



Charity Christian Missions

Newsletter

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This Issue Featuring Articles on...

M i s s i o n s a t H o m e



“They need Jesus just as much as you and I do. **God has no less value on their souls than on yours and mine.**” ■ *See page 5*

“There are so many needs amongst these children. One of our prayers is that we can grow with these children and give them a choice.” ■ *See page 3*





Charity Christian Missions

"For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles;for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 1:11

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Dear Supporters,

We thank God for all of your interest and support, in finances, letters of encouragement, and prayers.

We as a mission operate by faith in the Lord of the Harvest. We believe that HIS work done HIS way will not lack in HIS blessing. All of the missionaries are fully supported by Charity Christian Missions. We do not ask them to raise a certain amount of funds before sending them to the field. We simply send them by faith and trust God to meet the financial needs.

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Called to the Children

by Jeff Barker

Tuesday Evening

It is time once again to lay down the implements of the day, be it a hammer, pencil, dish towel, computer keyboard, feed scoop, scrub brush, garden rake, vacuum cleaner, or whatever we have. It is time to put away all our previous thoughts of sewing, gardening, selling, assembling, cleaning, teaching, etc. It is time to “put on the shelf” our loved ones, plans for tomorrow, upcoming activities, the past, and the future. We only have the present and we will need to be focused, very focused. The land for which the Lord has called us to minister His grace and truth is spiritually dark and foreboding. The people group to which we are called are cold and hardened to the gospel. Not only that, but they are somewhat of a forgotten people, left to themselves generation after generation to live by their own means. Genesis 6:5 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” I’ve

been told on several occasions by well-meaning people that the mission field we go to is not for them. They like to go to a people group who are ripe and ready to harvest. I say “amen” to that! But what do we do with this pull on our hearts to our group? What do we do with this calling? I am also reminded that it took my brother three years of witnessing to me of the love and truth of Jesus Christ. How he endured the years of my mocking and scorning. I thank the Lord he did not give up on me.

Our evening starts with spir-

itual encouragement by our leaders. This is very good in helping us with our focus. I very much appreciate these short devotionals relating to what is yet to be. Then the prayer requests are laid out before us; it is time to talk to God. This is very special, for only He knows what is ahead of us. Our prayer circle is made up mostly of young dedicated missionaries. Their zeal and youthfulness give me strength. I love them and often pray that the Lord would keep their minds and hearts pure and watch out for their safety. We lay our petitions, needs, and weaknesses at His feet. About this time my mind often turns to the angels, both light and dark. Psalms 91:11 “For he shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” Matthew 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, ‘Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” I some-



times envision spiritual battles that the human eye cannot see. I know they are real, and I believe they greatly affect how we minister.

As we enter the battlefield with our vehicles designed specifically for the proposed task, their native music, in a strange tongue, can be heard throughout their living quarters. It is loud and overpowering. The local garb of their land borders on nakedness. Biblically it is nakedness. There is a sensuality in the air, "Lord, keep us strong, focused, determined." Their streets are cluttered with garbage; their dwelling places are in disrepair. Towels replace curtains in some homes; roaches climb the walls in others.

God has called us to the younger-aged people of this group. We are to pick up the sons and daughters of this sin-laden people and bring them to our "class rooms." They are wild, rude, loud, unkempt, undisciplined, and unloved. They are miniature copies of their parents and environment.

Some are abused, some troubled, some seem to be possessed by the devil himself. Just this past week I was working with a young male of 11 or 12. I sat next to him, put him on my lap, and gently warned him that if he was to move from

his seat he would not be able to come back for two weeks. He stared at me as though he was looking right through me and said, "If you put me off, I'll stab myself! I'll light myself on fire! I'll hurt myself!" Then he proceeded to thrash about, at times repeatedly beating his head against the seat in front of him and laughing a hideous satanic laugh. As he laughed he held his hands straight up, fingers spread apart, eyes bulging out. I was praying silently trying to mentally, physically, and spiritually handle this situation.

Not all is negative. I've witnessed much love coming out of these young people. Many hugs flow from missionary to child and child to missionary. One of my greatest joys is to hear these heathen children try diligently to recite scripture from memory or to learn one of the old-time hymns and instead of the expected mocking, the song catches their heart and flows from their lips. "Can we sing it again?" is voiced from the classroom. Another joy is when a

particular biblical truth is laid out and quiet comes over the classroom. Eyes are open wide and they watch the teacher, mouths slightly open. They are listening and catching it! God's Word will not return void. There is fruit! Oh, that we will see some of these precious souls in heaven.

There are so many needs amongst these children. One of our prayers is that we can grow with these children and give them a choice. They can choose to serve the Savior, or they can continue on the path they are on. We want to stand in the gap and turn as many hearts as we can. "You could spend your whole life in here," a fellow missionary says to me. In my heart I say "amen" to that "a person could".

