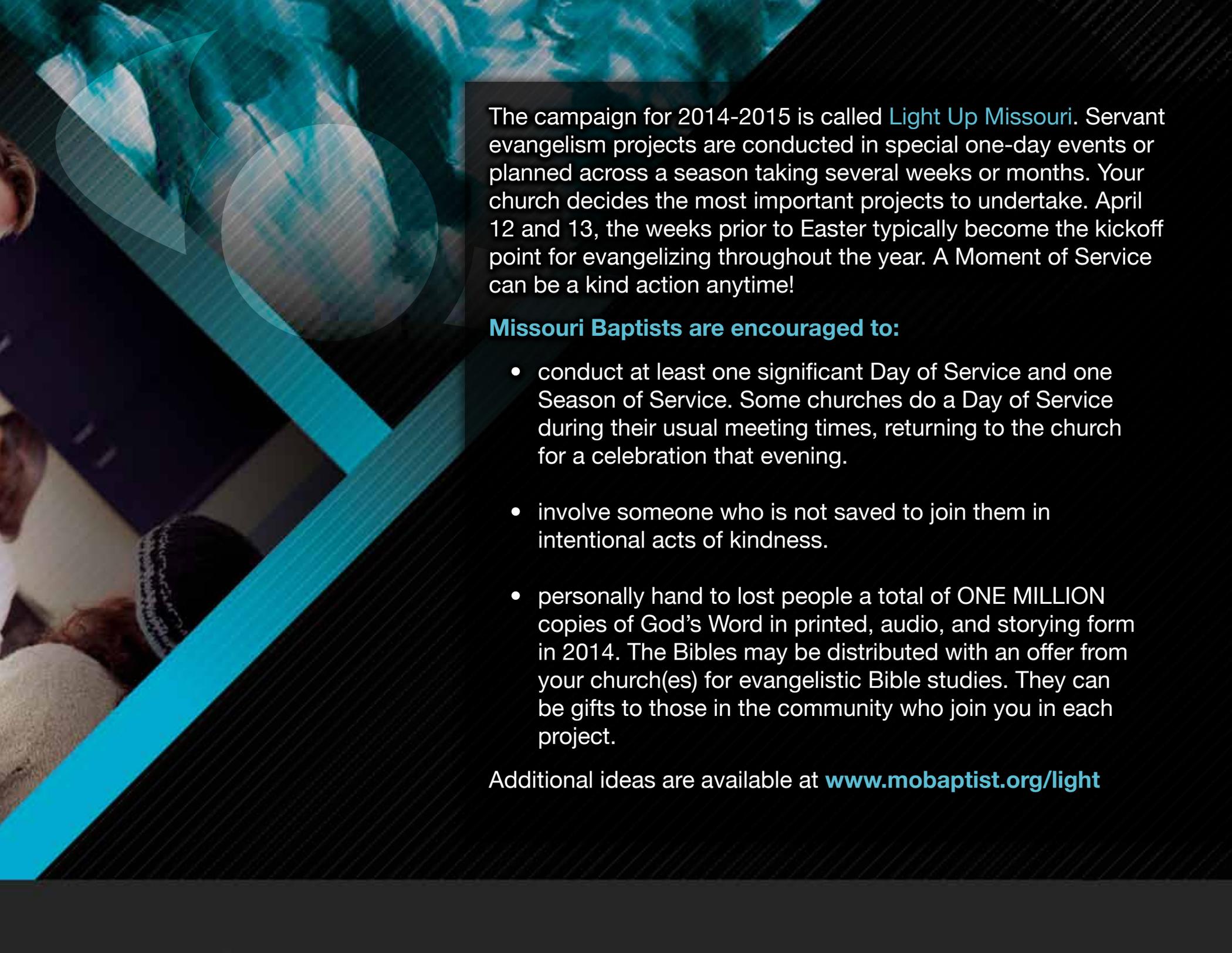
- a vibrant relationship with community leaders
- churches sharing and caring as one
- preaching, teaching, helping like Jesus – Matthew 9:35-37
- respect and access to the Word of God
- connections with people that are genuine

Light Up Missouri

transforming your community
with God's Word through servant
evangelism days, seasons
and moments of service.

Light Up Missouri is a part
of GPS (God's Plan for
Sharing) Across Missouri:
every believer sharing,
every person hearing
by 2020.





The campaign for 2014-2015 is called **Light Up Missouri**. Servant evangelism projects are conducted in special one-day events or planned across a season taking several weeks or months. Your church decides the most important projects to undertake. April 12 and 13, the weeks prior to Easter typically become the kickoff point for evangelizing throughout the year. A Moment of Service can be a kind action anytime!

Missouri Baptists are encouraged to:

- conduct at least one significant Day of Service and one Season of Service. Some churches do a Day of Service during their usual meeting times, returning to the church for a celebration that evening.
- involve someone who is not saved to join them in intentional acts of kindness.
- personally hand to lost people a total of ONE MILLION copies of God's Word in printed, audio, and storying form in 2014. The Bibles may be distributed with an offer from your church(es) for evangelistic Bible studies. They can be gifts to those in the community who join you in each project.

