

Author of The Sword In Thy Hand

EFFECTIVE Evangelism



Inno Praise

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Dedication

To my loving mother, Evelyn Anapuchi Praise, whose strong desire to bring men to Christ made her witnessed for Christ two days before her death (she went to be with the Lord on Sunday 28th January 2007) and to all who hunger and thirst for the reality of Christ in their daily living.

A

What is evangelism?

Evangelism is the art of communicating the message of salvation of Jesus Christ in such a manner that it is understood and produce a compelling conviction of sin and genuine desire to have Him as Savior and Lord over one's life, leading to repentance and a consistent life of obedience and submission to God's will. (Luk. 24: 46-47; Col. 1: 5-6; Eph. 2: 12, 13; 2 Pet 1: 2-4).

If the message is not understood and responded to, we have not evangelized. However, our message can only bring understanding and correspondent decision; we do not have the power to influence the choice of the individual. That is the work of the Holy Ghost. Jn. 16: 8-11

Who should evangelize?

It is true that God wants all men to be saved. It is equally true that the Gospel of salvation in Christ can only be preached by man; but the Truths of Jesus can never be preached by all men, any man whatsoever, except he/she is Born Again and possessing the Spirit. The revelations of Christ are purely given to His own and they are

commanded to preach Him. Therefore every Born Again child of God is authorized to preach Jesus (Matt.28: 18-20; Lu.24: 46-48; Rom.10: 14, 15; Gal. 1: 15, 16). If then you are saved, but have not obeyed this injunction of God, you have a problem, a serious problem; you are wasting your eternity and squandering your treasures. 'The rich man' Lu. 16: 19-31; Prov. 24: 10-12.

Who should be evangelized?

In explaining the parable of the Tares, the Master said, "the field is the world" (Matt. 13: 38).

The Scriptures said "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3: 23).

Therefore, all mankind is in need of salvation. We have lost vital contact with God. Adam the forebear of the race committed high treason and left humanity in jeopardy. The present world system is not the design of God, and as we read in the book of Mathew chapter thirteen verse thirty-nine, "the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy that sowed them is the devil". So evil has children in the world. No one doubt it, but only a few believes on who these children are and the fact that the entire system of this world is evil. Gal. 1: 4.

Evangelism is for all the race of humanity; all tribes of men; all cultures of people and all classes of society. The poor and the rich alike

need God. Men and women, adult and children, learned and the ignorant, all need the Gospel of peace with God through justification by Faith. Thus, everyone who has no saving faith in Christ is lost and needs to be evangelized. Ps.74: 20; Job. 33: 22 - 24; Jer. 8: 20

B

The Message

The message of the gospel is that 'Jesus is the son of God made manifest in the flesh, born of a virgin, as the promised seed of Abraham and lived with full humanity. He was tempted yet without sin, suffered under the cruelty of religion and the hypocrisy of Pilate, was crucified on a Roman cross bearing the sins of mankind, died and was buried, and on the third day He rose again

from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, from whence He would soon return to judge the world. And that repentance and forgiveness of sins can be obtained through faith in His atoning sacrifice on Calvary.

All who believe are given power to live a life of obedience and submission to the lordship of Jesus Christ; and are guaranteed eternal life and deliverance from the wrath to come! Rom. 1: 1-6, 14-19.

The Methods

There are varied methods of evangelism from which you can choose a more appropriate one. Please choose one but evangelize.

They include:

- i. Personal evangelism
- ii. House to house evangelism
Act. 20: 20
- iii. Group evangelism
- iv. Literature evangelism
- v. Mass evangelism, etc.
- vi. Missions

(For a full study and application of these principles, enroll in our CDE program, it is tuition free. Text info/Admissions to: 08028301637; 07039759816;)

Meanwhile, we shall briefly introduce the first two options viz, personal evangelism and House to house evangelism.

i. Personal evangelism.

Personal evangelism is a kind of an evangelism involving an individual's effort to fulfill the great

commission. Here the individual makes it a point of duty to share his/her faith freely without other assistance. Rom. 1: 16. It requires boldness and persuasions. The only skill needed is the ability to share his own personal conversion experience, and the testimony of his present walk with Christ. You must however be conversant with your Bible.

You must also have a good understanding of the message of the Gospel to be able to integrate it with your own experience. The powerful personal testimony enables others to relate with your message. You need a good heart and a cheerful countenance to share your faith. Your greatest companion here is the Holy Ghost.

Personal evangelism uses individual comportment and direct appeal. Christ is presented from a personal point of view and strong assurance of faith. Christian materials could be used as a way of introduction and continuity but your lifestyle is the fundamental back-up for the message. It is a lot easier to make lasting converts in this way since there is a personal angle which both of you can relate to.

