

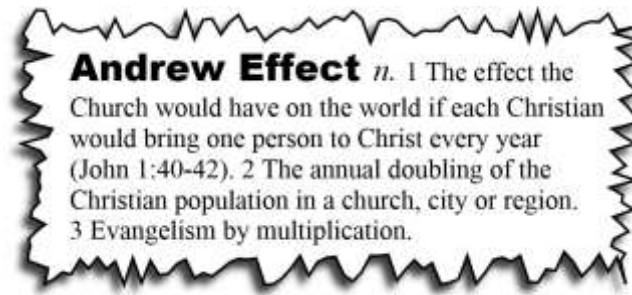
# Equipping Your Church to Change the World

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Every Christian knows he or she should share his or her faith. Very few Christians do it. They are fearful and unprepared – even though many have spent years in church. Our job as church leaders is to equip our people to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). Are we doing our job?

Our goal is to equip our people to share their faith, and then to give them easy baby steps they can take to become fruitful Christians. We show them how to do it, step-by-step. We pray for them, encourage them and help them to reach out to the people they know.

There is a hard way and an easy way to do everything. We concentrate on the easy way for our people to learn and become effective in witnessing.

***If everybody does a little, nobody has to do a whole lot,  
and it is exciting to see what God can do  
through our cooperative efforts***

Bob Sharpe is available to help your church set up a plan to equip your members and help them take the baby steps necessary to be fruitful in their witness to the lost.

Get the book, *How Your Church Can Change the World*

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## **We Have What People Want! We Have it in Christ!**

- Love
- Happiness (Joy)
- Peace

If we are living close to Christ, we can enjoy the Fruit of the Spirit He produces in our lives.  
(Galatians 5:22)

## **What Happens When People See that We've Got What They Want?**

- Many get curious
- Some get interested
- Some open up to the Gospel
- Some ask questions
- Some get saved

## **YOUR LIFE IS AN ILLUSTRATED BOOK THAT CAN CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES!**

**The Fruit of the Spirit  
in your life = the  
pictures**



**Your Gospel  
Presentation = The  
words**



### **The Problem**

Unsaved people don't know it because

- Most Christians don't show it
- And Most Christians don't tell it effectively.

## They Need to See it in Us They Need to Hear it From Us

...you shall be witnesses to Me... (Acts 1:8)

### Why They Aren't Listening

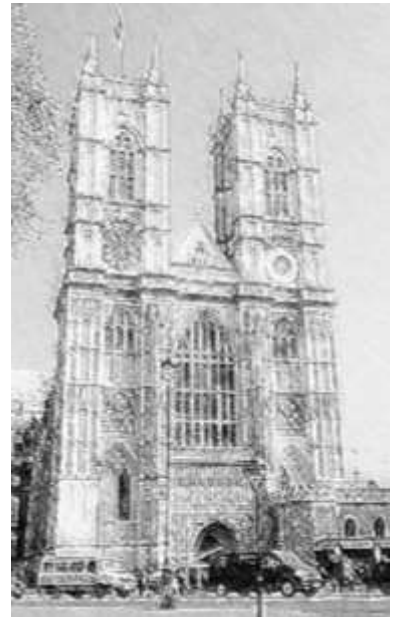
- We aren't telling
- We aren't answering the questions they are asking
- They see too many Christians who are living inconsistent lives
- We don't build relationships with them to win them to Christ
- We dabble at evangelism, and we're ineffective

### The Church of England is Facing Extinction

- Very few people are going to church
- Average age of attenders is 61
- They are not attracting new people

The former Archbishop of Canterbury (the head of their church) recently said the Church of England will be extinct in 25 years if they don't become effective at reaching young people.

***Most US churches are only one generation behind the Church of England.***



### Many Churches Get Comfortable and Lazy

When our church has enough money to own a building and pay a pastor.

Many small churches set the goal of building and full-time pastor. When they reach the goal, they relax and don't take growth goals seriously.

### Our Emphasis Is Not Church Growth

It is about growing the Kingdom of God through your church.

When making disciples is primary, and when we become good at it, Church growth is automatic.

## This Is Also Not About Techniques & Methods

It is about

- Bearing fruit for Christ
- Working together with God
- Watching God work as He saves souls and changes lives.
- As laborers together with God, we are to be doing the things that He will bless in disciple-making so He can produce fruit through us.

### Job #1

Making disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples who make disciples

### Program or Priority

#### Most Churches:

- Evangelism is a church program
- Evangelism is sporadic and haphazard
- Evangelism is low priority

#### God's Plan:

- Evangelism is NOT a program; it is THE MISSION
- It is as important as people are
- It is a Life-and-Death Matter

Programs come and go. We need a lifetime commitment to the priority of God. His priority for our churches is reaching the lost with the Gospel and making disciples. If we do not do that, we are not doing God's work.