Additional ideas are available at www.mobaptist.org/light

Service Options



Day of Service:

Ideally, Saturday or Sunday one week prior to Easter in 2014 and 2015. A Day of Service event can be held on a designated Saturday or Sunday. It can even be conducted as a weekend event. The church(es) can serve on Saturday and celebrate the event on Sunday during worship or do it all on a Sunday.

Season of Service:

Seasons of Service event can last four to six weeks. Ideally, it can kick off one week prior to Easter in 2014 and 2015. It might consist of one extensive project or multiple small projects. Although it requires more planning and long-term commitment, the idea of multiple “touches” leaves a deeper and lasting impact.

Moments of Service:

Individuals can do an act of kindness on their own or with their family at any time. The key is to see a need and meet it so that God is glorified.

If you have participated in previous GPS campaigns, note that there will be no national or statewide media campaigns to support this project. It is entirely to be church-based and rely on relationship-building in non-attractational events, but seeking to meet needs in your community.

Task Force Planning Suggestions

1. Prepare to serve.
 - Prepare church members spiritually through sermons and small groups.
 - Compile and share demographic information from websites such as www.mobaptist.org/evangelismdemographics
 - Prayerwalk your community, picking up litter and talking about needs as you go.
2. Assemble a Light Up Missouri Servant Evangelism Task Force to serve two years.
 - Not the pastor, although he is a key champion.
 - Involve the most capable workers who can catch the vision and see it through to completion.
 - Collaborate with other churches in your community.
 - Back-time everything to focus on April 12 or 13, 2014, and again in 2015, the week prior to Easter for Day of Service events and kicking off Seasons of Service
3. Study the needs of your community prior to selecting projects.
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal His direction for every project.
 - Seek out community leaders who will list the top 5 unmet needs.
 - Community leaders: government, business, education, media, civic clubs, art
 - Determine how Bibles may be distributed for maximum impact. Budget as needed.

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Task Force Planning Suggestions

4. Light up your community!
 - Engage the community – social media, ads, posters, word-of-mouth, etc.
 - Invite the community to participate alongside your church members.
 - Redefine “worship service” rephrasing it to “service in worship.” Take members out of the church building to worship God by bringing Light to the community.
 - And intentionally be personally aware of opportunities you can personally meet.
5. Celebrate what God did!
 - Hold the celebration titled “Light Up Missouri” at a pre-designated place immediately following completion of the service event.
 - Invite community members to join your church members and really light the place up with praise and worship!
6. Follow-up and begin disciple-making right away.
 - Conduct a special discipleship class(es) for those who accepted Christ.
 - Go with new believers to share Christ with their friends, family, or co-workers – their circle of influence. Help them “Light Up Missouri” with service and God’s Word.
 - Lead the group to determine the best long-term outcome. (Options)
 - o Start a new church from this small group of new believers.
 - o Start a new small group in your church, including the new believers.
 - o Scatter to participate in existing small groups.





Light Up Missouri Project Ideas

Day of Service

Acts of kindness that glorify God, ideally conducted one week prior to Easter

- Collect canned food for a local food pantry
- Provide ground maintenance for community soccer or baseball fields
- Hand out water bottles at a stop light
- Collect clothing for a prison transition program, job corps, or family-care center
- Prayerwalk communities asking locals about needs, pray on the spot, and seek to meet the need
- Host a barbeque for local firefighters, police, city maintenance crews
- Include Bibles in audio form (mp3) or marked copies of New Testaments, such as the FinditHere.com Bibles to accompany an act of kindness with a Gospel witness.

Season of Service

Significant ministry lasting 4-6 weeks, kicks off one week prior to Easter

- Identify an immigrant people group in the community and help them get adjusted to life in your community
- Work with prisons on crime prevention (before), onsite ministry (during sentence), and release ministry (after); include families

- Work with the local police department to provide youth activities in troubled neighborhoods
- Offer tutoring services for a community school
- Teach English as a Second Language to immigrants (ESL)
- Offer to assist the homeless or those without work with career training, literacy training, computer skills, etc.
- Provide school teacher appreciation activities, focusing on a different school each week providing teacher supplies, an appreciation banquet, etc.

Moment of Service

- Pay for the people behind you in the drive-thru window and leave a Bible to pass along.
- Ask the server in a restaurant how you can pray for their need. And pray!
- Offer to babysit a toddler to help a young couple can have a night out so you can relate better.
- Give someone a ride and ask how you can pray for them.
- Invite a new friend to do a service project with you so that you can have quality time to discuss their life and let them know how Jesus can be real and personal.

For more ideas, visit mobaptist.org/light

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Servant evangelism is the biblical way of mixing faith and works. It is practical faith that leads to sharing the Good News. Since so many in Missouri have never heard, churches that include a copy of the New Testament, an audio Bible, or share Bible stories will accelerate response to the Gospel. The Holy Spirit has more opportunities to work.



Additional Resources Available at...

www.mobaptist.org/light



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