

# T. E. A. C. H.

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## What Will It Take To Reap The Harvest?

Dan Harrison  
C. E. Chairman

One of the most effective ways to reach people for Jesus is to begin brand new churches. In fact Lyle Schaller in his book, *Innovations in Ministry*, has stated that if a denomination wishes to remain on a plateau in size it is necessary to plant one new congregation annually for every 100 to 150 existing churches. If the goal is significant new growth, that process must be accelerated to launching two new missions annually for every one hundred existing churches. If the goal is to reach substantial numbers of younger generations and also new immigrants to the U.S., a reasonable goal is three new congregations annually for every one hundred existing churches.

As a denomination we are in a fairly rapid learning curve in regard to learning how to effectively plant new churches. But with our present resources it would be difficult for us to begin enough new churches annually to move back into a healthy growth pattern denominationally. **This means we must help existing churches again experience the romance of evangelism.**

David Crosby of "Crosby, Stills, and Nash" was recently in the news because of a serious physical problem. He had a rapidly deteriorating liver condition that could only be corrected by a transplant. After being on a transplant list for a period of time a donor liver became available and Crosby received a new lease on life.

There is some interesting parallels between his situation and the experience of sinners who come to Christ. Before his disease could be cured a donor had to be found - someone had to die. Nothing short of someone dying could save him. No other method of treatment would be adequate.

Man is born with the terminal illness of sin which results in separation from God. But God has given His Son Jesus to become our donor. He has given His life that we might find acceptance, forgiveness and salvation through the power of His shed blood. In Him and Him alone we find life that is abundant in this world and eternal in the world to come.

Are we still convinced that people are genuinely lost? Do we really believe with our whole heart that the only way to the Father is through His Son? Are we

prepared to take the gospel message into the market place where terminal sinners abound?

What are we doing to equip ourselves with the necessary tools to effectively reach lost people? How much of what we do in our church is geared toward genuine heart transformation and life change? How much attention do we pay to the needs of our community? Are we targeting ministries that will meet those needs? How much of the business of our church just creates activity without much to show for it? On a scale of 1 to 10 how would you rate the overall outreach effectiveness of your congregation?

Let me leave you with a powerful quote from Billy Graham. "The evangelistic harvest is always urgent. The destiny of men and of nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. We are not responsible for the past generation, and we cannot bear the full responsibility for the next one; but we do have our generation. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our opportunities."

Souls hang in the balance! It is time we enter anew the ripened fields and reap the harvest for the Lord. There are no acceptable excuses for anything less than our best effort!

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## Annual C. E. March Rally

The organ had been turned on prior to the service and as we were preparing to begin, smoke began coming out of the back of the organ. It was quickly shut off and unplugged. In a few seconds more damage was done than was economically practical to repair.

If someone would have called out "FIRE" everyone would have understood the meaning. Some would have left the building without knowing the problem or the fact that there was not any real danger to anyone.

There are many in life who are caught in various circumstances in life who are calling out "HELP." The tragedy is often the call is in a different language than with which the church is familiar. The cry is often not made at the church but by their absence. They are not wanting an invitation to church but rather may be extending an invitation to the church to help them rather than count them.

The organ was damaged beyond repair in a minute or less. The crises seldom happens that fast to people or families but the damage is equally destructive.

A "Focus on the Family" story of Dick Gauch shows this to be the case for their family. Rev. Gauch prior to his conversion was a Regional Director for an insurance company. While in an office of one of the managers he received a call that informed him that his daughter was on drugs. With his giant sized ego he felt that they could reclaim their daughter but he found that hope destroyed because her addiction was greater than their resources. In desperation they turned to Christ. The reclamation process did not begin with the daughter but the family. Slowly but effectively God brought restoration to the family and then added a ministry to reach troubled families to bring scriptural healing to the soul.

The cry for "HELP" is coming from all ages and in different ways. One size or method does not fit all. The message cannot change but the containers must. Rev. Ruben Welch speaking at a Ministerial Convention on Ephesians 4:1-16 told us that "the gifts placed on the altar to God may range from paper cups to crystal but God's grace is in each."

Dick Gauch will speak at a 7:30 PM Christian Education Rally on **March 10, 1995** at **Heritage Temple**, 2295 South High Street, **Columbus, Ohio**. Mike Russell will be the song leader and soloist. He also directs the

Brookside Church Choir of Chillicothe who will be singing for the service as well.

