

PIONEER EVANGELISM

**Growing churches and planting new ones that are self-supporting
using New Testament methods**

Thomas Wade Akins

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PRESENTATION

“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:3-5 NIV

The world today is as preoccupied with novelties as it has been for the last two millennia. Writing a book about evangelism -the reality of each person’s responsibility before Jesus Christ, is, in itself, a difficult task.

This assignment becomes even more difficult when the subject is Pioneer Evangelism. There are no spectacular resources involved, no surprising theories or theses ever heard before. The purpose of Pioneer Evangelism is to bring every person to know Jesus Christ as the first priority in life.

Dr. Akins has achieved good results in pursuing this mission. He has done so through his unique style, and because he has the authority of the empiricist.

The Biblical command comes to us with the same intensity it was heard by Timothy: “do the work of the evangelist.”

It is simple and direct. Just like the gospel itself.

Pr. Ivo Augusto Seitz, General Secretary:
Brazilian Baptist National Missions Board

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IN MEMORY

Sherry Deakins Akins was the main person who was used of God to encourage Wade Akins to both begin and develop the Pioneer Evangelism program in Brazil. Realizing that writing, developing and piloting the program would require many hours alone and away from the family, Wade seriously struggled whether or not he should pursue the project. While sharing his doubts with his wife one evening, Sherry said to him, “Wade, you have got to do it; this ministry is of the Holy Spirit”. The Pioneer Evangelism program slowly developed and expanded not only in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil where they resided and worked at the time but throughout the entire nation of Brazil beginning in 1989. She sacrificed her life for this ministry.

Sherry contracted a terminal disease called Schleroderma which put fibers in her lungs, intestines and vital organs. This was discovered in September 1992.

When asked if she would like to return to the United States to be with her family and leave Brazil permanently she responded by saying, **“The purpose of my life is to glorify Jesus Christ in both my life and in my death. God has called us to Brazil and I want to stay”**.

On December 4, 1993 Sherry suddenly fainted and died in their home in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. **Sherry truly was a person who both lived and died inside the will of God!**

And You?

Dedication

*I dedicate this edition of this manual to my wonderful and loving wife, **Barbara Ann Hawthorne**, who is a gift of God's grace to me. The material in this manual is not theory to Barbara for she has been and is being used of God in both soul winning and church planting. God has blessed and allowed us to minister together in training others in Pioneer Evangelism Conferences throughout all of Brazil and other nations of the world.*

Thomas Wade Akins

Acknowledgments

This training manual would not ever have been developed apart from the life and influence of my missions professor, **Dr. Cal Guy**. Dr. Guy and his teachings impacted my life in such a dramatic way that after studying at his feet for three years at Southwestern Seminary, I left a highly successful ministry in the nation's capitol and went to the mission field of Brazil. His constant letters and prayers have been a major blessing to me and have been used of God to encourage me during the hard times. His ideas and concepts are reflected over and over in this manual. Also, I am deeply grateful to the professors who taught me at Louisiana College, New Orleans Seminary, and Southwestern Seminary. Through the training I received at these institutions I learned how to do research and write practical projects.

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Dr. Charles Brock is a former missionary in the Philippines. His volume, Indigenous Church Planting, published by Broadman Press made a major impact on my life and whose ideas are fundamental for this project. **Dr. Waylon Moore** has written the "Good News from God" Bible studies based on the gospel of John for Pioneer Evangelism. Dr. Moore has been used of God to disciple me and is a model before all who know him of the life and ministry of Jesus.

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I would also like to thank **Pastor Aloizio Penido Bertho**, Executive

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A word of appreciation needs to be extended to all of the **forty original pioneer evangelists** who worked with me in the state of Minas Gerais during the experimental phase of the project. It was a long, tough two years of hard work on the part of everyone but sixty-three new mission works were started as a result. These evangelists kept good monthly records and evaluations of every phase of the project so that the program could be altered and improved. Due to their work many changes were made from the original version and program.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Bill Richardson** who was the Area Director of Brazil at the time this project was first launched in Brazil. He approved the project and enabled me to pilot the first group for the first two years.

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Finally, I want like to thank some dear and very special friends who have helped me in innumerable ways in my ministry and also stood with me through some difficult and tough situations in my personal life. They are International **Evangelist Sammy Tippit** from San Antonio, Texas; **Dr. Phil Jett**, pastor of the great Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee; **Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Taylor**, Developer, from Jackson, Tennessee; **Mr. And Mrs. Ronnie Mackey**, contractor, of Heath Springs, South Carolina; **Mr. Guy Wolcott**, businessman of Portland, Oregon and **David Wilson**, President and Director of Open Air Campaigners International. Each has been used of God mightily and in a

special way in both my personal life, and ministry.

My deep love goes out to my two sons Tim and Jason. I want to thank my son- -in-law, **Jeff Brawner**, who worked on this manual and also provided the graphs in the strategy section of this book. Finally, I want to thank my daughter, **Christy**, who translated this book from Portuguese to English and also wrote the “Good News of Jesus” and the “Beginning a New Life in Christ” stories. Christy, I love you.

Thomas Wade Akins

DEFINITIONS

PIONEER—This is the term we use to refer to the person or persons who open up new works and plants new churches.

EVANGELISM—This term means “to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ”. The gospel is explained in I Corinthians 15: 3 says, “that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...This is the good news of the gospel. To proclaim this good news to the lost people of the world is evangelism.

THE PRINCIPLES

This section of the book explains what the pioneer evangelist should do and why.

- I. What is Pioneer Evangelism?**
- II. The Bible and Culture.**
- III. The Bible and its Authority.**
- IV. Who can be a Pioneer Evangelist?**
- V. The Role of the Pioneer Evangelism Leader (PEL).**
- VI. The Evangelism Discipleship Team.**
- VII. Nine Basic Fundamentals for Successfully Starting Churches.**
- VIII. Six Keys to Growing Churches after they are started.**
- IX. Three Characteristics of the New Testament Church**
- X. Conclusion**

I. What is Pioneer Evangelism?

This ministry began in 1989 in the nation of Brazil after studying the local church-planting situation. It was during my first term of service as a Missionary with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention that I went to language school for one year. After arriving on the field I developed a plan for church planting and started twelve new Baptist congregations in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

After returning from furlough, I felt that the work was too slow. So, I began studying and reading about other methods of evangelism. Charles Brock's book, Indigenous Church Planting, guided me the most in this search. Through that process, I developed a training ministry based on the Bible, Dr. Brook's book, several other sources mentioned in this manual, and the church planting system that had been developed during my first term of missionary service in Brazil.

