

Free Word Ministries

*Bringing Together People, Resources
and Opportunities for Christ*

Other Available Resources

Street Evangelism Unleash the Power

How to start a successful street evangelism ministry and personally touch the lives of hundreds and even thousands with just a few minutes a day.

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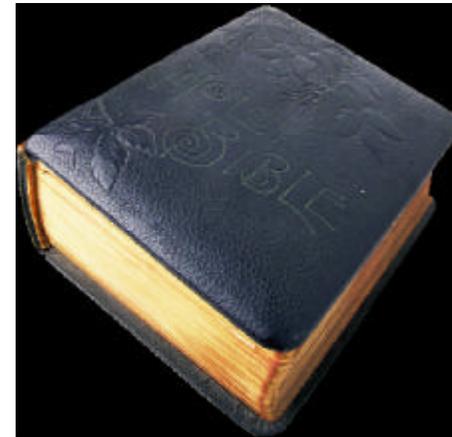
Tithing Is Not For Christians

Have you ever been made to feel that you were living below the “acceptable limit” of Christian giving? What does the Bible really say about tithing? Is it for today or has the law been fulfilled? This book traces the history of tithing from its’ origin with Abraham to its’ fulfillment in Christ. Get the Biblical knowledge that is necessary to live in the light of God’s grace and learn the truth about tithing.

“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

Evangelism Teams

*Effective Ways to Build,
Improve and Empower Your Ministry*



Free Word Ministries

**Additional copies of this booklet and other
resources are available from:**

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www.freeword.org

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Introduction

“You shall be my witnesses in Judea, Samaria and unto the utter most parts of the world” (Acts 1:8)

Whether your church has an evangelism team in place, or if you are looking to start one, you will find this resource booklet both informative and challenging. Let's assume that you are starting an evangelism team for the first time. How do you reach your community with the gospel? How do you educate, motivate and formulate the right plan. And, if you have a team in place already, motivating people, acquiring resources and recognizing opportunities for evangelism can be a constant challenge.

To help you, this booklet will focus on three main areas for developing your church members into a witnessing team. In addition, I will discuss some of the many resources that God has already provided for you free of charge. These three areas that you should concentrate on when preparing your church members to reach others for Christ are: personal growth, personal equipment and personal involvement. I use the term personal rather than spiritual when speaking about these three areas because each one of us is commanded by Christ to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...” (Matt. 28:19). It is our personal responsibility to fulfill Christ's commands, which is a result of our spiritual growth, commitment and calling to Christ.

Many people may not be ready to share the gospel with others and go outside the church (embassy) in order to fulfill their God given role as an Ambassador for Christ. Unfortunately, this is more of a reflection on the state of the church as a whole rather than on the individual. Churches today are simply not equipping their members to do the work of an evangelist. I

spoke with one Pastor of a very large church and he shared with me that his people wouldn't be ready for at least a year before they could begin reaching their community in any organized fashion. This attitude was also reflected in another Christian that I spoke with who believed that a person must be extensively trained before going out and publicly sharing the gospel. As you will see, being ready to share the gospel does not require extensive and prolonged training, but a willing heart and a little help to get you started. So, let's get started in building a Christ serving, world changing evangelism team.

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The Roman Road

The following verses will help you realize some basic Biblical truths when ministering to others:

Romans 3:10 "There is none righteous, not even one..."

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all have sinned."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 10:9,10 "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Romans 10:13 "For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

“Study to show thyself approved a workman who needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Be Encouraged

Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Lo I am with you always even until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19)

Right from the start, believers must realize that it is our responsibility and privilege to proclaim the gospel. And since you obviously are aware of this fact and the lost condition of many people, let me first encourage and strengthen you with these words from fellow laborers in the harvest and remind you that eternal rewards are waiting for you:

He that winneth souls is wise (Prov. 11:30).

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach... (Isa. 61:1).

I must go to the next town also, for thus I came..(Jesus)

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John the Baptist)

I make it my aim to preach the gospel...(Apostle Paul)

By all means that I may save some (Paul - 1 Cor. 9:22).

