

*INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION*



*Carrying out your Mission*

*“Equipping believers to conduct church to church partnership*

*So that the redeeming Love of Jesus  
Christ and be shared with an  
unbelieving world.*

***International Commission***

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## **CARRYING OUT YOUR MISSION**

For most teams, the first few days of the project are the most difficult. This is a time that team members help church members understand how to use the bilingual tools. It is a time for the evangelist and the pastor to become familiar with each other. First-time project teams sometimes find getting started somewhat awkward.

One experienced leader said he began laying the foundation for the visitation and worship services following the get-acquainted fellowship which each church is encouraged to have on the first Saturday.

The team leader, along with the interpreter, would ask to visit with the pastor for a few minutes. They discuss these items.

- A. Plans the church has made for the project – It is important to discuss visitation plans and times that visitation will begin.
- B. How the project team members could be used – A complete explanation and example of the bilingual tools needs to be shared.
- C. The worship services – Share that the project team members would like to give their personal testimony during one of the services and that it would be good to compliment this with a church member sharing his/her testimony.
- D. The Invitation – Ask the pastor what he would like done.

From this visit, the team leader should understand how well the church is prepared and how open they are to the project team. A project team must be FLEXIBLE and willing to begin working with a church at its level. If there are any major problems, the team leader should contact the project coordinator at once.

Another suggestion to help begin the project is for the team leader to challenge church members during the first Sunday services. Some church members may not have believed that someone would really come until the team arrived. A challenge to be involved will increase the number of church members who will join the visitation.

Everyone is apprehensive of the first scheduled visitation. The team leader should explain that the team is not here to teach them how to witness in the language. The purpose of the team's coming is to work WITH the church member in witnessing. Explain that the team has brought some tools, which will allow them to witness together, and then explain how to use the tools. The explanation should be repeated as additional church members join into the visitation.

Encourage the church to first visit the people who have requested a visit. After that, begin visiting relatives and acquaintances. Also, encourage door-to-door visitation, especially in the area near the church.

Witnessing, preaching, extending the invitation, using an interpreter, and visiting government officials are the major activities by which your mission will be accomplished. Following is a section designated to each.

### **USING THE BILINGUAL MATERIAL**

As a result of many years of experience, we have developed techniques and tools to help you witness in a language you cannot speak. As they have improved, the number of people receiving Christ per participant has dramatically increased. The following guidelines are our suggestions as to how a participant would make a home visit. You will find times that the Holy Spirit will lead you to alter this

basic pattern, or you may be more comfortable using some different techniques. These guidelines are only our suggestions based on experience.

**BILINGUAL BIBLE** - If you want to give it away, use it as another of your personal gifts.

**BILINGUAL TRACTS** - A good place to distribute these is in the homes that show a deep interest in knowing more about the Gospel. A good plan is to determine ahead of time how many you can give away each day and still have one left to give away as you are boarding the plane.

### **GUIDELINES FOR A HOME VISIT:**

1. Before you begin the visit, arrange a signal with the church member who will go visiting with you as to when your testimony will be handed out.
2. The church member will be responsible to take you to the home to be visited.
3. Do not invite the person to church when you begin the visit, but do so at the end of the visit.
4. The church member should read the testimony out loud. By reading it out loud, no one will be embarrassed because they cannot read. Those who can read may follow silently with their own copy.
5. Most people will want to know more about Jesus and will open to the questionnaire (Open testimony to only pages 1 and 2). At first, you may find it necessary to read the question in English and allow the church member to read the question in his language. Some participants continue this practice the whole week -- others do not.
6. It is a good idea to have several pens or pencils in your flight bag. The individual reading your testimony will want to mark the questionnaire. This allows you to understand the individual's response to the question. If you do not have a pencil, the individual can give a verbal response. It will be more difficult for you to follow, but the results are the same. Most questions can be answered this way; however if a question still exists, you should pray that God will give the church member the answer. If the response to a question is incorrect, the church member should try to answer the question by using scripture. You can also help by turning to the scripture reference listed for the question in the Bilingual Bible.
7. On question 9, the individual is asked to pray. If the individual wants to pray, the church member should lead him in a prayer to receive Christ. The local church member should pray sentence by sentence, stopping to allow the lost person to pray out loud after him. We believe this is the best way to lead in the sinner's prayer.  
If the individual does not want to pray, the local church member must be ready to determine why. When nothing else can be done, the lost person should be given an opportunity to complete the decision section of testimony. The church member should encourage him or her to make the second decision requesting further visits.
8. Next, go to page 4 and have the individual complete the decision section of the testimony which is located on the back.
9. Again, the church member will need to take the lead in this area. Be sure to detach page 4. The church member should now lead the individual through "Steps for a Follower of Christ." This is a brief beginning in follow-up and should not take more than 10 minutes.
10. The church member should use the back page to conclude with an invitation to attend the church services. Leave the home graciously, even if the people did not receive the Lord.
11. Sometimes the church member will be reserved and may even be skeptical of this technique. You should then take the initiative, or using your testimony in a store, park or other public area. As the stranger shows interest, God will prick the heart of the church member to help about the time you have done all you can.