You must present the message in a manner that will bring conviction and decision. Be courteous and friendly but remember that the person you are talking with is a sinner in dire need of a Savior without whom he/she will be eternally lost, forever. The reward

for personal evangelism is a clean life and God's favor. Get involved!
2 Tim. 4: 1-5

ii. House to house evangelism.

“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”. Ac. 20: 20, 21

This involves more than one person and implies presenting the Gospel in a family setting. It breaks barriers and prejudices and brings whole household to hear the Gospel at the same time. This will ultimately reduce cultural limitations as the preacher is known to every member of the family.

The message is simple, “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”. Thus, everyone knew what was said to each one and decisions though based on individual convictions can be respected by all.

House to house evangelism takes time and energy. It involves a lot of planning and wisdom. There is much praying too. The approach, of course, will depend on the environment and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In an insecure society like ours, caution must be taken when visiting strange homes and people and attempts must be made to be simple, courteous and direct, making proper use of time and

opportunity. Initial hostility may not imply outright rejection of the Gospel but a reaction to the evil forces of society and the hypocrisy of some earlier contacts. Assure the people and leave an introduction with them; God may use it to draw a soul to Himself.

In house to house, always concentrate on the attentive members of the household but avoid clinging to your peers. The head of the family is your prime target but any member can be an opening.

You are a preacher and not a politician. You are an evangelist and not a magician or a businessman. Preach Jesus that's what God sent you there to do.

Refer all issues to God in prayer even in the presence of the people and never promise to pray for them later: You may forget and that makes you a liar.

House to house evangelism builds a home. Personal evangelism builds an individual but house to house builds the home and the Church at the same time. Every Church should organize its members into small groups for house to house evangelism. That is the principle of true growth.

This form of evangelism requires training, and a wise Church will send only the best team to do this in difficult environment.

Christian homes should also

exercise themselves in this field.

Committed brethren can form evangelism teams but the fruit of this enterprise must be established in sound biblical New Testament Churches or Christian training agencies for discipleship. Arise let us go hence. Act. 20: 17-21, 26, 27

Effective Follow-up

The fruits of any hunting expedition would be lost unless it is properly roasted and preserved. Until then the job is only half-done and the effort may be a waste. A good fisherman casts his nets into the sea and then goes upland to sort his catch. He selects the good and returns the rest to the sea. Thus, evangelism is not complete

without an effective follow-up plan.

Follow-up requires a compassionate heart and good sense.

Love and interest must be clear. The individual is an intelligent human being with feelings and perceptions who can read the sincerity of purpose. No one resists love if it is genuine and true. Let Christ love fill your heart.

A sound follow-up plan will include:

- Bible study pattern
- Prayer
- Concise history of the individual's conversion
- Basic discipleship
- Quiet time

- Spiritual warfare
- Witnessing, etc.

Until your convert responds to Christ and witnesses, don't give up and don't leave him/her. Your effort will eventually be rewarded, if not now, later; if not here, in heaven. Act. 2: 40 - 47

C

Practical Tips

- Get a note book, pen or pencil
- Your Bible
- Tracts
- * Spend quality time in prayers before embarking on witnessing.
- * Depend on the Leading and Power of the Holy Ghost.
- * Memorize Scripture Passages and take notes of certain relevant facts.
- * Never forget to take down the

names and addresses of the persons you witnessed to if they are willing to give it.

- * Be cheerful, but preach "hell" with full reality of its horribleness.
- * Point men to the Cross, not to yourself or your Church.
- * Never invite anyone to your church unless they were willing to surrender their life to Christ as you witness.
- * Never give anyone chance to make the decision tomorrow, when he can make it today. Salvation is today, not tomorrow.
- * Never quarrel with anyone before your witness.
- * Don't push people or use abusive languages on them; present Biblical truths and allow the Holy Spirit to work on their

conscience.

- * Live a life of practicable love.
- * Confess your pride or failures before God and ask for His enablement.
- * Meditate upon related Scriptures e.g. Jn. 4: 34 - 35, Jer. 8: 20; Prov. 24: 10 - 12
- * Make witnessing a priority
- * Don't discuss politics or any worldly affair before and after witnessing to an individual.
- * Don't select any special class of people, witness freely, but courteously and, with all boldness.
- * Admit any known fault or criticism either of yourself or the Church, but point the person to Jesus as the only true and perfect model.
- * Confront people with the issue of

Sins in their lives, and declare God's verdict to that effect.

- * Make it a duty to pray for every soul you have won to Christ. Praise God also, at the end of every witness, for the privilege to share His Word and Love.
- * Pray always in the Spirit.
- * If you are not able to meet your target at the end of every month, don't despair. Take it to God in prayers and humility, and renew your commitment. Be zealous.

Learn to labour for eternity.

Dan.12: 2-3; Mk. 8: 34-38.