Recently, a believer contacted me and asked me what she was doing wrong? Nobody in her church seemed to care about evangelism and she was beginning to blame herself for their lack of interest. I reminded her that when Jesus said that the laborers were few, he meant it! However, we should never let the attitude of others dictate our faithfulness to Christ. For then we would be men pleasers and not Christ's servants. If we allow others to discourage us, mock us, ignore us and the like, we then are counting them more important than Christ himself. Think

about it. What do you care what people think about you? Don't you want to hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant?" Of course you do and you will if you follow Christ and not the desires of others. Remember, we shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ so that he may render to every man according to our works. The last thing we want is for our works to be burned up and be counted as nothing before him. So, never let your service to Christ be restrained by the thoughts of others.

Remember there are great rewards waiting for you:

- ? For if I do this willingly, I have a reward..." (1 Cor. 9:17).
- ? "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his labor" (1 Cor. 3:11).
- ? "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" (Dan. 12:3).
- ? "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:19).
- ? "And behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with me, to give to every man according to his work" (Rev. 22:12).

You are not alone in this great battle. God is with his servants and will do great things in your life as you minister in his name. He will not let you flounder, but will strength and empower you to affect the lives of thousands for all of eternity.

So, be encouraged and let's get started...

Conclusion

It has been my privilege to share with you some ways in which you can start and/or improve your church's evangelism team. I hope that you have found this material helpful. To learn more about Free Word Ministries, simply visit our website at www.freeword.org and we will be glad to help you in anyway that we can.

Remember the three areas that we have covered: Personal growth, personal equipment and personal involvement. The Bible encourages us to, "Commit these things to faithful men who are able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

Remember, this is the only time that we will have to live by sightless faith! For when Christ returns we shall see him as he is. (1 John 32). And Jesus said, "Blessed are they who believed and have not seen" (John 20:29).

If you can help us supply scripture to you and others, your help would be appreciated. Remember all contribution directed to the Free Word Ministries Perpetual Scripture Fund are tax deductible and the interest will only be used to help purchase scripture year after year.

Please contact us and let us know what the Lord is doing through your ministry.

Free Word Ministries also offers free seminars on various evangelism topics. Simply contact us and let us know how we may help you.

Thank you and may the Lord bless you.

The Planning Stages

*What are some responsibilities concerning the Gospel?
(Matt. 28:19, Luke 8:21, Mark 13:33-37)*

1. Strive together for the faith (Phil. 1:27)
2. Share in the sufferings and be not ashamed (2 Tim 1 :8)
3. Become a fellow worker (Phil 4:3; 1 Thes. 3:2)
4. Contend for the faith (Jude 3)
5. Preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:1-5)
6. Be a gatherer not one who scatters (Matt. 12:30)
7. Go into all the world and preach (Mark 16:15)

Motivations to proclaim the Gospel.

It is...

- ? *a divine command*
- ? *a royal privilege*
- ? *an act of love and compassion*
- ? *the only message of hope*
- ? *an opportunity to glorify our savior!*

Time

Right from the start there are people that God has prepared and called to be in this type of ministry. So, be encouraged. I will proceed as if you are the leader of your church's evangelism team. Let's begin with the amount of time needed, resources, and outreaches that are required and available to get things started.

Some evangelism teams choose to meet daily, weekly or monthly for planning, fellowship and outreach. That will be up to your group to determine. A particular day of the week may work better for you and your team. For example, many weekly outreaches take place on weekends or on Wednesday evenings when churches come together. Even the time of day is an important consideration and can either work for you or against you. For instance, I have found that participating in street ministry during my lunch hour works best for me and allows me to go to a number of places where a large number of people congregate. Other teams choose to meet every Friday or Saturday evening, where the weekend nightlife gathers. Other teams meet on Sundays before or after church. The choice will be yours to determine what works best. The main thing is to have a plan in place and get started. You can always modify it as you go.

Consistency is of great importance. Developing a schedule and informing others of the times you meet will help encourage other believers to join you. It also benefits the people that frequent the area you evangelize. For example, if you have a lunchtime ministry in the park or at a bus stop, those who are there regularly begin to know you and expect you to be there as usual. They will feel more comfortable in approaching you with

questions they may have and feel they know you better by the consistently pleasant way you perform your ministry. Now let's move on to the next important aspect, which is literature...

