

The RVICS Plan for Retired Christians to Serve the Lord

"Roving Volunteers in Christ's Service" (RVICS). RVICS is a faith-based ministry of married Christian couples who are retired or semi-retired, self-supporting, free to travel three (3) months or longer, with skills and talents to serve at Christian Ministries. These Ministries are able to supply the materials for the work to be done by the RVICS teams. The RVICS Ministry Missionary Member's are self-supporting with a recreational vehicle (travel trailer, 5th wheel trailer, motor home) and have willing, committed hearts to supply the labor needed.

The founders of the RVICS Ministry, Henry and Margaret Schaeffer, have laid a good scriptural foundation ... ***Ephesians 2:10*** *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do;* ***James 2:14*** *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? and* ***James 1:22*** ... *"be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only."*

It is our belief that the use of either ***"tobacco"*** or ***"alcohol"*** is not consistent with the Christian witness for the RVICS Ministry. We strive to serve only projects who do not allow smoking or partaking of alcoholic beverages. If you use either tobacco or alcoholic beverages, we regret that we will not be able to accept your application for membership.

A word about ***"Pets."*** We have found from our past years of experience that ***"pets"*** have caused problems among our RVICS family. After much prayer and consideration of the best interests and success of the RVICS Ministry, it has been decided to no longer permit ***"pets."***

The main objective of the RVICS Ministry is to provide the skills of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, painting, office work, sewing, library work, tutoring, and other service skills to Christian Ministries all over the United States and Canada.

The RVICS service year begins in January and continues through the first part of June including a limited amount of summer projects scheduled approximately from mid-June through mid-July. The regular schedule resumes in September continuing until the first part of December with a "winter furlough" for approximately three (3) weeks near the end of December. The RVICS Ministry divides the service projects into groups identified by a geographical designation, such as RVICS-East or RVICS-Pacific, etc. In each group there are teams of six (6) couples maximum with one couple serving as Team Leaders. The Team Leader's responsibility is to coordinate the service to be accomplished at each project; making arrangements for incoming and outgoing mail, telephone service, laundry facilities, doctor, dentist, hospital, emergency care, grocery stores, and check cashing are made in advance by the Project Host and given to the Team Leader upon arrival at the Project Ministry. Once each month birthdays and anniversaries are celebrated.

The normal week is as follows: the men serve 6 hours daily, Monday through Wednesday and 3 hours on Thursday morning for a total of 21 hours. The ladies serve 3 hours daily, Monday through Thursday, for a total of 12 hours. Thursday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday are free days. Friday is "Tour Day" when the team travels together to see the sights in the surrounding area. The team is encouraged to attend the Project Host Church the first Sunday. Thereafter, the members are encouraged to attend the church of their choice.

Missionary Members are not under a contract, and following RVICS termination procedure are free to leave at anytime, however we do encourage our members to serve a minimum of three months annually.

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RVICS projects are carefully selected from Ministries that are non-supportive of the World Council of Churches and/or the National Council of Churches. Projects are scheduled for 3-1/2 to 4 weeks long with adequate time allowed for travel from one project to the next. Project Hosts are committed to provide recreational vehicle sites with water, sewer and electrical hook-ups at no cost. RVICS Members are self-supporting and are responsible for their own expenses for food, gasoline, LP gas, clothing, safety equipment, tools and all accident and hospital insurance needs.

The Really Big "Pluses" in this Plan are:

- The satisfaction of demonstrating one's love for the Lord by serving at His Ministries
- The Christian love radiated among the members in the group for each other as they serve and fellowship as brothers- and sisters-in-Christ Jesus
- The Christian fellowship with the Project Ministries staff and the opportunity to visit and hear inspiring messages from pastors in different churches
- The team Bible studies once a week
- The hymn sings and praise sessions held once a week by the team
- The team tours to interesting places in the area
- The team cook-outs and spontaneous get-togethers
- The traditional first Sunday afternoon popcorn time to become acquainted with team members
- The making of many wonderful life-long Christian friendships
- The service of 12 hours per week for women and 21 hours for men
- During the winter months serving in the south then moving north as the weather warms
- Accumulation of riches in Heaven which is worth much more than any riches on earth

Anyone considering this ministry should go to the Lord in prayer for His leading. It is a blessing to share the Lord's love and to glorify Him by helping those who are in need. In giving of our service, it should be out of a sincere desire to serve the Lord, not expecting anything in return except treasures in Heaven.

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