A life of service in Lancaster City, USA?

Please pray for us—
the *Lancaster Children's Ministry*.



Taking the Gospel to Our Cities

A Call to Leave the “Comfort Zone”

by Eric Wenger
Lancaster Street Ministry

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.” Romans 12:1 AMP

Many of us, especially those of us from the “country”, do not usually see the city as an inviting place to visit. I didn’t. It’s especially uninviting if you’re talking about going to the slums—the ghettos of the residential area, the worst of the worst. But guess what? They need Jesus just as much as you and I do. **God has no less value on their souls than on yours and mine.** Jesus died for them too. And believe it or not, God can change them and make them holy vessels, meet for His use. They can be “more than conquerors.” But He needs someone to go.

Every Tuesday evening, in almost any weather, a number of youth plus a few fathers head into Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to minister on the streets. We have come from varied walks of life, but through the Lord’s work of grace in our hearts we have united in one common vision and goal. We desire that a testimony for the Lord Jesus would be raised up and that throughout eternity souls from Lancaster would be gathered around the throne singing praises to the Lamb that was slain.

At 6:30 PM we gather at Water Street Rescue Mission. They have graciously allowed us to use one of their rooms for a time of sharing and prayer, challenging our motives, confessing, sharing prayer requests, encouraging vision, sharing scripture, and rejoicing in what God has done for us and for those we minister to. We could spend a lot of time in this room, but we’ve come to pour out our lives to others tonight. We don’t always come with overflowing emotions—we’re real people too. Some days are rough; some days are over-

flowing. But regardless of how we are feeling or what our current circumstances are, their souls are still waiting. Many of them are in bondage, headed for hell, and we have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). We must go, God commands us to go, and we love Him and will go where He leads us.

And now “the rubber meets the road”: Welcome to Lancaster. We enter, by car and by foot, into the variety of sights, sounds, and situations of Lancaster. We step outside the walls of privacy and into the real world in which approximately 55,000 souls live. What will we see, smell, or hear? Things like purple or electric blue hair; studs in tongues and rings in noses; people smoking “weed” (marijuana) or carrying a bottle of “45” (liquor); an ice cream truck with constant music; blaring stereos with rap music, accompanied by low tones that literally rattle windows in many cars; Spanish music coming from a low riding, loud-muffler car; a group of young people gathered around two youths having an animated argument, waiting for a fight to break out; police “yellow shirts” cars monitoring key areas; three unmarked police cars at the site of a drug bust; the drug users that aren’t caught yet, pulling drugs from underneath a chain link fence and heading up the street; rottweilers and pit bulls; foul language, like you never knew someone could so freely speak; a gun shot; and hardhearted, hopeless looks from those that are trying to be “tough” so they can get somewhere in life, when deep inside they are hurting.



But you will also see some sights that are a blessing: a Lancaster Children's Ministry van or the big black bus, loaded with children heading to or from "Tuesday evening church"; local Spanish church members preaching with a portable sound system on a street corner; members from a local church lingering on the steps in front of their church after an evening service; someone with rapt attention, hearing the gospel preached in a way they never heard before; or a hearty "God bless you" from a local Christian.

We may share victories in people's lives, or we may experience the sad reality of a major failure in those we were trusting. Then comes the challenge of how we should respond. When week after week you are met by hardhearted people it could get discouraging. But remember, the pressure and atmosphere is totally different than our sheltered Christian homes. And they will tell you it is different, too. "You don't understand. You don't know everything I've been through. This is what you have to do to survive on the streets." And the reality is that I don't know what all they've been through and I may not understand. But our God, who can be their God, does understand, and He cares.

We also need to be careful that our evangelism and discipleship are not self-generated efforts. We

must be connected to the Vine with streams of living water flowing through our lives. It must be out of true love for our Lord, Who took us out of the miry clay and set our feet upon a Rock, that we reach out to others. We can't depend on our own abilities or knowledge. If we are just going and saying the right words without the reality in our hearts, we will not be effective. And not only will we be ineffective, we will actually be driving people farther away from the Lord as they detect our insincerity. There are too many Christians already with "talks" that do not match

"walks." God doesn't need another one.

Entering the city can have potential physical dangers: theft, vandalism, beating, rape, and flaring tempers are all possibilities. But what kind of God do we serve? A jealous God. A loving God. An all-knowing God. An ever-present God. A God that says, *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Matthew 10:28 *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* Philippians 1:21 Will you have faith that can put shoe-leather to these principles? God will never allow you to go through trials greater than you can bear by His grace.

