

FORMING A COMMITTEE FOR EVANGELISM

In this lesson, it was suggested that you form a committee for evangelism or a "World Christian" group in your church. Evangelism should not be just another department or committee of the church. It should be the focus of the church. The reason for establishing such a committee is to guide the fellowship in accomplishing its purpose as "The Church In The World" (see Lesson Six). Here is how you can establish such a committee:

START WITH THE PASTOR:

Meet first with your pastor and share your desire to start the committee. Share with him your vision and what you have learned in this course. Perhaps he will delegate you to head such a committee or assign someone to work with you in organizing it. It is important that you gain the pastor's permission and involvement if the committee is to be successful.

ANALYZE THE PRESENT PROGRAM:

What is the present status of evangelism or missions in your church? Consider the following:

-Policy:

Does your church have a written policy on evangelism or missions? If so, is it adequate and does it really reflect what the church is doing?

-Prayer:

How often does your church pray together for requests related to missions and evangelism? Has your church prayed into service any workers as instructed in Matthew 9:38?

-Conferences:

Did your church have an evangelism or mission's conference during the past year?

-Training:

Does your church offer instruction on the Biblical world view which focuses on the need for evangelism and the

current status of the spread of the Gospel? Is there a program of missions' education for every age group and each department of the church?

-Involvement:

In the past, what evangelistic and missions programs did your church participate in?

What have you done at a local, national, and international level?

Which programs were successful?

Why? Which ones failed? Why?

Analyze what programs your church is presently participating in at a local, national, and international level.

Which ones are successful? Why?

Which ones are not successful?

Why?

How are the various departments of the church involved in missions? For example, the youth, men's group, women's group, etc. How are individual families involved in missions?

-Support:

What missionaries does your church presently support? Where are they located? What level of support are you providing?

-Budget:

Determine what percentage of your present church budget [offerings received] goes to missions or evangelism. To do this, fill in the following blanks:

The total offerings received by our church last year was \$_____

Of this amount, we gave \$_____ to missions and evangelism.

This means that _____% of our church budget went to missions and evangelism last year.

-Resources:

Resources include people, finances, equipment, and facilities. How are the resources of your church currently being used in behalf of missions and evangelism?

EDUCATE THE CONGREGATION:

Offer a class on "*Developing a Biblical World View*" using this manual as your study guide.

During the class, share what you have learned about the present status of missions and evangelism in your church. From those who take the class, select key men and women who

grasp the Biblical world view. These people should be excited about evangelism and willing to become vitally and actively involved.

CONDUCT AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

Conduct a special meeting to organize the evangelism committee.

Responsibilities:

Here are some suggested responsibilities of the evangelism committee. The committee should:

-Set an example to the church through personal mission involvement, giving, and prayer.

-Coordinate the prayer of the congregation in behalf of missions and evangelism.

-Establish local, national, and international goals for missions and evangelism.

-Determine how church resources can most effectively be used for missions and evangelism.

-Communicate regarding missions and evangelism to the church.

-Prepare an annual budget for missions, showing what amount will be raised and how it will be used.

-Prepare an annual calendar of church events relating to missions and evangelism.

-Plan, promote, and conduct ongoing training in missions and evangelism.

-Plan, promote, and conduct an annual mission's conference.

-Coordinate the missions and evangelism program for all departments of the church.

-Encourage support of missionaries through prayer, giving, personal involvement, and projects. The committee should also initiate ideas in these areas.

-Keep current on developments in evangelism and missions throughout the world.

-Investigate and recommend mission and evangelism projects worthy of church support.

-Investigate and recommend to the church missionaries and organizations qualifying for support.

-Maintain regular contact with every missionary, mission's agency, and mission project supported by the church.

Organization:

Here are some suggestions regarding organization of the committee:

-Pastor:

The pastor has authority to guide the committee because he is the head of the church.

-Director:

Leads the meetings, and organizes and implements activities under the direction of the pastor. He also guides other committee members in fulfilling their responsibilities.

-Secretary:

Maintains records of committee meetings, the missions calendar, and handles correspondence. Also maintains a file on each missionary or project in which the church is engaged.

-Fund-raising Chairman:

Directs fund-raising for missions and evangelism.

-Treasurer:

Prepares and administers the budget for missions and evangelism. Issues funds to missionaries and projects approved by the committee.

-Prayer Chairman:

Keeps aware of prayer needs concerning missions and evangelism and makes both the committee and church members aware of needs and answers to prayer.

