



Evangelism Class

by Pastor Jimmy Inman

True Life Missions Class

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Section 1

Introduction To Evangelism

Introduction To Evangelism

Introduction: The literal meaning of an evangelist is “one who proclaims good news.” As Christians, we are all called to proclaim the good news that Jesus loved us so much that He died for our sins. Mark 16:15 says, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Matthew 28:19-20 says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.” 1 Peter 3:15 says, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” Nothing in this world is more important and exciting than sharing Christ with others. On the other hand, it is also a tremendous challenge. **The purpose of this class is to effectively equip us to the share the good news with others. This first section is an introduction.**

I) Basic Principles Of Witnessing

- A. Every Christian is a witness (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20). It is a command and not an option.
- B. Successful witnessing is bathed in prayer.
- C. The Holy Spirit precedes us and works in the life of the person we are witnessing to.
- D. Success is determined by our obedience and not the response of the person we are witnessing to (1 Corinthians 3:5-8).
- E. Witnessing is not something we should dread. We have the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). It usually goes better than we expect.
- F. Our witnessing should flow out of our relationship with God (John 15:1-8).

II) The Method of Evangelism

Jesus was the greatest soul-winner who ever lived. There are several examples in the New Testament that reveal how He dealt with people. One tremendous example is found in John 4. It is the well-know story of Christ’s encounter with the woman at the well. Here are some principles that can be gleaned from that encounter regarding

Christ’s method of evangelism. His method:

- A. Follows the leading of God
- B. Goes to where the people are
- C. Loves all people
- D. Meets people where they are
- E. Communicates in an understandable manner
- F. Sticks to the real issue
- G. Presents Jesus
- H. Deals with sin

III) The Message Of Evangelism

How should we go about sharing the gospel? What is involved in being a witness? There are basically two elements, and both of these elements must function together for us to be effective witnesses. First, there is the **visible demonstration** of the gospel. This

is living our lives in such a way that people can see Christ in us. Second, there is the **verbal declaration** of the gospel. This is actually sharing the gospel with people through words. There are two basic elements to the verbal declaration of the gospel. First, there is our **testimony**. This involves telling what Christ has done personally in our lives. It should include: what we were like before receiving Christ, how we came to realize our need for Christ, how we received Christ, and how He has changed our lives since we received Him. We are to focus on Christ and not ourselves. Second, we must share **truth** with people. This is actually sharing the content of the gospel. Remember that both elements are essential.

IV) The Motivation For Evangelism

What should motivate us to share the gospel with others? Here are nine realities that should serve as motivation for us to evangelize.

- A. Doing the Will of God (John 4:34)
- B. Following Christ's Example
- C. The Urgency of the Need (John 4:35)
- D. The Promise of Reward (John 4:36-38)
- E. Obedience to Christ
- F. God has been so good to us.
- G. It is God's purpose for people to be saved, and He calls us to be co-laborers with Him. It is an honor for Almighty God to use us as His agents.
- H. The reality of heaven and hell and the joy of seeing a person's life changed by Christ right now
- I. Love

Please consider this statement by Dr. James Merritt. He writes, "A truth that needs to be emphasized to every true born-again believer in Christ is this: *All Christians have been charged with the responsibility and the task of personal evangelism.* For the believer, evangelism is not an option; it is an obligation. It is not a choice to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed. It is not a gift; it is a responsibility. In fact, one of the marks that a person is truly a disciple of Christ is an interest in, and a practice of, personal evangelism. When the Lord Jesus called the first disciples, the first promise He made was, 'Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men' (Mark 1:16). Immediately, we learn something every Christian must realize (in many cases rather painfully): if you are not fishing, you are not following! The real essence of discipleship is in the making of other disciples. R.A. Torrey, a great Bible teacher of yesteryear, poignantly stated: 'I would like to ask what right a man has to call himself a follower of Jesus Christ if he is not a soul-winner? There is absolutely no such thing as following Christ unless you make the purpose of Christ's life the purpose of your life.' The fact of the matter is that every *saved* person this side of *heaven* should be concerned about every *unsaved* person this side of *hell*. Our Lord assumed, as well as commanded, that His disciples would be about the task of personal evangelism."