Another exciting part of reaching out to a place like this is that we often must leave our "comfort zone." Your comfort zone is simply the area in which you can comfortably operate. If you are shy, your comfort zone stops short of situations that call you to boldness. If you continue into the situation in which you need to be bold, and you walk out by faith, using the boldness you need, you have left your comfort zone. Our comfort zone is obviously our most comfortable working area. We can basically enjoy life there. It's comfortable—not sinful or irresponsible, just comfortable! Each one of us has a comfort zone of places, people, and convictions that we can operate com-

fortably within. But how our horizons can broaden if we follow the Lord and leave our comfort zone by faith! Just because you may be a more shy, quiet person, God may very likely want to take you on to higher ground, and make of you the person that He has in mind. His ways are much higher than our ways. You may end up being more outgoing than you ever thought possible. And to me, that is exciting!

City ministry was not in my comfort zone. As with many people from the country, the city was the last place I thought I would enjoy spending my time. Go up to someone I have never met in my life, who is sitting on his porch with a bottle of liquor in his hand (not to mention that he is a drug dealer, etc.) and start a conversation with him? Comfort zone? No way! I know God has stretched me. And it's exciting! New challenges, new horizons, new goals, and new comfort zones—a constantly expanding life. Go for it! If you will obey Him, and let Him, God **WILL** mold you and make you into the servant He needs. And remember, you are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The Lamb that was slain deserves the reward of His suffering. Will you let God have His way with you? Give up your own

ideas of what you think God wants you to do and just accept and plunge out into what He gives you.

Our cities often have a different culture than many of us are used to. Lancaster does in a number of ways, including the large number of Spanish-speaking people in the city. There are many ways in which you must adapt to the culture just like we do when we are going to a foreign country. The examples you use to share biblical truths will be different. You will need to learn another language to reach some. But you cannot compromise. God's Word is still God's Word. His commands are still His commands. If you compromise, what kind of Gospel will you be holding out anyway?! Again, you must be sensitive to the Lord. His Word and His Holy Spirit within you will lead you.

There is no doubt that God's heart beats for the lost. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9 To know that there are some that have never heard once the saving power of the blood of Jesus, and what He has done for us, makes me long to be the one to go and tell them. And there are many that



Aside from our weekly Street Ministry & Children's Ministry, we also have a biweekly Street Meeting: preaching, singing, testimonies, etc.

have heard a “gospel” but fail to see anyone living in the reality of the true Christian life. Almost every week the people we meet tell us about the hypocrites in the churches today. Many of them say they want to wait till “their time” to go all the way with the Lord. They don’t want to be like the hypocrites who are one person at church and another outside. (I believe many of them are mistaken, though, in thinking they must clean up their lives first, rather than coming to God the way they are and allowing Him to change them.)

Just recently I had the opportunity to share for thirty minutes with an eighteen-year-old girl about the REAL Christian life of victory and being a conqueror through God’s grace—not our strength. After I was done she admitted that she had never heard a gospel like that. Will you be the testimony to a lost and dying world around you, with few on the narrow way? Will you be a testimony of victory in spite of real-life circumstances and temptations? Be honest with those you meet. Don’t try to hide your failures from them. But also let them know the victory that Jesus gave you as you chose to die to yourself and follow the Lord.

It seems 9:00 PM always comes around too fast. From 9:00 until 9:30 PM we share with each other about our evening. And then we head for home—a different world than where we spent the last three hours. But we’re already looking forward to coming in next week (or before then) to see what the Lord has in store for us—and them.

Our vision for the lost must be a burden for the whole world. I do not desire our street ministry to have a vision only for Lancaster. If we can come to Lancaster and witness to them about Christ, but can’t share a word to the gas station cashier or our religious next-door neighbor, we are either ashamed or out of our comfort zone, and God desires to plant a deeper vision in our hearts. This is not a once a week vision either. It needs to burn in our hearts long past Tuesday evenings. It’s not just some program to get our evangelism requirements done. God wants to use us to reach out to the dying world around us, right where we are.

Rise to the challenge, even though you may look strange to many people. They may think you are a fanatic. Praise God! Maybe you are! You don’t have to fit in! “Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone, dare to have a purpose firm, dare to

make it known!!” It’s time for those who will truly follow the Lord and sacrifice money, reputation, pleasure, comfort, friends, and yes, everything and anything, to rise up and be captivated by God’s burden and involved in God’s work. I pray that God would put His burden in your heart. You may have to take steps very few people around you have taken. Walk carefully, always seeking God with your whole heart, and He will lead you in the paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake. Lay aside the vain pleasures and pursuits of this world. God has redeemed you for a reason. Let your light shine in dark places where even some people with dark lives will not go. Take the risk. See what God will do to you and to them.

If you reach the end of this article and realize you are insincere too many times—you do like your comfort zone and rarely leave it, or you have been too caught up with “other” things, please don’t be discouraged! God is still in the changing business. If you will seek the Lord with your whole heart and start obeying when He speaks, I know God will give you His vision and change your life. And I’m sure He will do even much more than I have shared here. His thoughts are much higher than our thoughts. Expect great things. *“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3* You are not without hope. But don’t try it in your own strength. You can’t do it. He can do it. He will do it. You are His.