-Publicity Chairman:

Prepares publicity for missions and evangelism events including items for the newspaper, radio, television, posters, flyers, church bulletins, and a missions bulletin board.

-Training Chairman:

Develops programs of ongoing training to keep the congregation educated on missions and evangelism. A program should be developed for each age group and department in the church. Obtains literature, booklets, tracts and other education materials on missions and evangelism as funds and accessibility permit for the church

library and/or audio visual department.

-Conference Chairman:

Plans, promotes, and directs the annual missions conference.

-Chairman Of Local Missions:

Coordinates local outreaches which might include jail, hospital, door to door, street and school ministries, visitation, follow up of new converts and visitors to the church, and specialized ministries such as ministries to drug addicts, unwed mothers, alcoholics, etc. Investigates and recommends projects worthy of support.

-Chairman Of National Missions:

Coordinates events relating to national evangelism and missions. Investigates and recommends individuals and projects worthy of support.

-Chairman Of Foreign Missions:

Coordinates activities relating to foreign evangelism and missions. Investigates and recommends individuals and projects worthy of support.

-Chairman Of Recruitment:

Enlists and directs volunteers for mission and evangelism service.

-Representatives From Church Departments:

Representatives from different church departments that might serve on the committee include women's and men's ministries, the youth department, and the director of the Sunday School.

CONDUCT PLANNING MEETINGS:

The evangelism committee should meet on a regular basis to make new plans for evangelism and missions. From your prayer and discussions together, set new objectives for spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom. An objective is a goal. Setting goals will help you achieve your purposes locally, nationally, and internationally.

Set new objectives for:

-Policy:

If your church has a written policy on missions and evangelism, review it to see if it is adequate. If your church does not have a written policy on evangelism or missions, write one. A missions policy should state the purpose and objectives of your program of missions and evangelism.

-Prayer:

Begin to pray together as a committee for missions. Present prayer requests concerning missions and evangelism for which the church can pray together.

-Conferences:

Plan a missions conference. Set up information booths in the church concerning various nations and missions agencies. The conference could include speakers on the subjects of missions and evangelism, missionaries the church supports, and related films, slides, and videos.

Advertise the missions conference in the local newspaper and through radio and television if possible and funds permit. Use banners, flags, and posters. Announce the conference from the pulpit during services and in the weekly bulletin if your church issues one.

-Training:

Offer classes or Bible studies to develop the Biblical world view. Focus these sessions on the need for evangelism and the current status of the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. Use this course as a study guide.

Plan a year-round emphasis on missions and evangelism. Perhaps you can focus on a different missionary, nation, or missionary organization each month.

Start a library of books, periodicals, and audio-visual materials that will educate church members regarding missions and evangelism.

-Involvement:

Review what you learned about the past and present involvement of your church in behalf of the spread of the Gospel. Begin to pray and plan what you will do in the future locally, nationally, and internationally.

What programs were successful in the past? You may feel led to repeat them.

What present programs are successful? What new programs of evangelism and missions can you institute? What failures have you experienced in the past and how can you avoid these in the future?

Involve every department and every age group in missions and evangelism. One way you can do this is to have a representative from each department attend the meetings of the evangelism committee. This

representative can then communicate the vision and plans back to their departments.

Increase the involvement of individual families in your church by the following methods:

- * Have each family post a map in their home and mark on it the location of missionaries for whom they pray and provide support.

- * Let families entertain missionaries, international students, and foreign guests in their home.

- * Provide lodging or transportation for missionaries on furlough or children of missionaries in need of temporary care.

- * Exhibit in the home plaques, signs, and posters that promote missions.

- * Develop a home library of missionary books and magazines.

- * Keep a special jar or bank for missions offerings in which family members can drop daily contributions.

- * Give an address list of missionaries to each family and encourage them to

correspond with the missionaries supported by your church.

- * A family trip to a mission field during vacation can be arranged through responsible mission agencies.

- * Parents can encourage their children to become involved in local evangelism and mission efforts.

- * Missions and evangelism can be stressed during family worship.

-Support:

Increase the number of missionaries which your church supports and/or increase the level of your support. Consider sending out cross-cultural mission teams from your own church on short term missions.

-Budget:

Make plans to increase the percentage of the budget that goes to missions and evangelism.

For example, use the following chart to challenge members of the church:

If each member gave _____ a day for missions, we would give (membership _____ x 365 days times amount given by each daily____) a total of _____ a year.