Once the program was written in it's original form, forty men and women were trained to carry out the plan. They entered sixty-three different cities in the state of Minas Gerais and started new congregations in all of them over a two-year period of time. Every month for two years these original pioneer evangelists sent evaluation reports to the Evangelism and Missions Department of the Minas Gerais Baptist Convention. At the end of the two years an evaluation team was formed to review the entire ministry. Over the next three years many, other teams were formed in other parts of Brazil. Pastors, laypeople, evangelist, and convention leaders. evaluated every aspect of the ministry. **In nine years, 94 churches were organized; 179 congregations were started; and 383 preaching points were begun in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil.** All of these works were involved in Pioneer Evangelism, and the statistics have been documented by surveys. By 1999, over 15,000 Brazilians had been trained throughout the nation and an estimated of over 1,000 new works had been started through Brazil. Today, several hundred Pioneer Evangelism teams are formed each year to plant new works throughout the world.

This training manual and method is the result of the work of hundreds of men and women who put this program into practice. They are being used of God to reach thousands of unreached people and also to train thousands of pastors, missionaries, and lay people to start new churches. The goal in Brazil is to train thousands of pastors and lay leaders to start new churches. They all learn the basic principles presented in this manual, which are universal and can be applied to any culture and nation of the world. To put it in simple terms, **the Pioneer Evangelism method consists of training lay evangelists to go into areas where there are no churches (pioneer areas), winning souls to Christ, and starting new works.**

The key question today is, “How can we more quickly advance the gospel and start new churches?” The answer, in my opinion, is by training lay evangelists all over the entire world in how to start and develop new works.

Let us observe various problems that missionary leaders are facing in modern society:

1. Lack of vision
2. Untrained laymen
3. Lack of interest
4. Loss of church members
5. Lack of cooperation between churches
6. Difficulty to enter apartment buildings in large cities
7. High cost of land and construction

Can we overcome these problems? Certainly! In fact, Christ has already overcome them for us. However, we must restudy the basic methods of the Bible, and, more specifically, the methods used by the apostle Paul who is our model missionary.

Dr. Dennis Blackmon, a former missionary to Brazil, has identified four basic models of starting new churches.

1. The Traditional Model “with” a nucleus of believers.

The missionary organization or church defines the area of work. It then invites a worker, who is not necessarily a pastor, to perform the task. The worker finds a meeting place for the new group to meet and the missionary organization or a church get the support of five to ten Christians or more who live in the area. These few believers and the worker begin a congregation with the financial support of the missionary organization or church, as well as the support of the Local Association and State Convention in some cases. The missionary organization or church normally makes all of the important decisions.

2. The Traditional Model “without” a nucleus of believers.

The missionary organization or church dominates everything, as it does in the previous model until the new work is officially organized into a new church. The only difference is the absence of an original support group composed of local believers.

3. The Special Project Model

The missionary organization or church defines the area and determines a project that will make the biggest impact. Some typical examples of social projects would be Bible studies or ministries to the unreached community. These projects are chosen according to the organization’s own financial and personnel resources. For example, in 1992 there was a huge flood in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Hundreds of people lost their homes. Barbara Akins was able to secure funds from her missionary organization to help people rebuild their homes. The mayor of the city donated the land, and they started an entire new neighborhood which they named, **BETHEL—THE CITY OF GOD**. They built 70 homes in a year and did home Bible studies. People were saved, and a church was started. This was a combination of using a Special Project and Pioneer Evangelism because studies were done in the homes of lost people. Usually, using the Special Project method a worker is invited to execute the project, and the organization or church provides a meeting hall

and officially opens a missionary front. The missionary organization or church may choose to make all of the decisions.

4. The Pioneer Evangelism Model

The missionary organization or church defines the area that will be reached and chooses “mature laymen” to carry out the work. These laymen are efficiently trained and equipped by experts in missionary work. The purpose of this manual is to train them. Next, the laymen will start the work without a group of Christians or with only a few Christians supporting. Their goal is to start a new church that is self-governed, self-supported, and self-propagated under God’s leadership. The pioneer evangelist guides the new group to make its own decisions from the beginning in place of having them made by the missionary organization or church.

II. The Bible and Culture

It is very important that we separate that which is Biblical and that which is cultural. I may be an American, but God has called me to work as a missionary in Asia (Vietnam), the United States (Washington DC), Africa (Zimbabwe), and Brazil.

Every place in the world has its own distinct culture. We understand that the work of the Lord must be done based on the Bible and based on each country’s own culture. It must not be based on the religious traditions of a culture. For example, in the United States the majority of churches have their worship services on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Does this mean that all worship services in the world must start at 11 a.m.? NO! In the United States, many churches use hymn music. Does this mean that churches in other nations of the world should use music out of the hymnal? NO! They can if they choose to do this, but they should sing music based on the local culture and using local instruments. A church can use, for example, electrical guitars, trumpets, drums and other instruments or whatever.

WARNING! Music is not praise. Music is a means of praise. It is a method of expressing our feelings to God. For this reason, it is important that the music used reflect the culture of the people and not necessarily the culture of the pioneer. It is impossible to be a missionary or an effective pioneer unless we understand the culture of the local community.

There are many cultures and subcultures within each nation. It is important that the pioneer knows and understands the culture of the people within the area where he plans to start a new work. It is also important that he does not try to change the culture but rather minister to allow Christ to change the hearts of people. The only things that should be changed within a culture are those that are contrary to the principles of the Bible. For example, in some jungles of the world, the people may practice the sacrificing of babies. Such practice is obviously contrary to biblical doctrine. In this case, the pioneer should attempt to change the culture by preaching the truth of the gospel.

The main point is that each region of a country has its own culture, and it is important that the work of the pioneer be contextual to such local culture, and not be influenced by the culture of another region or country. The pioneer must only preach the gospel, for the gospel itself will change the aspects of a culture that are not biblical.

III. The Bible and its Authority

Each person in the world has a source of authority. Dr. Ralph Neighbor, Jr. in his book Survival Kit (Broadman Press) describes four sources of authority to determine what is right and what is wrong.

1. Intellect: This is when a person determines what is truth through his own ability to rationalize between that which is right or wrong, good or bad, possible and impossible, and so forth. For example, a person who relies on his intellect may deny the miracles of Jesus because he cannot scientifically prove them.