If you are looking for a burden or vision for evangelism and discipleship, one of the most effective ways to receive that burden is to start ministering in a place like our cities, or a major town in your area. As you come face to face with the world, week after week, realizing the emptiness of their lives and their pursuit of fulfillment in the wrong places, God will speak to you. They have no peace. *“There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.” Isaiah 48:22* Some feel like they have no hope. Their lives are in shambles. Suicide is one of their wrong answers. But we serve a God who puts together broken pieces. The only One Who can mend their lives and give them a reason to live, for all life flows from Him!

And, if you don’t go, please pray for those who do go. And please pray for laborers. *“Therefore*

continued on page 14

Jerusalem and Judea Revisited

SOME CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS OF HOME EVANGELISM

by Mathew Hinkle

*But ye shall receive power,
after that the Holy Ghost is
come upon you: and ye
shall be witnesses unto me
both in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea,
and in Samaria,
and unto the uttermost
part of the earth.
Acts 1:8*

At the end of every one of the four gospels, and also at the beginning of the book of Acts, Jesus Christ lays down in general terms what his program is for his church, the purpose for which they have been called and saved, and what his vision is for his body through the ages. It does not take much discernment to see what that program consists of. Very simply, it has two grand elements, 1) the evangelism of the lost-spreading the gospel, and 2) the discipling of those who are thus “found” in the course of this evangelism. Certainly it is very common to find groups of earnest Christians who are most eager to “disciple” others. More often than not, this “discipling”, however, is not a discipling in the ways of Christ, but rather is desirous of creating a conformity to the particular religious customs and institutions of the discipling group. But if the second part of the “Great Commission” has its difficulties (which are outside the scope of this article) the first part of that Commission has even more. The chief difficulty through all the ages of the Christian church in the call to evangelize and spread the gospel, is the problem of how to provoke people to leave their “comfort zones” and take seriously Jesus’ commandments on the subject. It is certainly much more comfortable to have a prospective proselyte over to tea in order to “disciple” them, than it is to have people reject you, call you names, and spit at you, as you try to see them saved from the sins that they love so much. Yet the many commands of Jesus on the subject are far more forceful and thorough than many other “commands” which are taught in church life. Thus, if we really love the Lord Jesus Christ, we must take the call to evangelism seriously and not bury our heads in the proverbial sand.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE NEED

Our scripture verse from Acts, is just one of many in which Jesus commands his disciples to go. In this particular verse, he gives specific examples of what he means, lest anyone should be confused. He names four specific geographic references, all of which are a part of HIS

Commission. These are, 1) Jerusalem, 2) Judea, 3) Samaria, and 4) the uttermost parts of the earth. Certainly, Jesus was not saying (as a few oddballs through the centuries have taken it) that each one must literally go to Jerusalem itself in Palestine to evangelize. Obviously the commission must be understood as guidelines to apply to each area and generation. If we were to take this commission and bring it up to date with our 21st century North America, we might consider Jesus as speaking as follows. Jerusalem represents our home area. We know the language, the people, the food, the customs, and the streets. I have spent all of my life in Phoenix, and that is Jerusalem to me. Amen, Phoenix (Jerusalem) needs the gospel. Judea still represents a culture that is totally familiar to us. One where we have no problems with language, laws, etc. They are still our people, just not in our home area. The rest of Arizona, or even most of the United States would be Judea for me. Samaria represents something somewhat different. It is an area still close to home, but different culturally, or ethnically, or in its religious background, or due to grave socioeconomic differences or whatever. We might find Samaria in going to Cajun country in southern Louisiana, or Amish country in Pennsylvania, or some of the heavily Hispanic areas of the southwest. One could consider Samaria to be (depending on a person's background) either going to evangelize Beverly Hills or the slums of one of our major cities. Even a place like Great Britain or Australia could be considered a "Samaria" for an American or Canadian. The last case is that of going to the uttermost parts of the world. Obviously this represents foreign countries where most everything is different from what we are used to, and great adjustments need to be made along with great sacrifices and possibly real dangers in order to bring the gospel to them. Normally, this Missions Newsletter is concerned with reporting on the progress of the work of God in "the uttermost part of the world." But wait, there is also great need in Jerusalem and Judea, and much is being done to reach those areas also. Therefore it seemed good to the editors of this publication to have an issue where the

focus is on local evangelism-what is being done to reach our Jerusalem and Judea.

