

UNIT IV

LEADING IN OUTREACH

A church which is not reaching out with the gospel to non-Christians is not biblical in its pattern and purpose. Israel was chosen as God's peculiar people to be "a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation" (Exod. 19:6). From the time of the choosing of Abraham and the making of the promise to him (Gen. 12), the unregenerate nations of the world have been included in God's redemptive plan. The constant temptation of God's people is to accept His blessings but to ignore His plan which makes them responsible for carrying the "good news" to the destitute and condemned.

The people of God are responsible for the lost in their own community, in neighbouring communities, and in other countries. The task is the same regardless of the geographical location. The responsibility is to share the "good news" with the unfortunate, distressed, and condemned. "Gospel" comes from the Greek word *euangelion* (*eu*—good; *angelia*—message) which means good news. An evangelist (*euangelistes*) is one who proclaims the good news that "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day" (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Paul described this message as the gospel (*euangelion*) which he preached (*euēngelisamēn*) and which brought about the salvation of the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:1-2). Those who were "scattered abroad" by persecution went everywhere announcing the good news (Acts 8:1-5). Philip became known as an evangelist because of his reputation for proclaiming the good news concerning Christ's death and resurrection.

People who declared their faith in Christ were said to have given "witness" to that faith (Heb. 11:1-12:1). Many early Christians became martyrs (*marturos*, Acts 22:20) as a result of being witnesses (*martures*, Acts 1:8). A witness gives testimony to what he knows by experience. There is no basic difference in a witness and an evangelist; both share the message of salvation in Christ and are to be willing to sacrifice their lives for it.

An apostle (missionary) is one who is sent with a message. The message is the same as that announced by witnesses and evangelists. The three terms speak of the same work of sharing the experience of forgiveness and new life in Christ.

Churches have used different terms to specify the one function of sharing Christ in different geographical locations. In common usage, people go out *witnessing* within the church community, become *evangelists* if they proclaim Christ in another community, and are *missionaries* if they share Christ in another country. The terms have served useful purposes in the past but may need to be re-examined today because of meanings which have been attached to these words. *Missionary* has come to be interpreted as implying paganism on the part of the people among whom the missionary serves. Paganism connotes backwardness and primitiveness to many people today rather than the original meaning of being unenlightened about the God of Christianity. Since *witnesses* and *evangelists* have the same function, one of these terms might be less offensive than *missionary*.

Lesson 10 discusses witnessing within a church community. Every member of a church has the privilege and responsibility of sharing Christ with persons whom he meets. Not all Christians know how to share their Christian witness and must be taught.

Lesson 11 discusses witnessing in neighbouring communities and how to establish a permanent witness by establishing new churches. Even in the "churched" areas, new churches are needed sometimes because many people continue to be neglected by those who know the gospel. Christians cannot wait until all their neighbours receive Christ before spreading the witness to neighbouring communities if they are to be faithful to the teachings of Christ (see Acts 1:8). The efforts of witnessing bear greater fruit when new churches are established.

Lesson 12 discusses witnessing in other countries. It is recognized that not every Christian can or should go abroad personally to share Christ, but he can have a part in the spread of the gospel in other countries through prayer and financial support (see Acts 13:3 and Acts 14:26–28). Even though the concept of missionary is not popular in this day of strong nationalism, the command of Christ to “make disciples of all nations” has not been revoked and the obedient Christian has no alternative but to be missionary.

LESSON 10

REACHING NON-CHRISTIANS

Introduction

Aim

To understand the New Testament approach in evangelism and to explore means of leading a church in evangelistic outreach.

Thought questions

1. What strategy was followed in the early Church to reach non-Christians?
2. Why do so few Christians share their faith?
3. What can a pastor do to lead his church to be evangelistic?
4. What is *the gospel* which every Christian should share?
5. How can Christians discover persons who are in need of Christ?
6. What approach should one use in presenting the gospel?

