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The making of an evangelist

Jarrott, Reginald Edward

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Yes it is true, there is power in that cell if it is planned under the direction of God, with due attention to the fears and backgrounds of those who do not usually attend church services.

It has been my experience to see hundreds and perhaps thousands respond over the years in evangelistic cell groups (coffee morning or evenings). Add to this other kinds of evangelistic cell groups for the development of evangelistic outlook in Christian lives.

Below are set out some of these types, which have been found to be effective. You no doubt know of others.

1. Evangelistic coffee meetings (day or evening).
2. Small companies of the concerned.
3. Depth Bible study groups.
4. Different types of cells for outreach.
5. Men's cells.
6. Women's cells.

Now let us look at these in more detail.

**Evangelistic coffee meetings**

These usually go for one to one and a half hours, commencing at around 10.00 am. The first half hour is for drinking the coffee, tea, etc. Then the one-hour meeting consists of:

* Welcome by the hostess.
* Ladies (go around the room) say who they are and a little bit about themselves. For example, where they are from originally; hobbies or interests, etc.
* Then questions are asked about the evangelist and his wife. (This is really the 'ice-breaker' procedure).
* A short testimony on how God helps in daily life.
* Message by the evangelist or chosen speaker.
* Close.

**Notes**

Preferably in a home where a Christian lady with a couple of friends in the area invites neighbours. Seek to get at least half or more non-Christians.

**Aims**

1. To make new contacts.
2. To win people to Christ.
3. Advertise meetings.

Can have someone go simultaneously with the evangelist taking one and his wife taking one.
Try to cover the district with them. Seek to plan in a way so as not to clash with picking up of preschoolers or in the afternoon going for small primary school children.

The same idea can be used in the afternoon or evening, but may need to reverse the order with supper last. You will also need counselling materials and somewhere to counsel.

Ladies luncheon

Seek to reach leading women of the town and at least half non-Christians. Can be in a hall, conference centre or cafe. The program should be similar to coffee meetings, but a little longer with a little more music.

Men's dinner

Similar to ladies' luncheon but in the evening. Try to reach leading men, members of parliament and non-Christians.

The program should be the same as the ladies' luncheon (sometimes with a very short film or some of the speaker's slides).

Whatever you do make sure that you give strict attention to detail and seek to have a standard of excellence. Only the best is good enough for God. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, 'Whatsoever the hand findeth to do, do it with thy might'.

Small companies of the concerned

This is a name I coined when seeking to promote cell groups, which were aimed at developing a 'concern for the lost'.

The meeting was not aimed at getting to large numbers, but was on a smaller, more intimate basis, to allow for the free interaction of thought as certain passages were studied. There have been good results in the lives of Christians. Many have gone out seeking the lost, where previously they failed to do so.

• The types of meetings

These are small groups definitely seeking God's help to understand who the lost are, what awful things await them and how they can be saved.

Please listen to the Saviour who said in Matthew 7:12, 'Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them ...'. In this case if you were a lost soul and longed for those who had found the way home to tell you how to get home; if that is what you would like done, then you do that same thing to others who are lost. It is also a Christ-like thing to do, as you know, for Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. In Luke 19:10 we read, 'The son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost'. In Luke 15:10 it says, 'Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over the sinner that repenteth'.

These meetings are not for entertainment, but for enlightenment. There are little or no preliminaries. Just a brief explanation of which we
are gathered, and what we propose to do. The explanation will go something like this:

(a) We are gathered that God might enlighten our minds and our hearts so that we will develop a great concern for the lost for we are gathered here as small companies of the concerned.
(b) We are going to have study and discussion on selected Scriptures, not only to show us how to be concerned, but also who we should be concerned about in the circle of our own world.

•The people invited to the meeting

* A leader or facilitator.
* A few people who can get discussion going, and who can enthuse others by the deep concern. Sadly enough, some churches do not have many people like this. If this is the case, borrow some from somewhere else for the night.
Others who desire to be inspired to reach the lost, or who could profit from this night's study and discussion. Try to get some leaders of Christian groups who could catch the vision and pass it on to others. A knowledge of the serious plight of the lost and their urgent needs.

Remember, it is a true saying that 'One loving soul set another soul on fire'.

Prayer is needed early in the meeting by the leader, asking God to enthuse each heart; by the group members, seeking God's face personally, petitioning God to give them a concern for the lost.

Note: It may take only one meeting or a series of meetings to have the hearts of believers attending so that they have this holy concern for the lost.

•The study time

Each one attending should have his own Bible and some note paper.

* Read the text around.
* Lift out the action and operative words for consideration.
* Note these and discuss what they are saying about lost relatives, neighbours, friends, work-mates, school-mates and others.
* Ask God to help you do something about them.
* Don't fall into the trap of thinking that because so many unbelievers have nice personalities, are kind and helpful they will get into heaven somehow. They have been called 'delightful pagans'. If Christ is not their Saviour, they are lost and are enemies of Christ in their attitude because they have other gods (things, etc.) before the Saviour. In Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23 it says, 'He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad'. In 1 John 5:12 it says, 'He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life'.