THE CHALLENGE OF OBEDIENCE

As has already been mentioned, there is a definite and real call from Jesus Christ to go to Jerusalem and Judea-places where things are much more comfortable. Yet it is a melancholy fact that in all ages, and in most all nations, so many have felt "called" to stay, and ostensibly reach out to their Jerusalem and Judea. All other considerations and sarcasm aside, there is a very real need for local evangelism. Taken in the aggregate, the US and Canada represent well over 300 million people who need Jesus Christ. Together they represent the second largest country in the world in size (Canada) and the fourth largest (the US). In terms of population and size and need, they are well worth evangelizing. Some then absolutely should stay. Another way of putting it, is that everyone who does stay in their Jerusalem should be quite serious and getting quite busy about evangelizing this needy area. If we are not, in point of fact, evangelizing right where we live, we are in blatant disobedience to the one we erroneously call our Lord—Jesus Christ. If He is Lord, please remember that He is the one who gave the commands to go, and He deserves obedience. It is rather tragic, from time to time, to run across a group of believers who claim to be wanting to live out a real New Testament church—just like the book of Acts, and yet have no interest in evangelism. Yea, sometimes they even go so far as to openly deride "soulwinning." How far is any such concept from the precepts and examples of our Lord Jesus Christ and the church of the book of Acts!! Read in each gospel Christ's commands to go and preach the gospel. Read all 28 thrilling chapters of the Book of Acts, of how those early Christians did fully obey those commands-not at all neglecting their home turf of Jerusalem and Judea! Will God really bless a "sanctified disobedience" that will build up a local holy club and speak great swelling words of vanity but will not go? History shows that God never blesses such.

THE CHALLENGE OF FOCUS

This might also be labeled “the challenge of neglect.” It is very easy to come to a place where our focus in “reaching out” is not the same as our Master’s focus, and thus we can be guilty of a subtle disobedience, while all the while falsely consoling ourselves that we are fulfilling the “Great Commission.” Let me illustrate. We are a people who espouse “conservative” morals and lifestyles—in most cases quite distinct from the society at large around us in our Jerusalem. We are seeing our churches grow, but how are they growing? In general they are growing as “like-minded” people move to the church and become a part of it. That is, they are growing by people (who are mostly already saved) leaving their current church (or non-church) situation to be a part of the work. That does have some value, but it is far from Jesus’ Great Commission. Let us face the problem squarely. For the most part our conservative churches are not growing from seeing the lost saved. They are not growing by impacting their community and seeing hell-hound, heathen souls brought to Jesus and washed in his blood. Certainly if that were to happen, then we could, in reality, fulfill the second part of the church’s commission and disciple them! Is our focus on reaching our own communities with the message of salvation, or do we neglect them in favor of having like-minded people move in from out of state, and console ourselves that we are somehow fulfilling the Great Commission because we are growing in numbers? God will not honor such neglect, and the whole thing will turn inward and rot and become as sour as the Dead Sea unless the focus is changed and our churches catch a vision for evangelism in our own Jerusalem. It is true that we see some saved from similar “conservative” religious backgrounds. Amen, that is good! A soul saved is a soul saved, and a trophy for Jesus! But we still have to face the fact that there seems to be an inability to impact mainstream America with the power of the gospel. This is not right! I am not writing these things to be

critical. I am writing these things to challenge us, and get us on our knees and seriously asking, “Why, Lord, are we not reaching our community and seeing souls saved? What can we change, Lord?” There has always been a problem in church groups that have a more conservative bent in reaching out to mainstream life. It is not just our problem. Part of the issue is the challenge of our motive. Are we trying to proselytize people to our lifestyle? Do we subtly want to convert people to our system, or do we truly want to see them converted to Jesus Christ? What message are we giving out? If it is not that same message of salvation and the same focus found in the Bible, God will not bless it.

Yet, in spite of the challenges, it can be done. I think of those old Methodists of the 18th century. They went out with a burning message of salvation, while at the same time living holy lives, separated from the world. God blessed and honored them in a great way in impacting their own communities. They did not gather together the already holy; they went after sick souls in need of a physician. And they grew in numbers by seeing those lost ones saved. One of the great “secrets” of the growth of the Baptists and the Pentecostals in the early and mid portions of the 18th century was their fearlessness to evangelize. Every Baptist was expected to be a soul-winner, and it was an attribute that was highly prized and much preached on in their churches. Local evangelism was held forth as one of the first duties and motives of the Christian life. They are not that way nearly so much any more, but the remembrance of their proverbial zeal is sweet to those who love the cause of local evangelism. And they did succeed in impacting mainstream America!! What focus do we have in our churches? Is the duty and beauty of evangelism heralded from the pulpits and from the life example of those who are considered spiritual? Are we creating a focus on soulwinning in our local churches? There is a Pentecostal group in the West (they actually started in Arizona) whom I had long heard assailed as a cult I decided to check them out for myself. I found out why they are called a cult. Why, these fanatics (tongue is very much in cheek) preach the power of the blood of Jesus, and the need to separate