The Emphasis of Jesus' Ministry

After Jesus' baptism and temptation, He went "into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15). Even Jesus' healing ministry related to the Kingdom of God. God had made the world good at creation, but Satan deceived Adam and gained control of rebellious man. Satan's work includes the evils of sickness, disaster, and death. Man is enticed to yield to Satan's control when he is deceived into thinking he will find pleasure and wealth. Satan has gained control of the world (see John 16:11-16). The good news of the Kingdom of God is that it is here ("at hand"). Christ overcame Satan's domination of man by healing the sick and dying for man's deliverance from Satan's power and works—sin and death. He was raised from death by God's power to be the eternal Messiah. The good news is that through the new birth (John 3:3-5) man is delivered from the domain of Satan and translated into the Kingdom of God (see Col. 1:13). Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection demonstrated that God was intervening in history to rescue man from his spiritual conqueror. This deliverance becomes effective in the lives of those who repent (renounce the life under Satan) and believe the gospel (accept Jesus as God's Messiah—Christ).

Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection delivered man from Satan's control by His--

1. healing the _____
2. dying for man's _____
3. being raised by God's power to be the eternal _____

(1. sick, 2. sins, 3. Messiah)

To believe in Christ means to believe that He is God's M _____ who delivers from the domain and power of S _____ into the K _____ of G _____.

(Messiah, Satan, Kingdom, God)

Jesus instructed the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well that He was the promised Messiah who would be called Christ (John 4:25-26). She believed Him and shared with the townsmen the good news that Christ had come. Many of them also believed that He was "the Christ, the Saviour of the world" (John 4:42). While many wanted to make Christ an earthly king, He persevered as the spiritual King of the Kingdom of Heaven and dedicated His total life and ministry to delivering hopeless man from the power of evil who works sin and death in man. The non-Christian is the person who has not yet responded in faith to Christ and who thus continues under the control and at the disposition of Satan. The assignment of every Christian is to join the woman of Samaria in sharing the gospel that Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour of the world. This ministry was primary in the life of Christ and must be primary also in the life of every Christian.

The Example of the Early Church

The Book of Acts describes the evangelistic outreach of the early Church. Two emphases are prominent: the work of the Holy Spirit and the witnessing of the Christians. Successful evangelistic outreach today depends on the faithful witnessing of Christians in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2:41, the information is given that about three thousand souls were added to the Church. Acts 2:47 states, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 4:4 records that "many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand." Acts 16:5 states, "And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily." These Scriptures emphasize that the believers were sharing their faith and convicted men were responding. What serious pastor has not yearned for his own church to be evangelistically involved like the early Church?

A few verses in Acts explain how the early Church accomplished its evangelistic outreach. Acts 5:42 states, "And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching (evangelizing) Jesus as the Christ" (RSV). To evangelize means to share the good news about Jesus Christ. The evangelistic message includes:

The good news that God sent His Son into the world to establish His Kingdom;

The miracles and mighty works of Jesus which were the works of the Kingdom and which identify Him as the Messiah, the Son of God;

The death of the Son of God as the atonement for

List two emphases which characterized evangelism in the early Church.

1. _____
2. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

To evangelize *is* to _____

(share the good news of Jesus)

As you read each point in the apostles' evangelistic message, write it briefly in your own words on the next page.

man's sin;

The resurrection of Jesus Christ which was victory over sin and death and assurance to the disciples of eternal life;

The ascension of Christ to the right hand of the Father to intercede for His followers and to send the Holy Spirit to guide them;

The return of Christ to consummate (bring to final victory and fulfilment) the Kingdom of God.

Acts 5:42 emphasizes the activity of the disciples in teaching the gospel in the Temple and in every house. Imitation of this pattern today would mean every Christian's teaching the gospel to those about him on the job and in his neighbourhood.

According to Acts 4:31, the early disciples were effective as witnesses for Christ because they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke God's message with boldness. After being threatened by the high priest to speak no more in the name of Christ, the disciples prayed about their critical situation and asked for boldness in witnessing. God honoured their prayers and granted their request. This boldness was demonstrated in Peter's reply to the Sanhedrin: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

The Strategy of the Early Church

Visiting in homes

The early Church did not bring people to the gospel but rather took the gospel to them: they went into homes and witnessed in the temple courtyard (see Acts 5:42). The pattern of the Church today is to invite non-Christians to its worship services in order that they may hear the sermon of the preacher. The pattern of the early Church was for the instructed disciples (learners) to carry the gospel to people who did not know Christ as Saviour. Even though the first disciples of Jesus appear to have lacked formal education, they confronted the leaders of their society with the good news about Christ—Peter and the other disciples spoke boldly to the chief priests and the Sanhedrin (see Acts 5:24-40). The early Christians did not wait for non-believers to come to their places of prayer and worship but rather carried the gospel to the non-believers.

