

JULY 27, 1966

INTRODUCTION

Brother N. B. Hardeman said a long time ago, "it takes 3000 sermons to convert one soul today in contrast with the 3000 converted on Pentecost with just one sermon." Recently preachers have been repeating this statement by Brother Hardeman, and often. If this is true why do you think it would be? Some suggestions might help:

1. We are depending more and more on the pulpit to convert people.
2. Many members seem to think this is the only way that it can be done.
3. Still others think they are paying the preacher to take care of this phase of the work.
4. This example of Pentecost teaches us:
  1. That enough can be learned in one sermon or lesson for a person to obey the gospel of Christ and start living the Christian life.
  2. That follow-up teaching must be done in a way that will make the new Christian stronger. Matthew 28:19, 20

WHY OUR WORK PROGRAM IS NOT STRONGER

1. Lack of leadership in such programs. Those responsible for leadership:
  1. Elders, deacons, preachers, all other capable members in this field.
  2. Failure on the part of all these, especially the elders, will hamper and hinder any program of work if not completely stop such a program.

HOW OUR WORK PROGRAM MAY BE MADE STRONGER

1. Many opportunities of our day in educating people for this work.
  1. Elder "work shops" at various times during the year.
    1. Elders should attend some of these and the congregation should pay their expenses incurred in such a trip. No business firm would send a man on a business trip with out in some way compensating that man for the trip.
  2. Teacher's "work shops" on the local level and at some time during the year at most of our schools hold such "work shops."
  3. The best possible way to strengthen such a program of work:
    1. To bring some able teachers into the local congregation to teach the elders, deacons, preachers, and all teachers including would be teachers, in the knowledge and how of Bible teaching.

WHAT PERSONAL WORK IS NOT

1. I do not consider personal work a "door knocking" campaign. Some "door knocking" might well be involved.
2. Personal work is not a "hit" or "miss" affair. On first contact you might not even teach a lesson from the Bible.
3. Personal work is not just one call. It may involve many visits and over a long period.
4. Effective personal work of the lasting variety, is not the fruit of some high-gear'd five or ten day campaign.

WHAT PERSONAL WORK IS

1. Personal work is contact by design with one's friends, and for the purpose of leading to a study of God's Word.
2. Personal work is the fruit of one's love for lost souls. Contacting the person because you want to, not because you were sent to do a job.
3. Personal work may consist in helping some individual who is in distress of sorrow, sickness, financial reverses. All this leading to a study of the Bible.
  1. This to me is real personal work.
  2. What you do without being sent is that work which is of real value. Note: We should not under estimate the value of that work done when it has become necessary to send some one, or inform that person of a work that needs to be done.

TWO SPECIAL OPPORTUNITITES AT DEARBORN VALLEY

1. Our Vacation Bible School August 22-25.
  1. We might fill our cars with children for this school if we would make the effort.
2. Our gospel meeting October 3-9.
  1. Would you begin working on just one individual now regarding this meeting?