from all sin and from worldly friends and music and influences, and to separate oneself to God. Their churches are always involved in evangelism, and the people are taught by precept and example to reach the lost. They preach on streets, go witnessing door to door, stand in front of grocery stores and preach, show evangelistic films in the housing projects—anything they can do to reach lost souls. The results are not surprising. They see hardened drug dealers, prostitutes, and lifelong jailbirds—the scum of society—coming to Christ. It is beautiful. Can we create that kind of a focus or impetus in our churches? God being our helper, and we repenting of our neglect and wrong focus, it can be done. The same one who gave the command to go to Jerusalem stands ready to give the anointing and enabling!

THE CHALLENGE OF HINDRANCES

There are many hindrances to giving ourselves to local evangelism. Undoubtedly the greatest hindrance is the fear of man. To try to speak to people about their souls will get you some mild persecution and a lot of rejection. None of us like that. It is not pleasant. Yet the scriptures do have some things to say about the fear of man, and about not being willing to confess Jesus Christ. None of them are desirable! I once knew a dear soul who would regularly preach in places where youth congregated, on college campuses, in front of porno shops—wherever he could find sinners. I well remember one night when we had a group of Christians around, all gathered in a little bundle, afraid to reach out to the vile sinners around us. This brother prayed, out loud, a prayer that I have never forgotten. He prayed that the Lord would break up our little “holy club” and move us to go talk to people about their souls. Amen! A great need, then, is to have the fear of man broken in our lives and to have the fear of God take its place. If we fear God, then we will, of course, obey his commandments, including those commandments to evangelize. If local evangelism were set forth from the pulpit as our reasonable

service (for all-men and women, young and old) then undoubtedly the walls of the fear of man would begin to break down and be replaced with the fear of God.

Another challenge to local evangelism (which was touched on in the section above) is that of too much separation or, rather, a wrong understanding of separation from the world. Jesus rubbed shoulders with harlots and publicans. Paul went down to the river to talk with women. He went to the gathering place of the people in Athens. He did not set up a gospel tent in Athens and expect them to come—he went to them! To reach our community, there has to be a willingness to be around regular sinners in all their ugliness, and not have the attitude of “stand thou apart from me for I am holier than thou.” As just one example of this phenomenon of detrimental “separation,” let us consider the workplace. There is much that is laudable in Christian brethren working together in their employment, but unfortunately that sort of “separation” has definite negative consequences for local evangelism. Working with lost souls has always been one of the most fertile places to reach people for Jesus. As they watch you through the months, they see there is something different about you, and God gives many opportunities to speak to the needy souls of co-workers. So many have been brought to Jesus in this way. Let us ask the Lord if we are so “separate” that we are hindering his work, and ask how he would have us mingle with the lost.

Another very serious hindrance to local evangelism is discouragement. I agree that it can be very discouraging to go out and preach on street corners or knock on doors with no seeming results. “Master, we have toiled all night long with no results.” Still, what saith the Master, “Cast your net on the other side.” The Lord is looking for perseverance and patience. He never said it would be easy. Sinners are opposed to their own salvation—just as you and I were! That does not make the work easy! A. W. Tozer came to Christ through an old man preaching on a street corner. Tozer never talked to the man nor saw him again. He just went home and got right with God. Perhaps that old man went to his home discouraged because he saw no “results”

that day. That is the attitude many of us would have. Or, perhaps that unknown old man went home in the full blossom of faith, knowing that although he had not “seen” any results, God would honor his Word. What a gift God gave to his church through that old street preacher’s faithfulness! Yes, it is hard work, I grant that, but there are too many promises from the Bible on the side of the one who will thus labor for souls.

In the issue of local evangelism, another pathetic hindrance is that of fatalism. There is this thread of thought in many conservative groups that the USA has sinned away its day of grace and all we can do is wait for God’s judgment. There was a preacher that I really admired from tapes and pamphlets that I had perused. I called him some years ago seeking advice, but unbeknownst to me, his theology had changed through the years. I sat amazed as I listened while he who had once been so zealous to preach the believer’s duty in local evangelism, was now saying that God was not going to start any new churches or save hardly anyone else at all. We just had to sit and wait for the end. Terrible! Yet many see the USA as beyond hope, and such a wicked place, that they would rather just stay closed up and await the end. What? Did God abdicate His throne? Did the Holy Spirit take a vacation? Did Jesus recant His commandment to go? Let us consider Christian history and we can see many times, areas, and eras when public decency and morality were far lower than what we see in the US and Canada, and where there was even less of the fear of God. Did God sit befuddled by such a situation? Nonsense! He looked for, and found, people full of faith to carry on the witness that Jesus is Lord of all—even if they died for it! The same God who told Paul that He had much people in the extremely wicked city of Corinth, and told Paul to therefore stay there and build a church, gives the same call and power to us. What we are dealing with here in this seductive fatalism is a form of rank disobedience fed by unbelief. Let us call it just what it is—disobedience and unbelief—and let us pray that God Almighty would break its hold in our thought processes.