Gaining boldness through prayer

The number of times the author of Acts mentions that the early church met in prayer is impressive. The disciples spent several days in prayer in preparation for the coming of the power of the Spirit. The new converts to Christianity joined the apostles in study, fellowship, and

The six points in the apostles' evangelistic message were: (Write them in your own words.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

NOW REVIEW THESE POINTS AND LEARN THEM; THEN USE THEM!

As you read the topic The Strategy of the Early Church, pay close attention to the four emphases of the early Church in spreading the gospel. You will be asked to list them later.

Are these statements true or false?

- 1. The early Church invited people to their meetings and waited until the people came before they shared the gospel. _____*
- 2. The early Church took the gospel to the people _____*

(Compare your answers with the text.)

prayer. The believers prayed for Peter and John after their arrest. They responded to the threats of the Sanhedrin with the prayer that they might be granted boldness to speak the Word of God.

Learning the gospel

The content of the gospel which was proclaimed by the early Church can be known through analysing the sermons of Peter and Paul. The six points of the typical evangelistic message have been stated previously in this lesson. These points appear to have been essential to the understanding of the gospel.

It was necessary to teach diligently the gospel to new Christians. The Book of Acts mentions that the new believers were taught the "apostles' doctrine" (see Acts 2:42). Apparently the three thousand persons baptized at Pentecost included those from the distant regions mentioned in Acts 2:9-11. They seem to have remained in Jerusalem for instruction before returning to their various countries. This period of instruction may have extended into several months. After learning the basic doctrines of the gospel, they returned to their areas and proclaimed Christ. This procedure is the only explanation for the rapid spread of Christianity in the years immediately following the death and resurrection of Jesus. The apostles focused on teaching others the gospel and on prayer. No distinction appears to have been made between "clergy" and "laymen" at this time. The distinction was between apostles (commissioned teachers) and disciples (learners of the apostles' doctrine).

Involving every disciple

Discussions of the events which took place on the day of Pentecost usually focus on "speaking in tongues." The issue was not whether or not every Christian should speak in an unknown tongue but rather the receiving of the Spirit which qualified every believer to speak forth the Word of God like the prophets of Old Testament times. The miracle of tongues was given because persons from various nations were present in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. God enabled the disciples to share the gospel (the word of the Lord) with everyone despite language barriers. The meaning of Pentecost is that God equips every Christian with the power of the Spirit to witness. The giving of the Spirit did not mean, however, that disciples would be able to witness without learning the gospel. Those who learnt the gospel were endowed with God's power and thus were made effective servants of God.

Although the apostles were the official interpreters of Jesus' life and ministry, the spread of the gospel came primarily through the witnessing of disciples other than the Twelve. The Twelve remained in Jerusalem when

List some examples of the early Church's great dependence on prayer.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

After the early believers responded to the gospel, they--

1. learnt the basic _____ of the gospel
2. returned to their homes and _____ Christ.

(1. doctrines, 2. proclaimed)

The coming of the Spirit enabled _____ believer to speak forth the _____ of God.

(every, word)

Now that you have finished reading The Strategy of the Early Church, list the four emphases in spreading the gospel.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

persecution against the Jerusalem church caused the disciples to be scattered (see Acts 8:1). The scattered members gave witness wherever they went.

The Pastor's Role in Evangelistic Outreach

Churches that are winning, baptizing, training, and maturing large numbers of people are being led by Spirit-filled, enthusiastic, dynamic pastors who are committed to giving priority to evangelism in the programmes of their churches. The pastor is responsible for involving Christians in witnessing. It is not enough for only the ordained to witness; laymen must become involved in winning others to Christ. On the other hand, a pastor who does not witness cannot expect laymen in his church to witness. Neither is it enough for a Christian to witness with a good life. He must be willing to share with words his experience of salvation in Christ.

