



What is a Missionary to the City?

by staff writer

While recognizing that all believers are sent to make disciples and are called to use their gifts in service for others, UBA currently is searching for believers who are living out their calling in a particular way – as missionaries to our city.

A few years ago, the UBA ASSISTeam, realizing that the transformation of our city would take the same kind of sacrifice and commitment shown by missionaries who radically change their lives to travel to another country, began using the term “Missionary to the City” to identify those who might give their lives to our city in the same way. Since then, the term has spread to include other UBA initiatives.

Missionaries to the City embrace whole-heartedly the “Salt Shaker Principle”*. They focus their ministries and witness primarily outside the walls of the church. While they often also volunteer or serve in their home congregations, the **M2C** intentionally commits to ongoing opportunities to be salt and light in the community, either through regular volunteer efforts or consistent practices in their workplace. The **M2C** shows up on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis at the same place.

Thus **M2Cs** can be identified by three main characteristics:

- External focus – ministry & service off the church grounds into the community;
- Intentionality – ministry & service done specifically to provide opportunity for demonstrating God’s love and moving folks closer to a relationship with Christ;
- Consistency – ministry & service practiced on a regular, consistent basis.

The typical **M2C** can be hard to spot. Like salt, they tend to blend in to their environment. They quietly improve the quality of someone’s life while being alert to an opportunity to lead that person one step closer to a relationship with God, either through words or actions.

In 2007, a survey to the churches produced 100 responses. Through that survey, we learned something about where missionaries to the city were and what kinds of activities they were engaged in. To see that survey, go to [Survey](#)

We have also learned some of their stories during the past year. To read some of the stories we’ve discovered go to [M2C Stories](#).

Help us Find More **M2Cs**

*If you know of an **M2C** (a missionary to the city who is externally focused, intentional, and consistent), please contact Dian Kidd (Associate Director of UBA) or Sally Hinzie at 713.957.2000 or by [e-mail](#). We’d like to know more about where God is at work outside the church walls through the body of Christ.*

*This phrase probably best known through Rebecca Piper’s book on sharing your faith, *Out of the Salt Shaker into The World* (1999).