As we wrestle with the obstacles mentioned above, the Lord Jesus Christ will set us free to be effective witnesses for him. Begin moving down the narrow path and those obstacles will be overcome and fall by the wayside, if you continue following Christ in reaching others for him. As we let go of these burdens our hearts will be freer and more determined to follow after Christ. Like the Apostle Paul said, "Not that I have already attain this, but I press on towards the prize of the high calling in Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:13,14). So keep pressing on and sowing that seed.

Overcoming the Obstacles

- What shall we do to overcome these obstacles? (2 Tim. 1:7)
- Praying always for boldness (Acts 4:29-31; Eph. 6:19)
- Put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17)
- Fear not him who can kill the body (Matt. 10:28)
- Fear Him who can kill both body and soul in Hell (Matt. 10:28)
- Know that you have been appointed by Christ (John 15:16)
- Know that you are an ambassador for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20)
- Know that God's Word will bear fruit (Isa. 55:11)
- Keep Christ's commandments (John 14:21)
- Love the Lord and our neighbor (Matt. 5:43)

simple as just that, reading the scripture. You don't have to expound on them, just let the word do the work.

Not Enough Money To Purchase Literature – The good news is that God has already provided literature for you to reach others for Christ. I have identified three sources of free scripture in this booklet alone. And, keep in mind that the early church did not have vast amounts of funds to preach the gospel, just their voices. We are in a far better position than they when it comes to the availability of printed scripture.

Cares Of This World – As stated in the parable of the Sower, the cares of this world can weigh heavy on people, believers or not. Here is where wisdom and determination comes in: Wisdom to realize the need to evangelize and determination to accomplish the will of the Father. We realize these characteristics in Jesus when he says that he has come to seek and to save that which is lost and “His will was to do the will of the Father and accomplish it”.

The Delight In Riches - Certainly, we would be well advised to heed Jesus' command to “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these other things would be added to us as well” (Matthew 6:33). Christ made it quite clear that we cannot serve God and mammon (money). In fact, one of the characteristics of the last days are that men would be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. The delight in riches and the pursuit thereof have deceived many people into believing that they are accepted in God's sight, because they have been blessed financially. They will compare themselves with wealthy believers in the Bible, but really that comparison may unfortunately stop there. Both may be rich in the world, but not everyone has faith. We are commanded to delight ourselves in the things of the Lord rather than the things of this world. And when we do this, God will use us to reach the lost for Christ.

Literature

The availability of literature can also be a factor. Most people find sharing the gospel with others much easier when they have something to give an individual to read and take home with them. If literature is limited then outreach can be limited as well, but it shouldn't have to be.

Where do you find good and inexpensive literature? God has raised up several wonderful ministries to help you spread the gospel. These ministries provide literature and training material at no cost and I highly recommend that your church support such ministries. They are making it possible for Christians to do the work of ministry and win the lost to Christ.

These ministries are Absolutely Free, Inc., World Missionary Press, Inc., The Gideons International, The Pocket Testament League and Free Word Ministries.

Absolutelty Free, Inc. is a wonderful ministry based in Glide Oregon that has supplied millions of copies of the Living Water Gospel of John at no cost to others around the world. These gospels are produced in six different languages and you can get samples for yourself by requesting these from there website at: www.livingwater.org or from Free Word Ministries.

World Missionary Press, Inc. is another wonderful ministry that supplies scripture booklets to the Body of Christ on various topics such as: How to Know God, The Amazing Life of Jesus Christ, The Power of God, and more. These booklets are available in 300 languages and can be ordered from their website at: www.wmpress.org. These are great for missionary trips.

The Pocket Testament League, Inc. is a great ministry that is committed to equipping others to help spread the gospel. Membership is free and they will supply each member with 50 gospels per month to help them in their personal ministries. You can learn more about them from their website at: www.readcarryshare.org.

Free Word Ministries, Inc. is another ministry that believes in making the gospel available at no cost and we work with the above ministries to help make the gospel free of charge. We work to establish Evangelism Resource Warehouses in each city and provide training material and other resources at no cost. You can learn more about our ministry from our website at: www.freeword.org.

The Gideons International, Inc. is another great ministry that the Lord has used to provide millions of Bibles around the world in the main through ways of life. Hotels, motels, hospitals, schools, the military and more have been the areas of distribution for more than 100 years. Scripture is only available however to be distributed by members of the Gideons in their prescribed fashions. You can learn more about the Gideons from their website at: www.gideons.org.