## HOW TO USE THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire printed on your testimony is entitled "God's Plan for Your Salvation." There are some basic reasons why the questions are presented in this format and you will be a more effective witness if you understand these reasons.

Calvin Beach, former President of International Commission, developed the questionnaire, which was used by two project teams in 1976. With the questionnaire, the team members were more effective in leading people to Christ than the other participants who only had their testimonies. As a result of their success, the questionnaire became a part of the project testimony. It has been developed and improved to its present form.

### GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR SALVATION

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Do you believe in God? .....  | Yes___No___ |
| 2. Do you believe that God loves you? (John 3:16) .....  | Yes___No___ |
| 3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 20:31) .....   | Yes___No___ |
| 4. Do you believe that you are a sinner? (Romans 3:23) .....   | Yes___No___ |
| 5. Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins?(Romans 5:8, I Tim. 1:15)   | Yes___No___ |
| 6. Do you want Jesus Christ to save you from your sins? (Romans 6:23)  |             |
| 7. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man come unto the<br>Father, but by me." (John 14:6) The Bible says: "That is you shall confess<br>with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and shall believe in your heart that<br>God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." The Scripture says:<br>"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."<br>(Romans 10:9-13) Do you believe this? ..... | Yes___No___ |
| 8. Jesus Christ is God's only Son. Are you willing to call upon Him so your sins<br>will be forgiven? .....  | Yes___No___ |

#### ***An Example of Prayer***

*Dear Lord, I know I have done wrong and need forgiveness. Thank you for dying for my sins and for offering me eternal life. Please forgive me of my sins and help me turn from them. I now confess you as my Savior. Take control of my life and help me live for Jesus. Thank you for coming into my life and giving me eternal life. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.*

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 9. Will you now pray this prayer or pray in your own words?.....   | Yes___No___ |
| 10. Now that you have prayed, do you believe that Jesus Christ has forgiven you and<br>saved you from your sins? (John 1:12) ..... | Yes___No___ |

The questionnaire is divided into two basic parts. In part one (questions 1-7), the questionnaire probes the individual's understanding of the plan of salvation. In the second part (questions 8-10), the questionnaire allows the individual to respond to the Gospel.

In part one, the individual must respond "yes" to each of the questions before he or she is ready to receive Christ. Let's look at these questions:

1. Do you believe in God?
2. Most people believe there is a God. A very, very few will answer "no." When the response is "no," usually the best action is to graciously conclude the visit; however, allow the Holy Spirit to lead. Someone who can speak the language might be impressed to continue the visit. Most people who answer "no" to this question will only be interested in arguing about each point of the questionnaire.
3. Questions 2-7 allow you to understand where that individual stands in his/her knowledge of God, Jesus, and the plan of salvation. The answers to each of these questions are "yes." If a "no" answer is given, use your bilingual Bible and tract to answer their questions. (The basis for each question is stated in parenthesis).
4. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? (Jesus Christ is God's Son).
5. Do you believe that you are a sinner? (Man is a sinner).
6. Do you believe Jesus Christ died for your sins? (Jesus paid the price for man's sins).
7. Do you want Jesus Christ to save you from your sins? (Jesus is the only way by which man can be saved. This question also asks for a response to the gospel).
8. The Bible says "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." The Scripture says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Man can be saved by trusting in Jesus Christ).
9. Verse 8. Jesus Christ is God's only Son. Are you willing to call upon Him so your sins will be forgiven? (The purpose of these questions is to declare that Jesus Christ is the only source of salvation. By calling upon Him, your sins will be forgiven. This is a positive question. If a person is not willing to call upon the Lord, the local church member will need to ask why.) An example of prayer is given. Read this prayer to them. Also, tell them you can receive Christ into your heart if you repent and trust in Him as expressed in the prayer.
10. Verse 9. Will you NOW pray this prayer, or pray in your own words?