V) Improper Motives For Evangelism

- A. Ego Building
- B. Power
- C. Prestige
- D. Success
- E. Numbers
- F. Guilt
- G. Trying To Earn Favor With God

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- 1 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.
- 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
- 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.
- 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.
- 5 So that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

- 14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.
- 15 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.
- 16 To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?
- 17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

Proverbs 14:25

- 25 A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.

Acts 8:14-25

- 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.
- 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
- 16 Because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money

- 19 And said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
- 20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!
- 21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.
- 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.
- 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."
- 24 Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."
- 25 When they had testified and proclaimed the world of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

Section 2

Preparation For Evangelism

Preparation For Evangelism

I. Prayer – Power Evangelism Through Prayer

1. Praying For The Lost:

1 Tim. 2:3-4

- 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior.
4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Mark 10:27

- 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

2. Pray For The Lost To Believe And Accept The Gospel Based On The Redemptive Work Of Jesus Christ On The Cross Through His Shed Blood:

Eph. 1:7

- 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace

3. Pray In The Name Of Jesus And Pray Specifically For People By Name:

John 14:13-14

- 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.
14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

4. Pray With The Authority Of Jesus Name And For Deliverance From The Power And Persuasion Of The Evil One:

2 Cor. 10:4-5

- 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

5. Pray that The Lost Will Be Convicted Of Sin And Will Repent And Turn To Christ:

Acts 3:19

- 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

6. Prayers Of Intercession Must Be Persistent:
Luke 11:5-13

II.) Self Preparation

- a. Develop Your Personal Testimony.
- b. Learn How To Use The Bible (Scripture) In Leading A Person To Salvation In Christ.
- c. Pray for God's protection, guidance, wisdom, leading, and filling of the Holy Spirit.
- d. Confess all known sin in personal preparation through prayer.
- e. Build relationships with people and pray for their salvation.
- f. Love people unconditionally.
- g. Live out your faith in front of people.
- h. Be wise in all your conduct.

Section 3

Sharing The Gospel

The Theology Of The Gospel

What is the gospel? This is a fundamental question that we must be able to answer if we are going to be Christ's witnesses. 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4 is probably the primary passage in regard to defining the gospel. Let's look at what the gospel actually is.

I) **The Definition of Gospel**

The word gospel simply means good news. It is wonderful news that God loves us so much that even though we have sinned against Him that He gave Jesus Christ to be the sacrifice for our sins on the cross and that Christ rose from the dead. That is the best news the world has ever heard!

II) **The Content of the Gospel**

What do we need to know and understand in order to understand the gospel? There are five areas that I want us to look at: the nature of God, the nature of man, man's problem, God's solution for that problem, and how man can receive God's solution.

1. **The Nature of God**

- a. God is _____ (Revelation 15:4).
- b. God is _____ (1 John 4:8).
- c. God is _____ (Genesis 1:1).

2. **The Nature of Man**

- a. Man is made in the _____ of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
- b. This means that man is the _____ creation of God and that we have a capacity to have a _____ with God.

3. **Man's Problem**

- a. Man has a problem due to _____ (Romans 3:23).
- b. _____ are guilty of sin (Romans 3:23).
- c. The result of sin is _____ (Romans 6:23).
- d. We are sinners by _____ (Psalm 51:5) and by _____ (Isaiah 53:6, James 1:14).
- e. Our sins _____ us from God (Isaiah 59:2).
- f. Our righteousness are like _____ (Isaiah 64:6).

4. God's Solution For Our Problem

- a. Jesus is _____ who became _____ (John 1:1, 14).
- b. Jesus died on the cross _____ and _____ from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

5. The Way We Receive Salvation

- a. Salvation is a free _____ (Romans 6:23).
- b. Salvation is through _____ and received by _____ (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- c. We must _____ of sin (Acts 3:19).
- d. We must _____ Jesus as Lord and _____ on Him (Romans 10:9, 13).

Sample Gospel Presentation

Introduction: The following is a sample presentation of what to share when we share the gospel. It is only intended to be an example. Every witnessing experience is different. However, the truth of the gospel never has changed or never will change. Hopefully, this model will be helpful as a type of foundation in learning how to share the gospel. This is meant to impart what we actually share when sharing the gospel and what is needed in leading a person to Christ. The way we actually share will be tailored to each situation. There are many different approaches to sharing the gospel. Often, we will only be able to share part of it in any given situation.

