



**LIVING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

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# MAKING THE MAIN THING

## THE MAIN THING

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### STUDY GUIDE

## **Introduction**

*The Church in general has been caught up with a multiple of activities viz. counseling centers, media units, feeding schemes, emergency relief, HIV/Aids ministry, etc., etc. All excellent but at the same time have the danger of becoming ends in themselves.*

*The late Dr. Oswald Smith of the Great People's Church in Toronto, Canada once said, "The supreme task of the Church is to evangelize the world".*

*This chapter, presented and used by permission of Multi Ministries International, is a very clear and practical help and reminder of this vital priority of the Church of Jesus Christ to "go and make disciples" – Matthew 28 : 16 – 20*

*Cecil J Peasley*

### **MAKING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING**

*The most important principal work of the Church is Evangelism. Without evangelism taking place the Church has no right to exist, and will ultimately DIE!  
If the Church is too busy for Evangelism, then it is too 'Busy'.*

#### **THE PLACE OF EVANGELISM**

**a. In the life of Christ**

Christ's first \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 4:19)

Christ's central \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 1:21)

Christ's final \_\_\_\_\_ (Mathew 28:19; Acts 1:8)

Christ's plan \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 16:19)

Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:32-34)

Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:36; Matthew 9:37)

b. In the Scriptures any ministry must be founded on \_\_\_\_\_.

5 words to consider:

**Evangelize:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Announce:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teach:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disciple:** \_\_\_\_\_

To effectively communicate the Gospel we must know and understand certain \_\_\_\_\_:

**Sin:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Atonement:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Salvation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Repentance:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Faith:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Forgiveness:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Justification:** \_\_\_\_\_ "Just as if you've never sinned"

c. In the Life of Paul we see it in:

- His Making - \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 9: 1-9
- His Motivation - \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Corinthians 5: 11&14
- His Message - \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Cor. 5:14,19
- His Method - \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 17:16
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 25: 23-27

d. In the Early Church

Certain signs are found in the Early Church that makes it an Evangelistic Church!

1. Responsive to Christ's Authority
2. Reliant upon the Holy Spirit



- 3. Regular in Intercessory Prayer
- 4. Responsive to the Lost
- e. A definition of Evangelism

- What it is not
- What it is

2. THE PROBLEMS OF EVANGELISM

- It's the \_\_\_\_ thing - where the rubber hits the road.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is not a \_\_\_\_\_ in gifting or heart.
- Failing to accept the different \_\_\_\_\_ of evangelism.
- The sects and their errors spoil it for those with the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. THE PRICE OF EVANGELISM

- Commitment and Sacrifice. Take up your \_\_\_\_\_ and follow.
- Requires a \_\_\_\_\_ - Holiness and Evangelism are linked (Romans 12:1; Ephesians 1:4 & 1Peter 1:15 & 16).
- Giving time to memorizing the outline and learning the techniques of sharing it.
- Demands everything you've got - You must perform on the job.

4. THE PLAN OF EVANGELISM

- The \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Plan

Professor Michael Green said:

*"Whenever Christianity has been at its most healthy, evangelism has stemmed from the local church and has had noticeable impact on the*

*surrounding area. I do not believe that the re-christianization of the West can take place without the renewal of local churches in this whole area of Evangelism"*

May it be said of us, as of the Thessalonians in 1 Thess 4: 8, "*your faith in God has become known everywhere!*"

**THE MAIN THING - 'WHY?'**

**1. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE MAIN THING IS:**

- a. A \_\_\_\_\_ that must be paid - Romans 1 : 14
- b. A \_\_\_\_\_ that must be fulfilled - Romans 1:15
- c. A \_\_\_\_\_ that needs no apology - Romans 1: 16
- d. A \_\_\_\_\_ that is inexhaustible

**2. BECAUSE OF THE NEED OF THE WORLD**

Distinguish \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Needs \_\_\_\_\_ of past \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Needs \_\_\_\_\_ for present \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Needs \_\_\_\_\_ for the future \_\_\_\_\_



Tell the world there is \_\_\_\_\_ for its blindness

Tell the world there is \_\_\_\_\_ for its healing

Tell the world there is a \_\_\_\_\_ for its dumb

Tell the world there is \_\_\_\_\_ for its cleansing

Tell the world there is \_\_\_\_\_ for its dying

*"Tell them of Jesus and bid them to come!"*

**3. BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS FAILING**

The church has done a \_\_\_\_\_ job over the years of effectively communicating the Gospel (Rev 2: 1-5)

It has lost its :

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_: Bader said, "When Christians fail to evangelize, the

very existence of the Church is threatened.”

