

## PERSONAL WITNESSING

**Less Sermonizing, More Personal Work.** -- If one half of the sermonizing were done, and double the amount of personal labor given to souls in their homes and in the congregations, a result would be seen that would be surprising. -- *Manuscript 139, 1897.*

### Witnessing

There are many factors that may motivate church members to witness. Some of the primary ones are:

- Factor 1: *Witnessing is a biblical command. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Isaiah 60:1; Acts 13:47; Acts 1:8; Mark 5:19).*
- Factor 2: *The Lord calls each of His followers to be: • Witnesses (Acts 1:8) • Ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) • Participants in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19) • Co-laborers with God (1 Corinthians 3:9) • The light and the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13, 14).*
- Factor 3: *Witnessing is the heart's response to love (2 Corinthians 5:15).*
- Factor 4: *Witnessing brings joy to the heart of God (Luke 15: 7, 10, and 32).*
- Factor 5: *Witnessing contributes to one's spiritual life.*

Every Christian is a witness for Christ. A good way to witness is to live the Christian life. However, it is most important that every Christian shares the gospel directly with those he or she meets. Every Christian has an experience of how Christ transformed their lives. This is the simplest way to share the gospel. Many refer to this as giving a testimony.

Before you share or write out your testimony, you might find it helpful to read Paul's witness as it is recorded in Acts 22. The three essential elements of his testimony are:

1. My life before I became a Christian.
2. How I became a Christian.
3. What Jesus Christ now means in my life.

Beware of the danger of dwelling too much on the first part. Also remember, people are not interested in an autobiography. Your purpose is not to exalt yourself, but to exalt Christ. Some points to consider:

1. Don't glamorize sin by telling about its pleasures or how wicked you used to be, or how you "got away with it."
2. Avoid expressions that may not be meaningful to a non-Christian, such as, "receiving a blessing" (does he know what you mean by a blessing?), "since I came into the message," or "after I accepted the truth." Instead of these expressions, you might say something like, "After I accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour."
3. Don't be wordy. Make your testimony short and to the point, in three minutes or less.
4. Never speak critically of other churches.
5. Never give a long list of the sacrifices you have had to make since you became a Christian or of the things you have had to give up or of the hardships you have had to face.
6. Be specific. People tend to forget generalities, but remember specifics.

7. Identify with your prospect. Emphasize those areas in your experience that you share in common with the prospect: the loss of a loved one, war, an accident, separation from a mate, loss of a job, moving. The mention of these events may draw you closer to your prospect and arouse their comments.

8. Emphasize the friendliness you have found in Christ's great family.

9. Always be kind and tactful. Never appear to be self-righteous.

10. Pray that your countenance will radiate Christian assurance, and let your smile speak the language of heaven. As the prospect listens to your testimony the Holy Spirit is at work.

## **2. Personal Testimony Outline**

1. *Getting Acquainted and Gaining Confidence* A. Family b. Occupation c. Religion d. Testimony

2. *Diagnostic Question.* In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?

3. *Gospel Presentation*

a. The attraction - God is love (1 John 4:8)

b. The problem - Sin, separation, death (Rom. 3:23)

c. The solution - God's gift-forgiveness and life in Christ (John 3:16; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9; 1 John 5:11-13)

d. Detachment from sin - Repentance (Rom. 2:4)

e. Attachment to Christ - Grow up into Christ (Rev. 3:20)

4. *Prayer of Reception*

5. *Provisions for Growth* a. Bible study b. Prayer c. Fellowship d. Witnessing

## **TRACT DISTRIBUTION**

### **Reasons to Use Gospel Tracts**

*Using good-quality Gospel Tracts gives every Christian a simple and effective way to share the good news of Jesus Christ.*

1. Tracts can get inside homes and stay there. You can't.
2. Tracts never lose their temper or become involved in arguments.
3. Tracts never flinch or show cowardice.
4. Tracts can stick to the point without compromising.
5. Tracts never get discouraged.
6. Tracts are willing to be sent anywhere.
7. Tracts can work 24 hours a day.
8. Tracts are not expensive.
9. Tracts can be read many times over.
10. Tracts contain portions of Scripture, which God will use and bless (Isaiah 55:10,11).
11. Tracts can be used without fear.
12. Tracts have unlimited patience.

