

TAKING IT PERSONAL (3)**Increasing Opportunities to Teach the Gospel An Approach That Works**

INTRODUCTION

- A. Review – Perspectives and Attitudes.
 Avoid “stinkin thinkin!” The wrong perspective produces negative attitudes and eventual failures. The right perspective maintains positive attitudes and eventual success! Remember:
- The providence of God is at work.
 - God opens doors for prepared workers.
 - Prayer is a “catalysts” in evangelism.
 - The power is in the seed (word).
 - The results depend on the type of soil.
 - The place of the sower.
 - The principle of sowing and reaping.
 - Quite often, one sows and another reaps.
 - Perseverance and Enthusiasm are keys to success in evangelism. Those who persist in sowing the seed eventually bear fruit.
- 1 CO 15:58.
- B. It is important to share the good news of salvation with other people!
 MK 16:15-16; RO 1:16-17. What is the most effective way to reach people today?
- C. The Survey Says!
- D. Survey Conclusions!

DISCUSSION

- I. WHAT IS NEEDED?
- A. Concern and knowledge are needed to utilize contacts made through members of the congregation.
1. MT 9:36-38.
 2. RO 9:1-3.
 3. RO 10:1.
- B. Assuming concern is present; three simple steps can increase our opportunities to teach the Gospel. These steps have proven to be fruitful at other places and confirm the survey results.
- II. STEP # 1 – CREATE A LOVING, EDIFYING CHURCH – THREE REASONS.
- A. To CONFIRM OUR CLAIM to be disciples.
1. JN 13:35.
 2. Correct doctrine, organization, worship, etc. are powerful when accompanied by our love shown for one another.
- B. OUR LOVE makes us useful to the Lord.
1. RE 3:7-8.
 2. The Lord knows His church and will make sure it is used to reach others. Assimilate them into the family and nurture spiritual growth.
- C. HOSPITALITY towards Christians prepares us for personal work.
1. 1 PE 4:8-9.
 2. Friendship evangelism appeals to relationship and lifestyle.
- D. BOTTOM LINE: If we are going to be fruitful in the long run, we must make sure that we provide the right kind of loving and caring spiritual environment in the local church!
 What are some other things we can do to ensure we create a loving and edifying church?

1. Get to know all the members and regular visitors by name. Get the church directory and place names with faces. Try to learn someone new at each service until you know them all.
 2. Practice hospitality toward the members and regular visitors. Invite people into your home or out to eat (1 family/month). Visit other Christians each week (I.e. sick, shut-ins, new members, absent, etc.).
 3. Contribute your time, service and resources to the church. Offer to help (I.e. teach, give, serve, etc.). Be at every service. Don't make others beg for your help.
- E. A loving, caring and edifying church will be used by the Lord to save others!
- II. STEP #2 – UTILIZE A PRAYER LIST.
- A. It is important because successful people in all walks of life have used a “things to do” list and it helps focus our attention on those we are trying to reach, and not neglect them.
- B. Guidelines for making a prayer list:
1. Start with those who are close to you and work outwardly. For instance, family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, relatives of church members, regular visitors and casual acquaintances.
 2. Limit the list to five or eight. Too many and you may lose focus.
 3. Give priority to the “unchurched.” Includes those not active in any denomination or religion. It is difficult to reach people who are satisfied with their human traditions.
 4. Husbands and wives should probably have one list. Joint participation is often required.
 5. Keep this list where you can see it daily.
- C. Pray for those on your list daily! We should work as though it all depends upon us, and pray as though it all depends upon God! 1 CO 3:5-7.
- D. We should pray for opportunities, wisdom, and boldness that those on our list will have the opportunity to hear the truth and have honest hearts to be open and receptive to the truth. CO 4:3-6; EP 6:18-20.
- III. STEP #3: INVITE THEM TO SERVICE.
- A. Why is this important?
1. It provides an opportunity to see a loving and caring congregation.
 2. It provides an opportunity to be presented with the gospel.
 3. If they continue to attend regularly then they will be likely to continue to attend after conversion.
- B. In inviting people to attend:
1. First spend time in prayer and ask for wisdom and boldness.
 2. People will be more likely to accept your invitations if they are “unchurched,” dissatisfied with where they are attending and if you have already demonstrated hospitality.
 3. Be persistent and invite them time and again. Your persistence will likely pay off.
- C. Why should we be Hospitable to visitors?
1. Their presence is an expression of interests and willingness to learn.
 2. By your love and acceptance, you are preparing the soil for the seed.
 3. The Lord is “opening a door” and we should take the opportunity.
- D. How do we show hospitality toward visitors?

1. Be friendly to all (I.e. invitees, walk-ins, etc.)
 2. Arrive early to services. Visitors are likely to arrive early and leave early.
 3. Give priority to visiting with our guests over visiting other brethren.
 4. Extend hospitality within your ability (I.e. greet them, welcome them, invite them to dinner/snack, call, write, visit, etc.)
- E. Make sure they are exposed to the gospel. Why? It is God's power to save (Ro. 1:16) and the seed must be sown.
- F. How can we present the gospel?
1. It should come after we have demonstrated love, hospitality, etc.
 2. If you feel confident, then suggest some sort of study (I.e. video tapes, charts, an open Bible, etc.). If they want to study on their own, then offer a Bible Correspondence course, point them to our website, etc.
 3. If you don't feel confident, then bring them to members who are willing to teach and help the person get to know the teacher.\
- G. Tools & Resources – What are some tools and resources we can use for teaching others?
1. Video Studies.
 2. Bible Correspondence.
 3. Tracts.
 4. Fishers Of Men.
- H. There are many different ways to communicate the gospel to others. Different options may need to be pursued depending on circumstances. Set up your own evangelism tool and resource kit to use.

CONCLUSION

- A. These suggestions are offered with a firm conviction that they will be carried out and with the hope that we will accept the challenge to implement these suggestions that our opportunities to share the gospel will be increase!
- B. REMEMBER THE THREE SIMPLE STEPS:
Create a loving and edifying church
Utilize a prayer list
Invite people to services
- C. This simple approach is not only successful in saving and keeping souls; it is one of the most natural and easiest ways to reach the lost for Christ.
- D. Even if we don't convert a single soul, we would have fulfilled our obligation to share Christ with others and we will have become better Christians, congregation, friends, neighbors and coworkers!
- E. Are you doing what you can to reach out to the lost?