



OVERflow

Celebration Coffee & Dessert

Theme Scripture: “Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness” (Colossians 2:7).




This event will be the highlight of your team’s year. We’ve provided decorating and food ideas, an invitation, a program outline, customizable appreciation certificates, and easy, affordable thank-you gift ideas.

Based on Colossians 2:7, the Overflow celebration event will show your volunteers how valued and appreciated they are. Together you will celebrate each other, your gifts and friendships, and most importantly, what God has done in and through your team this year. Through group activities, guided discussion, and a powerful video presentation, this evening will be a big hit.

Planning Guide

- o Start by reading this entire guide so you’ll know what you’ll need to print, gather, or prepare. This is a good time to rally your leaders to plan and pray.
- o Download and print any reproducibles you will be using for the event.
- o You’ll need the song “Thankful” from the Media folder. You’ll use this as the background for your media presentation.
- o Have each guest bring their favorite coffee mug. During the icebreaker, they will use the mugs to get to know one another. Have some extra ceramic mugs for anyone who may forget theirs.
- o Print out copies of the “You Bring a Smile to My Mug” activity sheets. You’ll need one for each volunteer.
- o If using, print and prepare the appreciation certificates with each team member’s name.
- o Make the coffee, and plate the desserts.
- o Place in the center of each table:
 - 1 “Smile to My Mug” activity sheet per person
 - Pens



“Thankful” Media Presentation

- Gather digital photos (or video) of your volunteers in action throughout the year.
- Create a media presentation to show during the celebration event.
- Work with your church media teams in advance to have this ready.





Menu

Keep the Coffee & Dessert menu simple. Purchase some of your favorite decadent desserts, or have your leadership team bring their favorite homemade dessert. Brew a pot of coffee, put out some gourmet creamers, and you're all set.

To make the night a little fancier, set up a chocolate fountain with fruit, marshmallows, and pieces of sponge cake. The flowing chocolate will reinforce the evening's "Overflow" theme. You can probably find one to borrow so you won't need to purchase. Follow the manufacturer's directions for setup and for melting the chocolate.

Decorating

Gather coffee-themed items, such as interesting mugs, coffee grinders, burlap coffee sacks, and coffee beans. (Feel free to reuse the items from your kickoff Sunday!) Coffee-scented jar candles also create a warm atmosphere.

Purchase black (or color of your choice) plates, napkins, and tableware. Use black tablecloths (or the color of your choice), and cover with burlap runners.

Make a simple centerpiece with a jar filled with coffee beans and a votive candle. For easy candle cleanup, use a votive cup to keep the wax from melting into the beans. Add a ribbon or strip of burlap around the jar, and you have a cute centerpiece! It's OK to spill some of the beans onto the tabletop, too.

Gift Ideas

To say thank you to your volunteers, here are some simple, affordable gift ideas:

- o One-pot-size bag of gourmet coffee
- o Coffee gift card
- o Coffee gift bag—include coffee drink or tea bags and a snack item such as a cookie or biscotti, mints, or other candy
- o Small picture frame with a photo of the team member serving

Print out and attach one of the "Thank You" tags (page 9) to each gift.



Celebration Program

Program Theme: Overflowing With Thanks

Say: Welcome to our Overflow Celebration! Tonight is a special time as we remember what God has done this year, both in us and through us. Each one of you has had an impact, and we appreciate you.

Before we get started, let's each take a minute for show-and-tell. Go around your table, show your mug, and tell why it's your favorite. Allow 5 minutes for sharing.

We have a lot to be thankful for this year. We want to spend some time talking about—and being thankful for—the many things we've seen and experienced as we served together. As we continue eating, let's share around our table some of the things we are thankful for. To get us started...

As the host, share a couple of stories from the year (or you could have each ministry leader share).

Ask the volunteers to discuss at their tables:

- o What surprised you about serving this year?
- o What are you most thankful for?

Allow adequate time for discussion and eating, and then ask for volunteers to share what was discussed at their tables.

Devotion

Say: Luke 17:11-19 says: "As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, crying out, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' He looked at them and said, 'Go show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, 'Praise God!' He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?' And Jesus said to the man, 'Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you.'"

At your tables, discuss the following:

- o What does this story say to you about doing good for others?
- o What does it illustrate about thankfulness?

Allow time for discussion, and then continue.

You may have served the entire year and never had anyone fall at your feet and thank you. In fact, at times, you may have felt like no one even noticed. But we did. And so did God.



Say: Like the one leper in the story, we want to stop and turn to Jesus and thank him. We also want to make time to thank you for serving and for the amazing gifts you've shared. To do that, we're going to use the handouts you'll find on your table that say "You bring a smile to my mug."

