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The making of an evangelist

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This chapter is an additional help and a follow-up to the previous two chapters. While some detail will be given here, some of the sections will be further explained later in the book. This is done in this way to avoid overlap and to keep chapters to a manageable size.

Whether you desire to do evangelism on a grand scale by involving other churches, or on a local church or group level, some of the ideas in this chapter will be relevant. I have been involved personally in all these methods and have seen many people come to Christ or have been influenced to think about Christ more deeply. In any case, in all instances, people have been warned of the peril of neglecting the forgiveness Christ offers.

**The power of prayer and evangelism**

I have found it essential in evangelism to spend a good time in prayer as part of evangelistic work. Some of the great international evangelists spend two to three hours each day in the afternoon in prayer for the evening meeting. Also, if the program has been very heavy, they find time not only to pray but to rest for a while, so that they can come to the later meeting an instrument for God alive and sensitive in mind and spirit. Remember, Jesus said, 'Without me you cannot do a thing'. It is essential to stand before the congregation, having gone over your message with the Lord, so that it can be an authentic 'thus saith the Lord' when you speak on God's behalf.

During the prayer time, there are a number of things I do, if possible:

1. Pray for myself and get my heart right before God.

2. Pray over the message. Talk it over with God. Be willing for God to take charge and discard the unnecessary. If it is God's message make sure it is what He desires you to say. This demands commitment and courage and avoiding the trap of saying what you think people would like you to say.

3. Pray for the people on the platform. The choir, church leaders, members, visitors and especially the lost and backsliders. Plead with God to speak to them through His word.

In 2 Corinthians 10:4 it tells how God is able to pull down the strongholds of Satan. And in Jeremiah 23:29 it reminds us of the power of the Word which is like a fire and like a hammer that breaks the rock to pieces. So do not look on the rocky quality of the hearts of humans, but look to the hammer of God which breaks rocks.

So preach the Word. That means that we don't ask Christ to step aside, while we depend on our intellectual power, our techniques, or demonic powers. Jesus is the unique and great soul winner and His Word counts.

Also remember - the harvest field of the world is white unto harvest, so it is always the time to gather the fruit of the harvest. The labourers are few, which suggests more labourers means more harvest. God does not worry about difficult places and hard times. He can reap using us whenever He desires to.
The times were hard when Luther preached in the Reformation. John and Charles Wesley gave the Word to a very godless England. Revivals have come to bring back to God countless thousands across the years, when depravity and evil seemed to prevail.

It has been said that difficulty in the Chinese language is represented by two characters - 'crisis' and 'opportunity'. Whether that is true of the language, and I believe it is, it is certainly true that a difficult place is a great opportunity to see what God can do. It is amazing what God can do when we have the courage to do what He says to us in prayer and through His Word.

On one occasion as a visiting preacher in an Australian church, I felt greatly burdened to say to the people that they should take stock of what the evils of strong drink could do in our day and age. One lady told me after that she could have got under the seat when I preached that way. Later however, the same lady mentioned also that there was a real drinking problem in the church amongst young people because one of the young leaders didn't see the dangers. She also said that the entire group of young people changed their ideas after that message. I didn't want to preach that way that day, nor did I know of any problem, but God always knows best and to be obedient brings blessing. That underlined a great lesson I had learned some years before.

We should not only pray and believe in the power of God's Word, but we should also remember that the letter killeth but Spirit gives life, so we should always seek the filling of the Holy Spirit.

This brings God into the picture and the Holy Spirit right into the arena of soul winning. He convicts of sin; He converts the soul; He changes the life of the new believer; He calls for service for Christ. No preacher is ever able to do what the Spirit of God can do. So ask God to empty the preacher of self, and trust Him to fill every part with the Divine Spirit, and trust Him to make it happen. Seek the great empowering of God for every message given. See what Acts 1:8 has to say about the importance of the Holy Spirit in ministry.