(If their response is "yes," stop and the local church member will lead the individual sentence by sentence in a prayer to receive Christ. We feel the best way to do this is to have the individual repeat out loud the prayer as it is being prayed by the local church member. The church member will lead in prayer with short sentences or phrases and pause between the phrases to allow the individual to pray out loud.)

(If their answer is "no," the local church member must be ready to determine why. This can be done by asking why the prayer does not express what they want to ask God. If a reason is given which cannot be answered or if the individual is becoming hostile, ask the individual to complete the back page of the testimony, which will open the door for someone to come back and tell them more about Christ.)

11. You can receive Christ into your heart if you repent and trust in Him as expressed in this prayer. Verse 10. Now that you have prayed, do you believe that Jesus Christ has forgiven you and saved you from your sins? (John 1:12) (This question is also answered "yes" and will allow the visitation group to give assurance to the decision that was made. A "no" answer will require the local church member to help with the assurance of salvation.)

Be sure to have the individual complete the back page of the testimony. Allow them to mark their decision. Many people do not understand how to mark the back page, so have the local church member explain that they need to mark their decision with the church member asking the question.

The questionnaire is designed so that the next question is not ready to be answered until a correct answer is given to the question being asked. Each question builds upon the others. If a correct response cannot be obtained, either because the gospel is being rejected or because the individual is not ready to make that decision, turn to the back page of the testimony and have the individual complete the information. Attempt to obtain their permission to have someone come and tell them more about Christ. This can be accomplished by marking only the second decision.

Scripture references are supplied for your convenience and need not be read if the proper response is given to each question. If other scriptures are your preference, please use them.

We believe the testimony and questionnaire combination is a tool that God has given us. It has been effective, and we hope this brief explanation into its background will help you in its use.

### **BEGINNING FOLLOW-UP**

It is important that follow-up begin immediately. On the next page is a copy of the follow-up, which will appear in the testimony tract only in the language of the host country. You may want to make a copy of page 12 and take it with you on the project so you will have a translation of the follow-up page.

### **THE PURPOSE FOR EACH STEP**

- Step 1 - Shares what has just happened to the new Christian. This is a step of assurance.
- Step 2 - Encourages the individual to make a public decision for Christ in a worship service.
- Step 3 - Encourages the person to be baptized.
- Step 4 - Encourages the person to join a local church.

### **STEPS FOR A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST**

Step 1. Trust Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ said, *"He that believeth in me hath everlasting life."* John 6:47. When you prayed to receive Jesus into your heart, you believed or trusted in Him. Jesus said you have everlasting life because of your belief. Everlasting life began the moment you believed and will never end. Jesus Christ entered your heart at the moment you believed and you are now a child of God; *"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name"* John 1:12.

Step 2. Confess Jesus before men. Jesus asked those who followed him to do so publicly. A follower cannot be ashamed of his leader. Paul, a follower of Jesus, said, *"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ"* Romans 1:16. At the end of many services in a Baptist church, the pastor will extend an invitation and ask those who desire to confess Christ publicly to do so; this is what the Bible teaches in Matthew 10:32, *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven."*

Step 3. Follow the example of Jesus and be baptized. Baptism is symbolic of what Christ has done in your life. A wedding ring does not marry a person, it only indicates that a person is married. Baptism does not bring Jesus into your heart but is only an act which shows that you are now a follower of Jesus. The Bible confirms this in Acts 8:12, *"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."*

Step 4. Join a local church. The Bible gives an example of new followers joining a church in Acts 1:41. *"Then they that gladly received His work were baptized: and the same day there were added to them (the church) about three thousand souls."* The church is a group of Christians who gather to praise and worship God, to pray, to study the Bible, to fellowship, and to prepare to witness. Local Baptist churches welcome followers of Christ to join with them.