I) Exploratory Questions:

1. Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
2. Who is Jesus to you?
3. Have you come to a point in your life where you are certain that you have eternal life and will go to heaven when you die?
4. Could you imagine for a moment that I have just heard about Christianity for the first time, and I am curious about it. I ask you to briefly and simply explain to me how to become a Christian. What would you say?
5. If you were standing before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" what would you say? (The purpose of these questions is to determine if the person you are talking to has a biblical understanding of salvation. Only God truly knows for sure about a person's salvation, but we can get a pretty good idea about it by comparing their answers to what the Bible has to say about salvation. If he or she does not give a biblical answer, then you can proceed by sharing the gospel. You can also use your testimony instead of these questions and then share the gospel.)

II) Transition: God loves you and wants you to have eternal life (John 3:16). He has given me life and a relationship with Himself through Jesus Christ. Could I share with you from the Bible how the same thing can happen to you?

III) The Nature Of God: It is very important that we realize what God is like. First, according to 1 John 4:8, "God is love." He loves us with a perfect love. He loves us more than we can even understand. He loves us even when we totally blow it. Second, God is also a holy God (Revelation 15:4). This means that He is perfect, totally pure, and separated from sin. He hates sin but still totally loves us. It also means that He must punish sin. Third, God desires to have a relationship with us and to give us eternal life (John 17:3). We were designed to have a relationship with God. God also wants us to have an abundant life right here and right now (John 10:10).

(IV) Our Problem: However, we have a problem. Man's problem is that he is sinful. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Sin means to miss the mark. Sin is anything we do that is disobedient or unrighteous in God's sight. In order to be right with God on our own, we would have to be totally perfect for our whole life because there can be no sin in heaven. Good plus bad does not equal perfect. Therefore, we can only be right with God and ready for heaven by being perfect (which none of us are) or forgiven. Our sins separate us from God (Isaiah 59:2), and we cannot save ourselves (Ephesians 2:9). It is like being on one side of the Grand Canyon and seeing someone on the other side but having no way to get there.

(V) God's Solution: However, God has bridged the gap and provided a solution for our sin problem in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ because:

1. Jesus is fully God and fully man (John 1:1, 14).
2. Jesus died for our sins and rose bodily from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

(VI) Our Response: We must receive the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved (John 1:12). How do we do this? We do it by:

1. Placing our faith in Jesus- Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Salvation is only through Jesus (John 14:6).
2. Repenting of our Sin- Jesus said, "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Repent means to have a change in mind and heart. It is like doing a U-turn. God convicts us of our sin, we are truly sorry for our sin, we ask forgiveness for our sin, and turn from serving sin to trusting the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Confessing Jesus as Lord- Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

(VII) Leading to a commitment:

1. Does what we have been talking about make sense to you? (Try to make sure they understand the gospel.)
2. Are you willing to repent of your sins and trust in Jesus Christ alone as your Lord and Savior? (Try to make sure they are being serious.)

Encourage them to pray a prayer in which they ask for forgiveness of their sins, ask God to save them based on the death and resurrection of Jesus, and confess Jesus as Lord. An example would be:

Dear God,

I know that I have sinned against you. I am sorry. Please forgive me. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died from my sins and rose from the dead. I ask Jesus to come into my life and save me and to take control of my life and be my Lord. Thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Principles For Dealing With Questions And Difficulties In Witnessing

The following are some basic principles that we should keep in mind when we are trying to witness to a person and it does not go smoothly or they have a lot of questions.

1. Try not to view questions as negative because everyone has questions before (and actually after too) they become a Christian. Don't be defensive but instead view this as an opportunity to answer a person's questions and help them in their spiritual journey. Remember that God is in control, and the Holy Spirit would have to be drawing the person in order for her to even be asking questions.
2. While we should be willing to discuss things with people, we should not let it devolve into an argument.
3. We should as much as possible try to structure the conversation in a win-win direction.
4. We should be willing to openly and honestly answer people's questions.
5. However, we should not get bogged down in people's questions and sidetracked on secondary issues, but we should answer their questions and attempt to lead them to focusing on Christ and the essentials of the gospel.
6. We need to exercise gentleness.
7. We should remember that we can help them see holes in their thinking by gently asking them questions as well.
8. We should focus on showing Christ to them and allowing the Spirit to lead us.

Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. What about the person who dies and does not know Jesus Christ?
2. Is Jesus Christ the only way to God/heaven?
3. How does a loving God allow people to suffer?
4. How can miracles be possible?
5. Isn't the Bible full of errors?
6. Isn't the Christian experience only psychological?
7. Won't a good, moral life get me to heaven?
8. What about evolution?
9. Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

Some recommended reading to prepare ourselves to answer these questions: *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust The Bible* by Erwin Lutzer, *The Facts On Creation Vs. Evolution* by Ankerberg and Weldon, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict* and *More Than A Carpenter* by Josh McDowell, *The Case For Christ* by Lee Strobel, *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

Sharing Our Personal Testimony

- (I) **Definition of a Testimony:** Our testimony is the telling of how God has personally worked in our lives. The Greek word that testimony is translated from in the New Testament literally means evidence. Therefore, if we are Christians, our lives and words are evidence for the truth of the gospel. For a person to be a witness and testify in court, they must have first-hand knowledge of the subject they are testifying about. It works the same way spiritually. It is not enough for us to just know the facts of the gospel or to know about Christ, but we must be able to share first-hand knowledge of how Christ is real in our lives. Otherwise, our testimony would be totally empty! An excellent biblical expression of this is found in Mark 5:19, where Jesus said to the Gadarene demoniac that he had saved, delivered, and healed, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” Therefore, our testimony tells how the gospel story became our personal story.

Scriptures: 1 John 1:1-3, Acts 22:1-21, Acts 26:9-23, and Revelation 12:11

(II) **Outline of a Testimony:**

1. My life before receiving Christ
2. How I realized my need for Christ
3. How I became a Christian
4. How Jesus Christ has changed my life

(III) **Suggestions For Giving a Testimony:**

1. Be led by the Holy Spirit
2. Unless God leads otherwise, it generally should be short.
3. We should not tell more about what we were like before we became a Christian than what Christ has done in our lives since.
4. Stick to the point of sharing what Christ has done in your life.
5. Use words that the people you are speaking to will understand.
6. Focus on what God has done for you and not what you have done for God. In other words, brag about Jesus – not yourself.
7. We need to make sure we don’t contradict our verbal testimonies by living ungodly lives.
8. We should weave the presentation of the gospel and the sharing of Bible verses into the sharing of our testimony.

Section 4

Methods of Evangelism

Relational Evangelism

1. The idea is “that friends buy from friends.” In other words, we have to earn their trust before sharing Christ with them.
2. Develop relationships with people. In other words, we should generally get to know people before we attempt to share Christ with them. Mark Mittelberg calls this the “barbeque first” principle.
3. Be genuine in building a relationship with them. View them as a person and as a friend and not just as an evangelistic target.
4. Learn as much about the person as possible.
5. Pray for their salvation and for opportunities to share Christ with them.
6. Model true, biblical Christianity in front of them.
7. Love them and minister to them in practical ways.
8. Share your testimony and the gospel as God leads.
9. Listen, ask questions, and answer their questions. Many times, we have to share the gospel in doses as people open the door to us. Always try to end one conversation in such a way as to leave the door open for future conversation.
10. Be led by the Holy Spirit and remember that the Holy Spirit leads people to salvation.
11. Take advantage of opportunities when people ask questions and when people come to us and share their problems.
12. Create opportunities to witness like inviting people to church, inviting them over to your house, working on a project together, or taking them out for a meal, etc.
13. Gently challenge false beliefs.

Servant Evangelism

This material is condensed primarily from a booklet produced by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is basically just a brief introduction to the concept.

I) Servant Evangelism Defined And Described

Reid and Wheeler write, "Servanthood evangelism involves intentionally sharing Christ by modeling biblical servanthood...[It] is a combination of simple acts of kindness and intentional personal evangelism." It is basically showing the love of Christ to people by serving them with the intent of breaking down barriers, planting or watering seeds, and possibly even being able to verbally share the gospel with them. Reid and Wheeler say, "In many cases, such acts of kindness open the door for the greatest act of kindness a Christian can give: the gospel."

II) Quotes Regarding Servant Evangelism

-"When Jesus walked on this earth, He used a servanthood ministry to build a bridge over which the message of the kingdom could cross. I believe one of the most effective means of evangelism for the twenty-first century will be servanthood evangelism based on ministry. Churches that are trying it are amazed with the results. Do not be left out."