Some years ago I wrote a paper on the 'Missing Person' which was given a wide distribution by the Department of Evangelism of which I was appointed director. The paper finished with a poem I once read. I quote the poem below and suggest it be a prayer outline for you and me:

'I saw a human life ablaze with God
I felt a power divine,
As through an empty vessel of frail clay
I saw God's glory shine.
Then woke I from a dream and cried aloud:
"My Father, give to me
The blessing of a life consumed by God
That I may live for Thee".'

Expecting results in evangelism

We need to go forward expecting God to bless if we trust Him to work through us.
In the New Testament there was an occasion when Christ could do no mighty works because of their unbelief.

There is a rather humorous saying I like to quote which goes like this: 'Blessed is he that expecteth nothing - he shall not be disappointed'.

There are many passages in the Bible which should be meditated on and worked through which seem to say that we should expect results in evangelism.

Here are some Scriptures which should be looked at very carefully.

John 4:35 - The harvest white and ready of reaping. Matthew 9:37-38 - The harvest white and ready for reapers. You see, not only is there a sowing time in the field of God, but there is a reaping time, and we may sow for some in audiences and reap for others at the same time.

Matthew 28:18-20 says that if Jesus is with us always and all power is given to Him in heaven and in earth, then something is bound to happen as He uses us.

In Psalm 126:5-6 it seems to guarantee that if we sow as suggested, doubtless we shall reap. What a promise that is, and of course, God cannot lie to us.

In Matthew 13:3-8 there are four kinds of soil into which the seed is sown, but while some may fail to grow, there is a large proportion who will be reaped. Nobody has won everybody but there are some there that we may win, and the rest can be warned of their eternal peril.

In Jeremiah 17:9, it tells us that the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.

There are two things about the heart. First, it has a terminal case of illness (wickedness) unless God, who knows the heart, does something. In Ezekiel 36:26 God has promised to do something for Israel but he can also do that for anybody. See what He is saying in the next lines. 'A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you a heart of flesh'. This is a heart transplant with no rejection problems.

Second, we have also a reminder of what God can do in Romans 5:20: 'But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.'.

These scriptures considered in prayer and in consultation with Almighty God, by meditating on His Word, asking Him to show us the deep truths of God will work wonders for our faith.

I find that the word facts is a good basis to get us truly into the correct attitude of prayer, and the possibility of having a blessed time with God Almighty.

Faith           Lord increase my faith.
Adoration       I worship the Almighty One.
Confession      of sins committed and duties omitted to be done.
Thanksgiving   for mercies and blessings.
Supplication  Beg humbly, entreat, petition, plead, prayer for self and others.

In the petition section of this prayer, do ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit, and trust Him to guide you for the day's direction.

In this next section I intend to give some ideas for outreach which I have been involved in with others, or have used myself.

Some will only be mentioned here to give a brief idea of what can be done. They will be dealt with more fully in later in the book.

Forum evangelism

This is the type of evangelism where one goes into workshops or the like, and the program is on open discussion type of meetings. Sometimes a team of musicians can give an item, but usually the form of the meeting goes like this:

(a) Introduction by person recommending one as speaker.
(b) Brief run-down on achievement, etc.
(c) Speaker speaks for about 20 minutes.
(d) Question time for about 10-15 minutes.

As these forums take place in a lunch hour, time must be strictly observed. Besides, the topic must attract people because the workers attend on a purely voluntary basis. Be ready for opposition and all kinds of "red herrings".

Factory evangelism

If you know of a Christian factory owner who is deeply concerned about the lost condition of his employees, you may be able to get a meeting along with following lines.

(a) Owner introduces the speaker and tells of his work.
(b) Owner then gives the purpose of the speaker's coming.
(c) Owner reminds the employees that as it is the boss's time, they will not lose any pay, because the machines have been stopped. He asks them to give courteous attention and serious thought to the message.
(d) The speaker then outlines the need for salvation, or gives a 'Christianity Outlined and Explained' type of message. However, give what God has given you in your prayer time.
(e) The time of the whole meeting is not very long but as determined by the owner.
(f) Follow-up is in the hands of the owner (an appeal is given) with prayer for salvation or redemption, and hand raised with rest bowed in prayer. These people are followed up by the owner.