This promises to be another excellent opportunity and resource to help us answer the calls for "HELP" in our churches and communities. Please plan to attend.

David Cyrus, Rally Coordinator



## Renew Your Passion For Ministry . .

at the **19th Annual Church Growth Conference** in **Anderson, Indiana, March 31 - April 1**. Enjoy two full days of training, inspiration, networking and team building. For pastors, church staff, key lay leaders and church boards. If you're involved in ministry, you should be in Anderson!

You can depend on being inspired by 15 outstanding speakers. They're ready to help make your church grow and become more effective and relevant in the 90's.

### Featuring:

- \* Dr. John C. Maxwell
- \* Dr. David Jeremiah
- \* Dr. Johnny Hunt
- \* Barbara Johnson
- \* Rick Stanley
- \* The Speer Family

The location is the Anderson University, 1015 E. 15th Street, Anderson, In. For registration information call 1-800-333-6506 (PST). Make plans NOW to attend the Church Growth Conference.

*If you feel your passion has wavered, come to Anderson and renew that passion!*

See you there on March 31 & April 1!!



**BRING A FRIEND**



David Hopkins, Peebles, Ohio

Sometimes in the world in which we live, we become preoccupied with trying to make a living, raising children and dealing with all of life's problems. However, in the midst of all this, we must remember that we are not in this world just to do all of those things, but also as a Christian we have a duty to share the "Good News" of the Gospel with a lost and dying people. Even beyond that duty, we need to realize that it is a precious privilege to share with someone that Jesus can literally change their life forever.

If a church is going to thrive and grow, it can not depend on programs, games, or gimmicks to do for it what real evangelism can do. Real evangelism will spark excitement and faith in new converts and enlighten those saints who have grown complacent with their experience and renew their excitement of being a child of the King. There is no way a church can survive if there is no evangelistic thrust in that church. If there is no evangelistic spirit, the church will grow stagnant and eventually die. Maybe what we need in this coming year is to ask God to let us see people as lost and show us where they are headed and then we will pray and say "Lord, send me."



*A Child Shall Lead Them*

It was late Friday afternoon in a crowded supermarket. Everyone was in a hurry, and the patience of both clerks and customers was frayed.

Her cart packed with groceries, a woman came to the checker's stand with her 5 year old child. The checker asked the child, casually, "Well, honey, what do you know today?"

Without a moment's hesitation, the little girl replied, "I know the Lord's Prayer," and proceeded to recite it in a clear voice.

Almost instantly the rush and noise of the busy market ceased. Smiles and a moment of good will replaced bad tempers.

-Beulah Collins

*Evangelism . . . NOT an Option*



Fon Reese,  
West Central D. S.

There are few who would ever charge us with being anything less than evangelical. That, in itself, does not necessarily mean that we evangelize. One is being, the other is doing.

It seems almost a contradiction that one's belief does not affect one's behavior. What is the secret that unlocks the chains of inhibition and reticence in setting us free to persuade others to believe what we embrace? What is it that hinders our approach to unbelievers? Can salespeople ever be convincing if they themselves are not fully persuaded of the products that they are trying to sell to others? These questions and others have an answer. Perhaps our reluctance reveals our lack. We are devoid of impetus, enthusiasm, conviction and burden. We are paralyzed with fear of rejection and recalcitrant to the clear command of Christ. We refuse to risk a friendship of someone whom we think may take offense. We chafe at the thought of being a personal witness to someone whose only destiny is a Christless hell. Evangelism is the remedy for our decline. There is not substitute (no matter how socially attractive) for bringing people to Jesus Christ. I am an offense to the Gospel if I do not perpetuate its message to others.

Evangelism for us, as a district, is not an option. Our methods are not so archaic that they are ineffective. They are only that way when they are not saturated with the love and appeal and fragrance of a yearning soul. My exhortation is to use whatever means, private or public, to the masses or the one on one. I long to see again personal evangelism.

When Philip saw the Ethiopian eunuch in the Gaza desert the Spirit said to him, "Go near and join thyself to this chariot." "And Philip ran thither to Him." The word *join* in the Greek is a word from which we derive our English word *glue*. The Spirit was saying to Philip, "Go glue yourself to that chariot." He did and he stuck to it until the eunuch got saved. If we would practice the same thing with sinners, we also would see many of them find Christ. Do not quit on that unsaved husband, wife, child, neighbor, fellow employee, friend or the nameless. Stick to them like glue.

