

A Heart For Evangelism

Volume 2 Issue 2

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Evangelistic Opportunities

There are no distributions or door knocking scheduled for January.

Evangelism training Monday February 9th, 16th and 23rd 7:00 pm at the building.

Inside this issue:

<i>Importance of New Converts Class</i>	1
<i>Evangelistic Efforts at Collinsville</i>	1
<i>Do You Have The Heart Of A Soul Winner? Con't</i>	2
<i>Avenues of Evangelism.</i>	2
<i>Important Statistics for January 2008</i>	2

Importance of New Converts Class

We have seen the scenario time and time again. A brother or sister spends numerous hours studying God's Word with a lost soul. The lost soul finally obeys the gospel and becomes a child of God. After 2-3 Sundays and Wednesdays of having the new convert stand up during the announcements, they are soon forgotten. They really do not become engaged with others in the congregation except for with the one who taught and baptized them. The new convert begins to feel isolated and insignificant. Before you know what has happened, the new convert is a lost convert. Each of us probably know at least one person who has had this happen to

them. New converts need to be welcomed in the congregation so they will not depart from it. One of the ways to help assimilate a new convert into the congregation is through a new converts class. This is an opportune time to teach the new converts the basics of the gospel. Many have studied the material, "Why I Am A Member of The Church of Christ." New converts need to be grounded and rooted in the Word. They must desire the sincere milk of the word so they can grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). Many congregations fail to help new converts. We must remember, they are babes in Christ. Physical babes cannot do anything for themselves when they

are first brought home. Mom has to do everything for the babe. Think of the new convert in the same light. In many cases, the new convert is coming from a denominational background and is unfamiliar with the precepts of God when it comes to their work, worship, and walk. We must carry them along until they are able to walk on their own.

New converts, too, have a responsibility. They must desire the sincere milk of the word. When classes are offered, do your best to attend. The classes will help you to grow and mature into the Christian the Lord would have you be. Let's nurture our new converts.

-K.A. Pugh

Evangelistic Efforts at Collinsville

On January 26th our first evangelism class was planned but cancelled because of inclement weather. The first session was moved to February 2nd. There was 28 in attendance for the class! It is not too late to enroll

and attend the second meeting. Everyone attending was enthusiastic and ready learn how to become more evangelistic. There is nothing new when it comes to evangelism. Methods may be new, but the work isn't.

The apostle Peter had to put the brethren in remembrance. This class will help us get refocused on our mission. Are you prepared to go into all the world to preach the gospel? Are you focused on the Lord's mission?

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Statistics for January 2008

There were no literature distributions or door knocking in January.

3 new bible correspondence courses were established

9 calls made to the Bible Call system with 23 accesses to messages.

Are You Familiar With Our Avenues of Evangelism?

Currently we are using several methods to get the message of the gospel into our communities and to friends and neighbors. We have: Bible correspondence courses, Bible Call System, door knocking, and literature distributions. Since winter, we have ceased from doing the latter two. Now is a great time to sign up a friend or family member for a Bible Correspondence Course. Just bring their name and address into the office and we will mail out the first lesson.

In the near future we will have evangelistic DVD's you can give to your friends and family members. Our website is in the process of becoming more media friendly with online correspondence courses and online videos. Eventually, we would like to conduct an online, interactive Bible study. Please pray for all of these efforts. Think about how you can get involved in one of these great works.

Do You Have the Heart of a Soul Winner?

The heart of a soul winner is:
Continued from last issue:

Persistent—As any good fisherman knows, persistence, or patience is necessary for a good catch. Even the best fishermen have times in which they catch little, or nothing. But they are persistent. As a teenager, I longed to see Bill Dance sitting in his boat trying to untangle a bird's nest out of his reel, or after having snagged an underwater log, or tree branch, watching him having to break his line-saying goodbye to his most valued lure. Instead, we were spared those images and were privileged to see fewer than 30 minutes of success edited from days of fishing. One thing is sure, Mr. Dance would have caught nothing had he just gazed at a lake thinking of how nice it would have been to go

and catch something, or maybe dwelling on setbacks of the day before. The apostle Paul had his days of evangelistic disappointments: "almost" was Agrippa's response to Paul (Acts 26:28). Jesus, also was rejected in John 6:60-66. Are we better than they? To ask is to answer. Were they successful? Of course they were. The point is that they were persistent—they did not give up. Likewise we must not allow our hearts to give up; we must develop soul winning hearts of persistency.

Prepared—Faithfully following Jesus is the first step in winning souls (Mark 1:17). He said that the disciples would be made fishers of men. The apostle Paul said the saints must be equipped for the work of the ministry (Ephesians

4:11-13). The Hebrews writer says that there is a time in which we ought to be prepared to be teachers (Hebrews 5:12-14). How is this accomplished? The writer says by "reason of use." The best way to prepare a heart for soul winning is by doing it. Sadly, each of the FOM instructors has had those in class who did not use what they were taught. Often the excuse is that they "intend" to start later, after having squandered an opportunity to actively teach during the course—preparing themselves for a lifetime of teaching. Is you heart prepared? The only way to be prepared to teach the gospel is by reason of use—so do it!

Article by W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr. Fishers of Men—Lifeline. Dec. 2008 issue.