

## Section 19: Evangelism

## I. Evangelism: "One beggar letting another beggar know where he has found bread."

Recommended reading is There Is Something Else by Chuck Patterson.  
All Things To All Men by Ralph Reynolds.

- A. Examples of evangelism in the Gospels.
  1. The woman of Samaria (John 4:26-30) – experience.
  2. Calling of the disciples (Matthew 4:18-22) – invitation.
  3. Multitudes (Matthew 4:23-25)
- B. Evangelism in the Acts and the Epistles.
  1. Personal experience told (Acts 26).

## II. Essentiality of Evangelism

- A. Jesus commanded it (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8).
  1. "GO" with the message of truth.
  2. Go with power.
- B. Salvation of souls at stake.
  1. "If this gospel is hid, it is hid from them that are lost." II Corinthians 4:3.
  2. Terror from God (II Corinthians 5:11).
  3. Repent or perish (Luke 13:3)
- C. Ignorance will not save people.
  1. The belief that people will be saved who never heard is missionary work in reverse! If ignorance will indeed save souls, why not call all missionaries back home? Why take a chance of someone hearing the gospel and not obeying it? This will bring sure destruction if the gospel is rejected. If salvation comes through ignorance do not try and educate them. Just let their ignorance usher them into heaven.
  2. But the scripture records that God no longer accepts ignorance as an excuse (Acts 17:30).
- D. The believer's own salvation is at stake (Ezekiel 33:8).
  1. If one fails to warn the wicked, they shall perish. The wicked's ignorance of impending doom will not save them.
  2. But the watchman will be responsible.

## III. Methods

- A. Weeping and praying – nothing will open up the senses of sight, hear, touch like prayer and fasting. A genuine love for souls is a must.
- B. By manner of living.
  1. Sometimes potential converts cannot hear what one is saying for what he is doing (James 3:13).

2. One's life should be as an epistle (II Corinthians 3:2).
- C. Sharing knowledge of the Word.
1. Study to be an effective worker (II Timothy 2:15).
  2. Tell of the hope within (I Peter 3:15)
  3. The word can be shared through tracts, discussions and home Bible Studies.
- D. Mass Evangelism
1. Street meetings.
  2. Revival campaigns.
  3. Concerts.
  4. For mass evangelism to be effective there must be follow through by the local church.
- E. Personal Evangelism
1. There is no substitute for personal evangelism.
  2. If each one would win one the world could be evangelized. The following example compares the traditional way of how churches reach their city and an alternate. The example covers a twenty year period of church growth. Both examples start with one couple going to a city to begin a new church.

Example one: A dedicated couple goes to a town, prays, and fasts and wins 20 souls a year to the Lord.

Year	Number of Converts at End of Each Year (Includes Couple)
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1	22
2	42
3	62
4	82
5	102
6	122
7	142
8	162
9	182
10	202
11	222
12	242
13	262
14	282
15	302
16	322
17	342
18	362
19	382
20	402

Comments: This pastor would be recognized as a great soul winner and would be asked by other pastors to conduct soul winning seminars. Most would consider this a successful pastorate. But there is a better way.

Example two: A young couple goes to a town; they pray and fast and make commitment to win only one soul each per year. During that year they will teach Bible truths to the converts. They will instruct each convert that to be a disciple for the Lord they must do likewise. That is, win one convert per year and train them to win one.

Year	Converts (Consider that each convert only wins ONE per year)
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1	4
2	8
3	16
4	32
5	64
6	128
7	256
8	512
9	1024
10	2048
11	4096
12	8129
13	16,384
14	32,768
15	65,536
16	131,072
17	262,144
18	524,288
19	1,048,576
20	2,097,152

Comments: After two years the Church has only eight members. Others question if this minister will ever amount to anything. He is never asked to speak at other churches. The young minister, aware of what others are saying maintains his sweet spirit. He stays true to his commitment of winning one soul per year. The results are amazing! A church built using this method has fewer backsliders because someone took time to ground them in the word (for one year). They were given individual attention. Remember that this graph represents only one couple's adventure.

What is needed is COMMITMENT! EACH ONE WIN ONE!

IV. Conclusion

- A. In witnessing there will be many setbacks and discouragements. Not everyone will accept the gospel. But all of the defeats will fade when in triumph a hungry heart is led to God. The soulwinner with the fire of God in his soul cannot remain silent (Jeremiah 20:8).
- B. Nor can the true disciple be content to just talk about evangelism. The following article, taken from the Arkansas Messenger is a sad but very accurate parable that depicts the evangelistic thrust of many.

# A Plea For Fishing . . .

By John M. Drescher

**Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches any fish?**

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, year after year, these who called themselves fishermen, met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fisherman.

## BETTER METHODS

Continually they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. Further they said, "The fishing industry exists by fishing as fire exists by burning." They loved slogans such as "Fishing is the task of every fisherman," "Every fisherman is a fisher," and "A fisherman's outpost for every fisherman's club." They sponsored special meetings called "Fishermen's Campaigns" and "The Month for Fisherman to Fish." They sponsored costly nationwide and world-wide congresses to discuss fishing and to promote fishing and hear about all of the ways of fishing such as the new fishing equipment, fish calls and whether any new bait was discovered.

## BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS

These fishermen built large beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters". The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however, they didn't fish.

In addition to meeting regularly they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. All the fishermen seemed to agree that what is needed is a board which could challenge fishermen to be faithful in fishing. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the idea of fishing in far-away



streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived.

## STAFF DID NOT FISH

Also the board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years, courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology. But the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters which were filled with fish.

## STUDY TO LEARN HISTORY

Some spent much study and travel to learn the history of fishing and to see far-away places where the founding fathers did great fishing in the centuries past. They lauded the faithful fishermen of years

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## A Plea For Fishing . . .

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before who handed down the idea of fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment, and programs to arrange and encourage meetings to talk about fishing. A speakers' bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing.

### DID NOT FISH

Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. But like the fishermen back home they engaged in all kinds of other occupations. They built power plants to plow new waterways. They made all kinds of equipment to travel here and there to look at fish hatcheries. Some also said that they wanted to be part of the fishing party, but they felt called to furnish fishing equipment. Others felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how loving and kind they were was enough.

After one stirring meeting on "The Necessity for Fishing." One young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next

day he reported he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen's General Board as a person having considerable experience.

### NEVER FISHED

Now it's true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men?"

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don't catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn't fishing?