2. Experience: this is when a person determines that which is right or wrong by his feelings, perceptions and emotions. For example, one day I caught a cab in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and I began to speak to the driver about the gospel. He informed me that in a meeting of his religion a blind man was cured and was enabled to see again. When I asked the name of his church, he told me that he was not a Christian and that in fact his religion was not even related to Christianity.

Satan has power to do miracles, but he cannot save anyone or give them real peace and total forgiveness. Sometimes he uses miracles to deceive people. The Bible says, in II Thessalonians 2: 9-12, **“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”**

Some say the following: “I believe in drugs and alcoholic beverages because I feel good when I use them.” The source of authority for this person is his feelings. This is a very dangerous way to formulate your belief system. Other say I believe in this particular faith healer or medicine man because he was able to cure a disease. But a miracle worker, whomay do many spectacular things, gaining fortune and fame, can often not be of God at all. We cannot base our faith on miracles, feelings or even our experiences. Instead we have to base it on the person of Jesus Christ, who He is and his promises in the Word of God.

3. Tradition: This was one of the greatest problems that Christ confronted. He fought against the traditions of the Jews because they were always putting their traditions above the needs of man. In Mark 3: 1-6, we read the account of Jesus curing a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath. He broke one of the Jewish traditions, and because it was the Sabbath, from that point on the Pharisees plotted to kill Him.

When we put tradition above the Word of God, we invalidate His word. Jesus said in Matthew 15:6-9 that such people are hypocrites. “Thus you nullify the Word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, ‘these people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’”

4. Scripture: The Word of God is our only source of real authority. God reveals truths through His written Word. They are irrevocable and complete knowledge.

Jesus said in John 8:32: “And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

Isaiah 40:8 says: “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever.”

Psalms 119:105 says: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:140 says: “Your promises have been thoroughly tested and your servant loves them.”

Psalms 119:160 says: “All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.”

Notes:

IV. Who can be a Pioneer Evangelist?

In the New Testament we see the various responsibilities of leadership. The structure of the primitive church was not complex; on the contrary, it was very simple. It had three offices:

1. The Bishop: 1 Timothy 3 explains the qualifications of a bishop. Many think this is a synonym for a pastor.

2. **The Deacon:** This word can only be found six times in the New Testament. Four of these references are in I Timothy; one is in Philippians; and another is in Romans. (1 Timothy 3: 8, 10, 12, 13; Philippians 1:1; and Romans 1:1). This word means “servant.”

3. **The Elders:** Acts 14:23 says that Paul elected “elders” for all of Asia Minor. The word “elder” appears 56 times in the New Testament. Twenty-eight of these references refer to Jews and 28 refer to leaders in the New Testament churches. Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23, 16:4 and 21:8 say that the church of Jerusalem had elders. Who were these people? They were local leaders who assumed the leadership of the church.

The apostle Paul followed the following process:

A. He entered a city. (Acts 19:1)

B. He won lost souls for Christ. (Acts 19:8, 10, and 20)

C. He taught the new converts. (Acts 19:9, 10)

D. He trained and equipped local leaders. (Acts 20: 17-21).

E. He organized churches and chose elders (local leaders) to assume the leadership of the local church. (Acts 19:1-20, 35)

F. He left the city and moved to another city. (Acts 20:36-38)

This should be the process of the pioneer evangelist. The principal question for us is “Who can be a pioneer evangelist?” To answer this question we must study Ephesians 4:11-12. In this passage there is a list of the functions of the church.

The first of these is the “**apostle.**” There are two types of apostles. The first disciples of Jesus were apostles. Paul was an apostle. The word “*apostle*” means “*someone who is sent.*”

The second group is the “**prophets.**” The prophets were the preachers. The word “prophet” appears 242 times in the Bible. Deuteronomy 18:18 describes their main function. “***And I will raise up for them a prophet from among the brothers: I will put my***

words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

Some of the prophets of the Old Testament were Aaron (Ex. 7:1), Moses, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and many others. Also, the wife of Isaiah was a prophetess (Isaiah 8:3). In the New Testament some examples of prophets are Jesus Christ, Agabus (Acts 21:10) and the four virgins of Philip (Acts 21:9).

The third group was the **“evangelists.”** These people are those that proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ with the purpose of winning lost souls. **(These are the people we are calling “pioneers” in the Pioneer Evangelism ministry).** In the New Testament, Philip was a layman, deacon, and an evangelist. Acts 21:8 ***says “Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the seven.”*** **He was a lay person who preached the gospel to the lost people and baptized them.** Acts 8:12 says, ***“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ they were baptized both men and women.”*** Today, throughout the world, we have men and women who are fulfilling the function of missionaries in beginning new churches.

The fourth ministry is that of the **“pastor-teacher.”** The pastors were those people who were primarily trainers. The pastor is the leader of the leaders. He is the spiritual leader, a servant who guides his people in the way of God. He should have the gift of being a teacher and an “equipper.”

Each Christian in Christ receives a spiritual gift when the Holy Spirit enters his heart at the moment of conversion. 1 Peter 4:10 says: ***“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. Faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*** According to Ephesians 4:11-12, there are members of the church that have the spiritual gift of the evangelist.

Who can be a pioneer and start new churches? Can a pastor be a pioneer? Can a layman be a pioneer? Can a local leader be a

pioneer? Can a lawyer be a pioneer? Can a teacher be a pioneer? Can a missionary be a pioneer?

Everyone can be a pioneer who feels the call to be an evangelist and to fulfill the Biblical qualifications. But what are the qualifications to be a pioneer, regardless whether the person is a pastor or layman?

1. Be saved (Acts 9).
2. Receive the call (Galatians 1:15-16).
3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 5:18, and Acts 13:9).
4. Know how to use the Word of God (II Timothy 2:15).
5. Desire to please and obey God (I Thessalonians 2:4).
6. Love the new converts and take care of them (I Thessalonians 2:7-12 and Titus 1:9).
7. Know how to pray (I Thessalonians 1:2, Colossians 4:2-6).
8. Live a pure life (I Timothy 5:22, Titus 1:7-8).
9. Be firm in the faith (Titus 1:9).

How can we win a nation to Christ and begin a new church in every town, city, and village if we do not train mature lay people that have the gift and the function of an evangelist to execute their gift? There are not enough pastors in the world to reach the entire world for Christ. The people of God need to be trained for that task!