Other hindrances to local evangelism are simple forgetfulness and neglect. Why do I leave

the house without putting some tracts in my shirt pocket? Even if I do have them with me, why do I forget to give them to people in the grocery store? Two other hindrances that feed this neglect are 1) a preoccupation with other things (the thorns that choke) that causes one to neglect the more important matters for worldly concerns, and 2) not caring, or not being sensible to, the state of lost souls without Jesus Christ. If William Booth had had his druthers, he would have had each one of the Salvation Army preachers dangled over hell for 24 hours, to forever impress them with the state of the lost. For St Paul, it was “knowing therefore the terror of the Lord” that compelled him to “persuade men!” Undoubtedly there are other hindrances to reaching out to our Jerusalem and our Judea, but I do believe that where there is a willing heart, God will break all of these walls down.

THE CHALLENGE OF METHOD

So here we are. We do want to reach the lost. We want to see our churches grow by seeing souls saved. We do want to have the power of God in our lives to be able to reach mainstream life in our Judea. We want to have faith in God’s promises, a burden for the lost and a willingness to obey. But where do we start? What methods do we use? How can we reach people? These, of course, are the logical questions that many of us come to in wanting to obey Christ and evangelize the lost world around us. Unfortunately many come to totally wrong conclusions in wanting to answer those questions and in trying to meet the challenges of this article. The evangelical world, alas, is falling head over heels for seeker-sensitivism. This is a false method with carnal promises that aims at big results as far as bringing people in. But does it see souls truly saved? Does it present the true message of Christ? Horrors!—such is anathema to seeker-sensitivism! No, it does anything but present the truth as it is in Christ! There have been many other methods, programs, and fads which try to reach the masses by watering down Christ’s message or compromising with the world. Yet surely

it does not have to be so. Thankfully, there are various “methods” and helps that can be used to try to learn how to reach the lost. Charity Christian Fellowship has an excellent set of tapes by Denny Kenaston on Soulwinning.* It is well worth the time to listen to. Anyone can stuff tracts in their pockets and hand them out. Any church can set up a booth at a local flea market with tapes and literature. As an outstanding family devotion, head over to Wal-Mart (or some other large store) once a week and pass out tracts, inviting people to your church. Yes, you will probably be asked to leave after about 20 minutes, but what an awesome lesson as your children see you with a desire to reach the lost that translates into action! The other articles in this newsletter will certainly point out other “methods,” but in truth, the genius of soulwinning, or of local evangelism, is not in the method. A church may have programs, and if God blesses, it will yield results, but in the annals of church history, there is just no substitute for the one-on-one contact with the people we rub shoulders with at work, while shopping, as neighbors, etc. Meeting such people, and winning their confidence as they see our lives, and speaking to them about their souls, and inviting them to church is what largely builds the church as far as bringing in the lost. Few strangers wander into church and get saved! It does happen, but it is rare. (Hopefully our churches do preach

evangelistic messages so that souls that visit can indeed hear the gospel!) What it really comes down to, even in the matter of personal contact, is a burden for the lost—a burning heart to see Satan’s captives set free. There is no substitute for this. And there is no substitute for the power of the Holy Ghost in a person’s life. To go to our verse in Acts 1:8, that headed up this article, the connection is directly given by Jesus of receiving power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and then going to be witnesses. This also church history has shown us to a spiritual fact of life. So, let us honestly consider, dear brethren, our needs and our lacks, and give the Lord no rest until he does break the hindrances that bind us and fill us with his Spirit to reach a lost world in his name, yea even our Jerusalem and Judea. And may the Lord, the Living God, bless the articles in this Missions Newsletter to stir us up to those holy desires. Amen. □

* To obtain a copy of the set of tapes on Soulwinning, ask for Set 2 from:

Charity Gospel Tape Ministry
 59 S. Groffdale Rd. • Leola, PA 17540
 1-800-227-7902 • (717) 656-4479
 (717) 656-6427 fax

continued from page 8, “Taking the Gospel to Our Cities” by Eric Wenger

said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2 The harvest is right here! There is no time to waste!