For example, in the United States if each member of a church of 200 gave 10 cents a day for a year, the church would have a total of an extra \$7,300.00 for missions.

Examine your current budget. What areas might be trimmed to allow more funds to be channeled to missions and evangelism? Determine the percentage of funds to go to local, national, and foreign missions.

-Resources:

Reorganize the resources of your church to emphasize missions and evangelism.

Resources include people, finances, equipment, and facilities. Determine how you can best use your resources to achieve your plans for evangelism.

CONDUCT REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:

Here is a sample agenda for conducting regular meetings of the evangelism committee:

1. Opening prayer and Scripture reading.

2. Reading of notes from first meeting [by secretary].

3. Financial report.

4. Presentation of regional reports:

-Report from local missions chairman.

-Report from national missions chairman.

-Report from foreign missions chairman.

5. Special reports:

-Fund raising.

-Annual missions conference.

-Training.

-Reports from various church departments relating to missions and evangelism.

6. Miscellaneous business:

-Any items not falling under categories listed above.

7. Closing remarks by pastor.

8. Time of prayer and intercession for missions and evangelism led by prayer chairman.

COMMUNICATE TO THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY:

Communicate vision, goals, plans, and activities to the church and community through:

- The media: Radio, television, and newspaper announcements.
- Signs and posters: Outside and inside the church and posted throughout the community.
- Flags and banners of various nations.
- Books and audio-visual materials in the church library.
- Literature such as flyers, brochures, posters, and booklets.
- Weekly church bulletins including news items on missions and evangelism.
- Newsletters and special letters sent to church members.
- Bulletin boards featuring pictures and letters about church sponsored activities of missions and evangelism,

announcements of meetings, mission slogans, and goals.

-Announcements from the pulpit during regular services.

-A missionary directory with the name, address and photograph of the missionary family, a list of members of the family, ages and birth dates, information on the place of service, and a brief description of the type of ministry in which the missionary is involved.

-Maps, both of the world and various nations in which the church is engaged in missions and evangelism.

WORLD CHRISTIAN BIBLE STUDIES

"World Christian" Bible studies will help you keep the Biblical world view central to your life and ministry. They will also help you share the vision with others. Here are some suggestions on how to develop such studies:

VERSE STUDIES:

Use lessons 4, 5, and 6 of this course for specific references to the subject of a Biblical world view and the world in the Word. In your own personal

study of the Word, look for these key words in verses which will reflect God's global purpose: nations-Gentiles-heathen-the peoples-world-country-ends of the earth

As you study each Bible passage, ask these questions:

-What does the passage reveal about God's concern for the nations of the world?

-What does the passage reveal about the world?

-What does the passage reveal about God's interaction with men of all nations?

-What is God's message to the world as revealed in this passage?

-What does this passage reveal about God's purpose for the world, Israel, the church, or the individual believer?

-What key words in this passage focus on the world. For example, the word "world" in John 3:16 is an example of such a key word. God's love was focused specifically on the world. This is why he sent Jesus to die for the sins of all mankind.

-Does this passage call for a specific response from believers in relation to

reaching the world with the Gospel? What actions are we called upon to take?

CHARACTER STUDIES:

Study key Biblical characters in light of their role in God's plan for the world. As you study the life of a Bible personality, ask these questions:

-What specific tasks did God appoint the individual?

-How would these tasks help achieve God's purposes for the world?

-What were the personal characteristics which contributed to or prevented fulfillment of their role as a messenger of God?

-How did the person succeed in the tasks God appointed them?

-What caused them to succeed?

-How did they fail? What caused their failure? How could these failures have been prevented?

-What can you learn from their experiences which will help you fulfill your own role in God's plan?

BOOK STUDIES:

Study an entire book of the Bible with the Biblical world view in mind. As you have seen in this course, each book of the Bible expresses truths about God's plan for the nations of the world. As you study a specific book, ask yourself these questions:

-What is the purpose of this book in light of God's global cause? How do the events recorded in this book relate to His plan and purposes?

-Who were the main characters in this book? Do a character study on them in relation to their part in God's plan. (Use the instructions previously given for "Character Studies.")

-What are the specific verses in this book which speak of the world and God's plans and purposes? (Use the instructions given previously for "Verse Studies.")

-What challenge does this book present to you personally in terms of God's global purpose? How will you actively respond to what you have learned in this book?