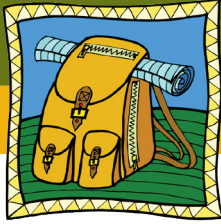


BACKPACK

WALKING alongside

strengthening congregational community ministries



» Adult Literacy Resources «

» PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY

It is estimated that 47 percent of adults in the United States read at such a low level that it is difficult for them to obtain or maintain a job that allows them to have an annual income above the poverty level. Only 13 percent of U.S. adults are considered to have proficient literacy skills. Worldwide the problem is much greater with 20 percent of the world's population considered illiterate.

Literacy ministries are an excellent way to help the many adults who are struggling with reading or writing English. There are many different ways to design a literacy ministry. These are a few of the resources that we have found to be helpful in learning more about the problem of illiteracy and how to create a program to help individuals learn to read, write, or speak English.

Books

- ♦ *Planning for Volunteers in Literacy: A Guidebook*. This booklet from the National Center for Family Literacy (www.familit.org) offers helpful material for assessing program needs, identifying costs and benefits, involving and developing staff, and a wide range of other supports for training and sustaining your volunteers.
- ♦ *Promising Practices: Increasing Intensity of Instruction in Volunteer-Based Literacy Programs*. This booklet from ProLiteracy Worldwide (www.proliteracy.org) suggests four different ways that are based on a two-year study that will help to increase the effectiveness of literacy programs using volunteer tutors. They recommend offering mini-courses, tailoring the curriculum to the learners' needs and interests, developing different roles for volunteers, and using evaluative measures to track progress.

Journal articles

- ♦ "Family Literacy as a Church Ministry" by Rob Rogers. *Family and Community Ministries: Empowering Through Faith* (2007) Vol. 21.2, pages 6-17.
This article defines family literacy and describes LEAF (Learning English Among Friends), a family literacy program in Waco, Texas. The article details each component of this model and suggests how it can be adapted by a church interested in starting a similar ministry.
- ♦ "Academic Enrichment for Students and ESL Classes for Parents Strengthen a Community-Based Middle School" by Randy Wood, Rob Rogers and Gaynor Yancey, *Middle School Journal*, September 2006, pages 44-50.

Web sites

- ♦ Center for Literacy, Baylor School of Social Work – www.baylor.edu/social_work/literacy and Literacy Connexus – www.literacyconnexus.org
These two organizations are useful resources for those interested in starting a literacy ministry or improving their existing ministry through various training opportunities around the state of Texas.
- ♦ ProLiteracy Worldwide – www.proliteracy.org
This site provides a link to New Readers Press, the publishing division of ProLiteracy Worldwide. New Readers

MORE ON BACK

» Adult Literacy Resources «

Press publishes materials useful for those serving adults and older teens with basic literacy and English as a Second Language.

- ♦ National Institute for Literacy

www.nifl.gov

The NIL is the federal agency providing leadership on literacy issues, including the improvement of reading instruction for children, youth, and adults.

- ♦ National Center for Family Literacy – www.familit.org

The National Center for Family Literacy tackles the problems of illiteracy by serving the entire family. Their Web site will allow you to locate a family literacy program in your area or add your program to their national database.

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