If the preacher-teachers train a large army of lay people that meet the Biblical qualifications, we can fulfill the goal of starting churches in all of the cities, neighborhoods and villages of the entire world.

Who can be a pioneer? Anyone who is called by the Holy Spirit to tell the good news of Christ and start new churches.

is to form a TEAM of disciples that you can train to become Pioneer Evangelist. This team of disciples is what we call the Pioneers in this training manual. The goal is for each pioneer to become a Pioneer Evangelist leader (PEL) and form his own team of disciples /or pioneers. This is the multiplication process.

In the Pioneer Evangelism ministry, the PEL has two primary responsibilities:

1. The first primary responsibility of the PEL is to train the pioneers one by one or in small groups. This training is not the type that can be done in mass or in large groups. He should train them in small groups. So, all pastors and/or leaders are asked to form a team. We suggest that you have one to twelve people in your team. These will be your disciples whom you will train. If you do not have people resources to form a team then you will start from zero, win and train your team. The key thing is to have as your objective to form a team of pioneers or disciples. You will meet with your team every week for prayer, reporting, consultation and training.

Dr. Waylon Moore in his book, Multipling Disciples, says the following:

- A. Discipleship is one of the most strategic methods to have an unlimited personal ministry.
- B. Discipleship is the most flexible ministry.
- C. Discipleship is the quickest and most secure way to mobilize a body of Christ for evangelism.
- D. Discipleship has the greater long term potential to produce fruits than any other ministry.
- E. Discipleship produces for the church mature lay leaders who are Christ-centered and oriented in the Word of God.

2. The second responsibility of the PEL is to maintain weekly contact with the pioneer. The PEL should spend at least an hour each week with his team of pioneers. What to do in these meetings:

- A. The PEL should begin the meeting with prayer. We are in the middle of a spiritual war and our only defense is prayer.
- B. Ask each pioneer evangelist to share his/her victories of the week.
- C. Ask the pioneer evangelists to relate the problems they have confronted during the week and make a note of each one.
- D. Council the pioneers about each problem.
- E. Train the team using the practical section of the **Pioneer Evangelism** manual. For example, restudy the chapter entitled “How to Give Your Testimony,” or “Evangelism” to make sure the pioneer knows how to win souls. Or perhaps it might be necessary to review the chapters called “Prayer,” “Indirect Methods,” or “How to Train Local Leaders,” etc. Use this time to train the workers.
- F. Teach them practical aspects of the ministry like how to write a sermon, how to do counseling, etc. It is the responsibility of the PEL to train these pioneers well.
- G. Give the pioneers a general orientation and conclude the meeting with prayer. (Look at the other practical suggestions in the chapter, “Weekly Follow-up of the Pioneer.”)

If the pioneer evangelists live far away, the PEL should have a longer meeting once a month or every two months. He can also maintain contact by writing letters. This is what the Apostle Paul did. It is very important that the PEL periodically visits all of his pioneers and maintains his team meetings.

VI. The Evangelism Discipleship Team

The role of the PEL is to train his church members to fulfill their ministries. At each church, God has provided some lay people with the special gift for the work of evangelism and the planting of new churches. The PEL will identify potential leaders with these gifts. The role of the Pioneer leader is then to train these men and women separately using the **Pioneer Evangelism** manual and other good materials. The team of pioneers should be recognized as evangelists by the local church. The local church will make a commitment to pray for them, give them support, and send them to start the new work.

The goals and objectives of the Evangelism Discipleship Team?

1. Win lost souls.
2. Baptize the new converts
3. Follow up and disciple the new converts.
4. Train local leaders where a new work is beginning. (God will raise up new leaders whom the Pioneer Evangelist will need to train.)
5. Organize a new church that is self-sustained, self-governed, and self-propagated under the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God.
6. Begin the multiplication of other new works. Each pioneer will become a PEL by forming his own team of pioneers and beginning a new work. This is the strategy for developing a church planting movement.

Notes:

VII. Nine Basic Fundamentals for Successfully Starting Churches

Donald A. McGavran in his book, Understanding Church Growth, and Howard Snyder, in his book, Orientations for Starting Urban Churches, describe the basic fundamentals for successful church planting.

These principles are universal and work in any country in the world. They work in big or small cities.

1. Identify people who have the spiritual gift of starting new works.

Each church possesses laymen and evangelists that have the spiritual gifts of evangelizing and starting new works. **According to Ephesians 4:11-12, the job of the PEL, be he a pastor or layleader, is to equip the saints (laypeople) to fulfill their ministry.**

2. Develop the leadership of the laity.

Developing the leadership of the laymen is the primary basis for starting a new church in an area where there is not a church. There are not enough ordained ministers to fulfill this objective without the efforts of the laymen. The primary task of the PEL is to equip the laymen in their ministry. **Ephesians 4:11-12** says that God gave the local church, *“some to be **apostles** (missionaries), and others to be **prophets**, and others to be **evangelists**, and others to be **pastors and teachers** to prepare God’s people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.”*

A Pastor of a local church once said, “If I allow my lay people do baptisms etc. what will I do?” This pastor had a little understanding of the Biblical role of pastor. Pastors, missionaries and leaders need to focus on two major important roles:

- A. **Train the laity to be evangelists.** These evangelists will have the spiritual maturity to be pioneers.

- B. Train local leaders and/or evangelists** who will assume the local leadership of the work as quickly as possible. It is essential that these local leaders be trained in Biblical doctrines such as how to have a quiet time, how to grow in their faith, and how to participate in church leadership.
- 3. Have a solid Biblical understanding of the nature of the church.**

It is impossible to start something if you do not know what you are starting. What is a church? **A church is a group of baptized Christians who are united to fulfill the following purposes:**

- A. Praise (this includes the practice of the ordinances)
- B. Evangelism
- C. Discipleship
- D. Human Needs Ministries
- E. Fellowship

What is the nature of a church? What are its characteristics?

- A. Self-governing under the leadership of God.
 - B. Self-sustaining under the leadership of God.
 - C. Self-propagating under the leadership of God.
- 4. Identify receptive areas.**

One way to determine areas that will be more receptive is by observing where the major social changes are occurring. In these areas, the pioneer evangelist will be able to find people who will be receptive to

the gospel.

Another way to discover receptive people is by finding those who feel a great need for the Lord due to a special crisis. This can happen to anyone regardless of his or her social class. Sometimes the rich have great conflicts with their children due to drugs and other social problems. The gospel has an answer for the needs of people in all of the social classes in the world. Our job is to find these people and share Christ with them.

