

**CHRISTIAN WORKERS DEVELOPMENT**

**SEMINAR**

**HELD AT UMCATC FROM 24TH OCTOBER,**

**1997**

**EFFECTIVE WITNESSING**

**BY**

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## Abstract

*The issue of witnessing has been lukewarmly attended to by those commissioned to carry out the assignment. This paper considered the need for effective witnessing. It looked into the who should witness when, where, any and why witnessing should be done. The hindrances for effective witnessing were also discussed. The paper concluded by mentioning strategies for effective witnessing.*

## Introduction

Man has always been seeking for ways by which the hunger he experiences incessantly could be satisfied. He has struggled, toiled and adopted several methods by which this could be realized. Philosophers, Educationist, other scholars and the world religions have offered possible solutions to man problems however throughout the ages the only way and infact the surest ways to the desired satisfaction has been the heavenly way, the living way provided by God through the completed work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

Unfortunately it is sad to say that many are yet to discover this way. Several people are still ignorant of what Jesus has offered through the shedding of his blood on the cross. That is why God is still clamoring and urging those who are within His vineyard and are saddled with the responsibility of ushering others into the fold to do so with all diligence. The assignment is to be carried out urgently, with vigour, zeal and courage in order to ensure effectiveness.

In the cause of this lecture, we shall be looking into some factors that allow for effective witnessing.

### I. What is Witnessing for Christ

For witnessing to be effective, those who are to witness needs to know what it means. Witnessing for Christ means:

1. Telling others about your personal experience of salvation
2. The act of telling others about personal experience of salvation that is in Christ's Jesus, creating the awareness of Christ saving grace.
3. The declaration of the gospel to the unregenerate within the society.

### II. Who Should Witness

Witnessing cannot be done by just anybody within the society (Act. 19:11-17: Sons of Sceva a Chief Priest). Those who are qualified to tell others about Jesus are the:

#### 1 Born-Again Christian:

Witnessing can only be done effectively when it is carried out by someone who has been won to Christ. Those who were once in the darkness are in the best position to rescue other who are still in the darkness. Jn 1:2, Jn3:3 IICor 5:1-20

## 2 Prayerful Christians:

It is not an easy task to have people detached from satan's domain. The work is better done by those who have enlisted in the school of prayer. Only earnest and fervent prayers can detach sinners from the devils camp. Matt 9:28

## 3 Compassionate Christians:

Witnessing become effective when carried out by committed Christians who have compassion for souls, those whose hearts pants for souls. Those who are burdened to have sinners liberated from their sins 2 King 7:9

## 4 Committed Christians;

Witnessing is effective when carried out by committed Christian. Witnessing is a do or die Christian business and only dedicated Christian can successfully carry out the assignment. Committed Christians are those who are;

- (a) Self-Disciplined
- (b) Self-Sacrificing (given, goer, praying for evangelism)
- (c) Self- Denying (d) Humble

A committed Christian will prefer soul winning over and above world pleasures which are temporal, he will always distinguish between what is good and what is expedient (going out to witness and taking a siesta etc) Jesus came primarily to win sinners to himself He possessed the qualities listed above and has expressed the need for His followers to exhibit such qualities. Matt 16v24.

Obedient Christians: Only those who obey God unquestionably can witness effectively. Non-challant attitude to the Holy Spirit prompting for instance hinders soul winning.

## III Why should Christians Witness for Christ?

The rationale for witnessing ought to be fully known if witnessing is to be effective. The reasons for witnessing are very crucial to effective witnessing. Some of the reasons are: Man has sinned against God, and God wants to reconcile man back to Himself (Rom 3:23-28, 2Cor.4:3-4, James 4:4, Rome 6:-23, Eph. 2:2, Heb 2:14-15, Rom. 5:12 )

The way to salvation has been opened to the world through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Its like Christ so we are to follow the steps of Jesus. Jesus said greater work shall be done by us (little Jesus) Lk4:18 and 19. It is a command.