## **PREACHING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF A PROJECT**

The preacher should prepare himself even more than the other participants. Since most of the preaching must be done through an interpreter, then we must prepare with this in mind. It is strange, but this type of preaching is very effective.

- 1) Expository preaching gets easier to be interpreted.
- 2) Don't skip around the Bible; stay with one part.
- 3) It is best to paraphrase scripture other than your text.
- 4) Make the message easy to be interpreted. The people are listening to the interpreter. Always keep in mind the people will understand the interpreter; therefore, we need to make it as easy as we can for him.

Your first preaching service may be to the church and the Christian people. After that you should preach simple evangelistic messages, unless the Lord leads you differently. The main point of every message must be to point people to Christ. You can't deal with social problems or even church doctrine. You are always safe when you present Jesus Christ and all his claims.

In most cases, 30 minutes of preaching is sufficient. This will allow 15 minutes in English, plus the interpretation. The interpreter may speak some after your message, plus the pastor of the church usually has something to say.

Remember, this is God's harvest. Therefore, you can expect souls to be saved. The following sermon outline will give you an idea of how you might want to preach. Also, a set of project sermons is available from the office upon you request.

God seems to bless both the inexperienced and the seasoned preacher. So make it simple, make it short, but most of all make it spiritual.

### **SERMON: "JESUS HAS COME YOUR WAY"**

Luke 19:1-10

1. Zacchaeus had everything, yet he knew there must be more to life.
2. He must have seen something different about those who knew Jesus.
3. He sought to see Jesus.
4. People stood in his way.
  - A. Your own family may be keeping you from knowing Jesus.
  - B. Your church may be in the way.
5. He was small and couldn't see over the crowd. You may say:
  - A. I have no education.
  - B. I'm too bad.
  - C. I'm too poor.
  - D. I just can't believe.
6. Do something about it.
  - A. He climbed up into a tree.
  - B. He tried to see Jesus.
7. Many of you are in the same place as Zacchaeus. You are looking for Jesus.
8. I have good news. He will pass by there tonight, just as He did for Zacchaeus.
9. Jesus said, "Come down, I want to go to your house."
10. Do you want Jesus to come to your house?

11. If so, it will cost you!
  - A. First, you must receive Him into your heart.
  - B. Second, Jesus said you must confess Me before men.
  - C. Third, Jesus said you must follow Me.
12. Zacchaeus came down, received Jesus, his life was changed and with great joy he began to share all that he had with others.

### **EXTENDING THE INVITATION**

To begin the invitation, explain in detail how the congregation should respond (e.g. if you want to receive Christ, when we stand to sing you come and stand here at the front of the church. If you have received Christ in your heart today, you are invited to come forward.) It is important to share exactly to whom the invitation is extended, and how to respond.

Don't be surprised if three or more stanzas are sung before someone responds. The invitation seems to fit the culture, so do not be in a hurry, especially if there are those present who need to receive Christ. They may respond if given time.

Your interpreter can be a tremendous help during the invitation, especially if he is a pastor. When a capable interpreter is present, many evangelists will allow them to lead in most or all of the invitation. Often the host pastor can also be very effective during the invitation. Sometimes it seems helpful to have the invitation presented in the congregation's language. The host pastor should also be given the opportunity to close the invitation.

It may take one or two services to become adjusted to the invitation time. However, if difficulty or awkwardness continues during the invitation, contact the project coordinator. He will be able to give some suggestions.

### **SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER**

Every participant should prepare to speak through an interpreter. It is not difficult. In fact, lay people usually adapt quicker than preachers because the break in speaking allows them time to formulate their next statement. The preacher is familiar with formulating the next statement while he is speaking and finds that waiting for the interpreter to translate interrupts his train of thought. Here are a few suggested guidelines for speaking through an interpreter:

- 1) Speak one short, complete sentence, then stop and allow the interpreter to speak. When a long sentence must be spoken, break the sentence into complete thoughts. ie. "I am very glad to be here tonight." (Interpretation)...Not "I am very glad to be" (interpretation) "here tonight" (interpretation).
- 2) A good interpreter must translate a complete thought and not literally word by word.
- 3) Attempt to use the literal meaning of words. For example, you should say "very good" instead "awful good."
- 4) It will take twice as long to speak because of the translation. When given ten minutes to share a testimony, plan to speak a total of five minutes and allow five minutes for interpretation.