5. Communicate the faith in Christ intensely.

There is nothing more important than this. The apostles had a message of repentance and acceptance of Christ for salvation. They preached this message with such intensity that they reached the entire world. Today we need to do the same! **Psalms 126:6** says, *“He who goes out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”* If you are not reaping in your ministry, it may be because you are not sowing correctly. Ask yourself how many people heard your witness about Christ last week and received an invitation to be saved. **Presence evangelism** (just being present) is not enough. **Proclamation evangelism** (just sharing the good news) is not enough. There must be **persuasive evangelism**. **Persuasive evangelism** is when you try to persuade the person to commit his life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

When was the last time that you prayed and literally cried for the salvation of the lost?

6. Emphasize the beginning of the church in the home.

Paul preached the gospel to the Jews and the Gentiles. After he preached the gospel in the city, the new converts had fellowship in a convenient location. Sometimes they had this fellowship time in the homes of the new Christians. Other times they used a public place such as a house or a school.

The following were typical meeting places:

1. Acts 16:40 **the house** of Lydia- Phillipi.
2. Acts 17:5,6 **the house** of Jason- Thessalonica
3. Acts 18:7 **the house** of Titus, the Just- Corinth
4. Acts 19:9 **the school** of Tyrannus- Ephesus
5. Acts 20:20 Paul taught **publicly and also from house to house.**

Paul preached in Thessalonica only for a few weeks; however, he left an established church in that city and left it in the hands of the laymen of Thessalonica.

He stayed in Ephesus for two years teaching in the lecture hall of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9). **What were the results? All of the people in this entire region of Asia Minor heard the Word of God** (Acts 19:10,20). Paul did not do this alone! **He always was discipling laymen to fulfill the word of the Lord. II Timothy 2:2 says, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” This verse clearly explains the secret of Paul’s success. He fulfilled the order of Jesus when he commanded us to “make disciples.”**

In our modern society, and primarily in the larger cities, it is essential to emphasize the importance of beginning churches in the home due to the high cost of property. Christians everywhere feel the need to unite to praise and have fellowship with each other. This does not require a building or a worship center, especially in the beginning. By using homes, the church can grow without the burden of renting or purchasing a building.

A natural problem derived from renting or buying a lot is the price of the property. In small cities a meeting place can be affordable. However, in large cities this is often not the case. For this reason, it is very good to

use homes, backyards, or other such places in the beginning.

Experience tells us that conversions are multiplied when a church is located in a natural environment where the guests can participate without feeling threatened. It is also important to note that in using this method it is easier to penetrate into neighborhoods and cities.

One of the greatest problems, however, with churches that meet in homes is that this can be interpreted as a temporary activity. But the new group can use this initial period to save money in order to later rent a hall or buy a lot.

Our objective is to prepare new works to use their own resources without relying on outside help.

7. Provide an enjoyable worship service where the believers will be happy.

When we enter the presence of God, we draw close to him with sincerity. In Matthew 6:9-13, God teaches us to approach His throne with praise. Praise is, therefore, our answer to the greatness and the goodness of God. We focus all of our attention on the attributes of God, on who **He is** (thanksgiving is an answer to what God **has done** for us.) He is eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient. He is EL-SHADDAI (EL= greatness, SHADDAI = all-powerful). He is JEHOVAH JIREH (God provides). He is Jehovah Rophe (The Lord who cures.)

There are many other attributes of God. Praise is to adore God for who He is. This is something that occurs in one's heart and can be manifested in a variety of different ways.

8. Do not put the burden of “property” on the people.

It is better that a solid nucleus of Christians be formed before addressing issues such as the preacher's salary, property, and a construction project for building a worship center.

9. **Have as a priority from the very beginning of the work the multiplication of the church, beginning with these two principles:**
 - A. Begin a good number of churches at the same time through the training of laymen.
 - B. Train the believers of the new work to have a vision for opening new churches. This can be taught by using indirect methods of Bible study in the formation of new leaders or by training them in Storying and other methods.

VIII. Six Keys to Growing Churches after they are Started

Once the church is started, how do you grow it? Many books have been written on this subject and many studies have been done. However, for a church to grow there are six basic elements that are absolutely essential. These are:

1. A Prayer Ministry

A Church needs to have a foundation of prayer. The pastors and leaders not only need to tell their people that they need to pray, but they need to teach them how to pray. The problem for most Christians is that they do not know how to have a time alone with God. Here are a few suggestions:

- A. Apply to your life the suggestions in the practical section of this manual on “The Pioneer and Prayer
- B. Learn how to “hear the voice of the Lord,” and to make an intercession list for each day of the week. It is also important to make a list of praise, etc. This is in the Practical section of

this manual.

- C. Begin to teach the people to pray, and to apply prayer to life. This is one of the main reasons why Christians spend so little time in prayer even though they are always hearing sermons on the need for prayer. They do not know how to have their own time alone with God.
- D. Form prayer groups in homes. The activity of prayer does not have to be restricted to a worship service setting.
- E. Sometimes conclude the worship service with everyone in small groups on their knees in prayer. This is very important for developing a church of prayer.

2. A Praise Ministry

Howard Snyder says in his book, *Guidelines for Urban Church Planting*, that to grow a church it is necessary to provide a joyful worship service where the people will be happy. This is a universal principle.

No one wants to participate in a worship service that reminds him or her of a funeral. A faith that is without joy and happiness is not a real faith. A happy worship service that has good music is contagious. This does not mean that we should have a worship service without order. Surveys from around the entire world show that the churches in each nation that are growing are those churches that have happy worship services.

Remember that music is a means to praise, it in itself is not praise. We praise God, and not our music. Music is a cultural means of praise. It is not necessary to destroy a culture in order to introduce the gospel.

Real praise is adoring God for who He is. Praise is something that happens within one's heart and is manifested in different ways. Some churches like to use traditional hymnals. Others like to use praise choruses. We believe that we must respect the cultures and the subcultures of the

local people, and we should also respect the autonomy of each church. But, independent of the style of music a church chooses to use, it is important that their worship service be happy and alive. It is a celebration of our God.

Some African churches use cymbals and even dance to the front of the church during the praise period of the worship service. It is wrong to say, “You must not do this because this is not the way we conduct our services in the United States, Brazil, India, or wherever.”

