

The Solution . . .

30-Day Great Commission
Enrichment Campaign

April 2010

MOTIVATION FOR ACTION

Since October of 2009, thousands of congregations have been engaged in studying the message and meaning of the Great Commission:

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 that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19, 20, NKJV).

The Great Commission initiative has been a coming together of the entire Church of God family to consider the most effective ways to fulfill the missional mandate given by Christ. This 30-Day Enrichment Campaign will show outlets, suggest practical avenues to influence the unchurched, and outline methods to demonstrate the love of Christ. The campaign is a Great Commission “stimulus” plan. It is designed:

1. **To** stimulate a new awareness among church members of the available opportunities to personally impact friends and neighbors for Christ and His Church.
2. **To** mobilize the entire congregation for 30-days of scripture-based adventure in ministry to the community, church families, and relatives.
3. **To** activate spiritual gifts in church members that will magnify harmony in the body of Christ, release for ministry, and result in church health and numerical growth.

Involvement in the campaign will show that the **Great Commission** is **The Solution** to the downturn in limited outreach vision and personal commitment in reaping the rich harvest that surrounds every local church.

PLAN OF ACTION

The campaign is very simple. There is nothing to purchase. The basic guidelines are set forth in this article. The ideas can be modified or adapted depending on the size of the congregation and what seems to blend best with the nature or personality of the local church. Additional support material related to organization, hospitality, and promotion can be found at www.forwardtogetherinchangingtimes.com; click on **Great Commission Enrichment Campaign**.

Some of the approaches may appear to be basic and simple. They are! Connecting individuals to the church is about relationships. One-on-one trust, care, and confidence. At one juncture in the history of our church Branch Sunday Schools were an effective instrument to plant churches. Why? Because they were a pathway to build relationships, to really know one another in a small group setting. Times in this regard have not changed. Small groups are vitally important. Many growing churches are built around the concept of small groups.

The heart of the campaign is formed around the instructions of Christ to His disciples and to believers; “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Observe that the witnessing process is to begin in our own backyard; **JERUSALEM**—family, friends, neighbors, and associates. The first-century church embraced this principle with openness and great expectations.

They had “**open** worship” (praising God), **open** sharing, (building up each other), and **open** ministry (serving others in the church and in the world)” (The Open Church, James H. Rutz). If we follow their example we will see drastic changes both in the attitude of church members and in church attendance.

The challenge to church members is to “**Bring One**”—one person, one family, one special-interest group. This can be done by focusing on the unique features of each Sunday during the 30-day campaign. “**Bring One**”—to celebrate with you on Easter Sunday; “**Bring One**”—to share in the dedication ceremony of babies/children; “**Bring One**”—to witness a friend or relative being baptized in water or becoming a member of the church; “**Bring One**”—to observe the heritage of the church, to honor the pastor, and to recognize graduates for achievements.

Many churches sponsor several of these events sometimes during the year. However, **The Solution** Campaign brings all of these special days together in a 30-day period to establish focus and to introduce people to the church in a simple, practical, open, and warm manner. “Shared lives preach more clearly than eloquent messages.” Shared life-experiences and spiritual decisions underline the theme of the campaign.

PREPARATION FOR ACTION

Three action teams will direct the flow of the campaign—Special Days Team, Hospitality Team, and Promotion Team. Each team can be made up of two to five people.

1. **Special Days Team** will outline the program and personnel for the four Sundays during the month of April.
2. **Hospitality Team** will be responsible for creating a spirit of welcome and the extraordinary treatment of visitors.
3. **Promotion Team** will cover all aspects of circulating news and connecting individuals and the community with the campaign.

As stated earlier, a large portion of the campaign will be featured on the Website, *www.forwardtogetherinchangingtimes.com*. One section will provide expansive details on internal and external image-building and visitor-relations.

Special note: *Throughout the preparation process leaders will be directed to the study guide, **The Great Commission . . . The Solution**, for guidance and instructions on promoting certain phases of the special events.*

Strategic ideas will be listed under the theme for each of the four Sundays in April. Additional concepts will be listed on the Web. The word *AIM* will begin each section—**Anticipation, Involvement, Motivation**.

On any one of the special Sundays a local church has the open opportunity to touch people in the community, family members, relatives, and friends. Basic suggestions will be given for all the events but each church should conduct “creative sessions” to personalize and expand outreach possibilities.