Jesus commanded us to rescue the perishing. He gave the order to the Apostles of old and the baton has been passed to us. Matt 28:16-20, Act 1:8. Luke soldiers we have to obey the order of our master. We are Christ ambassadors. God is depending on us for this work. I Pet.

2:9, 2 Cor 5; 16-20 We are ordered to bear fruits. (Fig tree) Jn 15:1 There is no other way by which sinners can be redeemed, Rom 10:13-15. Only those who are in the light and who are the light can bring those in the darkness to the light. Matt 5:13

The power to save is in believers (Holy Spirit) Lk. 4:18

It is a sign of our appreciation to God. It is a medium through which our love for God is expressed.

It is the only sign of true wisdom. Only soul winners are wise Prov 11:30 It brings joy although there are several Christian activities; the only one that rejoices God's heart and the hosts of heaven is evangelism. The bible says that there is much joy in heaven over one sinner that repents. Lk 15:7. The apostles of old had their joy rooted in their evangelistic programmes I Thess 2:19-20, Ps126:5, Act15:3

It's rewarding in the final judgment of the Christians at the white throne of God, the greatest reward will go to soul winners. Dan 12:3 It is the only thing that is of primary importance for God, Jesus declared that His food comes from witnessing for God, doing God's will, spreading the gospel. Jn 4:34. The greatest motivation and successes in witnessing comes as we realize the reasons for carrying out the noble assignment.

#### IV Whom should we witness to?

It is important to note that every one that lives on earth needs to be reached with the gospel. Our family (unclear) relatives, classmates, colleagues at work etc. Specially we should present the message to:

- 1 Born again Christian who are yet to attain holiness Heb12:14
- 2 Sinners - those under the custody of the devil
- 3 Those who are harassed by the devil the sick, the sorrowing etc. Matt 5:28- 30,
- 4 Backsliders - God is yearning to have them restored. Ez 37:23.5
- 5 The Atheists - Those who claim that God is no where god has no pleasure in their death. Ez. 18:23
- 6 Traditional worshippers Act17:16 (idols in Athens and Paul's message).
- 7 Doubters - Those who are tossed to and from by divers doctrines, those who are not really sure that Jesus died for them, those who are doubting their salvation John 20:29

#### V When should we Witness?

- 1 At specific period set by the Church (Crusades, mission, outreaches, revivals organized by evangelistic churches at specific periods).
- 2 When on duty - in our offices, factories etc. Col3:22

- 3 When relaxing (Jesus example - Mark 6:30-34)
- 4 When we are happy - Naming Ceremonies, Marriage, House warning, Birth days etc Lk 8:39, Act 3:4
- 5 When sorrowing - Death, Calamities (Paul before Festus Act 26:29)  
Witnessing become effective when it is done every time, everywhere as led by the Holy Spirit.

VI Where should we Witness?

In our homes - our Jerusalem Act1:8 At  
work/school At play

In the church Act. 14:1

Everywhere - Jesus with Zacheus Lk 19:1-10 Peter and Cornelius Acts10:23-43.  
Apostles that scattered abroad Acts 8:4

VII How should we witness?

Unless we know how best to witness our efforts will not materialize. The goal of every evangelist of soul winner should be to win souls and have them established in Christ Witnessing for Christ can never be effectively done unless we know how to go about it. The following steps have to be taken by those striving to have souls won for Christ.

Preparing effectively for witnessing (Personal and group preparations)

Be dependent on the Lord Jh. 15:4 & 5.

Always study the word of God Act. 17:11, 2Tim2:15

Be devoted to prayer

Submit to the Lordship of Christ 1 Pet3:15

Confess all known sins Isa59:2

Allow the Holy Spirit to teach and lead you I John 2:27

Put on the whole armour of God Eph. 6:16-20

B Presentation of the gospel

You or the group should know how to present the message.