As part of the worship service a church should regularly baptize and have the Lord’s Supper. Dr. Charles Brock in his book, Indigenous Church Planting, has made the following observations regarding these two important ordinances:

To baptize you must have the following:

- A. **A proper candidate**- someone who has repented of his sins and has put his faith in Jesus Christ as his only Lord, Savior, and Mediator. There is not one verse in the Bible that says that a baby should be baptized. It clearly states that we should baptize only those people who have been converted. A baby does not have the ability to accept Christ as his only Lord, Savior, and Mediator.
- B. **The proper authority**- a local church that is self-governed can decide whom they will and will not baptize.
- C. **The proper administrator**- Each church is autonomous and can choose the person who will administer the baptism.
- D. **The proper method**- immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- E. **The proper purpose**- to symbolize that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and resurrected from the dead. It is also a symbol that we died to our sins and received a new life in

Jesus Christ.

To celebrate the Lord's Supper one should have the following:

- A. The proper participants-** disciples of Christ.
- B. The proper authority-** Jesus Christ. He commands believers to practice the Lord's Supper to remember his death.
- C. The proper administrator-** the church is autonomous and can choose the person who they wish to conduct the Lord's supper. This should be the pioneer or local leader or the church can choose her own members to lead this part of the worship service.
- D. The proper purpose-** to remember and announce the death of Christ until He returns.

Above all else, in our worship the preaching of the Word of God should be on the Word of God. **If the pioneer does not have experience preaching he should choose a passage from the Bible and do the following six things with it:**

- A.** Read the verse.
- B.** Explain the spiritual truths of the verse.
- C.** Explain how each truth can be applied to the lives of those listening.
- D.** Give an illustration about each truth.
- E.** Do this with each verse or paragraph of the passage.
- F.** Conclude the message with an invitation.

Unless the pioneer has had a lot of experience and is an excellent preacher, it is better for him to limit himself to a time frame to 20 minutes.

WARNING: It is better to preach 20 minutes each week to a group that is growing than to preach 30 or 50 minutes to people who do not wish to return and will not recommend their church to their friends.

He can also use Bible studies and Storying. Study the chapters on How to Lead Home Bible studies in this manual and the chapters on Storying to learn how to preach good messages and lead Bible studies.

3. An Evangelism Ministry

A church needs a special evangelism outreach ministry in order to grow. You can use the plan in this manual or any other plan. The most important thing is that the church takes the initiative in meeting the people who need to understand the gospel out in the world, as opposed to waiting for them to come to the Sunday service at your meeting place. The pioneer needs to have a visitation ministry which trains the members to the lost outside the church meeting place to evangelize the lost with the purpose of winning them to Christ in places other than just the meeting place of the church.

4. A Discipleship Ministry

To grow it is necessary that a church has a program that will integrate the new converts and will train local leaders one on one or in small groups. The pioneer will train these local leaders in the faith and equip them in practical areas such as: prayer, giving their testimony, winning souls for Christ, leading a home Bible study, teaching Bible Studies, etc.

It is important for the pioneer evangelist to always take the local leaders or new converts with him when he goes into the field. For example, the new believers that the pioneer is discipling should accompany the pioneer when he is leading Bible studies in the homes of people who have not accepted Christ as Lord. The local leader should accompany the pioneer and watch him in action as he gives his own testimony, wins people

to Jesus, etc. No one can disciple someone only in the classroom.

There are two secrets to good discipleship: First, train the people one on one or in small groups. Secondly, it is essential to take the people out into the field with you while you are spreading the gospel.

5. A Fellowship Ministry

To grow it is necessary that a church has a fellowship where there is real love amongst its members. When visitors enter the church they should be able to feel the love of God as well as the love between the members. If there is bitterness, hate, and division it is impossible for a church to grow. Harmony and love are essential for visitors to feel the fellowship of a church and feel accepted by it.

6. Proper Administration

A pastor of a church of 4,000 members in the United State was asked, “What is the difference between being the pastor of a church that has 40 members and a pastor of a church that has 4,000 members?” His answer was “administration!”

It is necessary that a pioneer has the mentality of training his members to do God’s work and not of trying to do everything alone. A pastor can control everything in a church of 30 to 80 members; however, it will reach a point where growth will become impossible unless he trains the people in methods of administration. He should delegate responsibilities to mature and well-trained people. The primary role of the pioneer will then be a trainer.

Notes:

IX. Three Characteristics of the New Testament Church

The objective of the pioneer evangelist is to start self-sufficient churches under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, which have three characteristics of the New Testament church:

1. Self-governing under the leadership of God.
2. Self-supporting under the leadership of God.
3. Self-propagating under the leadership of God.

We will briefly observe each of these three principles:

1. Self-governing under the leadership of God.

The principle of self-governing is very important for those who believe in democracy. Our churches are united because of our doctrines and because we want to work together in the areas of evangelism and missions. The result of this principle in the spiritual life of the church is so vital that if there is a failure in this area, the entire effort of establishing a new, self-sufficient church can be compromised.

Self-government results in spiritual responsibility in the areas of self-support and self-propagation. Failure to put the responsibility of self-government in the hands of converts will suffocate the efforts of starting a new church.

It is almost impossible for the pioneer evangelist to avoid the temptation of trying to govern the new church. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that the pioneer can leave the responsibilities of preaching, teaching, and administrating to the local members. Since the beginning of its life, the new church will be influenced by the pioneer evangelist. However, the church will become the one to make its own decisions instead of the evangelism organization and its pioneer. How is this possible? It is possible because the pioneer will be developing a self-governing church from the very beginning.

Some may say that the church is too young, does not have enough instruction, and does not have enough experience to make its own decisions. However, despite the fact that a church which is three weeks old does not have all of the knowledge of a ten year-old church, it should still make as many of its own decisions as possible with the guidance of a Godly, wise, spiritual leader. The role of the pioneer evangelist will be one of a counselor and not one of a decision-maker. He will give orientation and guidance, and will keep the new church from error. If they begin to move in the direction of error, he will need to lend strong leadership in order to keep them on course; however, the pioneer evangelist should allow the church to make primary decisions.