### Commit to God's Priority

**Go** therefore and  
**make disciples** of all the nations,  
**baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
**teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you . . .  
Matthew 28:19-20

## Where We Are Supposed to Win Souls (Acts 1:8)

**in Jerusalem.....** Our city or local area (reaching people through our church)

**and in all Judea.....** Outlying areas (planting new churches)

**and Samaria.....** (the people we normally don't like to associate with near us)

**to the end of the earth.....** (sending missionaries worldwide)

## Our Task Then Is to Do 3 Things in 4 Places

### The 3 Things

1. Win Souls
2. Baptize Them
3. Train them to Spiritual Maturity

### The 4 Places

1. Locally
2. Outlying areas
3. Nearby places where we don't normally go
4. Worldwide

## Making Disciples:

### To Get God's Results We must Follow God's Plan

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, [for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry](#), for the edifying of the body of Christ,

(Ephesians 4:11-12)

## What Kind of Equipping?

To obey all that the Lord taught us

To teach others to obey all that the Lord taught us. (Matt. 28:19)

- How to live a Godly Christian life.
- How to pray
- How to study the Scriptures
- How to Reproduce and MULTIPLY

## God's Way is Multiplication

$$10 + 10 + 10 + 10 + 10 = 50$$

$$10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 100,000$$

### Disciple Multiplication Principle

Paul taught Timothy. He told Timothy to teach other faithful men so they could then teach others. This produces a multiplication of disciples.

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

(2 Timothy 2:2)

### God Uses Multiplication to Grow His Church

- Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was **MULTIPLYING** (Acts 6:1)
- Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples **MULTIPLIED** greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)
- And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were **MULTIPLIED** . (Acts 9:31)
- But the word of God grew and **MULTIPLIED** . (Acts 12:24)

### When Multiplication Happens

- When multiple members are consistently winning people to Christ,
- When the new people are also winning souls
- And the next generation of believers does the same
- And so on...

## How Is Your Church Doing?

In the Past Year:

- How many people were saved in your church?
- How many were baptized?
- How many members led a person to Christ?
- How many new soul winners have you trained?

Don't be satisfied with mediocre results. God is not glorified by barren ministries and barren churches.

## The Goal

Every active member of your church to bring at least one person to Christ this year, and to follow up to help that person start on the road to maturity in Christ.

- Challenge them
- Train them
- Fortify them for the tough questions
- Pray for them
- Encourage them
- Remind them EVERY WEEK
- Conduct Evangelistic events to help them win their one person

## One a Year is Scriptural

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." (Matt. 13:23)

- The Good Ground represents each new believer.
- Each one is expected to yield 30, 60 or 100 new believers in their lifetime.
- That represents about 1 to 2 people brought to Christ per year.

## Win One (or more) Soul(s) Every Year...

It's really, really hard if you're not equipped.

It's not hard at all if you are well equipped.

When we equip our people, they can do it

## **The Five and One Plan**

### **Something Happens When We Pray**

Hudson Taylor said,

"It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone."

### **Disciple Making Should Be Your Church's #1 Priority**

- Train your people
- Motivate your people
- Continually remind your people
- Pray in every service for lost people to be saved
- Have quarterly evangelistic events
- Have an ongoing class for new believers

### **What Goes on In Your Church?**

- Same 'ol. Same 'ol
- Bible Stories not serious Bible study
- "Us" mentality
- Majoring on the minors
- Negative attitudes
- People fighting to have their own way
- Out of touch with the community
- Practical atheism (we live as if God is not real in our lives)

### **Train Your People**

- How to win a soul to Christ
- How to Initiate an Evangelistic Conversation
- How to answer the common questions and objections of non-Christians
- How to be friendly to church visitors
- How to know who is lost (many churched people are lost. Many churches teach religion but they don't teach how to be saved).

### **Make Your Church the Friendliest Place in Town**

- Trained Greeters



- Welcome/Information Table
- Train your people to be friendly to visitors
- Give visitors a red bag

### **Quarterly Evangelistic Event**

- Special Sunday Morning Service
- Special program (special speaker, music, etc.)
- Pray for it in every Sunday service during the quarter.
- Promote it heavily to your people
- If you bring a special speaker or musical talent in, send a press release to all your local media.
- Put it on your church web site
- Ask each member to invite at least 3 lost people to the event, and to pray for them daily.

### **When to Have the Evangelistic Events**

- Easter Sunday
- Christmas Sunday
- Beginning of Summer (or Mother's Day)
- Beginning of Fall

### **New Life Sunday School Classes**

#### **Graded – Based on Spiritual Maturity**

- New Life 101 – 13 weeks - Basics of the Christian Life
- New Life 102 – 52 Weeks – Systematic Theology

### **Keep it Simple**

The Main Thing Is The Main Thing

### **The First Step: Make Disciples**

- Realize they are lost
- Share Christ with them
- Win them to Christ

## **The Second Step**

Baptism is their public proclamation that they have turned their back on their old life and their old religion, and that they are now following Christ.

## **The Third Step**

Teaching and mentoring them until they become mature Christians

This is a lifelong process because we are to never stop growing in Grace.

This is why the church is so important in the life of a believer.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes . . .

(Romans 1:16)

## **What Has to Happen in the Church**

- Focus on Priority #1 – Making Disciples
- Commit to the Five and One Plan as a Church
- Pray much for God’s blessing

## **What Has to Happen in the Church**

- Plan a launch date
- Preach a sermon on launch date to challenge your people with the Five and One Plan
- Start a training program for the people who answer the challenge ASAP – that Sunday evening if possible.
- Remind your people every week of their commitment to pray for 5 and believe God for 1 person to be saved through their witness. Take this matter very seriously always.