#### ***DO NOT'S***

- 1) Do not use idiomatic sayings (i.e. "Middle of nowhere", "out on a limb", "Shot in the arm").
- 2) Do not listen to the interpreter as he translates, but be formulating your next thought. If you do, the interpreter will finish and you will not know what to say next.

- 3) Do not read aloud a scripture in English. This is especially true of the sermon text. Ask the interpreter to read it. The English-speaking people can read along silently in their Bibles.
- 4) Do not speak about your interpreter when he or she is translating for you. It is awkward for them to talk about themselves, especially if the speaker is bragging on them.
- 5) Do not use illustrations that relate only to the USA. If a Biblical illustration can be used, it will be much easier to translate.
- 6) Do not expect the interpreter to translate continuously during meals. Allow the interpreter to eat.
- 7) If you move around while speaking, be sure to check with the interpreter to find out if this will affect his ability to translate.

Be courteous to the interpreter. Team members should avoid asking meaningless questions during the day. The interpreter must spend the whole day translating (which is mentally tiring) and then interpret the message that evening. If the team members will learn to do simple things, like ordering a coke, it will relieve a burden from the interpreter. Team members should remember that your witnessing tools are self sufficient to lead a person to the Lord. A good guideline is to use the interpreter when needed, but not for trite conversation.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERPRETERS**

You are the ears and mouthpiece of a project team. Your task is tremendous. For two weeks people will depend upon you for everything. Your patience will be tried. Your reward will be seeing many people come to know the Lord.

- 1) Be available to the team. They will need you for some of the most simple things.
- 2) Always be present before the visitation times and the worship services. If you are not, there will be confusion in getting started.
- 3) Allow team members to speak. It may not be perfect, but it might get the job done. They will ask you if they need your help.
- 4) Preach with the preacher. This means to emphasize what he emphasizes, especially in voice intonations. Half of the message delivery is your responsibility.
- 5) The essence of translating is to convey a thought, not a group of words.

### **VISITING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

A very important part of the project is the visit to government officials. Baptists in most countries do not know their government officials and often feel they cannot approach them. However, a project team gives local Baptists a good reason to visit government officials, especially if the team has a letter from a US government official and has brought a gift. Local Baptists will purchase a Bible and have the official's name inscribed on it. Visits to government officials need to be made early in the week, especially if there is apprehension to the project in the community. God has used these visits to quiet the opposition and develop local support for the project. Some officials have visited in church services and a few have received the Lord because of these visits.

Ask the pastor about the earliest appropriate time when you can visit the government officials. Tell him what you have brought for the officials. To keep from wasting a day or two waiting to see the official, be sure an appointment has been made.

While visiting an official, allow the local pastor to make the introductions and carry on the conversation. At the appropriate time, the pastor will indicate that the presentation is to be made. Letters

from the USA officials should be presented first, followed by other gifts from the USA. Next, the Bible should be presented by the local pastor, and this is an excellent time for him to read I Timothy 2:1-6. After reading the scripture, which says we should pray for those in places of authority, the local pastor should ask if the group can pray with the official. Most officials will allow the group to do so.

### **SUGGESTED PROJECT GIFTS**

- 1) **CHURCH:** Plaques with message of greeting from your church to theirs, pulpit Bible, other non-language gifts.
- 2) **PREACHER:** Commentaries in his language, especially if they are new editions.
- 3) **MEN:** Pocket New Testament, pen and pencil set, paperweights, lapel pins, ties, photos of your family. It may be difficult to avoid giving away your personal photos. You may want to leave them at home unless you are prepared to give them away.
- 4) **WOMEN:** Needle point plaques or framed pictures for the home, knitted items, book markers, etc. Cosmetic samples (e.g. Avon), perfume, small home decor items, photos of your family. It may be difficult to avoid giving away your personal photos. You may want to leave them at home unless you are prepared to give them away.
- 5) **CHILDREN:** Storybooks, crayons, coloring books, balloons, gum, a penny as a souvenir, etc.
- 6) **GENERAL:** Pens, pencils, calendars, and other small items used by businesses for advertisement, gospel music, hymnals, Bibles, "Smile, God Loves You" decals, etc. All published materials (books and Bibles) should be in the local language.

### **Personal Notes**