How to make your converts walk

Jesus' followers lead others. Converts are like children, they

follow the examples of their parents. You must live a life of sacrifice and genuine love.

Follow your teachings and allow your life to reflect your message. Disciple your converts yourself and expose them to sound discipleship programs. Don't hide Truths from them. Let them encounter Christ in their daily living they will grow up to Him.

Church is not the same thing as Christianity. Let the Holy Ghost build their lives and not dogma. Teach them the Word of God and not your prejudices.

Denomination is not heaven; every man must meet God on the terms of Jesus Christ and not on the creeds

of any Church, including your own. Allow Jesus to be their Lord. Their growth will also impact your life. Deceive no man and commit them not into the hands of religious merchants! Eph.5:1-21

Maturing your seed

An effective convert is a precious seed from heaven, don't waste it, or let it die, by sowing it among thorns; neither thrust it into the hands of ravenous wolves of Pastors who will make merchandise of this eternal treasure. Your reward is very glorious in heaven.

Disciple your converts and establish them in the Word of God which shall give them an eternal

inheritance among the saints of God. Let the Holy Spirit guide them to pasture thereafter, He is able. Never fall into the evil trap of denominationalism; and do not bias the converts because they trusted you. God will hold you accountable. He gave them to you. Prayerfully give counsel and commit them into the hands of their owner: The Lord Jesus Christ.

Your convert must not belong to your Christian group or denomination. Let him/her enjoy the faith he or she has believed, and the liberty they have received in Christ! Gal.5:1. You must nurture them with sound Scriptural standards of the New Testament, and not leave them to religious jingoisms and manipulations. And,

please help them to discover and use the gifts God has given them for service and edification.

If you help them mature, they will bear fruits unto eternal life and your crown shall be great. Ti.2: 11-15

D

The Penitent's prayer

One of the most vital aspects of evangelism is bringing the penitent to make the eternal decision. Often the decision is postponed to a later date and may never be made again. Also the convicted may take remorse for repentance, and as soon as pressure is removed from the conscience, the sinner is back to square one and may even become hardened to future lights. Therefore, it is important to bring every responding sinner to a

decision.

Decision implies acknowledgment and surrender; then the Holy Spirit can take over and work in the heart of the repentant. This follows a prayer of confession.

The devil is a smart foe. He will seek to bring distractions or even confusion in the case of Group evangelism, by introducing unnecessary questions and arguments. Thus, as soon as strong interest is indicated, the respondent should be counseled to make a commitment by saying the sinner's prayer.

The first prayer God hears from a sinner is "LORD be merciful upon me a sinner; then the sinner

acknowledges his/her sins, confesses the failure of the human race, and affirms the humanity of Jesus and His atoning sacrifice on Calvary. He then recognizes his lost state and the severity of divine wrath; repents from his sins and repudiates his sinful nature, inviting Jesus into his life, both to cleanse it with the blood of His cross and to reign in it as Lord forever.

Now the Holy Spirit takes over and a new life has begun. 2Cor.5:17

Sample:

LORD in the name of Jesus have mercy on me, a sinner. I acknowledge your Word that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”. I repent of my

sins and confess the weakness of my flesh to crave for more sins. I recognize that Jesus came in the flesh, born of a virgin, suffered under Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried but rose on the third day and ascended into heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father. I therefore, repudiate my sinful nature and invite Jesus into my life both to cleanse it with the blood of His Cross and to reign in it as Lord forever. Thank you God for hearing me, in Jesus Name I pray.

Once a man has sincerely said this prayer meaning every word of it, he is surely on the path of heaven. He is Born Again. Rom.5:1-11

Scriptural readings

The first thing a new believer should do is to get started on the Word of God. This shall be your

true companion for the rest of life. The first book of interest will be the Gospel according to St. John, then the Epistles, to appreciate what Christ has done for you, and your new standing with God.

The Acts of the Apostles provides you with the road map to duty. And as you grow in the knowledge of Christ, the whole Bible will come alive to you as you read it.

Welcome to eternity and begin a new life journey to glory. Your paths will not always be clear, and the world, will soon snob you. Friends and foes shall mock you and the devil will tempt you. Situations will not always be favorable, but God will grow you and you will soon be a conquering

saint of Jesus! 1 Pet. 5:9-10. Therefore, read your Bible and get discipled!

Selah

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E-mail: innopraise@disom.org
Tel.: 08028301637, 08027879003

About the author



INNO PRAISE is an inspiring, fiery author, missionary and preacher of righteousness. He has unbridled passion for revival and missions. He believes that the true business of the Church is soul winning. A Church that is not majoring in evangelism is ignorant of the real purpose of Christ's coming. He is also the publisher of "*The Zoo Magazine*" and director, Discipleship Mission Inc: *an international youth mission agency based in Nigeria*. He is man amiable Sis. Blessing.

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