

To: Unpaid Ministry Servants  
From: Paid Church Staff  
Date: February 3, 2011  
Subject: This note is long overdue...

Dear Church Volunteers,

Many early mornings and many late nights have passed without a proper thank you. I may not go to your church or participate in the ministry in which you serve, but you're very appreciated, highly valued, and much needed.

Thank you for setting up the parking cones in an empty lot before the Sunday sun rises. Thank you for cleaning the restrooms and throwing away trash in the children's classrooms. Thank you for working a 40-hour work week and giving your free time to help us serve those who are lost. Thank you for being willing to hold a stranger's weepy child during service so they can enjoy listening to the Word of God. Thank you for the hours you spent creating curriculum for the child who insists on coloring it and creating a paper plane. Thank you for standing at the door of the sanctuary simply to smile and welcome people in. Thank you for standing in front of our congregation week after week to lead us into worship of yet again, another Chris Tomlin or Hillsong set.

But most of all, thank YOU for believing in the Church. As a representative of the paid church staff, I'll admit we sometimes fail to acknowledge that we can't do what we want to do without YOU. You are an integral part to our efficacy in the community. When mailings don't matter and formal church invites fail, YOU are the ones who represent who we are and share the love of Christ in a way we'd never be able to; around a coffee table, at the mailbox, or at the gym. Thank YOU for being part of the Church family.

We may not have ministry figured out and I'm sure you're wondering why we bought another tacky banner for the fellowship hall or why the pastor *still* pronounces your name wrong, but please know you're very appreciated, highly valued, and much needed. We can't do what we do without YOU.

Warmly,  
Bianca Olthoff  
A Paid Church Staff Representative