Sawmill evangelism

When I was a pastor in a country area, one of my deacons worked in a sawmill. He was deeply concerned about his workmates, and asked the mill owner if he could bring his pastor along to speak to the men in the dinner hour. I went along on a fairly regular basis and the men listened attentively and did not seem to resent the 'intrusion' into their lunch hour. The format for such a meeting is as follows:
(a) Introduction of speaker.
(b) Occasionally some music by a visiting musician.
(c) Speaker speaks on topic of interest to the men but always with an evangelistic slant.
(d) Simple appeal. Similar to factory evangelism discussed above.
(e) The mill-working deacon then arranges for follow-up.

These types of outreach meetings mentioned so far have the dual purpose to warn or to win souls.

Kerbside Sunday school

In the first church I pastored as a young student, the Sunday school and the services had been greatly depleted because of a number of factors (including lack of personnel because of World War II).

The Sunday school was down to a very small number, and the teaching staff and musicians were all borrowed from somewhere else. I had to start almost from rock bottom. After a lot of hard work, and some ideas suitable to the area, the church was persuaded to start a 'Kerbside Sunday school'. I used a few young people we had who had come to the church in my time as pastor, and got some help from students at the Queensland Bible Institute (now the Bible College of Queensland).

It was necessary to get a permit from the police for a number of sites and we went out into the streets in order to see souls saved and to recruit children for the Sunday school. Our Sunday school grew from a single digit figure up to 130 and later I held a training class for teachers - 27 teachers strong, most, if not all, from our own people.

The methods used in this type of Sunday School will be discussed more fully later in the book.

Beach meeting evangelism

In a number of my pastorates, plus my work as State Evangelist for the Baptist Union of Queensland, I used beach meeting evangelism quite frequently. These took various on various forms. In Cairns in north Queensland, every Sunday afternoon we held a beach meeting (weather permitting) in the open air at Machan's Beach just north of Cairns. We had a truck provided for our use on Sundays by a local furniture firm. We had a specially built platform, with the signwritten words 'Baptist Flying Squad (North Queensland Division)'. We had some good music and held the meetings on the beach front across the road from residents' houses. One singer, who had a beautiful voice, literally stopped people in their tracks as her voice rang out across the area. Later, as a result of this type of evangelism, I heard of people won to Christ and still going for God, and I understand a church service was started in the area because of the previous beach work.

Christmas holiday beach evangelism

At Christmas holiday time, in conjunction with people of other churches in the areas, we went to where the crowds were and did outreach to the people on holidays.
There were two places in particular where we did this regularly for some weeks. Coolum on the Sunshine Coast and Mooloolaba, also on the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane.

In the Coolum meetings, we hired a local hall just over the road from a big camping area, and ran a combination of Gospel music outreach, plus Christian films and an evangelistic message. Many people on holidays came to the meetings, and our young people had a great opportunity to invite campers to the meetings. Also, some tracts were given out among the campers. People began to look forward to our coming every year, and many expressed appreciation of help received.

The sea gave me a stark reminder at Coolum of the brevity of life, because of a famous champion life-saver friend of mine. He swam out in the belt in answer to a call for help from a man a long way out. The rope on the reel was almost used up because he had to go so far out. He had reached the man, and had just raised his hand for the man on the reel to be wound in when, to his horror, he saw a shark approximately 15 feet long coming directly towards him and the rescued man. He told me later, 'Reg, I didn't know what to do. I knew if I hurried I would attract the shark. I felt like letting the man go, but I knew I couldn't do that. I said to him, "Keep still and quietly tread water if you can". The shark still came closer and then suddenly turned away again and went out seaward'.

This event always spoke to me about life's unexpected and the brevity of life.

In Mooloolaba, the meetings were held in the open, up behind the flags for surfing and just near the lifesavers' building. We had a blessed time here each year, and there were some adults who came to Christ, and went on in His service.

The program was similar to the Coolum meetings, but with film showings in the open-air. These outreach meetings were co-operate efforts of some visiting church people on holidays, plus some local people. The good music, films and the Gospel message seemed always to draw a crowd. Prayer and careful planning, plus quality items by Spirit-filled people seem to reach the masses in this way.