Lack of knowledge - This is a valid obstacle that can easily be overcome. In fact that is the reason for this and other booklets that we publish free of charge. Many churches unfortunately are not doing a good job of educating their people about their role as an ambassador. Seldom do you see the most qualified people in our churches preaching on the streets. The sermon is reserved for mostly Sundays with the hope that people will come to us, rather than we going to them.

Lack Of Mentors - Unfortunately, it's not that the entire church body is filled with new believers and simply has little knowledge of the gospel. The church is unwilling to be vulnerable and available. To use the old phrase, "We don't want to go outside our comfort zones." So, if you are a Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Bishop, etc., be the first to lead by example in this respect, not the last. Sorry, strong words, but necessary to help us all get our priorities straight.

Not Enough Time In The Day - This is a common reason (excuse) we all like to use. I've used it myself and have to train myself in getting control of the time that God has given me. We are commanded to, "Redeem (make the most of) the time, for the days are evil and the time is coming when men will not endure sound doctrine". I had to ask myself a couple of questions. First, do I really need another sandwich or should I seek the food that Jesus ate. His food was to do the will of the Father. Next, is there anything more important than the salvation of others? No. So our excuses fall pretty short in comparison. Remember, I am being hard on myself as well. Like Paul said, "I don't beat the (empty) air, but bring my body under subjection".

Poor Speaking Ability – This excuse was used before by our brother Moses. It didn't do him any good either. And, God will not let you just flounder without you learning about speaking more effectively the next time. Reading the scriptures can be as

Here is a list of things that maybe stopping you and your team from moving forward:

1. Fear of rejection and persecution
2. Tradition and culture
3. Lack of knowledge
4. Lack of mentors
5. Not enough time in the day
6. Poor speaking ability
7. Not enough money to purchase literature
8. Cares of this world
9. The delight in riches

Now, let's examine each one of these in order:

Fear Of Rejection - Fear immobilizes us. We allow the roaring lion (the devil) to freeze us in our tracks. We are afraid of being rejected by our family, friends, community and culture. Unfortunately rejection is part of being a Christian. The fact is that Jesus was rejected by his own people (John 1:12). Christ said, "I came not to bring peace, but a sword. For a man's foes will be those of his own household..."). And, "a servant is not above his teacher. If they rejected me, they will reject you" There is nothing you can do to change that fact. Being silent about Christ is far worse than being rejected by people. Jesus said, "He who is ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of". So, let's just accept that rejection comes with the calling and they really are rejecting God, not you.

Tradition And Culture - These are the influences of the past and present. But, they don't have to influence your future. Just because we weren't raised a certain way or the current religious, political or civil atmosphere is against Christ doesn't mean we have to go along with it. Remember, martyrs have a crown waiting for them and very few Christians are martyrs these days in western societies anyway.

A Plan

Now that you know where to get free literature from, let's examine the various ways and areas of outreach that are available to choose from:

Free Word Ministries provides free training booklets on a variety of outreach formats such as: Street Evangelism, Door to Door Evangelism, Witnessing at Work, This Great Battle and more. In addition our website details many other ways such as ministering in airports, parades, public parks, etc. And tells you how you can reach whole cities and the world with the gospel..

Let me suggest that you download the free copies of literature from our website that suits your outreach preference. Once you have read the material and have all the necessary items in place, you will be ready to go!

Let's assume that your new or existing team is having troubles getting started. Don't be discouraged. Here's where the three point personal plan comes into play! And depending on the spiritual growth rate of those around you it may take a little time to build the team. But that's OK; work the plan and the plan will work. Remember personal growth, personal equipment and personal involvement will be the keys to a growing evangelism team.

Personal Involvement

Personal application in reaching others for Christ is essential to daily living. Having a mind towards the lost is reflective of the mind of Christ. Jesus said, “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). The Bible refers to us as ambassadors for Christ. But, have you ever heard of an ambassador that wouldn’t leave the embassy. You have to leave the embassy and make yourself available to Christ and to others. Otherwise, you are not fulfilling your role as an ambassador for Christ.