We should observe some practical steps:

- A. The pioneer evangelist will enter the city and win souls for Christ.
- B. He will teach Bible studies and basic doctrines using the indirect method developed by Charles Brock, Storying or some other method.
- C. The new converts will be baptized.
- D. The Holy Spirit will raise up local leaders in every case, if the pioneer will let Him. In Acts 14:23 we see how Paul directed this process. The leaders that Paul and Barnabas selected for each church were local leaders. Paul started churches in Cyprus (Acts 13: 4-12), Antioch (Acts 13: 13-52), Iconium (Acts 14:1-7), Lystra and Derbe (Acts 14:8-20). In each city, Paul and Barnabas won souls, started churches, selected local leaders and left. If we have the same trust in the Holy Spirit that they did, we will have the same results.
- E. The new converts will learn Biblical doctrines.
- F. The converts that agree on doctrine will plan to organize a church.

- G. The local group will choose its leaders:
1. Pastor
 2. Deacons and/or elders
 3. Others, when necessary

The apostle Paul surrendered the care and orientation of the new converts to the Holy Spirit and the grace of God. He did not think that it was necessary to stay with them in order to keep them from failing.

For the church to be self-governed, the pioneer cannot make the decisions for the new group. They can give them orientation, but they should let the new group make its own decisions. This will enable the local leaders to assume the leadership more quickly **BUT HE NEEDS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CHURCH MAINTAINS DOCTRINAL PURITY.** Even the Apostle Paul wrote letters to the churches he started to combat false teachers.

The pioneer evangelist must decide before he ever begins the new work that his purpose will be to develop a self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating church under the leadership of God he/she should teach this repeatedly to the new converts.

2. Self-supporting under the leadership of God.

A New Testament church is self-sustaining. This should be observed from the very beginning of its life. We believe that the church should support missionaries and pastors. Pastors are to be paid by their own churches. Missionaries draw a salary from an association of evangelical churches. The laymen receive their wages from their own jobs. However, all people, pastors, missionaries, and laymen, are dependent upon the Lord. In every situation, regardless of who starts the church, we should start a church that supports and sustains itself.

A new church is not ready to have all of the ministries that the older churches have, but any new church has sufficient funds to support its basic ministries and do all of the things that God desires for that church at that moment.

Therefore, the pioneer evangelist should plant this kind of church: one that learns how to completely finance its own ministries through its own tithes and offerings. The pioneer should teach these concepts through his attitudes and actions before the church is ever organized.

By reading the book of Acts, one can see that this is the method used by Paul. There is not one verse that indicates that the Gentiles were supported by the Jews of Jerusalem or by the church in Antioch. Neither the association of churches nor a sponsoring mother church has the resources to support the new church.

Melvin Hodges says in his book The Indigenous Church that if a congregation has ten tithing families it can support a full time pastor if he will live on the same economic level as its people.

The spiritual growth of the church demands that it be self-supporting. If the pioneer and the sponsoring mother church deprive the new believers of the privilege of giving and of the responsibility of sacrificing for the continuation of the work, the result will be a weak church. It will not have the initiative to spread the gospel. In place of turning to God to supply its needs, the church will turn to the association of churches or to the mother church.

When a new church struggles and fights, it grows. Missionary Charles Brock explains in his book Indigenous Church Planting that the result is like when a person tries to help a butterfly escape from its cocoon. The butterfly struggles to leave its cocoon and a person must only watch. If he or she loses patience and tries to help the caterpillar by cutting the threads with a knife, the struggle ends. However, the result is a weak and helpless butterfly that will only live a few minutes. The helping bystander broke one of the laws of life. If the person had only allowed the butterfly to struggle, the result would have been a strong, beautiful, and well-developed butterfly.

A meeting place built with the money of the struggling local people is greater than a big, beautiful building built with foreign money or money from an association of churches. This is not to say that it is wrong for someone to help a new church. For example, if a mother church wishes to help in the construction of a building, this help should be defined as a one-time project. This is different from long term or eternal support. However, it is best for the local group to struggle to build their own facility, if this is what they want to do.

The problem arises because many leaders believe their congregation is too poor to tithe. The people will eventually believe this as well. In reality, these very people have the resources to accomplish all the things God plans for their church. Our source is GOD! This principle should be taught from the very beginning.

The question is “how” do you develop a self-supporting church? If the pioneer evangelist plans to plant a self-supportive church, then it is very important for him to build a correct foundation from the beginning. The first believers will establish the model for the next believers. This model will be the foundation on which the church emerges from the converts. Therefore, it should be taught that every aspect of the finances comes from the members of the church and that they should contribute part of their tithe to missions through the local church and association of churches.

It is easier to teach about the finances of God’s work to a new believer, one who has been saved only a few weeks, than to teach this principle to someone who has been saved for over a year. The Follow-up material should be used to teach this lesson. New converts should assume their own financial responsibility from the beginning.

In many parts of the world churches can not be organized until they have a full-time, ordained pastor, property and a building. This is a very traditional model. However, these churches are placing man made barriers on themselves that God does not require. Please note the following regarding how much this will cost to organize one church.

1. Pastor’s salary per month _____ x 12 months _____ x 7 years = _____
(It takes an average of 7 years to organize a new church with this method.)
2. Pastor’s house rent _____ x 12 months _____ x 7 years = _____
3. Property _____
4. Building _____

Add all of these up and see if your church can afford to start a new work using the traditional model.

We have no option but to go back to the Bible and do what Jesus said to do and what the Apostle Paul did. The Apostle Paul started new works in homes, schools and in public places using lay leaders. This is God's plan to win the world to Christ.

3. Self-propagating under the leadership of God.

A New Testament church is self-propagating. By its very nature, it should share its life with others. This type of church is evangelistic and has the desire to start new churches.

With the world demographic explosion, we should develop New Testament churches that will plant other churches. Each church that is started through the principles of the New Testament will discover that it produces fruit more quickly than a church that is organized through other methods. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the pioneer to plant New Testament churches.

Each church should be responsible for its region. It should request a layman in another city to open his home for six months. After this time, it should begin to organize into another church. In other words, a new church needs to be started within walking distance of everyone in the world. Each church should have the local leader and the pioneer to take care of it. The duty of the pioneer at this point is to train the leaders of the churches. Also, a rule of thumb should be to start one new church for every 1,000 people in highly populated areas.

In the beginning, the pioneer is an evangelist. He wins souls and afterwards teaches these new believers the basic doctrines of the faith. However, the next step is to raise up local leaders, leaving the work in their hands, in order for him to start a new work in a new neighborhood or city. The pioneer evangelist should continue to train these local leaders and organize the different groups into churches. He should then leave the works in the hands of the local leaders, and visit them to help and encourage.