The following steps have to be taken.

Explain the basic problem: SIN

- (i) Stress God's purpose for man Gen. 1:26-30

- (ii) The nature of sin -Rebellion against God James 4:1 Rom.14:23
- (iii) Stress the extent of sin - All have sinned 1 Jn. 1:8, Rom 3:23, Eph. 2:2-3, 5:8

Stress the result of sin - Separation from God, death Is.59:2, Rom 6:23 God's solution to man's sin - Jesus death on the cross Rom. 5:8, Jn 3:16 and 36

- Give your own testimony of salvation
- Present the Gospel by giving

(i) The essentials of the gospel - the message. Is 1:18, Mk 1:15

(ii) The benefits of the gospel-Jn. 3:36, Col. 1:13-14

(iii) Stating the cost of the gospel (giving up sins and self Act 3:19, Lk 9:23)

Let him/them know the expectation freedom from sin, condemnation, reconciliation to God, assurance of salvation, Act. 16:31, John 1:12, Act 1:5, Rom.8:1

- Lead the person or people to receive Christ Asses his/their readiness (willingness to accept Jesus) Explain the steps- To admit his/her sins, turn from sin, renounce the devil and his works, believe Jesus died for him/them, invite Jesus into his/their life/lives as Lord and saviour.
- Lead the person/group to pray the sinner's prayer
- Help him/them record his/their decision (date)
- Give assurance of salvation - Tell them or him no to trust his/their feelings but God's word Jn. 1:12, 5:24, I Jn 5:12-13
- Tell him/them how to grow in Christ

(i) Living by God's word - Matt 4:4, I Peter 2:2

(ii) Praying always - Jn 14:12-14

(iii) Fellowshiping with other Christians Matt 2:38

Witnessing for Christ - Act 1:8

Walking by the Spirit - Gal 5:16

Live like Christ – I Pet 1:3-8

## VII Type of Evangelism (Model of Evangelism)

All the models were used by our Lord Jesus Christ and his disciples. As we are led by the Holy Spirit either as a Church or on personal ground we can adopt any of the models.

Large group - Mass evangelism (crusades). Matt, 4:25, Act 2:14

Small group - a group numbering between 2 to 200 Act. 3:11-12, Act 16:13-14

Church centred evangelism - Caring and Ministering salvation to those

who come to the church. Matt 4:23, Act 9:20, Act 3:11-26, 5:1-10

One to one - personal evangelism - This is to be done everywhere if sinners are to be won for Christ. (Jesus and the Samaritan woman Jn. 4:47, Mary and Martha Lk. 10:38-39, Paul in Act 16:25-34)

Institutional - Jesus taught the people and used the avenue to present the gospel. Matt. 21:23, Peter in Act 4:5-8, Paul-Act 17:16-19

Pre-evangelism - Friendship evangelism. Caring for those who are hurting and sorrowing, getting close and loving unbelievers without compromising our standing in the Lord loving them in order to win them for Christ for us to do this effectively we should be sincere, open to God's prompting have genuine love for them, all things to all men.

We can minister through the Mass Media - Radio Television, Dailies e.t.c.

IX Some hindrances to effective witnessing

Those who are determined to witness successfully for Christ should beware of the following hindrances:

Fear, Doubt, Pride, Worldliness, Sin, Denominationalism, the spirit of anti-Christ, Discouragements from brethren etc.

X **Conclusion/ Summary**

To an effective witness for Christ the following should take place.

Know God as our saviour

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit

Be very prayerful

Refuse to yield to temptations by resisting the devil

Read, study and mediate on God's word

Live a life of obedience to God's word

Be ready to witness for Christ every time and everywhere

Have compassion for souls

Love God with all your heart, soul, mind strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

Love not the world

Do not fear but declare the message boldly and confidently

Humble yourself before God

Avoid arguments when witnessing

Endeavour to follow up your converts.

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