



# Counting the Cost

**Isaiah 58:6-12**

It is important, before starting, each potential Associate Ministry evaluates whether or not they can, or should, begin. Some questions to ask before you get started...

1. Purpose & Motives...
  - a. Why are you doing this...what do you hope to accomplish and why?
  - b. Are the goals you hope to achieve realistic?
2. Location...
  - a. Where is your ministry located...is it conducive to reaching families?
  - b. Is it near a school, park, apartment complex or family-oriented neighborhood?
3. Resources
  - a. Does your ministry have the resources (funding, staff, and volunteers) need to reach the families in your community?
  - b. If not, do you have a reasonable and realistic plan to do get the needed resources?
  - c. What will your Ministry do to provide needed resources for the intended ministry to be successful long-term and sustainable?
4. Time commitment...
  - a. Has your Ministry, at both the Leadership and grassroots levels, thought about the time and sacrifice commitment this will take to truly reach the families in your community?
5. Safety...
  - a. Has your Ministry considered and thought through the important safety precautions you will need to take regarding background checks, fingerprinting, facility maintenance and upkeep...what about meeting kids emotional needs in regards to their safety?
6. Training...
  - a. Has your Ministry considered, that to reach the families in your community, you will need to know what you are doing?
  - b. Do you have a plan in how you will do it?
  - c. How will you gain the expertise needed to help, rather than harm, the families in your community...how will the Lord God Almighty's great Name be reflected by the results you do or do not get due to your level of expertise?
7. Funding...How should I plan a budget?
  - a. How big a budget will we need (note: \$1500 to send one person to 880; not recommended to send more than two)?
  - b. Size of annual budget determined by Associate Ministry, so how will you raise, or " earmark" funds already in budget for needed items (e.g., staff, supplies, utilities, field trips, etc.)