

# **An Overview of the Freedom In Christ Canada Ministry Associates Strategy and Application Process**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This overview is designed to help you understand the role of a Ministry Associate and how you may apply. Please read this entire document carefully.

### **Please be aware of the following qualifications:**

1. This overview provides introductory information about the Freedom In Christ Ministry Associates strategy. It does not constitute a contract for a Ministry Associate.
2. Freedom In Christ Ministries reserves the right to change, amend or terminate any or all of these policies, provisions or statements, and/or vary these policies in individual cases. This may be done at any time, with or without prior notice. All prior information about Ministry Associates requirements either verbalized or distributed in written form is superseded by this document.
3. Either party (Ministry Associate or Freedom In Christ Ministries) has the freedom to terminate the relationship at any time.

## **OUR VISION FOR MINISTRY**

We believe that ministry is the body of Christ continuing the work that Jesus was sent to do.

Never before has there been such a great need for spiritual leaders who are free in Christ and able to minister that freedom to others. At the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, He entered a synagogue and read from the book of Isaiah. Luke recorded His words:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He appointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor,  
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set free those who are oppressed,  
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.*

*Luke 4:18-19*

Jesus operated His ministry with a great sense of balance. He always did what His heavenly Father wanted Him to do. Jesus wasn't just an evangelist or just a teacher. Jesus accomplished all that Isaiah had foretold about the Messiah. We are called like Jesus to conduct our personal ministries with the same balance and commitment to the Father's will. That commitment to walk in step with the Spirit and fulfill the Father's desire will lead to a balanced personal ministry.

Numerous important principles jump from this passage in Luke as well as from the original text of Isaiah 61:

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|--|-----------------------|
| 1. The Spirit of the Lord                | Depend on God         |
| 2. Preach the gospel                     | Evangelize            |
| 3. Bind up the brokenhearted             | Comfort and encourage |
| 4. Set captives free                     | Counsel for freedom   |
| 5. Recovery of sight to the blind        | Teach and heal        |
| 6. Set free the oppressed                | Pray                  |
| 7. Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor | Awaken hope           |

Freedom in Christ Ministries is committed to each of these areas of ministry. In order to become a Ministry Associate, you must be committed to them as well. While each of us has different gifts and talents, all of us must be committed to a balanced ministry in Christ.

## **WHO ARE FREEDOM IN CHRIST MINISTRY ASSOCIATES?**

Ministry Associates are *trusted friends* of our ministry who want to be equipped to present the message of freedom and help others find their freedom, while still maintaining separate employment.

### **Why the emphasis on “trusted friends”?**

We have a God-given stewardship to faithfully proclaim the message of our new identity in Christ (1 Corinthians 4:2) and to equip and resource the body of Christ with the tools and methodologies the Lord has entrusted to us (Ephesians 4:11-16). There are two important principles involved as we seek to discover those individuals God has raised up to be Ministry Associates:

1. To pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field (Matthew 9:38) and
2. To entrust this message to gracious and faithful people who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

We are asking the Lord to send gracious and faithful men and women to become partners with us in proclaiming the message of freedom. Therefore, it is essential that a systematic application process be in place so that we can be assured that the people we are training as Ministry Associates are truly called and qualified for this ministry.

## BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR MINISTRY ASSOCIATES

Essential qualifications for Ministry Associates would fall into the general categories of:

**Spirituality:** A growing personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and an increasing knowledge and application of the Word of God in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

**Maturity:** Consistent and growing manifestation of the character of Christ in your life, as evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

**Motivation:** An inward conviction (understanding of truth) that compels you to proclaim the message of freedom in Christ to other people.

More specifically, the leadership of Freedom In Christ Ministries is looking for the following characteristics in your life:

### 1. Spiritual Maturity

Emphasis is placed on the quality of the applicant's spiritual life. The applicant must have been a Christian for **a minimum of five years** before applying for Ministry Associate status. The applicant must understand, agree with and sign without reservation the *Freedom In Christ Statement of Faith* (included with the Ministry Associate application). The applicant must show evidence of good patterns of prayer and Bible study habits. The applicant must also show evidence of a walk of faith and be practicing a biblical lifestyle in the power of the Holy Spirit, abiding in Christ. (An example of a non-biblical lifestyle would be homosexual behaviour, cf. Romans 1:21-32.)

### 2. Calling

Ministry Associate applicants must be completely convinced that God has called them to work as volunteers with Freedom In Christ Ministries. Without this conviction of calling, the Ministry Associate may not be able to cope with personal and spiritual conflicts that might arise as a result of being in the ministry of freedom. The applicant must not only have this conviction, but be able to verbalize it clearly.

### 3. Effective Witness

The applicant must be able to present the gospel in a clear and relevant way in the power of the Holy Spirit and with genuine love and concern for the lost.

### 4. Knowledge of Scripture

The applicant must have a good working understanding of the Bible and its application for our personal lives.

