

## LESSON THREE

# REACHING THE FIELD

### **A. MAKING THE FIRST CONTACTS:**

Before a soul can be won for the Lord he must be reached with the gospel. Contact must be made. It is extremely important that the soul winner makes these contacts wisely and prayerfully for often the first impression is lasting. Mistakes can easily be made in the pioneer stages of a new church that cannot be corrected for a whole generation. Let the soul winner go forth with strong faith in his heart, with much prayer, and carefully proving God each step of the way.

Even before he moves to the new field, certain steps may be taken to begin to reach the people of this community. A radio program on a local station is excellent for this. If the home missionary does not have a ministry and sufficient talent available for a program of his own, he can always place Harvestime on a local station giving his own name and mailing address at the close of the broadcast. The important thing here is to let the message be sounded with no uncertain sound and to make as many contacts as possible. If he should attempt a broadcast of his own, he should make certain that he spends hours in preparation and that the broadcast is of a first class nature. Otherwise, more harm than good can be done.

Another method available for reaching the field is through announcements, news items and articles published in the local newspaper. Sometimes he may find that the newspaper will gladly publish without charge articles that he might submit. Newspaper advertising can become very expensive and may cost more than he can afford. But this medium of contacting people should be thoroughly investigated and used fully.

### **B. PRAYER AND FAITH ARE ESSENTIAL:**

In order to reach the field effectively the pioneer evangelist must be guided step by step, and word, by the Holy Spirit. This will mean that much time must be spent in prayer. He must keep his heart filled and anointed with the Spirit of God. If the Holy Spirit is guiding him, he will not make any mistakes.

Faith also is an absolute essential. If the missionary entertains doubts and fears, he is defeated before he begins. He must go forth in the morning believing God, expecting results. If he does this, he will be able to return in the evening, rejoicing in his soul. He will have the assurance that if he reaches men and women with the gospel, the harvest will be sure.

### **C. CAREFUL PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL:**

Not only is the Holy Spirit able to guide the home missionary step by step after he reaches the field, but also God can direct in all the necessary planning and arrangements.

Many decisions need to be made even before the missionary moves to the new field. These problems need to be taken to the Lord in prayer and allow the Lord to make the decisions. Here are a few things to be considered:

1. Whether or not the missionary will be able to give full time to the new work, whether he will trust God to provide or whether he plans to get a job and go to work;

2. Where he plans to live;
  - (a) Purchase a home;
  - (b) Rent a home or an apartment;
  - (c) Mobile home in a trailer court, etc;
3. The number of workers who will accompany him;
4. The choice of and preparation of literature, brochures, tracts;
5. What methods will be used in the outreach throughout the community?

#### **D. CHOICE OF WORKERS:**

There is a great advantage in entering a new field with a strong band of workers. It is very difficult to conduct revival services without sufficient and suitable help. Musicians and Sunday School teachers, altar workers, are needed from the very beginning.

Two or three families of tent makers can lift a tremendous load and make the work of pioneer evangelism so much easier. A party of several who can canvas, knock on doors, hold street services, teach Sunday School, play in the orchestra, pray at the altar, will permit a new church to come into being quickly. On the other hand if the missionary is all by himself it will be very difficult and discouraging to conduct services and pray men and women through to Salvation.

There is another great advantage in going into a town with a party of workers. It leaves a favorable impression. The community soon knows that there is a new church in town. Interest and curiosity are aroused, and a means of contact is opened up.

Another great advantage is that the workers provide fellowship for each other. Discouragement at times will attack everyone, but at such times each one can encourage the other. In the early days of Pentecost this was the method used largely and it is still very essential today.

However, we should consider a note of caution regarding a party of workers. The expense of the project is increased tremendously, and unless some of them immediately go to work, the financial load may soon wreck the prospects for success. Another word of caution to be considered is that the workers should be considered and chosen carefully. Not everyone is able to work together in a compatible manner and some workers may mean well but create disharmony and division.

The workers must be able to work harmoniously together in perfect unity under the leadership of the missionary. They also must be dedicated and willing to trust God for His provision.

#### **E. THE PROPER LOCATION MUST BE CHOSEN CAREFULLY:**

The home missionary must be very careful regarding the location in which he settles. He residing in the wrong part of the city may delay the progress of the work for months. God is able to lead him each step of the way, and to witness to his soul that he is in the perfect will of God, even in the house or apartment in which he is to reside.

Many mistakes are made in the choice of a church building or auditorium where the revival services are to begin. The church building should be located on a corner, in the center of activities and accessible to the largest number of people to be reached. It should be where the most people are, where the most people will pass by, and where the most people will be reached by the gospel message.

We must not be presumptuous and careless in the spending of funds, but it is absolutely imperative that we have the location that God desires in the establishment of a church home. Sometimes it would seem that the devil gains the victory by getting someone to donate a piece of ground on the wrong side of town. The enemy would like to see the church located across the tracts in an area where people cannot find it. Sometimes buying a cheap parcel of ground is false economy. It is not necessarily true that we need the most expensive real estate in town, but certainly it must be located prominently where men and women pass by, and where everyone will know the location, when they hear the announcements over the radio or see them in the local press.

The home missionary should study the street map of the city prayerfully giving special attention to the main arteries of traffic. He should study the zoning of the city and also the building codes. By being familiar with these, he can save himself from making some serious mistakes.

LESSON THREE

SELF HELP TEST

A. How many contacts can be made in a town before the missionary moves there?

B. Discuss the importance of studying a street map of the city.

C. What is meant by tent makers?

D. Discuss the importance of tent makers.

E. Name FIVE decisions the home missionary must make.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_