

A Heart For Evangelism

Evangelistic

Opportunities

- **August 9th (Sat)—Bible literature distribution 9am-11am. Collinsville**
- **August 12th (Tue)—Bible literature distribution 7pm-8:30pm. Collinsville**
- **August 21st (Thur)—Bible literature distribution 7pm-8:30pm. Collinsville**
- **August 30th (Sat)—Bible literature distribution 9am-11am. Collinsville**

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BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN

K.A. Pugh

Jesus understood what his mission was while he was living on earth. Luke records, "I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent" (Luke 4:43). Jesus also knew that he could not accomplish this task without soliciting the help of other faithful men. While Jesus was walking by sea, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother. Jesus simply said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). He saw two other brothers, James and John the sons of Zebedee and chose them to also become fishers of men. All four men immediately stopped what they were

doing and followed Jesus. Jesus used these men as the core of his team to evangelize the entire world!

How can we take the gospel message into all of the world? We must be willing to do several things that Jesus' apostles did. First, they were willing to follow Jesus. When Jesus met Peter and Andrew he simply said, "Follow me." What does it mean to follow Christ? The word *follow* means to be in the same way with, to accompany. Somehow, Jesus had to get those fishers of fish to become fishers of men. What better way to do that than to get them to follow after the steps of the greatest personal

worker known to man. If we want to become fishers of men, we, too, must follow Jesus.

Second, Jesus said unto the fishermen, "I **will make** you fishers of men." These men had to be trained to become fishers of men, just as they were trained to be fishers of fish probably by their fathers. Training is very important in evangelism because it makes one prepared. When Jesus called those four fishermen, he did not expect them to immediately begin winning souls. They followed him and watched how he interacted with people. They had the opportunity to be with Jesus and hear him teach and preach to large crowds and indi-

Evangelistic Efforts at Collinsville

There was no campaign scheduled for the month of July, but we will begin the literature distribution in the month of August. Many of you have expressed your willingness to get involved in the immense task of tak-

ing the gospel into 50,000 homes. Your time and talent will be needed for us to accomplish our goal.

If you have any suggestions for evangelizing, please let me know about them. We want to use as

many scriptural ways to get the message into our communities.

As we come into the month of August, let us prepare ourselves to get ready to march into all the world!

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Statistics for July 2008

126 doors were knocked. As a result, 5 new bible correspondence courses were established. Thanks to Richard Stopher and John Colon for volunteering their time and talents to door knock.

125 pieces of bible literature were placed on doors.

3 personal letters were mailed out in response to bible questions about baptism.

8 calls were made to the Bible Call system.

Cooperation

One time Jimmy Durante was asked to be part of a show for World War II veterans. He consented to perform, but just for a few minutes because his schedule was already quite full. As it turned out, he got on the stage that evening and stayed much longer than originally intended.

After the extended show, someone asked him why he stayed on stage as long as he did. Durante pointed out to the front row where two men were seated, each who had lost an arm in the war. One had lost his right arm and the other had lost his left arm.

Together, they were able to clap, and that is exactly what they did, loudly and cheerfully. Their cooperation and teamwork kept the performer performing. Two, only half equipped for clapping, working together, touched the one who had come to touch the hearts of others.

How often we make excuses because we are not as well equipped as someone else to do the work of the church, when two could work together and do much more than any one person. The theme of the bible is unity and cooperation of God's people. Can you "lend a hand?" Jesus sent them two by two. Let us work together as the one-handed men. **-Earl Gieseke**

BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN *continued*

No doubt, the apostles learned so much from spending time in training with Jesus. We too can be made into fishers of men if we allow ourselves to be changed like the apostles were changed. We have the greatest training manual available to us today in written form—the word of God. We can read for ourselves all of the steps Jesus took his apostles through to become fishers of men. Not only do we have the greatest training manual, but we have those who have dedicated their lives in knowing the training manual and teaching it to others. Paul stated, "And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12). Paul

was an apostle who had become a fisher of men, and who dedicated himself to training fishers of men. Elders and preachers today need to be more like Paul and begin preparing or equipping the church for the work of the ministry (evangelism, benevolence, and edification). The elders here are to be commended for recognizing and putting an ongoing program in place to help us to become fishers of men. I want to encourage all to take advantage of the training classes and the evangelistic opportunities that will be coming up soon. One cannot be trained to become a fisher of men if one is not willing to be trained.

Third, all four men immediately followed Jesus. Peter and Andrew straightway left their nets. James and John, likewise, immediately left

their ship and their father. How soon should we get ourselves involved in evangelistic work? Let us begin immediately. Let's immedi-



ately get ourselves prepared to do the Lord's bidding. Let's immediately forsake all of those things that will keep us from achieving our goal of taking the gospel into 50,000 homes. Let's immediately look for someone to whom we can teach the gospel.

We can become fishers of men.