Always keep in mind what you are trying to achieve: **Connect** individuals with the church; **Convey** the compassion of the congregation, and **Convince** individuals God loves them and that He has a super plan for their life.

CONNECTING – April 4

Community Awareness

AIM – *To connect people with the church through community care projects and Easter activities.*

1. **Service Projects.** The week prior to Easter Sunday sponsor Community Care Day. Include several service projects such as food and clothing distribution, visits to shut-ins, home repairs for the elderly, and assistance for the needy and unemployed.

2. **Community Easter Festival.** On Saturday, April 3, sponsor an Easter Festival. This would include the entire family – egg hunt, games, displays, and an Easter drama with a colorful message of the love, security and hope the resurrection of Christ gives.

3. **Easter Sunday.** Easter Sunday has the largest attendance of any Sunday during the year. One of the goals of the campaign is to make it larger and more influential. Here are some things to consider:

- Capitalize on promoting Easter Sunday church attendance at the Community Easter Festival – invitation card, church brochure, personal transportation.
- **“Bring One”** emphasis. Challenge church members to bring one family, one friend, or one neighbor on Easter Sunday. Promote the **“Bring One”** theme several weeks in advance of April 4.

- The Promotion Team will arrange for media coverage and for each member of the church to receive a telephone call about Easter activities and the “**Bring One**” emphasis.

CONVERTING – April 11

Lifestyle Evangelism

AIM – *To foster greater involvement in lifestyle Evangelism through Bible study, fellowship activities, personal witnessing, and baby dedication.*

1. **Teaching Session.** On Sunday evening or Wednesday evening teach the **CULTIVATE** approach to sharing and witnessing. (**The Great Commission** study guide, pages 80-92.)

2. **Baby/Child Dedication.** Parents demonstrate lifestyle evangelism by dedicating their children to the Lord and by modeling the Christ life before them. Baby dedication is both a spiritual event and an evangelism event. It is a time to invite grandparents, relatives, and friends to be part of the ceremony. Many of them do not attend church so this provides an opportunity to connect them with the local congregation and the ministries the church provides. If there are no babies to be dedicated a Children’s Care program can be arranged – “loving, dedicating, and guiding our children.”

A complete outline for dedicating babies is featured on the Web. Go to www.forwardtogetherinchangingtimes.com and click on Great Commission Enrichment Campaign.

3. “**Witness to One.**” Add “**Witness to One**” to the “**Bring One**” emphasis. Ask each member to “**Witness to One**” during the week and to “**Bring One**” to church. Here are some things to do:

- Arrange a meeting with parents of babies and young children. Discuss the dedication process with them.
- Provide material for parents to send to relatives and friends about the dedication ceremony and invite them to attend.
- Challenge each church member to “**Witness to One**” and to “**Bring One**” to church.

DISCIPLING – April 18

Foundational Observances

AIM – *To stress the scriptural and personal value of supporting two church ordinances,*

*church membership and water baptism,
and to invite relatives and friends to attend
church and be part of the life-changing and
jubilant occasion.*

1. **Preach and Teach.** Preach a sermon on the scriptural and life-enhancing importance of church membership and water baptism. Devise a way for individuals to denote they would like to unite with the church or be baptized in water—sign-up sheet, church bulletin, or personal contact.

2. **Conduct Class Sessions.** Arrange for class sessions on church membership and water baptism. Discuss the meaning and responsibilities of church membership. Explain the significance of water baptism and how it is a witness of obedience and total dedication to Christ.

3. **Create Congregational Excitement.** Church membership and water baptism include persons of all ages – children, youth, and adults. Both observances are foundational commitments and should be shared with family, relatives, and friends. In preparing for these events create a spirit of excitement, anticipation, and praise. Here are some things to do.

- Add “**Commend One**” to the “**Witness to One**” and “**Bring One**” emphases. “**Commend One**” for uniting with the church or for being baptized in water by a face-to-face expression, a telephone call, or a personal note.
- Consider separating the two observances—church membership on Sunday morning and water baptism on Sunday afternoon or evening. Both events should be a time of rejoicing and celebration. Make it convenient for friends to attend.
- Arrange to present a certificate of church membership or water baptism to each person. Also, a picture or video of the occasion is an impressive way to preserve memories and to maintain personal commitment.