13. Tracts are a great way for Christians to fulfill the Great Commission by sharing the Gospel often and widely.
14. Tracts are easy to give to another person with a smile and some encouragement to read them.
15. Tracts explain the Gospel clearly and simply so that the reader can make a decision to trust Christ (if he is at that point in his understanding and personal desire to believe).
16. Tracts go anywhere with you—work, school, vacation, shopping, repair shop, eating out, etc.
17. Tracts can accomplish their purpose anytime—day or night, winter or summer, good times or bad, “right now” or “later.”
18. Tracts inject spiritual truth through specialized Gospel messages during seasons such as Christmas, New Year’s, Easter, Halloween, etc.
19. Tracts are proven to work. History records the testimony of many who were saved through tracts.
20. Tracts often get read by more than one person.

### Ways to Use Gospel Tracts

*Hopefully the following list will give you some ideas of how you can put the “silent missionaries” to work. No matter where or how you choose to distribute tracts, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for each tract placed, and then pray for the Lord of the harvest to bless the seed sown.*

1. Tracts can be placed in greeting cards.
2. Tracts can be passed out door to door.
3. Tracts can be given away from booths rented during fairs or carnivals.
4. Tracts can be posted on bulletin boards in public areas.
5. Tracts can be put in pockets of used clothing given away.
6. Tracts can be passed out at parades, festivals, and other special gatherings.
7. Tracts can be handed out at stadium entrances before sporting events, concerts, etc.
8. Tracts can be left in laundromats.
9. Tracts can be included in a mailing to people in your community—or around the world.
10. Tracts can be given to attendants at parking garages, toll booths, etc.

Resources: a. (<https://mwtb.org/products/100-reasons-and-ways-to-use-gospel-tracts?variant=2600960641>). b. SIm website

c. <http://www.sdapersonalministries.com/personal-outreach.html> d.

<https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/assets/sspm/pm/pdf/pmleaflet8.lit.pdf>

### BIBLE STUDY - WITNESSING TO GAIN DECISIONS

<https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/pev-04-simple-methods-of-giving-a-bible-study.pdf>

### ORDER OF TOPICS

1. Arranging topics
  1. Choose the topic to meet the needs of the hearers
  2. Make the topic Christ-centered. Learning about Jesus and His will for our lives is the object of all Bible study

3. Follow a correct order of topics
2. The wrong way:
  - · Baptism
  - · Foods
  - · Tithe
  - · Sabbath
  - · Second Coming
3. The right way:
  - · Jesus first
  - · Then the doctrines
4. Suggested order of topics:
  - · The Bible as God's Word
  - · The Second Coming of Jesus
  - · The Signs of the Second coming of Jesus
  - · Heaven and the New Earth
  - · The Plan of Redemption
  - · How to Be Saved
  - · God's Holy Law
  - · God's Holy Sabbath
  - · etc...

### **Principles to Keep in Mind:**

- Ask for a decision on the material presented at the end of every study.
- Encourage your student to put into practice each new duty as it unfolds. Light that is not followed turns to darkness.
- Do not ask for a major decision until your prospect has sufficient information to enable him to make an intelligent decision.
- Call for a decision when you see evidence of conviction. Learn to recognize decision signals like the following: What if my husband wouldn't let me tithe? What if I can't get Sabbaths off? What would my neighbors say? Each one of these questions reveals that the person has been contemplating a decision and is already considering the consequences of that decision. This is the time to ask for a decision.
- Ask for a decision based on a choice between two alternatives: "We are planning a baptism on the 14th and one on the 21st. Which would be better for you?"

### **Steps to Gaining Decisions for Truth**

1. Teach the whole message yourself.
2. Teach with conviction.
3. Gain progressive assent.
4. Secure surrender to Christ first.
5. Visit in the home.
6. Impress the urgency of obedience.