Many laymen are not involved in witnessing for three reasons: (1) they have not been made aware that they are responsible; (2) they have not been taught how to share their faith; and (3) they lack self-confidence as witnesses and are fearful that they will say the wrong thing. In developing laymen into effective witnesses, the pastor must help them to solve these hindrances. A careful study of the New Testament reveals that witnessing is every Christian's job. Teaching laymen how to share their faith by presenting their own personal testimonies and by using a simple booklet on salvation provides a solution to the second hindrance. The third problem of fear and lack of courage is overcome when they realize that successful witnessing is not dependent on their own techniques or abilities but on the power of the Holy Spirit. By faith they can appropriate the filling of the Holy Spirit (power and guidance) and make themselves available to be used of God in reaching non-Christians.¹

Training Witnesses

If plans are made for witnesses to be trained in a school of evangelism, the pastor and members should schedule a time when all efforts and interests can be focused on personal witnessing. A Christian witnessing emphasis will require several weeks and should include four stages.

Preparation: understanding the salvation experience

The Christian witness emphasis needs to begin with

¹ See *Personal Involvement in Evangelism*, another study guide in this series, for a fuller discussion of these problems and their solutions.

A pastor who does not witness cannot expect laymen in his church to _____.

(witness)

The pastor must lead laymen to be aware of their responsibility to _____.

(witness)

The pastor is responsible not only for leading laymen to be aware but for training them to share their _____.

(faith)

Bible study concerning the condition of the lost, the meaning of salvation, and the responsibility of Christians to share their faith. This study could be used during the Bible study hour, training hour, or during some other scheduled weekly meeting. The topics to be studied may include: the nature of sin; the meaning of salvation; the redeeming love of God; the lordship of Christ; the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation; and sharing the Christian faith. Guided-study leaflets may be used to help laymen in searching the Scriptures.

Objectives to be accomplished by the study are: (1) a clearer understanding of salvation doctrines by Christians; (2) a stronger conviction of sin by disobedient Christians as well as non-Christians; (3) a deeper sense of the importance and urgency of sharing the gospel with the lost; and (4) a greater awareness of how to live an obedient Christian life.

Christian witness school: learning to share Christ

The five or six weeks of preparatory study should be followed by a week of intensive study and training. The goals of the week are to lay a spiritual foundation for witnessing and to teach the members how to use their testimonies and salvation booklets in presenting the gospel. Each night's session should include a period of Bible study and a time of practical training in how to witness. By the fourth night, the members should go into the community and share their faith with non-Christians. On the fifth night, they can share their experiences and complete their studies. Bible study themes for the week might be: the cleansed life, the Spirit-filled life, the victorious life, and the growing life. Some helpful materials for a school of evangelism are: WIN (Witness Involvement Now); LIFE (Life Institute for Evangelism); TEA (WIN translated into Spanish); TEM (WIN translated into French).²

Practical experience: sharing one's faith

During the following two months, special emphasis should be placed on encouraging the members who have been trained to share Christ daily with non-Christians when they meet at work or in the homes of the community. They must become aware of opportunities for sharing on the job with co-labourers and in the homes when

² LIFE materials are available from Campus Crusade International. WIN materials are available from Church Literature Department, Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. TEA and TEM materials are available from Baptist Spanish Publishing House, Box 4255, El Paso, Texas 79914. The leader of a school should have received the basic training required by the different programmes. Fuller details of how to conduct a school of evangelism are given in the study guide *Personal Involvement in Evangelism*.

List the four objectives to be achieved in the preparation stage of witness training.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

What are some subjects that should be dealt with in a week of study and training for witnessing?

- _____
- _____
- _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Finish reading this paragraph, which continues on the next page, before doing the following.

List some places where Christians may encounter those in need of faith.

- _____
- _____
- _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

visiting or being visited by others. Also they may share their faith during planned encounters with those who are without Christ.

The best training for the new Christian comes through making visits with a more mature Christian who has gained experience in witnessing. The pastor partially fulfils his responsibility to train the saints when he takes a layman along as his partner on evangelistic visits.