It is probably best to start with two passages from the book of Revelation. These two passages show what dramatic things happen when unbelievers see God as He is in His awful holiness. They are: Revelation 6:12-17 and Revelation 20:11-15.
Read the passage from Revelation 6:12-17.

Note particularly what it says in verses 12-14 on the cosmological disaster. What 'mountains' and 'islands' can mean too?

Then study word by word, if necessary, in verses 15-16. Who will be affected by the sight of God? Will any of these people belong to some of our personal world of friends, etc. What will their reaction be.

Then finally, in verse 17, note carefully each word and ask whose wrath it is. See who will be able to stand before this wrath - the believer or the unbeliever.

The passage from Revelation 20:11-15.

Work in a similar way to suggestions given in Revelation 6:12-17.

Study verse 11 very carefully noting what happens with Almighty God sitting on the Judgment Throne.

Study verses 12-13 and again ask yourself who really are these people mentioned in these two verses.

Study verses 14-15. Use your cross references to see what this will really mean in practice to unbelievers.

Some other passages.

The following passages can tell us about hell - where it is; who goes there; what happens there; types of punishment. Someone has said, 'Jesus spoke more about hell than he did about heaven. It has been estimated that Jesus spoke about it 70 times. He certainly must not have wanted people to go there.


Coffee shops.

There are almost as many types of coffee shops as brands of coffee. Often some resistance to the method because of misunderstanding of various types.

1. Steps necessary in planning to use coffee shops.
   (a) Decide your purpose.
   (b) Select your type of coffee shop.
   (c) Enlist your helpers.
   (d) Seek for quality in arrangements.
   (e) Reach your target.

2. In order to carry out (b) above, the following types are listed:
   (a) Coffee shop for church groups in general.
(b) For church groups (young people).
(c) Coffee shop for 'fringe' people (either general or young people).
(d) Coffee shops for hippies group, drug addicts, 'way-outs', etc.
(e) Coffee shop either in a town situation (that is, cafe run by Christians, with a counselling service, can be 'full-time' or 'part-time').
(f) Coffee shop in conjunction with another business (for example, a chemist has had a 'coffee' section and counselling).

When working out your type of coffee shop, the program ideas shown later will need some adaptation. For example, a coffee shop for a church group may need a different program from one for a group of drug addicts or 'way-outs', etc.

3. The purpose will determine your program, but here are some general characteristics:

(a) Room suitable.
(b) Suitable decorations.
(c) Light on speakers and singers faces and 'rostrum'.
(d) Colour - by posters, paper or revolving lights. Ultra-violet light and fluorescent paint.
(e) Program well planned (so that each knows their part - especially the compere).
(f) Informal atmosphere.
(g) Thought provoking items and message(s) (something based on leaflets).
(h) Counsellors seated at every table to engage in conversation.
(i) Two or three coffee breaks or continual service.
(j) Testimonies - including some pop-corn.
(k) Plenty of group participation.

4. The program should be something like this:

Determine the length and type (adjust accordingly. Bright music; singing; items; coffee (and talk time); music; testimony; brief word; discussion time led by table counsellors; music and so on. Don't forget to arrange for catering or there will be no coffee.

5. Invite people along - leaflets (away from ordinary); send to outside groups; fish the streets; invite friends; invite 'group bookings'; invite friends of singers; look at your district, see who could come; advertise well in places where people are - lifts, bus sheds, schools, etc.

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* Bathe the whole project in prayer.
* Plan your program so that people are ready to take part (even unannounced).
* Follow-up results.
* Discuss how you will finance the project.
* Don't forget, music, leaflets, books or slides, instruments, etc. Don't forget the projector or TV set (according to the film, etc.).
* Visit others - learn from them.
In all these ideas we should try to involve young people and older men and women.

**Men's cell groups**

While most of the groups written above in this chapter can apply to men, there is an area which could be considered a men's group viz. in the choice of subjects to be raised.

What do non-Christian men consider important enough for them to find answers. The areas seem to me to be these or similar:

* Where is the world going? What answers are there for its future? (Messages centred around the second coming or the end of the world can be of interest).
* How can one be really happy, and have peace of heart? (For example, so riches bring true happiness and peace of heart.)
* How can I help children through their fears and traumas.
* If a man dies, shall he live again? Is there life after this? How do we know?
* How do we know the Bible is true?

**Women's cell groups**

The passage for men's groups is applicable in some measure to women's groups. However, messages on daily living appeal to women, especially mothers. Messages such as 'The cure for worry'; 'How can I give good direction to my family?'; 'Can I be really rich, though poor?'; 'What is my worth as a woman?', and the like.

Remember to ask God what will touch the hearts of various groups and see what the Bible says about these groups, for some message ideas.