2. \_\_\_\_\_: “The health curve of the Church throughout the centuries, can pretty well be plotted by the warmth of its evangelistic fervor.”
3. \_\_\_\_\_: Bonar said, “No soul will be in heaven, without a human mark upon it’s body.”
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Many churches fail to plan or set goals.
5. \_\_\_\_\_: i.e. Philosophies:
  - Debt of Evangelism
  - Missions v Evangelism
  - Witness & Evangelism
  - Money & Evangelism

4. **BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE DEVIL**

He \_\_\_\_\_ the Church

He \_\_\_\_\_ the Believers

He \_\_\_\_\_ the Leaders

5. **BECAUSE THE CHURCH HAS THE CAPACITY AND THE POTENTIAL FOR EVANGELISM**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan



Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16: 15)

**THE MAIN THING - ‘HOW?’**

*The ‘how’ deals with plans, strategies and goals. To fail to plan is to plan to fail!*

*Even to dream is fine, but to dream without a plan is to plan to fail*

**1. RIGHT PRINCIPLES**

- a. Church is the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 14:19; 16:18,19)  
**3 Circles of People:**
- b. Pastor is the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:11)
- c. Laymen are the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 6:13)
- d. Gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:16)
- e. Soldiers in \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 6:13; 2 Tim 2:2)
- e. Training \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 3:13,14)

**2. RIGHT HEART**

- \_\_\_\_\_ heart (Psalm 24:4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ heart (Psalm 51:10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ heart (Psalm 32:5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ heart (Matthew 9:36)
- \_\_\_\_\_ heart (2 Corinthians 5:14)

**3. RIGHT CONTACTS**

- Visitors Book or Cards
- Sunday School Families
- New Residents in area
- Guest Services
- Vacation Bible Club etc.

**4. RIGHT PRESENTATION**

**A. Introduction**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Gospel**

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_
- v. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Commitment**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_



**5. RIGHT FOLLOW-UP**

**1 Thessalonians 2:8 - Many New Testament books are**

\_\_\_\_\_.

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**6. RIGHT STRATEGIES**

**Leadership to be committed and involved  
Start small – Concentrate on being regular  
Do the work – Grace now, glory later  
Good administration – Keep records**

**7. RIGHT FAITH**

**Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 11: 6)**

**FINAL WORD “The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar, It shall never go out” (Leviticus 6: 2)**



**THE MAIN THING — ‘WHO?’**

**Factors surrounding the “WHO?” of evangelism that we need to consider:**

**1. THE LEADERSHIP FACTOR**

- a. Christ's \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Christ's \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ seen in the 4 great C's:
  - The great \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 4:19)
  - The great \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 28:4-8)
  - The great \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 28:18-20)
  - The great \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1: 8)

*"Christ's last command must be our first concern!"*

The Pastor as Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ must be involved in \_\_\_\_\_.

- Prayer Leadership
- Visionary Leadership
- Motivation Leadership
- Creative Leadership
- Equipping Leadership
- Outreach Leadership



**2. THE HUMAN FACTOR**

**Best seen in John 4. The woman that Jesus confronted was:**

- Confused about \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_
- Convicted about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Converted to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Meanwhile his disciples were: Busy, Bothered, Blind, Barren**

**3. THE DIVINE FACTOR**

- Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:30)  
Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)  
Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2:12 & 13)  
Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 3:16)  
Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8)  
Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:28, 4:1)

**4. THE CHURCH FACTOR**

The Church \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ when it:

- Respects a \_\_\_\_\_ of command
- Regards \_\_\_\_\_ functions
- Recognizes its \_\_\_\_\_
- Releases its \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:**

- The Pastor is the \_\_\_\_\_ in charge
- The layman are the \_\_\_\_\_ troops
- The Gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_
- Victory depends on “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- The best form of evangelism is \_\_\_\_\_

*God has no hands but our hands to do his work*

*God has no heart but our hearts to love people through*

*God has no feet but our feet to walk in his way*

*God has no eyes but our eyes to see lost men*

*God has no mouth but our mouths to speak **HIS WORD!***

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**ASSIGNMENT**

Write a **5 page** essay on how

1. The Pastor
2. The Individual
3. A local church

Can make “The Main Thing the Main Thing”?