The making of an evangelist

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STUDYING UNDER SPIRIT-LED SOLDIERS

Learning from experienced evangelists and pastor evangelists:

* Their methods of preparation.
* Their methods of presentation.
* Their methods of persuasion.
* Their methods of preserving the results.

Learning from their biographical books (see list under heading below):

* Learning from 'Evangelical Congress' papers. World Congress (Berlin, 1966); Lausanne (Switzerland, 1974); International Conference on Evangelism (Amsterdam, 1983 and 1986). Plus regional congresses: Asia-South Pacific Congress on Evangelism (Singapore, 1968); Evangelism Now (Minnesota, USA, 1969); Evangelist Alert - European Congress on Evangelism (Amsterdam, 1971).

Biographical books on evangelists:

* John and Charles Wesley.
* The circuit riders (Methodist and others). For example, 'The Saint of the Wilderness' - Robert Sayerd Sheffey.
* Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875).
* The 'Prayer Revival' of 1857. (Spread through the USA, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, South Africa, Scandinavia and many other protestant countries). See especially format used in Fulton Street prayer meeting in New York, USA.
* Jonathan Edwards (Congregationist - 1727).
* David Brainerd.
* George Whitfield (The Methodist).
* Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-1843).
* Dwight L. Moody (c. 1858). See also R.A. Torrey (1889).
* Evangelists from Moody’s school: J. Wilbur Chapman (1900); Billy Sunday (around the turn of the twentieth century); Sam P. Jones; Gypsy Smith.
* The revival in Wales (1904-1906).
* William Booth (c. 1886).
* The Moravian brethren (Count von Zinzendorf).
* Charles H. Spurgeon (1884-1892).
* Hudson Taylor (1832-1905).
* Lionel B. Fletcher (Congregationalist, 1877-1954).
* Billy Graham.
* Dr Leighton Ford.
* Billy Graham Associates.
* W.P. Nicholson (Irish evangelist)
* Tom B. Rees.
* Child Evangelist Movement (1935).

Australian Evangelists (mainly of the twentieth century):

* John Ridley.
* Lionel B. Fletcher.
* Dr W.L. Jarvis (Baptist).
* Rev. Alan Walker (Methodist).
* Les Nixon.
* Dr Ern Watson (Baptist)
* Open-air Campaigners Evangelists (especially Jim Duffey and Frank McInnes).
* Campaigners for Christ Evangelists.
* Bill Newman (of Bill Newman Crusades).
* John C. Chapman.
* Tom Scarlett (Methodist).
* Duncan Harrison (Presbyterian).
* Harold Whitney (Presbyterian).
* Alan Cossgrove (Baptist).
* Ambassador for Christ Evangelists.
* And others stepping into their shoes.

Further areas for separate study from what has gone before

The Baptist Union of Australia in its evangelism section called a conference comprising theologians and practising evangelists to put together an evangelical course at Coalcliff (NSW). Later, this course was used in Australia, with myself being asked to base lectures on the course in the Baptist Theological College of Queensland at Brookfield, Brisbane. It set out in some detail basics on how the pastor of a church can lead his church into an evangelism pattern.

Another area in the field of ‘Developing a Curriculum for Teaching Evangelism in Theological Schools’ was worked out by a special working committee of the 1983 Amsterdam ‘International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists’, and is set out in detail in the congress proceedings. The Work of an Evangelist.

I was privileged to be a member of that working committee which was headed up by the famous American evangelist Dr Lewis Drummond. (In case you cannot see my name in the list, and it looks like a gate-crash - my bad writing caught up with me and my name appears as R. Janet.)

There was some fine and thorough work put up by that working committee. The result has been set out in pages of 783-793 inclusive of the report book, The Work of an Evangelist (1983).

It covers areas of help and suggestion for teaching evangelism in schools for theological education: seminaries and colleges: Bible schools: theological extension. A number of conclusions are drawn up. There are also ten suggestions for use, plus a suggested bibliography (pages 792-793).

Another use I see for these curricula is that pastors and lay people who wish to do the work of an evangelist will find many useful ideas in the courses set out.
Please note that all the evangelism congresses gave people like us with lesser experience, the opportunity to 'meet the minds' and learn from the experienced of world-famous evangelists, famous in many countries of the world. The Congress papers in book form are invaluable to all those who desire to do the world of an evangelist with sections for both men and women.

A little searching through various Australian agencies will give an evangelist all the help he requires.

Although I had no direct counselling when I became a Christian, and although the Lord led me to people who could help greatly, this is not said to degrade the wonderful help that spiritual counselling can be today. When I was converted, over 50 years ago, there was little or no counselling given.

According to temperament and/or background of those deciding for Christ, this throws the counsellors back on the Lord and they need to study to show themselves approved unto God.

In my ministry, I have had to deal with various areas of counselling of people who have come to Christ under God's ministry through me.

* A catholic man.
* A lady who had been under the power of the occult.
* A pastor of a Satan church.
* Murderers in prison in Northern Ireland's Crumlin Road Prison.

Of course, there have been other situations not quite as involved as well.

Ask God as you kneel or sit at His feet to make you a very useful counsellor for God. It is very important to some awakened souls.