The hardest job of the evangelism team leader is to motivate people to go from point A to point B. It requires more effort to get a rock moving than it does to keep it moving. So, I know what you are going through and what’s ahead. But, fear not and do not be discouraged. You are involved in the greatest battle known to man, the battle for lost souls. To help motivate and encourage yourself and your team, download our free booklets and begin to put them into practice. You have my personal commitment to help you and your church get started in winning others to Christ. Please feel free to contact me.

Throughout this booklet I have given you suggestions and the necessary information to help you spread the gospel to literally millions of people throughout your life and it only takes a few minutes each day. So, salvation is free. The resources are free. And God is with you. What more do we need?

Well, we need to concentrate on getting control of our time, talents and treasures and align our lives with the priorities that are outlined for us in God’s word. As you know, seeking God’s kingdom first is essential and our first priority (Matthew 6:33). It begins with an examination of ourselves as the Bible says, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves” (2 Cor. 13:5).

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Personal Growth

The first aspect of developing an effective team consists of helping your overall church members and evangelism team members grow spiritually. Obviously your evangelism team will consist of members from your congregation and Christian acquaintances. Therefore, if your members fail to have an eternal perspective on life, you will find it nearly impossible to rally them into action. So, realizing what God's eternal perspective is and encouraging other believers in reaching the lost for Christ is paramount.

There are several things you can do to help other believers grow spiritually. Here is a brief list of things your group should discuss and focus on as part of your ongoing evangelism training:

1. The Gospel - What it is and is not.
2. The type of outreaches you will hold and the goals and specifics.
3. The doctrines of other faiths (cults).
4. Scripture memorization course.

First the believers should have a thorough knowledge and understanding of what the gospel is and how to present it. This may sound funny, since you would think people who are saved would know what the gospel is. However, sometimes believers may differ on God's plan of salvation. So, I would recommend that your team members all agree and become familiar with the Roman Road salvation scriptures. I have included these in the back of this booklet for you.

Next, you should discuss the different ways your team can reach others with the gospel. For example, street evangelism, door to door evangelism, work place evangelism, event oriented outreaches, etc. This will allow everyone to be better prepared for each outreach. And our website can help provide you with-

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many different ways of sharing the gospel (www.freeword.org).

It is also important to know what people of other faiths believe. Since you are making yourself available to the public, people of other faiths will try to influence you toward their way of thinking. Which in many cases is a false gospel. You should at least have a basic understanding of what they believe so that you can help them come to know the truth concerning Christ and God's plan of salvation.

Free Word Ministries can help prepare you for these other beliefs through our free video library. We carry excellent training videos on various other belief systems, such as Mormonism, Islam, Jehovah Witnesses, Catholicism, Creation theories and more. Simply contact our ministry and reserve your video.

Another important tool to foster growth is scripture memorization. World Missionary Press, Inc. supplies a free scripture memorization course; which will help your church grow in the Lord. I would encourage you to place a display rack in your church and offer this memory course to your members free of charge. Simply visit their website and place an order. Believers are encouraged to carry this course with them or in their car, place of work; anywhere they have time to practice memorization.

Personal Equipment

The Bible compares the believer to a soldier, ambassador, farmer, athlete and other occupations that require tools, resources to perform their task. Personal equipment such as Bibles, gospels, scripture booklets and tracts are essential equipment, when it comes to making disciples. It's amazing how few Christians actually carry scripture on them to help lead others to Christ. In fact, it's down right shameful, the apathy concerning the lost that is present in our churches today is embarrassing. The Apostle Paul states, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Discipleship cannot happen apart from the word of God and people cannot believe in Christ if they don't know anything about him. We are without excuse, fellow Christians, if we do not carry scriptures on us and help people to know Christ. Carrying scripture at all times is basic. We cannot and should not expect to hear from the Lord, "Well done thou good and faithful servant", if we are failing in this respect. I know this sounds like I'm being harsh, but lives and rewards are hanging in the balance for all of eternity.

So, to help yourself and others carry scripture with you at all times here are a few helpful suggestions:

1. Order some literature from the organizations already mentioned before or from any other Christian source.
2. Make these resources available to your congregation through the use of display racks, etc.
3. Have some scripture at your home, work, in your car and with you at all times.

The bottom line is "Carry it in your heart, in your hands and on your lips".