

☞ Why the Church?

Reach the Lost

Review Pictures of the Church

The Church is... we are... the Body of Christ; the Temple of God; the Family of God; the Bride of Christ; the Army of God

☞ Aware of the Enemy; Equipped for spiritual battle; Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Why does the Church exist? What does God have planned for us?

☞ Purpose of the Church; Matthew 28:18-20; Reach the Lost

God's heart is for lost people. If we are to be more Christlike and follow him, we must have a heart for the lost.

The Necessity of Evangelism

What is 750,000 miles long? It could wrap itself around the earth 30 times and it grows an additional 20 miles longer with each passing day? It is the line of people on earth who do not know Jesus....

--Rick Warren... "As long as there is one person in driving distance of our church who doesn't know the Lord, we want to grow. Nothing is more important than reaching people for the Lord, yet it is easy to be distracted from our purpose. We need to stay focused on reaching one more for Jesus. "

--Bill Hybels... "We have never looked eyes with someone that did not matter to God"

☞ God wants everyone saved.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

☞ Jesus is the only way.

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (cf. **John 14:6**)

At the end of every gospel, Jesus commissions his followers to spread the good news...

☞ 1. Go with Good News

Mark 16:15

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

☞ **Preach** = talk; to urge acceptance

We often call this witnessing for Christ.

☞ **Witness** = one who testifies to what he has seen or heard

---Dan Greene... Witnessing is not a spare-time occupation or a once-a-week activity. It must be a quality of life. You don't go witnessing, you are a witness.

☞ **A Christian is a living sermon.**

---Bill Fay... Often I hear my brothers and sisters say they want revival in which God moves and changes the hearts of individuals, families, communities, and nations. But I wonder: do we expect God to make the first move? If a farmer has broken no ground or sown no seeds, would he be justified in blaming God because he has no harvest? Revival will not come unless we sow the seeds of the good news of Jesus Christ.

John 20:21

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

☞ **2. Go here, there, and everywhere**

Acts 1:8

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

There are only two kinds of Christians in the world: 1) Those who talk about the lost. 2) Those who talk to the lost.

☞ **There are some who will never know Christ unless you introduce him to them.**

The tact needed for evangelism is con-tact.

Matthew 28:19

go and make disciples of all nations

All nations = ethnos – people groups; particularly non-believers

God did not call you to hide from the world. He called you to go into the world. We cannot make disciples at a distance.

If we're more concerned about the comforts of having our own needs met, then we've missed the point of our calling and of our salvation.

Some practical suggestions:

☞ **Realize that unsaved people are not the enemy. They are prisoners of the enemy.**

☞ **Pray regularly and by name for lost or unchurched people you personally know.**

Bill Fay suggests: Never ignore the coincidence of the people God has placed before you.

Acts 17:26-27

he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him,

---Bill Fay

- *Introduce yourself to your neighbors.*
- *Let them know you pray often. Ask if they have anything you could pray about on their behalf. Then, follow up later.*
- *Use your hobby, sports activity, health center, or club to build relationships.*
- *Organize a block party and have a barbeque.*
- ☞ **Do kind deeds** such as clear your neighbor's driveway in the winter.
- *When someone is suffering, listen, send a card of encouragement, take them a meal, etc.*

☞ **Bill Fay's Five "Share Jesus Questions"**

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs?
2. To you, who is Jesus Christ?
3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell?
4. If you died, where would you go? If heaven, why?
5. If what you are believing is not true, would you want to know?

☞ **Use the "You're Invited" cards.**

☞ **Personal Testimony**

John 9:25

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

- A. Before I was a Christian
- B. How I became a Christian
- C. Now that I am a Christian

Acts 26:5,13, 19, 22 (Paul's testimony to Agrippa)

I lived as a Pharisee... I saw a light from heaven... I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven... I have had God's help to this very day...

☞ **The Roman's Road to Salvation:**

1. Romans 3:23

all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. Romans 6:23a
the wages of sin is death,

3. Romans 6:23b
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. Romans 10:9-10
if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

☛ **You must be "Born Again" (or, John 3 evangelism)**

John 3:3
no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

☛ **The ABCs of Salvation:**

Admit you are a sinner in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ
Believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sins
Confess Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life.

☛ **The Salvation Poem:**

***Jesus You died upon a cross; And rose again to save the lost
Forgive me now of all my sin; Come be my Savior, Lord, and Friend
Change my life and make it new; And help me Lord to live for You***

Go where you've never gone before... next door.
Think of yourself as a missionary to Boone.

Conclusion

We are the Army of the Lord. "You don't judge an army by how many people come and sit in the mess hall. Instead, the impact of an army is based on how many trained soldiers are out in the field, protecting, defending, or fighting the enemy."

Aren't you glad somebody told you the good news?

Think about the impact of winning just one person can do...

Mr. Kimball, in 1858, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ.

The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879, he awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.

F. B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work.

Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach.

During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ.

Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of Mr. Kimball, who invested his life in the lives of others.

---Mark Connelly... I've seen some pretty lousy gospel presentations that people respond to. I've done it myself. There have been times when I've presented the gospel so poorly that I was boring myself, but the person responded in faith. There have been other times when I've answered every objection with pinpoint accuracy like a stealth bomber over Baghdad, and the person looks at me like I'm from Mars. Kingdom expansion really is a God thing, not a human thing. Just be faithful to tell people about Jesus and His Kingdom, then rest in the fact that God will take it from there....

Ready or not? Millions of Americans are conversions waiting to happen. Think about it. There are thousands of "pre-Christians" right here in our hometown. There are several dozen "pre-Christians" right in your neighborhood.

Begin now to strengthen some relationship you already have. Plan to invite that person to church for our Christmas program. It's a great opportunity since most think about church for Christmas anyway. So **be intentional**. Share your faith.

- ☞ • 10 little Christians, standing in a line, one disliked the preacher, then there were 9.
- ☞ • 9 little Christians stayed up very late, one slept in on Sunday, then there were 8.
- ☞ • 8 little Christians on their way to heaven, one took his own road, then there were 7.
- ☞ • 7 little Christians chirping like some chicks, one disliked the song leader, then there were 6.
- ☞ • 6 little Christians seemed very much alive, but one lost his interest then there were 5.
- ☞ • 5 little Christians pulling for heaven's shore, but one stopped to rest, then there were 4.
- ☞ • 4 little Christians, busy as a bee, one got her feelings hurt, then there were 3.
- ☞ • 3 little Christians knew not what to do, one couldn't forgive another, then there were 2.
- ☞ • 2 little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done, quarreled over petty stuff, then there was only 1.
- ☞ • 1 little Christian, can't do much 'tis true; brought his friend to Bible study– then there were 2.
- ☞ • 2 earnest Christians, each won one more, that doubled the number, then there were 4.
- ☞ • 4 sincere Christians worked early and worked late, each won another, then there were 8.
- ☞ • 8 splendid Christians, if they doubled as before, in just a few short weeks, we'd have **1,024**.