(Dr. Bob Reccord)

-"A special word to our Lord was the word 'servant.' Our Lord frequently played the role of a servant. When He fed the 5,000, He was being a servant. When He washed the disciples' feet, He was being a servant. His admonishing to us is that we would freely give a 'cup of water.' A 'cup of water' seems like a small amount but on many an occasion 'a cup of cold water' has opened the door to give a witness. Our church went door-to-door giving out cookies. This past Wednesday evening in prayer meeting, I listened to a testimony of how a cookie helped open the heart of a young woman to accept Christ. You would be wise to plan to use servanthood evangelism in your church and community." (Dr. Charles W. Sullivan)

-"Servanthood evangelism wonderfully intertwines the Great Commandment and the Great Commission." (Dr. Timothy Beougher)

-"Servanthood evangelism has literally revolutionized our church. Through a strategic process of 'random acts of kindness' such as 'no-strings attached' car washes, soda giveaway, candy distribution on Valentine's Day, and free Christmas gift wrapping at the local mall, Southwest Baptist Church has grown from an average Sunday School attendance of 320 to over 600 in 16 months." (Dr. Brian Waite)

III) Strengths Of Servant Evangelism

1. It is effective in reaching people in today's culture.
2. It combines personal evangelism with the corporate ministry of the church body.
3. It is something that can be done by anyone.
4. It can be an essential part of the church's mission.
5. It is fun and has a low "fear factor."
6. It can involve family units in evangelism together.
7. It follows the model of Jesus (see Mark 10:45, along with many other Scriptures).

8. It allows people to use their creativity.
9. It takes very few resources and can be done anywhere, in any setting.
10. It communicates love to people.

IV) Foundational Principles For Servant Evangelism

1. Those participating must be intentionally evangelistic.
2. Those participating must genuinely care about people.
3. Those participating eventually need to be equipped as personal witnesses.

Visitation Evangelism

This is referring to going out formally and visiting people who are prospects or who have visited the church. Here are some practical ideas regarding this:

1. Tips For Going On Visitation
 - a. Pray before going
 - b. Go in groups of two or three
 - c. Be polite and remember that you are a guest in their home
 - d. Try to park somewhere that you would not have to move your car
 - e. Stand a couple of steps away from the door
 - f. State your name, the church's name, and the purpose of the visit immediately
 - g. Come in and sit only when you are invited

2. A Model For Leading Into Sharing the Gospel (FIRE)
 - a. Family: ask them about their family, etc.
 - b. Interests: you can talk about jobs, hobbies, interests, etc.
 - c. Religious Background: When you attend church, where do you attend? (or) We were excited about you visiting our church. Was there any particular reason that you came to our church?
 - d. Exploratory Questions: 1) Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you will go to heaven when you die? 2) Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What do you think you would say? Some alternate questions include: What do you believe about Jesus? How does a person become a Christian?

NOTE There are different purposes that we have in going to visit people. Sometimes it is to get to know them better, sometimes it is to encourage them, sometimes it is to pray for them, sometimes it is to talk to them about church, sometimes it is to share the gospel, and often it is a combination of the above things. Ultimately, we need to be led by the Holy Spirit in what we do and say. The above is just a suggestion. If it feels "canned" and uncomfortable, don't use it. If you think it will help you to feel more comfortable in talking to someone, use it as you see fit. Also, it is important to remember that we need to be very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to a person's spiritual condition when deciding if it is the right time to share the gospel or how much of the gospel we should share. Please note also that some of the material in this section was adapted from the Continuing Witness training manual produced by the North American Mission board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 5

True Life Church Plan For Evangelism

True Life Church Evangelism Plan

What is our plan to do evangelism together as a church at True Life? These are the main elements that we envision in our evangelism strategy:

1. Relational Evangelism-Teaching and encouraging believers to build an authentic relationship with an unbeliever, pray for them, and share Christ as God opens the door. This is foundational to our strategy.
2. Servant Evangelism-Doing intentional Acts of Kindness in the community to demonstrate and share the love of God.
3. Use media and mail outs as much as possible.
4. Outreach Events-Community events such as Queen's Banquets, the Jefferson County Back to School Bash, and Coats For the Cold that meet practical needs and take the gospel to people.
5. Small groups-Part of the purpose of our small groups will be evangelism. They will have an "open chair" policy which means that anyone is welcome at any time. They will be a "front door" through which people can come into the church.
6. Church Services-Our services are worship focused. However, we also want to be sensitive to unbelievers and remove artificial barriers that might be a hindrance to them while still boldly proclaiming the gospel and presenting God's Word without compromise. Periodically, we will have special Big Days where we especially focus on outreach and evangelism.

