

Church and Personal Evangelism Ministry

1. Very few church members feel confident in explaining the gospel to someone else.
2. Very few churches give their members a chance to practice before they send them out cold turkey. In order to become confident, a person needs to practice sharing the gospel 15 to 30 times. How is your church going to help them practice?
 - You could practice in a deacon's meeting
 - You could practice in Sunday School
 - You could practice on a Wednesday night as part of the Bible study hour
 - Volunteers who help at the Association Storehouse can practice
 - If you use Altar Counselors at the invitation, they could practice
 - You could send a deacon to meet with someone who wants to join or is a prospect
 - At youth group meetings, a different student every week could explain the gospel to the group
 - You could practice on a mission trip
 - If you visit a prospect who is a Christian, you can ask them if they will let you practice
 - You can ask church families to take turns at home letting each family member practice
3. Being able to explain the gospel is going to mean memorizing about 10-15 scripture verses. Most church members have not done this, and most churches don't ever ask them to.
4. Some people guess that as many as 50% of people who attend church are "unsaved Christians". If this is true, it should not surprise us that many of our church members can't easily explain the gospel and don't want to share it with someone else.
5. We think that our sermons are clear about the gospel, but what many people hear is "be a good person", "do good things" "be baptized and join the church".
6. Some people view the testimony of an "average person" as more realistic and trustworthy than what the pastor says because he is paid to say it. Therefore, it is not a bad idea to have lay people get up on stage and share their faith story and how they accepted Christ. Not only on stage but also in small groups, in deacon's meeting and in other gatherings.
7. You have decided on a simple plan (The Four Spiritual Laws?), you have created a gospel environment (testimonies in the service), you have helped people practice explaining the gospel (a class?), and you have helped people memorize 10 verses about the gospel (John 1:12, John 3:3, John 3:16, John 5:24, Rom 3:23, Rom 5:8, Rom 6:23, Rom 10:13, I John 5:11,12, Rev 3:20).
Now, how can we help church members to meet unsaved people?
 - SS classes that are intentional to invite guests to fellowships every month
 - Help members to be the "chaplain" for their street. Show them how to invite many of their neighbors over to a backyard cookout. Show them how to go door to door on their street and introduce themselves. God opens doors when we show love and build relationships.
 - Take members to serve the community – the homeless shelter, the food bank, the pregnancy center, the college campus, sports teams at the high school, being involved in city events like parades, festivals, a fair, and other events.
 - Teach your members to sit next to a new guest in Sunday School or the worship service.

- There are many international students at the local college that you can help serve.

8. Give an invitation in your worship service but it doesn't have to be a "walk forward while we sing" invitation. Simply invite people to come see you when the service is over, or go the Hospitality Table in the foyer, or the Reception Room where people can answer your questions or pray with you. You can also have cards for people to fill out and ask for someone to call them.

9. Even when someone accepts Christ and joins the church, we often drop the ball by stopping there. Jesus spent the next three years discipling the twelve once they said, "I will follow you."