

## JobsConnect™ Coaches Needed

By Tim Cosby

**The Problem:** At least 10 to 15 percent of the people in your church need help finding a job. The majority of people who are unemployed or underemployed can't afford a Career or Job Search Coach, and most people looking for work do not know how to create an effective resume, nor do they have an effective job search process.

**A Solution:** Provide trained JobsConnect™ Coaches who can help the unemployed and underemployed access both the *Visible* and *Hidden Job Markets*.

U.S. unemployment in November 2011 was 8.6%. That's 13.3 million people who were out of work and looking. It does not include those who had given up, the 15.6% who are underemployed, or those fearful that they will soon lose their job. Around 5.7 million have been out of work for 27 weeks or more, and only 13 percent of them are currently collecting unemployment benefits. The average length of unemployment in Michigan is 39 weeks.

Of the long-term unemployed and underemployed, 51 percent say they have borrowed from friends or family to get by. Close to half have trouble paying for housing and food. Additionally, 9 percent have lost their home to foreclosure. Kiplinger anticipates that the U.S. Economy will grow around 2% in 2012, about the same as in 2011, and not enough to make much of a dent in unemployment. All this suggests that at least 10 to 15 percent of the people in your church need help finding a job.

Empowerment Coaching Network is developing a 3-day coaching based ministry approach to equipping JobsConnect™ Coaches for the church. The first 2 days will focus on our ECN Level One Training: Developing the Heart and Skills of a Coach. Day 3 will focus on equipping coaches with the most current and effective job search process to help the unemployed and underemployed access both the *Visible* and *Hidden Job Markets*. ECN will be piloting this training in February and offering it to the public March 14-16 at Family Christian Stores Corporate Headquarters.

### Benefits:

- ✓ Following a proven job search process can decrease the length of unemployment.
- ✓ Reduces stress often associated with unemployment.
- ✓ Provides a tangible way a church community can serve their members.
- ✓ Provides a tangible way for a church to reach out to the people who live in their neighborhood.
- ✓ Provides encouragement, hope and a new perspective to those who have been unemployed for a long period.
- ✓ Provides the job searcher with greater clarity about how and where they can serve with the greatest effectiveness.
- ✓ Provides practical education for the unemployed so that they will be better prepared in their next job search.

Contact me if you would like more information about our JobsConnect™ Coaching program.