

WAYS TO INCREASE LABOURERS IN THE FIELD OF EVANGELISM



-Pastor M.A. Oke
National Evangelist, The Apostolic Church Nigeria

Matthew 9: 37-38

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

A. EXPOSING THE WORKS OF EVIL SPIRITS OVER EVANGELISM IN THE CHURCH

- *Evil spirits can work in the minds, thoughts, decisions, and deliberations of anyone in the church against evangelism.*
 - *Evil spirits can blindfold the eyes of any church towards great virtues of evangelism.*
 - *Evil spirits can enter the heart of a church to see that she does not need evangelism anymore as she has got many members already.*
 - *Evil spirits can influence anyone in the church to hate evangelism and the lovers of evangelism.*
 - *Evil spirits can influence anyone in the church **not** to give priority to evangelism.*
 - *Evil spirits can influence anyone in the church to engage in nice programme but not profitable evangelically.*
 - *Evil spirits can fake anyone in the church to see himself as not called to evangelize.*
 - *Evil spirits can fake anyone in the church to see himself too old to be involved in evangelism.*
 - *Evil spirits can influence anyone in the church not to have interest in evangelism.*
 - *Devil spirits can block the heart of anyone in the church from supporting evangelism with his substance.*
 - *Evil spirits can use anyone in the church to discourage those who involve in evangelism.*
- These factors and others are what made the labourers so few in the field of evangelism.
- And when labourers are few in the face of plenteous harvest, the crops will be spoiled.
- Indeed, crops are getting spoiled daily – souls are perishing every day. This is the reason why it is expedient to arise from slumbering and evangelize.

B. WAYS TO INCREASE LABOURERS IN THE FIELD OF EVANGELISM

- **Evangelism can be done in many ways. These will be properly explained. Then, you can decide which one to with.**

1) Literature approach to Evangelism

- This involves writing creative gospel tracts or booklets.
 - √ Some may be able to write but not capable of printing.
 - √ Hence, another may choose to sponsor the printing.
 - √ Furthermore, some may decide to become gospel tracts distributors.
 - √ Distributions at public gatherings. E.g markets, party, hotels etc.
 - √ This was how a popular singer, Sunny Okosu was saved.
- This is why the bible says **Romans 1: 16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

2) Primary & Secondary School approach to Evangelism

- **Luke 18:16** *But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.*
- This is so important as you can imagine the rate of sinful practices going on among the adolescent age.
- Much recognition should be given to the department of the Child Evangelism Unit in the Church.
- However, with the rate of evil practices among the younger ones, child Evangelism in the church alone is not enough to evangelize the children as it is like throwing a needle in the church. Imagine the children at adolescent age are exposed to:
 - √ All forms of sexual immoralities.
 - √ Abortions
 - √ Smoking
 - √ Drinking
 - √ Yahoo-yahoo
 - √ Wire -wire
 - √ Money ritual
 - √ Drug addict.
 - √ Cultism
 - √ Indecent dressing etc.
- It is necessary that somebody or a body chooses to take up the responsibility.
- All he needs to do is to get permission from various school management to preach to the pupils or students during the school Assembly.
- He may also distribute tracts to them or a booklet which contains short information about salvation.
- Before you know, Jesus will begin to touch them as faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.

3) Hospital Approach to Evangelism

- The bible says in **Matthew 10:7-8**; *And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*
- This is very powerful.
- It is strong enough to populate the kingdom of God.

- It is also effective to increase membership in the church.
- This is a situation whereby two or more devoted Christians decide to visit the sick which are hospitalized and at critical a condition.
- All you need to do is to get permission from the management of an hospital to visit the sick.
- Let me tell you, the sick need your prayer, because they at a critical condition, so, immediately, they will welcome you.
- Moreso, their faith will be attracted to simple prayers.
- If you have pure motive for this kind of evangelism, God will back up the prayers and they will be healed.
- If you go back a few days later, you will be surprised at the testimony you will hear. Before you know they will decide voluntarily to follow you to your church.
- Just ask them to surrender to Jesus Christ before you pray them.
- Mind you, some may not be healed but die, assuredly, they will make Heaven because of their decision for Christ at the critical condition.

4) Church Planting Approach to Evangelism

- Do you know that if you responsible for planting a church, such responsibility can immortalize your name.
- That is after you are dead, your name will still be mentioned by several generations.
- I find a classic example of this in the bible:
 - John 4:12** *Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?*
- A short exposition of the text
- When you sponsor the establishment of an Assembly, your name will be mentioned from generation to generation.
- **This can be done in various ways.**
 - √ You can donate a building of yours to the church anywhere for church planting.
 - √ You can donate land of yours for church planting anywhere.
 - √ You can single-handedly build a church at your hometown where our church does not exist at all.