7. Cite your own experience.
8. Let God's Word answer excuses.
9. Offer decision prayers often.
10. Counsel often with your pastor.
11. Conduct Sabbath vespers.
12. Accompany family to church. The "iron bands" that hold people back from decision could be classified this way:
  - a. *Temporal interests.* 1. Fear of losing job. 2. Lack of faith to begin tithing. 3. Habits such as smoking and drinking.
  - b. *Family ties.* 1. Opposition from a loved one. 2. Fear of dividing the family.
  - c. *Church and social ties.* 1. Prestige of belonging to popular church. 2. Sentimental tie to family church. 3. Fear of losing friends. 4. Fear of ridicule. 5. Opposition of pastor.

*Here are some decision questions that will be helpful:* Is everything clear? Do you know what you should do? What keeps you from doing it? You plan to do it sometime, don't you? Why not do it now? In gaining decisions it is vitally important to get to the bottom of whatever is holding the person back. When you know a person has accepted Christ and believes the doctrines yet still fails to yield, an approach such as this might help: "I sense there is something holding you back. Could you share with me what it is? I know you believe what we have studied together but something is troubling you. What is it?" Once you discover what the problem is, you will have an opportunity to help find a solution.

Resources: document on site (Witnessing for Jesus in a Practical Way)

## **Evangelistic Preaching**

*Sample Specific Call: [after a major message such as the mark of the beast]*

"To some of you, this message has come as a real shock. You may need time to study it thoroughly, and pray to God for strength to follow His revealed Word. But for others here tonight, this comes as a wonderful revelation, the missing piece of the puzzle, the light that clearly reveals the pathway of God. You hear God's voice speaking to you saying, 'My son, my daughter. Will you stand on My side? Will you stand up for truth? Will you commit your life to being an example of pure religion, undefiled by human inventions and traditions?'"

"Friend, if you hear God's voice calling you, will you just stand to your feet and be counted on His side right now?"

### **1. (If there is an immediate response, respond with):**

- "God bless you."
- "Are there others? Yes, God bless you."
- "Are there still others who are ready to take your stand with Jesus?"
- "We'll wait and pray." (Pause in attitude of prayer)

- “Are there others? Thank God.” [Now go into prayer or move to your general appeal.]

**2. (If no quick response):** “I know that this is a very serious decision. A lot is at stake. The question each one of us must answer is: ‘Is this what Jesus wants? Is this His way?’ And if it is, friend, He is faithful. He will help you; He will guide you. He will strengthen you. But you must make the decision.” “Is there one who is ready to say, ‘Yes Lord, here I am. You can count on me.’” “If you are that one, will you stand just where you are?”

***(If there is a response, you should go back to #1. If there is still no response, go on to the general appeal.)***

### **Move to General appeal:**

“There are two other groups I want to include in this appeal.”

“Because of the serious nature of this message, perhaps some do not have, just now, the strength to make this commitment, but who want to ask God for special help. This is the first group.”

“The second group, I am sure, includes many of you. Others here tonight have previously committed their lives to live fully in harmony with God’s revealed will, but tonight your hearts have again been strangely warmed, and you would like to say, ‘Lord, you can count me in—I still pledge to stand for You and for Your truth.’”

“If you are in either of these two groups, you need strength to stand. Or would you like to recommit your life to God and His truth? Would you join me in standing for Jesus?” (If some responded before, then say, “Would you join these who are standing now?”)

### ***(Prayer)***

“Father, here we stand, an army of Your children. Prepare us for combat, but even more, Father, prepare us for victory!”

“You know, there are those standing here tonight who do not yet have the strength to move forward in your truth. Oh God, draw close to them. Guide their thinking, encourage their fainting hearts, and we will give You the praise and glory.”

“And those who for the first time have stood in response to such a challenge, please keep them faithful and give them the strength of purpose that they need to move ahead with Christ from victory to victory.”

“When You come, Father, and may it be soon, may we all— every person here tonight—be found faithful to You and ready to meet You in peace is my prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

### ***Sample Appeal Phrases:***

These are some thought provokers!