A humorous happening came about in a wind storm in the Hervey Bay area one night when we were in a beach meeting.

Our group was singing 'It only takes a spark to set the world on fire ...', when we definitely had visual and sound effects per courtesy of the wind storm. The electric wires were making contact and at the appropriate moment sparks were flying and an electrical splutter was heard. One could be pardoned for saying the meeting had an electrifying effect that night.

**Forestry Camp Evangelism**

In the same country area where the sawmill evangelism was held, I was privileged to take a team of all ages, but mainly young people, into the Beerburrum Forestry Camp, near the famous Glasshouse Mountains in Queensland. Our team was fairly big and came from Maleny, Nambour and other surrounding areas in 'pineapple' country. There was a large number of Christian Endeavour young people, plus other youth.
The meetings were held in the open-air out among the forestry workers huts. There was good quality, spirit-filled music, testimonies and messages, and we had quite a crowd of forestry workers attend. For many, this appeared to be their only contact with the Christian message.

An incident occurred one night that had tragic results. On this particular night, I was giving the message and was heckled and scoffed at by two of the workers who were very antagonistic. I replied to the scoffers by saying, 'How do you know you will still be able to come to a meeting when we come next time'. They scoffed even more. Next time we came I could not see them. I asked one of the workers where they were. He said, 'Didn't you hear? Last Sunday they were climbing the face of the famous Mt Tibrogargan and fell to their death'. I like to think that something they heard in our meetings was enough for them to put to use in prayer as they fell to their death and were swept into eternity.

Giving a testimony

The word 'testimony' is similar in meaning to the word 'witness'. According to the English dictionary it means 'one who sees something; one who gives evidence in the law; court; to see; to attest; to see and to sign as having seen'. In other words, it is a first-hand, not second-hand, experience.

The biblical reasons

In 1 Peter 1:8 it says (speaking of Jesus): 'Whom having not seen, ye love, in whom, though now you see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory'.

Peter had seen Jesus and through his testimony many came to know the Saviour. I was saved through the testimony of two young teenage girls. Peter's great testimony at Pentecost meant blessing to thousands. Stephen's great testimony at his stoning, affected the life of Paul for they who witnessed the stoning 'laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul'. So Paul's great testimony in various lands and before rulers left its mark either in conviction or conversion.

The uniqueness of a testimony

(see John 9 - the man born blind)

He was blind but made to see. It caused a stir amongst 'the experts' of the Law. They started a theological argument which put the healed man out of his depth.

They didn't realise that, though the man had limited knowledge of whom Jesus was, he (the blind man) was the expert in his testimony. He said in effect, 'I don't know much about the Healer, who He is and what He can do, but I know one thing, whereas I was blind now I see'. There was no argument that counted against that.

Therefore, you are the expert on your testimony.

However, you do need to see it is based on good biblical grounds. Saul of Tarsus had a testimony of a kind as persecutor of the Church, but he had a better and more legitimate testimony as Paul, the Apostle of Christ Jesus. So giving a testimony is telling your story.
How to give a testimony

1. Ask God to help you form what you wish to say.
2. Go through the basic elements of a testimony:
   (a) What I was;
   (b) I had a need;
   (c) I was introduced to Christ (by someone or through the Bible or a Christian book);
   (d) Christ met my need;
   (e) What I am now.

Those five steps can be learned on the fingers of one hand. Then if you are nervous you can hold on to that hand (behind your back!).

3. A prisoner in Boggo Road jail, Brisbane, went through those steps without knowing it. Two prisoners were led to Christ as a result. Those five points can be adapted to all kinds of situations. Examples are set out below.

   (a) Salvation (I was away from God);
   (b) Worry (I was worried);
   (c) Lonely (I was lonely);
   (d) Frustrated (I was frustrated);
   (e) Afraid (I was afraid).

If someone says one of those things above, just go down the pattern of (a) to (e) (counting on your fingers) for what Christian hasn't been worried, or lonely, frustrated, afraid at sometime or other. Try it. You will find it works in these and other kinds of situations which I have not listed in this section but could be used in your testimony approach.

Prayer time

Remember, ask the Saviour to make you a fisher of men. He always does what He says He will.

