

The Work of Evangelism at Blue Ridge

I. Introduction

A. Preview Lesson

1. Show the importance of the work from Scripture
2. Look at the many ways that this work is being accomplished at Blue Ridge

B. Goals

1. If you are participating in this work: To encourage you to keep up the work diligently.
2. If you are not currently participating or want to participate more: To give you an idea of the many ways in which you can contribute to the work of evangelism.

You may already be participating, and not know it!

3. If every member is participating wholeheartedly in this work, this congregation, and the body of Christ as a whole will benefit, to the glory of Jesus.

II. The Importance of the Work

Evangelism refers to the spread of the gospel. It is the one of the central missions of the church to take the gospel to all men and build them up in Christ.

A. The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20 NASB And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15-16 NASB And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

B. The role of the church

1 Timothy 3:14-15 NASB I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

1 Thessalonians 1:8 NASB 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

C. Individual responsibility

Matthew 7:12 NASB "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 10:32 NASB "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

1 Peter 3:15 NASB but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

III. How it is being accomplished here

A. Local Preaching

1. What is being done
 - a) Sound preaching every week
 - b) Significant preparation
 - c) Significant expense
 - (1) To this congregation – single largest expense
 - (2) And other congregations and individuals around the country
2. How you can help
 - a) Attend faithfully
 - b) Participate wholeheartedly
 - c) Invite others
 - d) Pray for me and my work here

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified, even as also *it is* with you;
Romans 15:30-31 Now I beseech you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; **(31)** that I may be delivered from

them that are disobedient in Judaea, and *that* my ministration which *I have* for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints;

e) Provide feedback

(1) I certainly do not preach in order to get praise

(a)

(2) Give him feedback on his work

(a) Positive

(b) And Negative

(i) I need correction when I get things wrong

(ii) I greatly appreciate suggestions of how to improve

f) Give liberally to the local church

B. Sunday School Classes

1. What is being done

a) High-quality teaching for every age group every week

b) Enormous amount of preparation has gone into the classes

(1) Foresight of elders to establish a system whereby the work of prior teachers can be preserved and used

(2) Resource room

(3) Previous teachers

(4) Current teachers

2. How you can help

a) Pray for our classes

b) Attend faithfully

c) Come prepared

d) Participate in your class

e) Invite and bring others

f) Teach or assist a teacher

g) Thank the teachers regularly

C. Private Bible Studies

1. What is being done

a) Personal studies offered to every visitor from our community

b) Teaching in the home or at the building

c) Making contact with visitors outside the building

2. How you can help

- a) Pray for these private studies
- b) Show hospitality to our visitors
- c) Participate in letter-writing
 - (1) Some like to send cards
 - (2) You can too, if you are interested
- d) Offer studies to those you know
- e) Participate in studies
 - (1) As an assistant
 - (2) As a teacher
 - (a) Nice problem to have
 - (i) Too many studies
 - (ii) The harvest is great but the laborers are few!
 - (3) Learn to teach

D. Gospel Meetings

- 1. What is being done
 - a) Able gospel preachers visit and teach us
 - b) They come and share the best of their study and effort with us
- 2. How you can help
 - a) Attend faithfully
 - b) Invite others
 - c) Pray for our meetings
 - d) Show hospitality to the preacher
 - (1) Keep the preacher in your home
 - (2) Host the preacher for a meal
 - e) Send a note/card/email of appreciation

E. The Church Building

- 1. How the building supports our work of evangelism
 - a) Provides a place to accomplish many these other works
 - b) Announces the church's presence 24/7
 - c) Is a physical "face" for the body of Christ
 - d) Requires significant maintenance and expense
 - (1) Mortgage is one of the largest items in the monthly budget

- (2) Significant amount of routine maintenance is required
 - (3) Planned improvements are in progress
 - (4) Frequently an unplanned repair becomes necessary
2. How you can help
- a) Volunteer
 - (1) Clean the building
 - (2) Maintain the grounds
 - b) Give Liberally

G. Web site

1. What Is being done
- a) Bible teaching offered around the world and around the clock
 - b) Articles and sermons from throughout the history of the congregation are available
 - c) Bible correspondence courses offered through mail
 - (1) Ads target people in our local community who are search for Bible study information
 - (2) Over thirty have enrolled in the course since last November
 - (3) Two home Bible studies have been requested so far
 - d) An open invitation to services and to special events
2. How you can help
- a) Visit the website and make suggestions and corrections
 - b) Link to the website from your homepage or blog or Facebook page
 - c) Include the website on your personal email:
<http://www.blueridgecoc.org>

H. Bible Correspondence Courses

1. What is being done
- a) Teaching the Gospel in our community
 - b) Sending high-quality teaching materials to interested men and women anywhere on earth
 - c) Provide a way of pursuing a spiritual interest with very low commitment
 - d) Often leads to a home Bible study

2. How you can help
 - a) Pray for this work
 - b) Sign people up
 - (1) Coupons available
 - (2) Hand them out/leave them places

IV. Conclusion

A. What is your level of participation in the work of evangelism?

1. Working hard
2. Would like to do more

B. What will be the result of every member being involved?

1. Blessings to the local congregation
2. Blessings to the world
3. Glory to Christ the head of the church

2 Corinthians 4:15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

1 Peter 4:11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.