Most Christians begin to neglect evangelistic visitation if they are not continually encouraged and challenged. Satan's design for hindering the sharing of the gospel is by diverting the interests of Christians. Even many pastors, under the pretext that they are too busy, neglect to share their faith. A church becomes spiritually dormant unless Christians seek daily cleansing from sin through confession, renewed filling of the Spirit (giving the Spirit control of one's life through faith), and opportunities to share their faith.

Follow-up: leading others in growth

The same leaflets which are used to help the Christian grow in his spiritual life may serve as guides for leading new Christians in spiritual growth. A study of the meaning of baptism, the Lord's Supper, and church membership should be added to the studies on salvation. After a church member has witnessed and led a non-Christian to accept Christ as Saviour, the Great Commission assigns him the responsibility of teaching the new convert the truths of the Bible (see Matt. 28:20). Home Bible studies may be used as an effective alternative to the church Bible study programme.

A home Bible study may be initiated by a Christian's inviting the new believers and his neighbours to join him one night each week in a period of scripture study. The primary activity of the evening should be a group study of the meaning of scripture verses; however, a brief time of fellowship may also be profitable. In group participation-learning, the teacher is the leader of a discussion in which all participating persons give their views of what the verses mean. Participation-learning involves each student in responding actively in contrast to passive listening which characterizes the lecture system. After a new Christian has studied Scriptures dealing with the lordship of Christ and the purpose and nature of the church, he should be ready to identify with the Christian community through baptism and membership.

New members' classes may be conducted also at the church. People who make decisions during home evangelistic visits should be informed about the classes and encouraged to attend.

In order to prevent lethargy in witnessing, Christians should seek--

1. *daily cleansing from _____ through _____*
2. *renewed filling of the _____*
3. *opportunities to share their _____*

(1. sin, confession; 2. Spirit; 3. faith)

Two possible approaches for teaching new Christians are:

- _____ *Bible study*
- _____ *Bible study*

(home, church)

You have just read the four stages in witness training. Can you list them? Try it.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

(Compare your list with the text.)

Making an Evangelistic Visit

Every Christian should be prepared at any time to share his testimony: "Be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2, RSV). Some of the most fruitful opportunities will come at work as a person talks with his associates. On other occasions, he will find opportunities to present Christ during a casual conversation with a friend. The Christian who desires to share his faith will see many opportunities to do so and will take advantage of them.

Planned evangelistic visits in homes may be by appointment; however, an unexpected visit may be the only means of sharing Christ with a family with whom previous acquaintance has not been made. If the visitor arrives at the home and discovers the family has plans for the evening, he may take a moment to get acquainted and to make an appointment for a return visit. He could leave a salvation booklet with the family and suggest that they read it before the appointed time of his return. Of course, if family members show a negative attitude towards his visit, he should be tactful and not force his witness upon them. The negative reaction, however, may be an indication of conviction or guilt. The presence of the visitor reminds them of their errors, and a negative attitude is displayed as a defence of their way of life. The negative attitude frequently disappears after the visitor becomes acquainted with the family and shows a sincere interest in it. A deep spiritual hunger exists in the hearts of most people who have not been born again; however, that hunger may be submerged under pride or desire for worldly pleasure.

When the visitor is invited into the home, he should spend a few minutes getting acquainted. For the most effective use of his time, he should soon guide the conversation to his Christian faith. Usually the dialogue gives an opening for the transition to spiritual matters. For example, if inquiry is made concerning one's occupation, a person may point out how he has opportunity to serve his fellow-man and his God through his work. If inquiry is made concerning his family, he may point out the blessings God has bestowed upon his family while sharing information about family members. During the conversation the non-Christian family may reveal disappointments, discouragements, or problems which they have experienced. The alert visitor listens with sympathetic understanding and shares his own difficult experiences. If Christ is real to the witness, he will be able to show in every conversation the value of being a Christian. However, he must be careful to avoid superficiality and exaggerated descriptions of circumstances in which

Write in your own words what a visitor should do if he makes an unannounced visit to a home and discovers that the family already has plans for the evening.

(Compare your answer with the text.)