Pray for the Lancaster Street Ministry. We would be grateful if you could remember us on Tuesday evenings. Through prayer, you can be a part of God’s work in Lancaster. Many times we don’t feel really fruitful—only eternity will tell the impact God has had on Lancaster. The work is hard, and we feel too feeble for the task. But we serve a risen Savior Who guides those who give

their lives completely to Him. Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to be co-laborers with You in the harvest! □

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
I Corinthians 6:19-20

Remnant Neighborhood Outreach Ministries

by Remnant Ministries

Remnant Ministries has been preaching the gospel and serving the community for the past 3 years. We have been blessed to be able to serve in the following capacities:

The House of Ruth Ministry
The Prison Ministry
The Nursing Home Ministry
The Homeless Sleeping Bag Ministry



The House of Ruth Ministry

On January 28, 2001, Remnant Ministries was invited to share the blessings of Christ through praise, worship and testimony at *The House of Ruth*, an intercity shelter for battered women. Many of the residents are recovering alcoholics and drug addicts who have been abused and raped. We have encountered many hurting souls; some tall, some look very much like men, and some are

very quiet and timid.

We have been blessed to have Crystal Taylor share her testimony and see the Holy Spirit move many women to shed tears of heartache and repentance. We have rejoiced with the angels in heaven as souls are saved and share in the Lord's Communion. Transportation is provided for the women who want to attend service with us on Saturday. Remnant Ministries meets at *The House of Ruth* the first Sunday of every month.



The Prison Ministry

Remnant Ministries has also been blessed with a Prison Ministry. The men of Remnant meet every Sunday morning at Cheltenham Youth Facility. Before entering a unit the men consecrate themselves before God in prayer. Every male arrested in Prince George's County, Maryland, between the ages of 7 to 17 years old, will spend time in this facility. The facility has nine very

overcrowded units. The men of Remnant rotate themselves amongst the units conducting a worship service in each one. There they lead the youth and young adult men to Christ. Unfortunately, Remnant ministers to many repeated offenders.



The Nursing Home Ministry

Remnant Ministries meets every third Sunday at Medlink Nursing Home located in the Southeast part of the District of Columbia. Our worship service is shared through songs, scripture reading, individual prayer with each patient, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil. Remnant has performed several concerts for Medlink. We also have been blessed to be able to host luncheons, indoor picnics, and various other celebrations. Some of the residents share their testimonies, along with songs. The children and our young adults are actively involved by reciting scriptural passages from memory and making crafts and personally handing them out to the patients. We have been so blessed to share the Love of the

Lord and in return experience the joy of serving.

The Sleeping Bag Ministry

Remnant's Sleeping Bag Ministry consists of the families of Remnant soliciting donations from neighbors, family members and friends of used sleeping bags, comforters, blankets, winter hats, socks, mittens, gloves, scarves and neckties. The blankets and comforters are folded in half and sewn into an "L" shape thus making a sleeping bag. The neckties are attached and used as handles making them very portable. The hats and other garments are placed inside each sleeping bag for added warmth and comfort.

Each family is responsible for making six or more quilts for the winter season. Some of the children make small pillows using white muslin and batting. They have the pleasure of drawing pictures and writing Bible verses or words of encouragement on them. These are also placed inside the sleeping bags. The sleeping bags are taken to a local soup kitchen and distributed by their staff.

*Always In His Care,
Remnant Ministries*

Remnant Ministries

3015 Brodtkin Avenue
Fort Washington, MD 20772
(301) 248-3329
Bro. Gary Thomas

REVIVAL MEETINGS

July 30 - August 4, 2001

Oakville, Manitoba

Speakers: Mose Stoltzfus & Zac Poonen

South of Hwy. 1 between Winnipeg & Portage la Prairie

For additional information, contact David Robertson (204) 746-6304

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!

Zimbabwe Covenant

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't turn back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight-walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotion, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven. My road is narrow, my way rough, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the enemy, ponder at the pull of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I will not give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus.

I must go til He come, give til I drop, preach til all know, and work til He comes for me.

And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear!

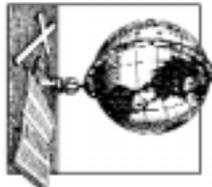
*This is said to have come from a poster
in the house of a pastor in Zimbabwe.*

MY FATHER S HOUSE

There is peace and contentment in my Father s house today,
Lots of food on the table and no one is turned away.
There is singing and laughter as the hours pass by,
But a hush comes the singing when the Father sadly cries,
My house is full but my field is empty.
Who will go and work for me today?
It seems my children all want to sit around my table,
But no one wants to work in my fields.
No one wants to work in my fields.

Push away from the table, look out through the window pane.
Just beyond the house of plenty lies a field of ripened grain
And it s ripe unto harvest, but the reapers, where are they?
In the house, oh, can t the children hear the Father sadly say,
My house is full but my field is empty.
Who will go and work for me today?
It seems my children all want to sit around my table,
But no one wants to work in my fields.
No one wants to work in my fields.

*Can you hear the
Father calling? How
much longer will you
relax at the table while
there is a shortage of
laborers for the harvest?
Respond today.*



Charity
Christian
Missions

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