5) Open Air Gospel Crusade approach to Evangelism

- The bible says; **Mark 16:15** *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*
- This approach is one of the major ways, especially at the end time to win souls in a large number.
- In the time, The Apostolic Church, evangelical party was used. Then, the number of Pentecostal churches in Nigeria could be numbered.
- But now, Pentecostal churches are beyond numbering, so any denomination which its name is not known will suffer membership.
- Open Air gospel crusade should be encouraged at every Area even though it is expensive, but it can be organized at a smaller scale.
- It can be organized to cover vicinities, environments, communities, villages, towns cities etc.

- Anywhere an open-Air crusade is organized, the name of the church in the locality will be known widely.

What is expected of us in this regard?

- The Apostolic Church Nigeria should start engaging in Open Air Crusade (outdoor revival more than indoor revival)
- Each Area should be doing this even at a smaller scale every year – this is more profitable than any other thing.
- Through this The name of this church will gain her recognition at every environment.

Moreso,

- It is expected that members should rise to sponsor organizing Open Air crusade at their village or hometown. **Through this:**
 - √ The unsaved ones in your town will be saved.
 - √ The ancient evil covenants or curses of the town will be destroyed.
 - √ Idol worship will be abolished by the power of the gospel.
 - √ The sinners will repent. The king will be saved; hence, the light of salvation will be shown in the town.

6) Problem solving revival or prayer programme

- The bible says in **Matthew 9:36-38** *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*
- This is another way quickest and easiest way to win souls as well as to increase membership in all our Assemblies if handled effectively.

Do not forget, this method is the major way in which our members were taken away to other denominations.

- People love prayers. They attend prayer meetings because they have life challenges which they want God to solve.
- Problem solving revival or prayer meeting can be used to increase membership in our church – but our eyes do not open to it.
- A denomination around us got so populated through her problem-solving revival or prayer programme as it is well organized, and money is invested in it.

How to use prayer programme to win souls

- Set up one at the most convenient time of the environment.
- Spend money on it to make it meaningful and effective.
- Give it a wider announcement – let the church members support it– let the leaders of each place give it a priority.
- Establish the fact that no other thing be fixed to clash with the date.
- The date could be monthly or weekly as the case may be at each place.
- The members be informed to invite people to the programme especially those with one problem or the other.
- Do not be surprised among those people will deliberately join the church as their problems are getting solved.

What the anchor of such programme should know

- He should always make himself available for God to use him.
- He should have quality time to pray to God to get from Him for the audience.
- He should be very vast in the bible.
- The programme of each month or week should have a soul captivating theme.
- The theme should captivate attention – this is the prey at his hook.
- People will be drawn to the programme through the theme, hence, they become saved and God meets with their needs.
- The anchor should not see the platform of prayer programme as an avenue to raise money for the church use or make money unto himself, otherwise God will not work in it.
- **The testimony of a family...**
- When new members are joining the church, let them be quickly identified for baptism, teaching, visitation among others to retain them.

The advantages of such prayer programme at the headquarters especially at LAWNA Headquarters.

- At the headquarters, there will be a massive crowd, and the crowd motivates visitors to join the church.
- The move of God at a larger crowd always motivating as everyone will be inspired.
- The visitor you invite to attend the programme at the headquarters, after becoming a member, he stills follow you back to your church because you are his contact.
- The gathering of many people at the headquarters quickly spread the name of the church.

C. APPLICATION:

- √ If the church fails to evangelise the world, the world will evangelise the church and win her. This is happening already!
- √ Evangelism is anti-Satanism! If the Church thereby stands against evangelism, she will **'stand for'** Satanism.
- √ Evangelism is the ONLY FERTILIZER in the farmland of the church. The more you plant in it, the more your crops.
- √ There is a general saying that **“Church is like a living organism”** (that is it doesn't die, it grows); this is applicable to only the Church that evangelises.

God bless you.

■ Prayers for those who want to be involved in the work of evangelism.

■ **For contact:**

➤ 01-293-1267; 080-5474-8215

e-mail: pastoroke@gmail.com

Website: www.apostoliccrusade.com

➤ **Bank Account: 1224482180 – TACN LAWNA EVANGELISM & CRUSADE Outreach - Zenith Bank**