How to build an audience

Audiences do not just happen. They come about by the answer of Almighty God to our prayers and by telling others either by printed page or word of mouth. One of the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 is 'helps', which can also mean 'organisation'. So we ought to pray and organise as God directs our minds.

Why build an audience?

Determine what you want to do and how often you want to do it.

   (a) Motive.
   (b) Goal (or aim).
   (c) How often
      (i) Occasional
      (ii) Regular
      (iii) Special times (for example, anniversaries).

What kind(s) of goals do we aim for?
(a) Daily.
(b) Weekly.
(c) Bi-weekly.
(d) Monthly.
(e) Quarterly.
(f) Half-yearly.
(g) Yearly (or 'X' year's plan).

What resources do we have?

(a) Personal.
(b) Equipment.
(c) Finance.

Seek to make a God-directed, prayed over plan. Then work out the financial needs. If it's God's plan He will provide. (Note: It has been estimated that for every person involved in the ushering, counselling and the like in a crusade, up to four people are involved in all. For example, spouse, children, relatives, friends, etc.)

Basic philosophy of audience growth

(a) The primacy of prayer.
(b) One year build-up and follow-up to a 'focal point'. The length of time can be modified.
(c) The maxims of growth. For example, how to build a basic crowd, choir, ushers, etc. (cf. Billy Graham meetings). Because of overlap in methods, this is more fully explained later in the book.

Basic rule: For any meeting, planning to work smoothly, always work backwards, having listed what you want to do. For example, six months preparation. Focal point of planning in July. Then work back for six months to January previous to the focal point.

Assessment methods and check-ups

These are essential for:

(a) Progress of each segment or department of the planning.
(b) Follow-up check up for final planning just before the 'focal point'.

Methods that work

Below are tried and proven methods used as focal points in any given type of planning, including special meetings or weekends.

(a) International nights.
(b) Crusades (tailor to suit area).
(c) Special Sundays. Music; students; youth; children; men; women; missionary; revival; future hope. There are others which will be dealt with later in the book.

Questions to discuss

(a) What does my church need along this line?
(b) Types of people in our area?
(c) What sort of a plan could we develop?

Bathe everything in prayer as you plan, but let God direct it all.

To plan for a focal point

1. Decide what you want to do (goal or aim). Your motive will determine the type of program you have. For example, an 'International Night' - your motive will be to make people from other lands feel that the church cares for them and the program is designed to give some music, testimonies, and a message which will help them overcome obstacles of heartache, loneliness, strangeness in this new land, etc. Although these are in the main pre-evangelism ideas, they can be used for outreach as well.

The focal point for this can be October in United Nations Month or the like. Here is some help in a count-down program working backwards. This time-table may have to be modified to suit local areas.

October - International Night - Sunday Evening Service

* Program using people from other lands.
* Supper using recipes from other lands.
* Have some hosts/hostesses to introduce the overseas visitors to one another and the church people.
* Pick hymns known to have originated from other lands or to have been written by those of others lands. Have solo or duets (for example, 'Abide with Me', sung by a Dutch person (or someone else) in their own tongue, and an Australian will sing along with them in English.
* You will need to know what nationalities are around the local district and districts nearby.

* You may need to interpret for some items.

September - First month

* Begin intensive visitation.
* Check transport arrangements.
* Check childminding arrangements.
* Every committee make a final check on progress and time left to complete their work. (Note: check especially any counselling training given and counsellors available.)

August - Second month

* Get advertising space or free advertising in local paper. Write article on the special meeting(s) three to four weeks ahead.
* Begin to display advertising.
* Commence counsellor training.
* Select counsellors.
* Half-night or full-night of prayer.
* Enlist past crusade workers for follow-up.
* Check progress.

July - Third month
List people to invite. Not only migrants but go through church and nearby roads. Young people get their list to work in with school and work mates. Aim to get a certain number present at the special focal point by all members inviting groups such as ladies', Boys Brigade, and other groups. Seek to pack-a-pew with those invited. Another source of people for invitation is the old rolls of the church with the names of non-active members.