When a witness is visiting in a home, he should direct the conversation to s matters as soon as possible and share his own experiences in Christian f.

(spiritual, faith)

faith in God has helped him. A Spirit-filled and victorious Christian lives in the joy of his Lord and is able to share genuinely the blessings of Christ at every opportunity.

A person who shows an interest in the gospel but does not receive Christ should be encouraged to attend classes on what it means to become a Christian. An appeal to surrender one's life to Christ may not be understood until the person has been informed more fully about the meaning of the Christian life. The person who does make his commitment will also need to attend the classes to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of faith in Christ and to experience fellowship in the community of believers.

Conducting Evangelistic Campaigns

Churches have found value in setting aside one or two weeks each year for special evangelistic services. A guest speaker with evangelistic zeal may be invited to lead in the preaching services. The members should be led to prepare for them by praying for the presence and power of God's Spirit, by witnessing to lost people, and by bringing them to the services. The success of an evangelistic campaign does not depend so much on the effectiveness of the evangelist as on the praying and witnessing of the people. Billy Graham's campaigns succeed as a result of several months' preparation of the Christians in the area. They are enlisted in prayer support and trained to share their faith before and during the scheduled services. Two special evangelistic emphases each year keep the church reminded of its responsibility to "make disciples of all nations."

Discovering Those Needing Faith in Christ

There are three basic ways for a church to discover those who are non-Christians and in need of a faith. A church may begin by examining its Sunday school rolls and becoming aware of those who attend Sunday school but have never committed their lives to Christ. The next step would be to survey the members and give them opportunity to give the names of relatives and friends who have not made commitments to Christ. A pastor who is acquainted with the church members will know family members who are not saved. A third approach is to make a survey of the community and find out about the religious affiliations and needs of the people. A record should be made of the non-Christians who are discovered, and the church should adopt a definite plan for reaching them with the gospel. Forms for recording religious census information are available through Christian publication houses and book stores. Persons who participate in taking a religious survey or census should have some instruction in the proper techniques. A person with some training and experience should be designated to train those who are to take the survey.

Are these statements true or false?

1. An appeal to surrender one's life to Christ may require more enlightenment than one brief encounter. _____
2. One who makes a commitment will need further understanding through study and fellowship. _____

(1. true, 2. true)

List three responsibilities of church members during an evangelistic campaign.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Three common sources for discovering those in need of a faith are:

1. Sunday school _____
2. Survey of _____, giving names of their relatives and friends
3. Survey of the _____ in which the church is located.

(1. rolls, 2. members, 3. community)

The person taking the census should be courteous and tactful. Although a few people refuse to give information about their spiritual lives, most are cooperative and friendly if approached in the right way. The surveyor should identify himself and state his purpose of desiring the information in order to determine if the church can be more effective in serving the spiritual needs of the family. Some adults refuse to give their ages. The surveyor should not insist on getting this information but may simply estimate the age. Asking whether a person is a Christian or is saved should be avoided since the interviewer likely will not understand the question unless he has experienced new birth. Some persons say "yes," meaning that they do not consider themselves pagans and, therefore, must be Christians. The interviewer must remember at all times that his purpose is to be available to help those who recognize their need of spiritual help. A humble and spiritual attitude is needed to accomplish this purpose.

The survey gives insight into the spiritual needs of persons and opens the door of opportunity to minister where there is a need. The important matter of salvation requires that Christians engage in spiritual conversations with neighbours and strangers. Although they may become nervous and hesitant to discuss the very personal matter of salvation, many people are in need of a faith in Christ and are waiting for someone to share with them. Every person is made in the image of God; therefore, he has a spiritual nature which craves spiritual food. Not everyone with whom the Christian talks is ready, however, to make a commitment to Christ, but everyone with whom he talks has a religious nature and spiritual interest. The only way to discover the spiritual needs of a person is to direct the conversation towards spiritual matters. Information which is discovered about the spiritual life of a person should be recorded or it will be forgotten and lost.

Many who have been converted late in life ask why no one came to tell them about Christ when they were younger. Undoubtedly many live their entire lives without being told about Christ. Some of these are within short distances of churches. To prevent the tragedy of non-Christians living and dying within the shadow of a church without being told about Christ, church members should be led to visit every home in a community in order to be available to share Christ with those who desire to commit their lives to Him.