1. Will you be ready?

2. This is God's plan. Will you let Him include you?

3. What a beautiful message of hope. Do you have this hope?

**Make a list of your own appeal phrases as you listen to others speak, and spend personal time with God's Word.**

### **Small Groups**

Small groups are given many different names: cell groups, growth groups, grow groups, care groups, disciple-making groups, discipleship groups, classes, units, holistic groups, simple church, etc.

Small groups are not a program of the congregation. They are the most basic unit of the congregation. Small groups are the smallest units of people who have teamed up to do the work of the congregation and the denomination. They are usually comprised of 3 to 15 people. In a small group, Christians come together in a covenant relationship to do the work of the kingdom. Small group members join with one another to accomplish **five** specific tasks: edification, fellowship, equipping, evangelism and leadership expansion. Small groups can also have one or more of these tasks, but cell groups intentionally strive to do all four.

## **PUBLIC EVANGELISM**

### **Preparing the Field**

*Mingling* – Christ's method alone will bring true success. There are many strongholds in the world where people are being influenced. The church needs to make an impact on these areas of influence and break down the strong holds of the enemy. These strong holds are in the areas of: Entertainment, government, education, sports, business, religion, entertainment, and social media.

*Making Friends* – There are many places and opportunities where Christian mingle with non-Christians. Jesus often mingled with those in his communities. From the homes to the work places to the temples and synagogues. He even mingled at their parties. *Jesus parties* – These are social events organized by the church to connect with people in a social and non-threatening way. Jesus often met with persons at parties (Matthew 9; Luke 7). We should intentionally reach out to persons when social events are planned.

*Meeting Needs* - Keep adding to the following list of possible activities for use within assigned territories.

1. Friendship visitation. See *Christian Service*, pages 113-131.
2. Community religious survey. See *Witnessing for Christ*, pages 35-41, 74.
3. Community Services survey. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Community Services*.
4. Welfare approach. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Community Services*.
5. Temperance approach. This could include Five-Day Plans and temperance literature, including *Listen*.
6. Health approach. This could include health screenings, cooking classes, and health literature, including *Life and Health*.

7. Ingathering. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Ingathering Evangelism*.

The community religious survey has proved to be one of the most practical approaches for determining the spiritual condition of men and women and finding openings for Bible studies. For a copy of the recommended survey and detailed instructions on its use, see the denominational witnessing manual *Witnessing for Christ*, available through the Adventist Book Centers.

*Tract distribution*

*Sharing lessons/Bible studies*

*Invitations* – Once lessons, tracts, and Bible studies have been received consistently by a prospect, it is time to give them an invitation to get to know Christ better. These invitations should take him or her into a closer walk with Christ. A few weeks before a public evangelistic event a special invitation should be given to the prospect to help him decide for Christ. This invitation could be verbal but should be personally delivered. A flyer or card invitation may help the prospect to feel important and valued.

### **General Resources**

The Master Plan of Evangelism, Robert E. Coleman (<http://campusministryunited.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/MasterPlanOfEvangelism.pdf>)

Evangelism, E.G. White

Christian Service, E. G. White

Keys to Public Evangelism – G.C.

[www.Goodnewsexplosion.com](http://www.Goodnewsexplosion.com)

Share The Hope – book

<http://www.sdapersonalministries.com>

[www.adventistevangelism.com](http://www.adventistevangelism.com)

<https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/pm>

Small groups

[http://pastors.com/four-practical-reasons-for-small-groups/?utm\\_source=Resources&utm\\_campaign=233049274d-PCOM+Toolbox+02.14.18&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3a3ff6b713-233049274d-45813597&mc\\_cid=233049274d&mc\\_eid=577b9b04c6](http://pastors.com/four-practical-reasons-for-small-groups/?utm_source=Resources&utm_campaign=233049274d-PCOM+Toolbox+02.14.18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3a3ff6b713-233049274d-45813597&mc_cid=233049274d&mc_eid=577b9b04c6)

Bible study

How to give a bible study - <http://www.apwin.org/wp-content/uploads/books/Studying%20The%20Bible/Book%20-%20How%20To%20Give%20A%20Bible%20Study.pdf>

Giving personal Bible Study - IICD