

A Heart For Evangelism

Volume 2 Issue 6

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To Seek & To Save

Evangelistic Opportunities

Interested in door knocking? Kelvin will be door knocking each morning at 9:30am. If you would like to be help, please sign the sign-up sheet on the Evangelism board.

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Companion passages to this text are found in Mark 16:15,16 and Luke 24:46,47. From the great commission we learn that our creed is Christ and His word (Matthew 28:18). For “neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Paul stated, “And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians. 3:17).

Christ also gives the church its charge (v. 19). “Go ye therefore” is the charge given to the apostles and all those who follow Christ. Until I learn that go ye means go me, I do not

understand the great commission. We have been saved to save others. The evangelized must become the evangelists. “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...” (Psalm 107:2). Now it should be noticed in the passage that the Lord did not specifically tell us how to accomplish His mission. He just wants us to do it. He uses ordinary people to get the job done. What were the apostles to do? Having been taught by the Lord they were to turn around and teach others. It is the duplication process. Paul stated, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2). Among the disciples of the Lord, Peter, Andrew,

James, and John were all fisherman. Jesus compared soul saving to fishing.

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:18,19).

Andrew learned this lesson early for he was always bringing others to Jesus. Our mission is to preach, teach, practice, and publicize the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:10), which salvation can be ours when we obey the gospel (Acts 2:37, 38).

Evangelistic Efforts at Collinsville

April showers may bring May flowers, but many of the spring showers have taken away from our door knocking efforts in the mornings. Although, we were not able to do as much door knocking this month because of

the wet weather, Bible correspondence courses continue to come into the office. Let us all continue to pray for the evangelistic efforts. Let us also continue to pray for workers and laborers in the Lord’s vineyard because

the harvest truly is white but the laborers are few. If you have not gotten involved in our evangelistic efforts, this summer is a great time to put your talents to work for our Lord and King.

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Statistics for May 2009

400 packets were distributed.

20 calls to the Bible Call System with 58 minutes of access time to lessons.

156 doors were knocked.

6 new Bible Correspondence Courses.

Digital Tract DVD's

Robert Guinn and I have been working to complete our first DVD series called the Digital Tract. This will be an evangelism tool we can use to pass out to our friends and neighbors. Our first series covers all of the conversions in the book of Acts.

So far, we have completed DVD's for the conversion of the 3000 on Pentecost, the Samaritans & Simon, the Eunuch, Saul, the Philippian Jailer, and the disciples at Ephesus. The set will be complete when we finish filming the conversions for Cornelius, Lydia, and Corinthians.

When those DVD's are available, we will be sure to let you know so you can begin using them as evangelistic tools.

To Seek & To Save - continued

The great commission also speaks to comfort us. He will be with us always (v.20). Jesus' promise to the apostles was direct divine guidance. He said to them, "And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49). Christ is with us today as we arm ourselves with His word (Ephesians 6:17).

Second, consider the plan given by Jesus to the apostles for accomplishing the mission. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is useful to follow the pronoun **they** as the Bible student peruses the book of Acts.

Now notice what **they** did following Saul's persecution. "Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). They were busy accomplishing the mission. The plan of evangelism given by Jesus is still useful today. The mission "to seek and to save" begins at home—our Jerusalem. Then a congregation reaches out to the region it surrounds—Judea and Samaria. Then it seeks to take the gospel to the uttermost part of the world. Yes every congregation has an obligation to someone else. Elders should look at the programs of work they oversee. Is the focus on soul saving? One congregation cannot do all the work, but it can accomplish some of the work.

The question sometimes arises, "Can we really evangelize the world?" God commanded us to do so in the

great commission. It has already been done before (Colossians 1:23). True there are more people to evangelize today, but we also have more evangelists. Likewise, we have the means and the technology to do it. What is the key to the church being more evangelistic? CONVERSION! The church must realize that people are lost without the gospel and we are lost if we fail in our mission of taking the gospel to the lost.

Third, Jesus gave a simple illustration when speaking of the mission of the church. "A sower went out to sow his seed..." (Luke 8: 5). What is that seed? "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God" (v. 11). No need to try something different.

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