Everyone grab a paper, and have a friend tape one to your back. Now go find someone in the room that you are thankful for, find a bubble on the paper on their back, and write one way they make you smile! Be as specific as you can. Then find another person and do the same thing. We'll take about 5 minutes to do this. Go!

Allow 5 minutes for this activity. Have everyone return to their seats. Find a partner, and remove each other's sheet. Take a minute to read the comments on your paper. How did you feel during this experience? Share your thoughts with your partner.

Closing Prayer

Say: We've prepared a special presentation of our year serving together. As the words of this song say, "we want to be thankful" for all God has done this year...and thankful to you for everything you've done, too!

Show the media presentation.

To express our thanks to God and to each other, we're going to make a wave of thanks!

Have everyone form a circle. Designate a starting point, and get the wave going. Let it go around a few times. Then have everyone grab hands and close in prayer:

Pray: Lord, we are overflowing with thanks for all you've done in us and through us this year. Let your love continue to spill out of our lives in a way that makes a difference. Help us to use our gifts, our talents, our time, and our hearts to serve you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Reproducibles & Graphics

Invitation: Use this wording in an invitation letter. Simply copy and paste, filling in your own information.

Let's Celebrate...

Join us for Coffee & Dessert as we recognize each of you for your faithful service...and thank God for all he's done. Anyone who has served this year is welcome! Coffee and dessert will be provided. Please bring your favorite tea cup or coffee mug.

R.S.V.P. to [E-MAIL OR PHONE]_____.



Let's Celebrate...

Join us for Coffee & Dessert as we recognize each of you for your faithful service...and thank God for all he's done.

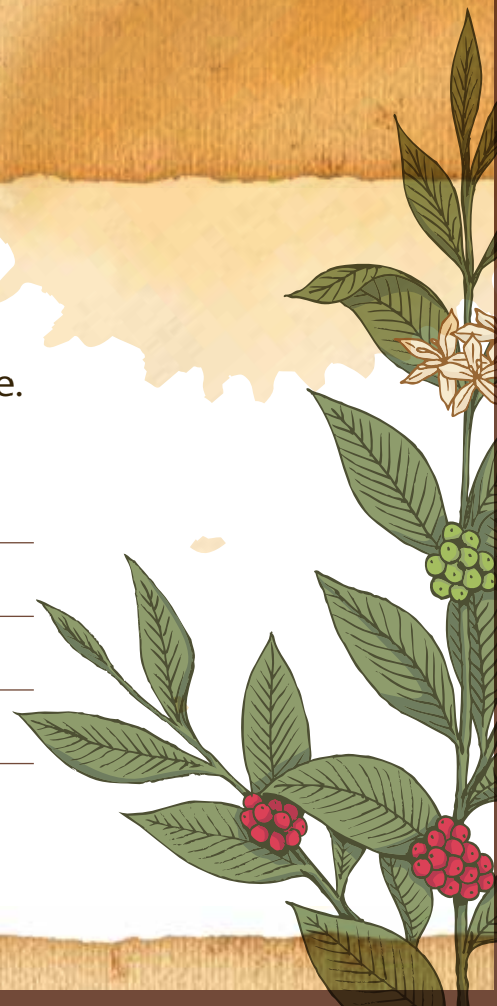
Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

RSVP: _____

Coffee and dessert will be provided.
Please bring your favorite tea cup or coffee mug.

Group Publishing, Inc. | group.com



Let's Celebrate...

Join us for Coffee & Dessert as we recognize each of you for your faithful service...and thank God for all he's done.

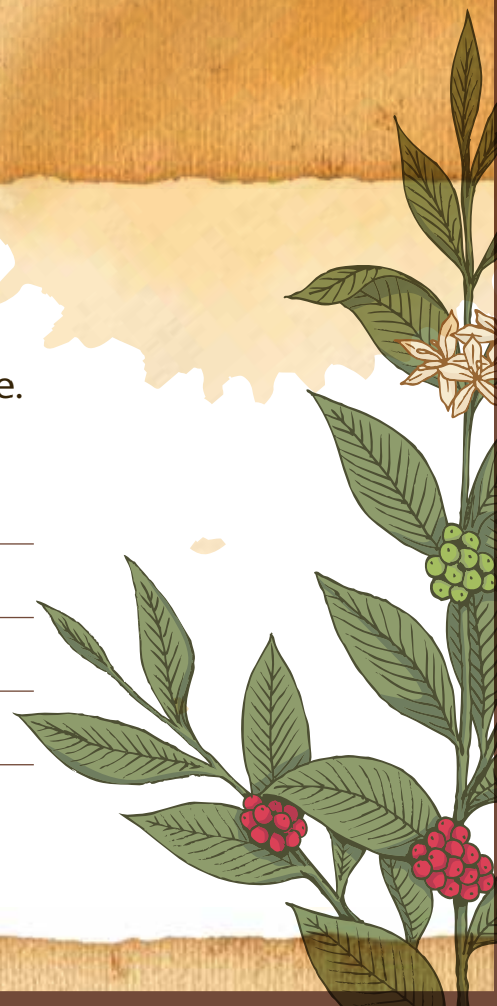
Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

RSVP: _____

Coffee and dessert will be provided.
Please bring your favorite tea cup or coffee mug.