June - Fourth month

In another state, people were encouraged to seek for 80 attending at the night service (instead of the usual 12-15), by using the following methods. One hundred and seven turned up making a lot of new-comers for the church.

- Print invitation material.
- Conduct visitation drive. Leave invitations for Australian and migrants.
- Get ushers chosen and reservation areas planned out (or special pews reserved for groups of visitors).
- Hospitality committee plans the international supplies with overseas recipes and small flags of the country the food represents.
- Possibly invite community leaders and politicians to the focal point.
- Finance committee work on budget.
- Music committee work out suitable hymns and music.

May - Fifth month

- Have prayer committee develop prayer side during this month, and plan for prayer power groups in the month up to the focal point.
- Recruit prayer partners and organise prayer breakfasts and other prayer functions.
- Commence messages to enthuse in evangelical outreach. For example, 'The scriptural challenge of the lost', 'The spiritual preparation of the workers', 'The passion for souls', 'Saved to serve' and similar messages from time to time leading up to the special meeting.
- Don't forget youth groups and Sunday school. Seek to foster interest here and also in adult groups within the church.

April - Sixth month - Starting point

- Prayer time for planning.
- Choose program.
- Plan promotion 'count-down' program to church people.
- Plan for regular prayer for focal point in weekly prayer meetings.
- Posters within the church building to awaken interest.
- Change each month with more information. Put these posters over doorways or other places where people congregate.
- Try to decide what nations to invite. What flags will be needed? What posters representing countries can be used? Try consuls, ambassadors, airlines, shipping companies, etc. to get these things. (I have had the personal flags of Consuls loaned to me on one occasion. This service created such interest that one of the television stations came 25 miles to broadcast the program free of charge.)
1. Appoint a Crusade Director to work with the Pastor and to relieve the Pastor of administrative burdens. He should be a man of proven ability and spiritual strength.

2. Crusade Executive lays down basic policies for the crusade and includes the Pastor and Director plus six to nine church leaders.

3. Conveners of committee could be some of executive or other people. They should have gifts of leadership and consistent spiritual life. Great care should be exercised in choice. The committees should be:

(a) Prayer
(b) Promotion and publicity
(c) Visitation
(d) Counselling and follow-up
(e) Finance
(f) Music
(g) Arrangements (for platform, hall, seating, etc.)
(h) Transport
(i) Young people and students
(j) Nursery and baby sitting
(k) Ushers and reservations
(l) Welcoming committee
(m) Hospitality (responsible for catering, etc.)

The nominations should be presented to the church by the Director. The church of course may accept, reject, or alter nominations.

The laws of leadership

There are leaders and 'leaders'.

Incompetent leaders. That is, promoted above their competence. A good worker does not necessarily become a good leader (cf. Peter principle).

There are also the 'led' leaders. The bully. The traditional leaders.

Field Marshall Montgomery said, 'The opposite to leadership is misleadership' (cf. Hitler).

Leadership can be taught (cf. Jesus and followers).

Defining the laws of leadership.

God chose His leaders from various backgrounds (Moses, Gideon, etc.). Some of them seemed most unlikely. There are many ideas of what makes a leader (see these culled from various sources).

A spiritual leader needs some of the areas to help be an efficient leader (see below and pick your first 10):

1. Striving for excellence.
2. Creativity.
5. Time given to the task.
6. Approachable.
7.Tact.
8.Dependability.
9.Ability to grow.
11.Does not build own kingdom.
12.Finds opportunity.
13.Beyond reproach (integrity).
14.Obedience to God.
15.Fullness of Spirit.
17.'Great' should be a servant.
18.Clearly defined aims.
19.Perseverance.
20.Ability to learn.
21.Integrity of character.
22.Devotion to task and loyalty.
23.Genuine conversion.
24.Interest in and concern for people.
25.Active church member.
26.Spiritual discipline.
27.Love of brethren.
28.Spiritual priorities.
29.Importance of detail.
30.Quality.
31.Provide vision.
32.Deals with concepts.
33.Exercises faith.
34.Seeks for effectiveness.
35.Provides direction.

Remember our need to pray that our plans are really God's plans (see Proverbs 16:1).

