

## The Works Needed To Be An Evangelistic Congregation

Franklin Church of Christ  
Edwin Crozier  
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PM Worship

### Introduction:

When you think of personal evangelism what is the first image that comes to your mind? For most, it is the image of an individual Christian sitting down with at least one non-Christian in a formal Bible study setting. With this in mind, when sermons or exhortations are given regarding personal evangelism, many begin to quake in their boots. May I suggest some new terms? Instead of personal evangelism, how about team evangelism? Or how about congregational evangelism? Do not misunderstand, I am not taking your personal responsibility out of evangelism. Rather, I want to use some terms more becoming to what we really need to be an evangelistic congregation. Instead of relying on our "star quarterback" to throw all the touchdown passes, we need to realize that evangelism is a team effort. Every member of the team needs to be involved. With that in mind, consider the following works or roles that must be filled on our team in order for this congregation to be evangelistic.

### Discussion:

- I. *Prayers*—Every team member must pray every day (cf. **Ephesians 6:19**). We need you to pray for opportunities. We need you to pray for the lost. We need you to pray for our guests. We need you to pray for the teachers, etc. But we need prayers on our team.
- II. *Inviters and Recommenders*—That is, we need people who are looking out for contacts. We need people who are inviting people to worship. We need people who are recommending the church to people. One of the greatest evangelistic feats in scripture occurred because one woman invited others to come see Jesus (**John 4:28-30, 39-42**).
- III. *People Persons*—That is, we need folks who enfold people. If we have inviters and recommenders, we will have guests. We need people who will meet and greet guests. We need our guests to feel welcome. We need people who now how to deal with others impartially (**James 2:1-4**). Additionally, we need people who pay enough attention to guests that they know when one is here for a second or third time.
- IV. *Hospitable Persons*—That is, we need people who will open their homes to non-Christians, offering to spend time with them and getting to know them. This is not just out of a motivation to finally "make the sale." But rather out of a genuine interest and concern for other people. Consider the example of Matthew (Levi) who immediately after deciding to follow Jesus opened his home to the lost to meet Jesus (**Luke 5:27-29**).
- V. *House-to-house study hosts*—In **Acts 20:20**, Paul said he taught from house to house. I have no doubt this can be a tremendous way to evangelize. There are numerous people who are interested in studying the Bible but are not necessarily interested in committing to a congregation. Or they see this group of people as too big. A small group home study can be the perfect place to introduce people to the gospel and to their need to be in Christ's church. For this to work, someone has to open their home. We need hosts for these studies. This is not necessarily the person who will lead the study, this is the person who holds it in their home.
- VI. *House-to-house study teachers and assistants*—Again from **Acts 20:20**, to be able to have these kinds of small group studies, someone has to teach them. There needs to be a leader setting the tone and vision for the study and keeping the discussion and learning on track. As Paul taught from house to house, we need people who will teach from house to house.
- VII. *House-to-house study members*—In **Acts 20:20**, house-to-house teaching only worked because people were willing to gather from house to house to learn. It takes more than a hosts and leaders. It takes members who add to the group and work on bringing visitors.
- VIII. *Follow-up people*—That is, we need people who will write cards and letters, send e-mails and make phone calls to guests at our services, meetings, Bible classes or group studies. Like Apollos who watered after Paul planted (**I Corinthians 3:6**), we need waterers who will follow up with those who have already been planted by our assemblies and classes.
- IX. *Prospectors*—We need people who are on the look out for people with whom to study. We need people who are looking to our guests and setting up studies with them. This may not be the one who actually conducts a study. Perhaps you can talk to someone about having a study and then get someone you trust to teach it to lead it for you. But somebody has to be on the look out for the opportunities that are there and use them (**I Corinthians 3:5**).
- X. *One-on-one teachers*—We need people who are willing to conduct one-on-one studies. No matter the means we have to make the contacts, to prime the contacts or to qualify the contacts, we will eventually get down to someone needing to teach the contacts. As **Romans 10:14** points out, people only become Christians when people teach them.

### Conclusion:

I imagine if we worked harder, we could uncover even more roles. However, I hope I have impressed you with the fact that there is something you can do to help make this congregation evangelistic. What will you commit to doing starting now and continuing throughout 2006?