After prospects have been discovered, the church members should covenant together to pray for their salvation. The Holy Spirit will honour prayers of the faithful for the lost and make available opportunities for them to share their faith.

Suggestions for one taking a census include:

1. Be c _____ and t _____.
2. Identify oneself and state the p _____ of the call.
3. Be prepared to share with those who indicate s _____ need.

(1. *courteous, tactful*; 2. *purpose*,
3. *spiritual*)

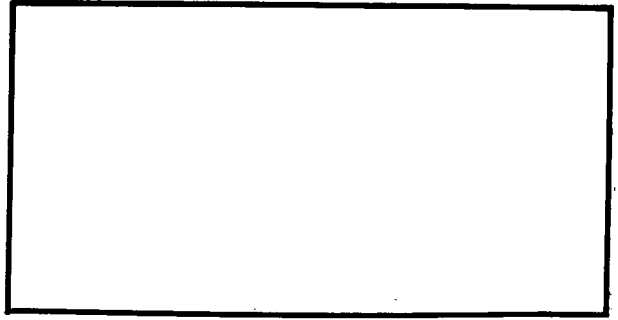
Are these statements true or false?

1. *Christians become nervous and hesitant in sharing their faith because this is a personal matter that should not be discussed with others.* _____
2. *Everyone has spiritual needs, and these needs cannot be discovered unless they are discussed.* _____

(1. *false*, 2. *true*)

Sharing Christ and Christian Growth

Every Christian is a missionary. He has both a privilege and a responsibility to share the gospel with non-Christians in his community. His salvation becomes real and the joy of the Christian life is full when he is used by God to bring lost people to eternal life. Christ has left the treasures of the gospel in human hands and is depending on every believer to assume his responsibility in carrying the gospel to every creature.



Home Study Exercise

Basic assignment (Levels 1, 2, and 3). Answer the following questions based on the study guide content.

1. List three ways Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection delivered man from Satan's control. _____

2. What does it mean to believe in Christ? _____

3. What two emphases characterized evangelism in the early Church? _____

4. List six points of the evangelistic message of the apostles. _____

5. List the four emphases in the strategy of the early Church. _____

6. Name three requirements of pastors in developing evangelistic churches. _____

7. What are the four stages of a witness-training programme? _____

8. What should be accomplished in the preparation stage? _____

9. Name three daily requirements for preventing lethargy in witnessing. _____

10. Name two possible programmes for teaching new Christians. _____

11. Name three places where Christians may encounter those in need of faith. _____

12. When a witness is visiting in a home, what should be the emphasis of his conversation? _____

13. List three responsibilities of the members during an evangelistic campaign. _____

14. What are three common ways for discovering those in need of faith? _____

15. List three suggestions for those taking a census. _____

16. If one's salvation is a very personal matter, why should Christians talk with others about their relationship to Christ? _____

Supplementary assignment (Levels 2 and 3). Read pages 122-135 in *The Churchbook* by Dobbins and answer the following questions.

1. What plan did Jesus set forth for reaching the unreached, and where is it found in the New Testament?
2. What organization in the church is most effective in reaching non-Christians and why?
3. Name four different types of visitation.
4. What is the key approach in evangelistic outreach for a church?

Advanced assignment (Level 3). Read pages 135–138 in *The Churchbook* by Dobbins.

1. What is the primary purpose of a revival, and how does it differ from an evangelistic campaign?
2. List three steps in preparing for a revival.
3. Briefly outline a year's plan for emphasizing evangelism in a church. Include the training of lay members to witness and a week of special evangelistic services.

Seminar Discussion

1. Are revivals an effective means for evangelization?
2. What is required to make evangelism a perennial activity?
3. Why are churches not as evangelistic as they should be, and what can be done to solve the problem?
4. How important is an evangelistic emphasis of the gospel in comparison to a social emphasis?
5. Is there justification for the assertion that every Christian is responsible to witness? Be prepared to support your answer with Scriptures.
6. What is the greatest hindrance to involving every Christian in witnessing, and what can be done about it?