We must evangelize!





## *Don't Be Late for This Promotion!*

Bruce Morrison  
Committee Chairman

If you have not sent for your "50 Day Spiritual Adventure" materials, time is running out! Several churches have already purchased the program for their congregations and are eagerly awaiting for February 26th to come. The adventure is designed to build a discipleship life-style in every believer while increasing awareness about the local church. The theme this year is **FACING DOWN OUR FEARS**.

This program can be used in Sunday School classes, worship or small groups and deals with topics such as:

- \* Overcoming the fear of a society that is breaking down
- \* Fighting the fear of living insignificant lives
- \* Facing down the fear of rejection
- \* Fighting the fear of the Big "F" (Failure)
- \* Clearing up unhealthy fears of God
- \* Dealing with the fear of sickness, aging and death
- \* Overcoming the fear of threats to our children
- \* Fighting the fear of the rise of evil

For more information on ordering the Church Starter Kit (\$89.99), just call Chapel of the Air Ministries at 1-800-224-2735. For any other questions you may call Rev. Bruce Morrison at 1-419-589-7928.



## *TELLING THE STORY*

Don Seymour  
Northeast District Superintendent

*Evangelism is the cutting edge of growth* for the church. We have known this all along but so often have only given lips-service to it.

*Evangelism is unique* in that it can take place in most settings and through most any method. While new methods are being used with great results many insist on

using traditional forms even though they are ineffective. We dare not cling to the comfortable and familiar while eternal souls plunge into eternal night.

**Evangelism begins with embracing the Great Commission.** To embrace it means:

1. To love the Author of the Commission with an unbridled love; with all ones heart, soul, mind and strength. Only then can one understand our Lord's longing for this world.
2. To love the lost. Because we have been redeemed, we are indebted to our Lord and to those still lost. Having been rescued, we cannot forget the pit from which we were digged, nor can we forget the fact that those still there are lost.
3. To live the Commission. To live it, is to develop a life-style of evangelism. We should pray with the apostle Paul that God would "...open to us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ." Col. 4:3 Living and speaking the Gospel is a remarkable privilege. In fact someone has said, that the greatest challenge of the 1990's is telling the story of Jesus.

That story is powerful. It is life changing. The final words of our Lord were. . ."you shall be witnesses." Everytime we tell the story, we are doing evangelism. When true evangelism takes place, there is rejoicing both in heaven and earth.

Evangelism was done in a traditional "revival" setting at Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. All the elements for making that form of evangelism fruitful were in place. God honored those efforts and fourteen people were brought into the kingdom of God.

Evangelism took place through musicals and dramas in many of our churches over the Christmas season. The story of Jesus was powerfully presented.

Evangelism is occurring in "Special Needs" small groups in our Cortland, Otisco and Wellsville, NY. churches. This method of evangelism is on the forefront in kingdom building today.

Spontaneous "Friend Evangelism" is producing growth in Lebanon, PA.

It is imperative that each church examine its evangelism program. Each should be asking the following questions:

1. *Is there an evangelism program firmly in place in our church?*
2. *Is this program aggressively being used?*
3. *Are people regularly being added to the church?*
4. *Are we open to consider new methods of evangelism?*

**Remember, evangelism is the cutting edge of growth for your church. We dare not cling to the comfortable and familiar while lost souls pass into eternal night.**



It's so exciting to unwrap a present and see what's inside, isn't it?

Well, our resource notebook committee, as you know, has been working hard on a gift for you, and we're almost done! This special "gift" will be going to the printers this spring. And it finally has a name!

### KIDS AND US

#### A Resource Notebook for Children's Ministry

You'll love opening this "present" as soon as it is available. Why? Because if you take a peek inside the box, (I mean the notebook) it has materials and ideas that you can use in your children's ministry. I love gifts I can use, don't you? You'll want to open this one and use it!

There are excellent children's program ideas in it for Christmas, VBS, and other days. Even a great "Grandparents Day" program! The ideas for memorizing Scripture are the best!

Oops! I shouldn't give you clues to what's in the box (I mean notebook) before you even open it!

So keep your eyes open for "KIDS AND US", coming to you soon at minimal cost, from the Christian Education Department.