An eye on you: (A check-up list on yourself - cross out what does not apply.)

* Your morning routine - Good/Fair/Bad
* Your waking day - Planned/Unplanned
* Is your life organised - Yes/No
* Do you know how to save time in:
  Reading - Yes/No
  Planning - Yes/No
  Use of modern equipment - Yes/No
* Do you have an overall goal for life? - Yes/No
* Do you plan for the week ahead? - Yes/No
* Do you plan out each day? - Yes/No
* What ways can you save time each day?
  Commuting:
  In work patterns:
* What will you do with the time you gain?

Looking around and about:

1. Think around your church or group, is there someone you think could be leadership potential? Write down their name:

2. If you have a good reliable 'workman' in a church does he or she necessarily make a good leader? - Yes/No.
Remember the Peter Principle - promoted to his level of incompetency.

3. In the light of our studies on leadership, see if you could be a potential leader. If so, are you willing to pray about it to seek God's will?

4. In what areas do you feel you are weak? And what are the areas you feel you are strong?

Are you going to do something about it - God helping you?

Evangelistic bands

These can be a number of types. Two are mentioned here. The first is something that was used by the Baptist Union of Queensland from about 1946 until the 1980s. It was called 'The Baptist Flying Squad' and was a team of evangelically minded and trained laymen who ministered in three areas at least.

1. Originally they were a team who held open-air lunch hour meetings in a fairly central park in Brisbane and this went on for some years.

2. Then under a different leader they started to expand the ministry into the full-scale crusade, mini-crusade and training in evangelism areas.

3. Some of the team took on overseas evangelistic crusade commitments.

For many years they had all the appointments they could fulfil until a change of administration affected their opportunities. 'The Flying Squad' also did what I used to call 'Invasion Evangelism'. They went by invitation into a country area for a week-end, the aim being to help a church which was short of helpers as in the New Testament days the stronger helped the weaker in personnel. The format goes something like this:

* Special prayer time for area to be visited.
* Go together if possible in a bus, train or convoy of cars.
* Hospitality in private homes or caravan sites.
* Friday night - arrive to pray, plan and encourage.
* Saturday - visit as many houses in the area as possible inviting people to meetings and services.
* Saturday evening - 'Grand Youth Rally' or 'Special Music Night' arranged by 'The Squad' to which people who have been visited are invited.
* Sunday morning service of special nature with visitors from 'The Squad' taking part again.
* Sunday afternoon - Soul winning seminar.
* Sunday evening - 'Grand Final Rally'. Music featured, testimonies, question box on Bible.

These types of meetings give Christians a great training ground and place of service, besides helping another church along the way.

Cell group evangelism

There is a great field of opportunity by using cell groups of various types, and these will be dealt with in full later in the book.
Organising for a crusade

This topic will also be covered later in the book. I will give hints gathered across the years on heading the organisation of crusades from local church size to the large Billy Graham crusades.

Tract evangelism

Besides writing letters and enclosing suitable tracts to meet specific needs, which is a valuable type of outreach, I have written down here a special method. I found this method useful when I was pastor in the tourist city of Cairns, north Queensland.

I went to the ships in port with tracts printed in the languages of the boats in port. The Bible Society and Scripture Gift Mission can supply some of these 'foreign' tracts.

A rather sad and humorous situation happened once when we did this. I took a Christian man with me who was a Swede by birth and we went to visit a boat from Sweden. Armed with suitable tracts, my friend was quite excited, anticipating that he would be able to converse with the seamen in their own tongue. However, he was terribly disappointed when he found that he had lived in Australia so long that he had almost forgotten how to speak his native tongue. I felt sorry for him, but tried to encourage him to see that we were getting the Gospel out with the printed page.

Jail evangelism

This topic is also discussed at length later in the book.

These are only a few of the ways by which we can give help in the wonderful work of bringing the lost to Jesus. Somewhere in my files I have listed 107 methods, but have added more than that since the day I filed those 107. While I seek to give a few ideas from some of those methods, may God bless you who read this with His presence, His power and His direction. Also pray that God will bless your efforts for Him!