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Section 6

An Introduction To Missions

An Introduction To Missions

I) Missions Defined

J. Herbert Kane has written, “David Livingstone said, ‘God had only one Son and He made that Son a missionary.’ Every missionary follows in the steps of the Son of God, who visited this planet two thousand years ago on a mission of redemption. He came to seek and to save and to give His life a ransom for many. Upon the completion of His mission He returned to His Father in heaven; but before He left He said to His apostles, ‘As the Father has sent me, even so I send you’ (John 20:21).

The worldwide mission of the Christian church is rooted in the Incarnation and is part of God’s redemptive purpose for the world. God is a missionary God. The Bible is a missionary book. The gospel is a missionary message. The church is a missionary institution. And when the church ceases to be missionary minded, it has denied its faith and betrayed its trust.”

Avery Willis has provided us with some very helpful definitions. He writes, “By *mission*, I mean the total redemptive purpose of God to establish his kingdom. *Missions*, on the other hand, is the activity of God’s people, the church, to proclaim and to demonstrate the kingdom of God to the world. The word *mission* comes from the Latin word *mittere* meaning to *send*. God is both the *sender* and the *sent* (in Christ). The church is *sent* by God on mission and cooperates with God *to send* missionaries. *Missionaries* are set apart by God and the church to cross natural or cultural barriers with the gospel.”

II) Basic Biblical Truths Regarding Missions

- A. God is a missionary God (Jonah 4, Luke 19:10).
- B. We are called to work together and join with God in His mission of building His Kingdom in this world (Colossians 4:11).
- C. Every true Christian is a witness (Acts 1:8).
- D. Every Christian is under Christ’s mandate to make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20).
- E. Every Christian is to be a witness where they are. In that sense, every Christian is a missionary. However, some are called to go and proclaim the gospel cross-culturally. This is a missionary in the strictest sense of the word.
- F. Every Christian is to be a part of the process of missions by going and sending. We are to witness for Christ wherever we are, and we are to take special opportunities to go and proclaim the gospel in different places. However, we are also called to support and provide for those who are going out as missionaries. 3 John 5-8 says, “Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, because they went forth for His name’s sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.” Tom Steller comments on this passage by saying, “We must either go out for the sake of his Name, or we must send and support such people who do, and do so in a manner worthy of God....It is not of secondary importance to be engaged in this ministry of

sending. It is a very high calling. It is walking in the truth. It is the manifestation of a healthy and prospering soul.” However, we must remember that giving to a missions offering does not satisfy our requirement to be witnesses for Christ.

- G. According to Romans 10, this is the process that occurs in people coming to Christ: Sending-Preaching-Hearing-Believing-Calling=Salvation.
- H. There is always a harvest of souls that is available. God is the Lord of the harvest, but we are called to sow, water, and reap (John 4:35, 1 Corinthians 3:5-7).

III) Plan For Doing Missions At True Life Church

There are eight basic elements in our strategy for doing missions through True Life:

- A. We will teach believers that they are witnesses and equip them to share their faith.
- B. We will support missions financially through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention and also give to some of their special offerings for missions.
- C. We will be involved financially or in other practical ways with other special missions projects from time to time.
- D. We will take mission trips as a church. At this point, we believe that God has called us to focus on the nation of Honduras.
- E. We will plant other churches and be involved in the church planting movement that God is raising up in the state of Tennessee. We take short mission trips to work with church plants in Tennessee.
- F. We will pray that God will raise up and send out full-time missionaries and Christian workers from this church. We will also support, encourage, and equip people in following God’s call for their lives. We are currently supporting two people who have been called out of True Life to do missions.
- G. We are involved in local missions projects such as Queen’s Banquets, Jefferson County Back To School Bash, and Coats For The Cold.
- H. We are partnering with other ministries such as Stepping Out, Appalachian Outreach, and Prince of Peace Baptist Church in order to make a difference in our community.