Group Publishing, Inc. | group.com



You

bring a

Smile Mug!

to my



Certificate of Appreciation

This is to acknowledge that

Name

has faithfully served the

Department

Church

City, State

Signature

Date

Certificate of Appreciation

This is to acknowledge that

Name

has faithfully served the

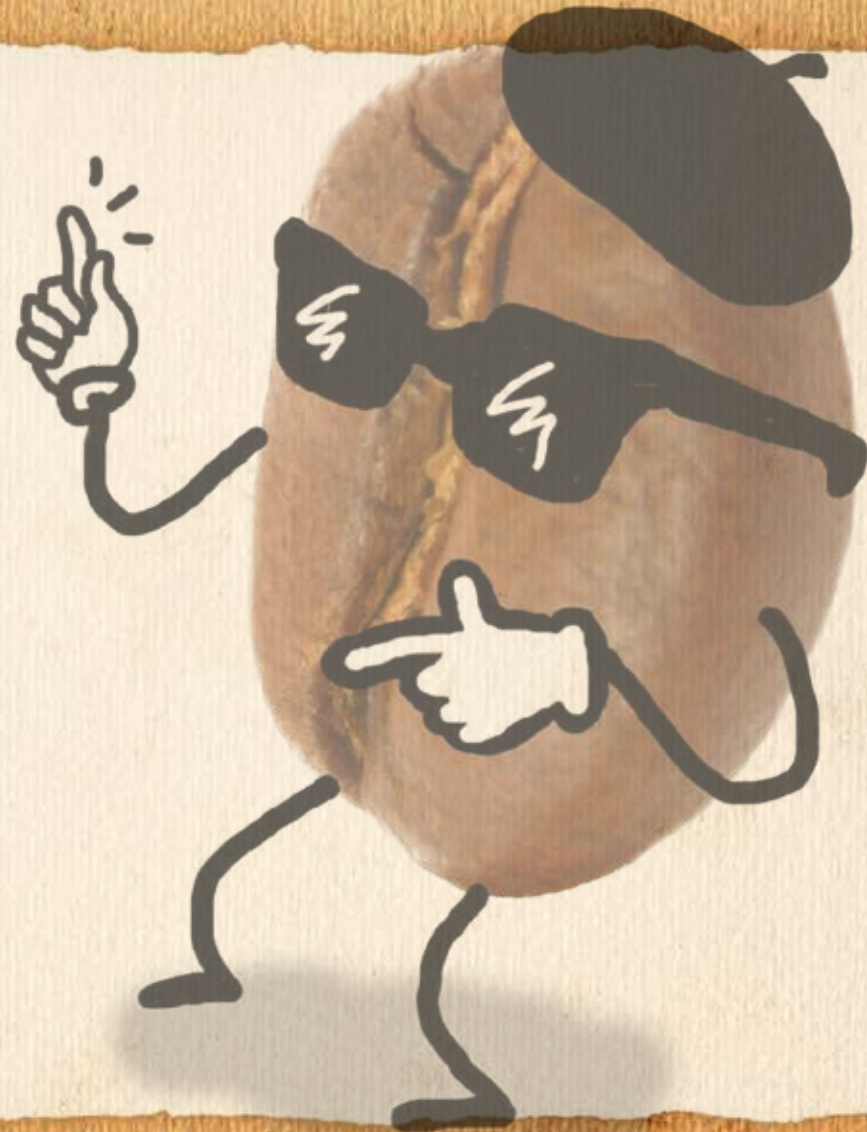
Department

Church

City, State

Signature

Date





VERflow



Thank you for serving!

"My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:5-6



Group Publishing, Inc. | group.com



VERflow



Thank you for serving!

"My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:5-6



Group Publishing, Inc. | group.com



VERflow



Thank you for serving!

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." Colossians 2:7



Group Publishing, Inc. | group.com



VERflow



Thank you for serving!

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." Colossians 2:7



Group Publishing, Inc. | group.com