### 5. Personality and Character

Ministry Associate applicants must have leadership potential and be attractive to others in personality and character. They must be dependable, teachable, emotionally stable, having a servant's heart, and a willingness to assume responsibility.

**6. Ministry Experience**

The applicant must have at least **two years of ministry experience** and currently serve of the staff of a church, para-church or mission organization or have the full endorsement to serve as a FIC Ministry Associate from his or her local church. **All Ministry Associate Applicants** must currently be active members in good standing of a local church.

**7. Academic Training**

Applicants must either have a college degree before applying for Ministry Associate status or must have had sufficient on-the-job training so as to be equipped to meet the demands of a FIC Ministry Associate.

**8. Personal Appearance and Health**

The applicant must be neat, well-groomed and willing to dress according to standards applicable to each ministry situation. The total person, including the applicant's personal appearance, must not be a distraction or stumbling block to others. The applicant must be in good health.

**9. Work Effectiveness**

Ministry Associates must be self-starters and highly disciplined in order to be effective. Since there is a limited opportunity for supervision by Freedom In Christ Ministries, Ministry Associates are expected to develop accountability relationships within their local church.

**10. Freedom**

Ministry Associates must themselves be walking in freedom in Christ. **They must have prayed through the Steps to Freedom in Christ in a one-on-one personal appointment with a trained encourager within the last two years. This must take place before the application process to become a FIC Ministry Associate is considered complete.** It is essential that those who teach and counsel others have themselves resolved personal and spiritual conflicts.

**11. Statement of Faith**

One of the requirements for FIC Ministry Associate status is to read, agree with and sign without reservation the *Freedom In Christ Statement of Faith* (included with the Ministry Associates application).

## **APPLICATION PROCESS FOR MINISTRY ASSOCIATES**

1. Applicant must complete the Ministry Associate Application and mail it, along with the signed "FIC Statement of Faith" to:

Freedom In Christ Canada  
PO Box 33115  
Regina, SK S4T 7X2

2. Applicant delivers or mails a Ministry Associate Reference Form to each of the following:
  - a) Pastor
  - b) Employer (most current)
  - c) FIC Staff (preferred) or close friend

These Reference Forms, once filled out, are confidential and are not to be seen by the Ministry Associate applicant, but are to be faxed directly to Freedom In Christ Canada at 306-790-7747.

3. Once all application documents (including 3 Reference Forms) are received at the FIC office above, a phone call will be made to the Ministry Associate applicant either granting or denying this application.
4. If permission is denied, the individual may reapply one calendar year later.

### **MINISTRY ASSOCIATE BENEFITS**

1. Approved Ministry Associates may use the Freedom In Christ name and logo on business cards, personal web sites, ministry event brochures, ministry event syllabuses, posters, banners, radio spots, etc.
2. Ministry Associates may purchase resources through the Freedom In Christ office at a 20% discount (off retail) plus shipping costs. Consignment may be available for events.
3. Ministry Associates' names and contact information may be listed on the FIC web site and events that the Ministry Associate makes FIC aware of may be promoted via the web site event calendar.
4. Ministry Associates may attend any Living Free in Christ or Discipleship Counseling conferences they desire at no cost. (The Ministry Associate, however, is responsible for his or her own travel expenses, lodging and food.)
5. Ministry Associates will receive weekly updates, prayer and personal encouragement from the FIC office.

## **MINISTRY ASSOCIATE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Ministry Associates will not plan or conduct conferences billed as “Freedom In Christ” events without first consulting with FIC staff.
2. Ministry Associates will only conduct the Freedom In Christ conferences and workshops they have been authorized to conduct.
3. Ministry Associates will only use workbooks/notes (for event participants) that have been approved by FIC.
4. Ministry Associates may provide a book table with Freedom In Christ Ministries resources to provide income for their own ministry.
5. Ministry Associates will be available for referral calls from the FIC office for Steps appointments. You may charge for taking someone through the Steps to provide income for your ministry, but you must first receive permission from the FIC office.

## **MINISTRY ASSOCIATES POLICY**

### **Employment Statement**

We establish Ministry Associates on the basis of their qualifications for particular positions. We do reserve the right to maintain our religious distinctive as a ministry and expect all those who become Ministry Associates to know and wholeheartedly uphold our ministry purpose and statement. We take a stand against all forms of harassment or discrimination of employees, independent contractors or endorsed volunteers.

I declare by my signature below that:

1. I agree with the message, mission and purpose of Freedom In Christ, which states in part that we are an “interdenominational, international, Bible-teaching church ministry which exists to glorify God by equipping churches and mission groups, enabling them to fulfill their mission of establishing people free in Christ.”
2. I have read, understood and agree completely with the enclosed Statement of Faith.
3. To the best of my knowledge, all of the information in this application is true and complete. I also authorize you to make such inquiries into my personal employment, finances, medical history, or other related matters as may be necessary in arriving at a decision regarding my application. I hereby release schools, employers and all other persons from any and all liability stemming from their response to inquiries in connection with this application.

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Signature of applicant

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Date