The work of the pioneer evangelist is to train each group to organize itself into a new church and also to train new leaders to open another work

as quickly as possible in different place. This new church will then be self-propagating.

Notes:

X. CONCLUSION:

The pioneer evangelist who wants to be successful, should do the following:

1. He should be well trained and prepared.
2. He should win lost souls for Christ in the homes of lost people or in other places out in the world such as offices, campuses etc. instead of only beginning worship services in a hall with the “come to me” philosophy.
3. He should begin happy and exciting worship services in the homes of new believers.
4. He should know how to follow up the new believers into the faith and the body of Christ.
5. He should know how to disciple and train local leaders.
6. He should allow the new converts to provide the rent if they need a hall for their joyful services.
7. He should be trained how to baptize new converts and celebrate the Lord’s Supper.
8. He should train the local people how to win lost souls and lead evangelistic Bible studies.

9. He should allow the local people to decide on and provide their own meeting place.
10. He should train local leaders how to lead the local church. They should be taught to lead Bible studies and worship services, administrate the business, preach, win lost souls, baptize new believers, celebrate the Lord's supper, collect tithes, and raise offerings for missions.
11. He should organize the new church as one which is self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating under the leadership of God.
12. He should instruct the new church as to the use of this same method in multiplying itself to become new churches in the surrounding areas. Churches multiplying themselves are the key to winning the entire world to Christ. Think multiplication—where can we begin new churches.

THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS

This section of the manual will explain how the pioneer evangelist will execute his ministry in practical ways. These methods work if applied under the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit of God. The reason why they work is that they were inspired by the Holy Spirit and recorded in the New Testament. The pioneer evangelist is applying New Testament evangelism methods in our modern day context when using this approach.

- I. The Pioneer Evangelist and the Holy Spirit**
- II. The Pioneer Evangelist and Prayer**
- III. The Pioneer Evangelist and Salvation**
- IV. The Pioneer Evangelist and the Personal Testimony**
- V. The Pioneer Evangelist and Personal Evangelism**
- VI. The Pioneer Evangelist and How to Begin A New Church**
- VII. The Pioneer Evangelist and How to Lead Bible Studies Through the Indirect Method**
- VIII. The Pioneer Evangelist and How to Lead a Home Bible Study Without Bible Study Materials**
- IX. The Pioneer Evangelist and How to Lead the Good News Bible Studies**
- X. The Pioneer Evangelist and How to Lead Follow Up Bible Studies**
- XI. Bible Storying by J.O. Terry**
- XII. Bible Storying by Jackson Day**
- XIII. The Pioneer Evangelist and the Steps of the Pioneer Evangelism Method**

OBSERVE: This section presents SIX different models of presenting the gospel: personal testimony, sharing the plan of salvation directly, Bible studies without studies, Bible studies using indirect methods, storying. **THIS IS NOT A PROGRAM. THESE ARE PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES WHICH YOU CAN APPLY BASED ON YOUR REALITY IN YOUR CULTURE.**

I. The Pioneer Evangelist and the Holy Spirit

The apostle Paul was totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit. It was through the Holy Spirit that he had the power to preach the message of salvation and have great results, perform great miracles, and start new churches. If the pioneer evangelist wants to have good results in his ministry, he must depend on the Holy Spirit at all times.

When entering a city and contacting interested people

The Holy Spirit opens the doors through various different means, people, and circumstances in order to start a new work. In every city there are people who are interested in the gospel. God is at work everywhere. The Holy Spirit opens the hearts of the lost. He convicts them of their sins and gives them a new birth to the glory of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is essential in beginning a new work.

When leading home Bible studies

During the meetings the pioneer will have the opportunity to discover emerging leaders and to train them. The apostle Paul entered into a city, stayed there two or three weeks, won souls, and found local leaders to lead the new church. The pioneer should depend upon the Holy Spirit to raise up the local leaders.

When organizing the new church

The church belongs to the Holy Spirit. He is its source. If a church is a product of the power of the Holy Spirit, He will provide the members

with the spiritual gifts that are necessary for the life of the church. These gifts are found in I Corinthians 12, Roman 12:6-12 and I Peter.

When exiting a city

The pioneer should depend on the Holy Spirit to continue the work after he leaves the city. When the Apostle Paul left the cities, he was able to leave the work in the hands of the local leaders because in reality he was leaving the work in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

To execute the work of Christ it is necessary for the pioneer to be bold and filled with the Holy Spirit. Read Ephesians 5:18, “Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, instead be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

1. The attributes of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is **eternal**. - Hebrews 9:14

The Holy Spirit is **omnipresent**. - Psalms 139: 7-10

The Holy Spirit is **omnipotent**. - Luke 1:35

The Holy Spirit is **omniscient**. - John 14:12,26

These four attributes are distinctive of God. Only God is eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient.

2. The work of the Holy Spirit within a lost person

The Holy Spirit testifies that Jesus is the truth. - John 15:26-27

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, justice, and judgment. - John 16:8-11

3. The work of the Holy Spirit within the Christian

- The Holy Spirit gives the Christian assurance of eternal life.- II Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13,14
- The Holy Spirit renews the Christian.- Titus 3:5
- The Holy Spirit frees the Christian of the law of sin and death.- Romans 8:2

- The Holy Spirit strengthens the Christian with power from the inner man.- Ephesians 3:16
- The Holy Spirit renews and frees the Christian to witness. - Acts 1:8

4. The fullness and the fruits of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 orders all Christians to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What are the fruits of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22,23 says that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control.

The purpose of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is to share the Word of God with boldness. -Acts 4:29, 31

5. The Conditions for being filled with the Holy Spirit

- A person must be saved. -Acts 2:38
- One must confess all the known sin in his life.- I John 1:9 (read Psalms 66:18)
- By faith, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you, and control you.- I John 5:14-15. (read Romans 1:17)
- Obey God each moment of every day. - Acts 5:32

CONCLUSION

As you study this section, we encourage you to take the time to look up each of the following verses, and to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through them.

The believer has the Holy Spirit through the symbolism of anointing (I John 2:20, 27; II Corinthians 1:21), the symbolism of a seal (II Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13), the symbolism of a deposit (II Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:14), the symbolism of a baptism (I Corinthians 12:13 a), and the symbolism of a drink (I Corinthians 12:13b; John 4:14, 7:37-39a).

We should obey the One who told us to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).” We should love His Word, because we have been sanctified through him (John 17:17).