EQUIPPING – April 25

Prepared to Serve

AIM – *To sponsor a gathering of the church family, past and present, to reflect on heritage, to honor the pastor, to recognize graduates, and to show how the church can serve in the present and the future.*

Triple Activities. How do you equip and prepare church members to serve? There are three elements to consider: (1) Honor past achievements; (2) Celebrate the good of the present; and (3) Recognize the opportunities of the future. Heritage Sunday (or Homecoming) is a time to “remember” God’s grace and blessings and express thanksgiving, to honor the pastor, and to recognize graduates (high school and college) for achievements.

1. **Heritage (Homecoming).** This is a time to get the church family together, past and present, to remember and to rejoice. It can also serve an evangelism cause. Some individuals have lost contact with God and the church. This can be a time to rekindle what it means to know God’s love and the love of a close family of believers.

2. **Pastor Appreciation.** The last Sunday in April is the traditional time to sponsor Pastor Appreciation. To combine it with Heritage Sunday will add a broader and richer dimension. The threefold emphasis for the day will be to celebrate the past, honor the present, and recognize achievements to stabilize the future. This combination will provide a full day of expressing thanksgiving, talking memory trips, honoring the pastor, and anticipating future growth. Special plans and resources have been developed for this special day. Check *www.lifebuilders.to* or phone 423-478-7286.

3. **Honoring Graduates (High School and College).** Combining Heritage Sunday, honoring the pastor, and recognizing graduates go hand in hand. It is an opportunity to see where the church has been and where it is going. Graduates represent future leadership and growth. Plan the service for Sunday evening. This will make it convenient to spotlight seniors, to recognize parents, and to sponsor a reception after the special event. Here are some things to do:

- Circulate the news about Heritage (Homecoming) Sunday. Add to the “One” factor— “**Witness to One**,” “**Bring One**,” “**Commend One**” and “**Contact One**.” “**Contact One**” family or friend and invite them to the fellowship and honoring event.
- Meet with graduates and video a brief testimony from each one to show during the celebration. Make plans to give each graduate a recognition keepsake gift.
- Arrange for displays featuring old church pictures, special gatherings, leaders, classes, and activities. Provide a take-home gift—imprinted cup, Bible marker, old-fashion fan, or pictorial brochure.

MAINTAIN FOCUS

The purpose of this Enrichment Campaign is to maintain focus on the Great Commission. As stated in the introduction, the approach is simple, yet provides a framework for generating new life and new vision to reach the unchurched.

Obedience to the Great Commission is a journey. It must be spiritually understood and passionately embraced. It must be strategically implemented and consistently monitored. It must be prayerfully supported and triumphantly celebrated.

You can maintain focus by **EMPOWERING—Released for Kingdom Impact**.

The following material will aid you in preparing for Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

EMPOWERING—Pentecostal Sunday, May 23

Released for Kingdom Impact

Things to consider:

- Teach chapter 5 in **The Great Commission Study Guide**, pages 125-150. Arrange a special session for young people.
- Lead church members in taking the **Discover Your Gifts Survey**, pages 213-227 in the **Study Guide**.
- Review chapter 4, **Discipling**, in the **Study Guide**.
- Conduct a soulwinning clinic. Utilize the **Converting** material in the **Study Guide**, pages 61-97.
- Plan a **Your Pentecostal Neighbor** get-acquainted fellowship session. Ask church members to invite both church and unchurched friends to attend and learn about what Pentecostals believe and practice. Conduct the gathering in a relaxed setting—informal, refreshments, questions and answers. The session could begin by outlining in a simple format Ten Things Pentecostals Believe. The Declaration of Faith and the Apostles Creed could be used.
- Prepare material on the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Gifts of the Spirit, and the Operation of Gifts. Distribute at Your Pentecostal Neighbor Fellowship and to the congregation on Pentecostal Sunday.

Our Prayer for Your Ministry

Father from whom all blessings flow, we thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Your Spirit has been the force for the worldwide growth of the Church of God. We ask You to guide our pastors as they guide church members in understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church and in the life of believers. May we all have a renewed commitment to opening our hearts and minds to the infilling and anointing of the Holy Spirit in our ministry and the outreach vision of the church. We honor You and are looking to You for a supernatural wave of Your presence as we go Forward Together. Amen.