Ele Thompson, Committee Chairman



#### Churches That Pray

Two videos by C. Peter Wagner  
Biblical ways to make the prayer life of Christians-both individually and corporately-more targeted and fruitful. How prayer can help revitalize your congregation and break down the walls between your church and your community.

#### "Jesus" Home Video Package

Distributed by New Life Resources  
The "Jesus" Home Video strategy is an easy to use form of evangelistic entertaining. One of the most effective means of introducing people to Christ that has ever existed is the "Jesus" film. Everything you need to motivate, train and organize the film showings is included in this package, including the "Jesus" video, resource manual, facilitator's

guide, the book; Who Is This Jesus? and a video strategy session video showing you how to introduce the "Jesus" video to your friends.

#### G.R.A.D.E. Training Videos

(Growth Resulting After Discipleship & Evangelism)  
by Dr. John Maxwell

G.R.A.D.E. equips the entire congregation to be involved in four areas of OUTREACH: 1. The Abraham Prayer Ministry; 2. The Andrew Evangelism Ministry; 3. The Barnabas Friendship Ministry; and 4. The Timothy Discipleship Ministry. Set includes videos & manuals.

#### What I Really Need!

by Dr. John Maxwell

Times change but people's deepest needs don't. Learn what people identify as their greatest needs and how they can be led to God to have those needs met. Listen to Dr. Maxwell as he insightfully identifies the roots of each need and shares scripture teaching how those needs can be met by God. Set includes six cassettes and outlines.

*If you would like to borrow any of these items from the C.E. Lending Library, please call Cindy at (513) 695-0025. We also have a number of other resources available in many areas of ministry. Please call for an updated list or if you have a specific request. We'll do our best to supply you with tapes, books or videos that will help you lead others to the Lord.*

#### Acquaint Prospects with Church Members



Rather than hold a series of adult membership training classes, Granite Falls Church orients prospective members using a progressive dinner ("a course in three courses") as the forum. Each host is a church member. The group begins at one home for the salad course and begins getting acquainted. The pastor teaches the unit on theology. At the next home, the group dines on the entree and learns about the local church. The third host provides the dessert and at that stop, the pastor instructs about the wider church. By the end of the day, the group is well-fed, well-oriented and well-acquainted. The pastor has had virtually no problems securing volunteer hosts. When the class is small, the pastor recruits hosts who have smaller homes. With big groups, she looks for those who have large dining rooms. "The hosts really enjoy getting to know the new people."

(Idea from the Rev. Cathy Barker, The United Church of Christ, 210 Ninth Ave., Granite Falls, MN, 56241. Rev. Barker will welcome your calls at (612) 564-2442 for more information about the idea or the class topics.)

Well, if you fall into one of these categories, perhaps you could use a copy of a cassette tape dealing with that issue. The 1994 C. E. Convention held last September was a great place to find some helpful ideas. Each of the workshop sessions was taped on audio cassettes and is waiting here in our office for you to learn from. There are many tapes available with MANY more topics to choose. We have the tapes for sale in increments of 1 or groups of 5, up to the total set of 20 tapes for \$33.00. Prices vary for the different quantities. Please call Cindy at the CE Office for a complete listing or to place an order. Her number is (513) 695-0025. She is available Monday -

Are you teaching a Sunday school class this week and need a few ideas for crafts or stories? Are you a leader in your church who would like to listen to teachings on receptive and relevant evangelism ideas? Maybe you're the youth group leader and need to find a way to reach your kids or you might be the church secretary and have wondered if a computer would make your job a little easier and a lot more effective.

**Who Needs Help?**



A fellowship group that meets every Tuesday morning at First Church does more than just pray for the needs of others. It also takes time to send notes and cards to members of the church and community who are known to be ill, burdened, hospitalized or bereaved. They also send notes to first-time visitors from the previous Sunday and birthday cards to people who live alone. New families in the community receive a home-baked goodie from the group. Before dismissing, the group prays for each person they have sent a card, note or gift to that week. (Idea from Louise Bryan, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 679, Tom Bean, TX 75489.)

**Love In Action . . .**



Thursday 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. A complete list of the cassette tape library is available also. Don't struggle in your ministry when help and ideas are just a phone call away. These are great resources that will benefit your ministry. We'll be waiting to hear from you!

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**1995 March C. E. Rally - Rev. Dick Gauch - March 10, 1995**  
**Heritage Temple Church, Columbus, Ohio**