



# Claiming the World for Christ

**Guidelines for local church evangelism**

The Great Head and King of the Church has commissioned the Church to proclaim the gospel in all the world, to every creature:

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”* Matthew 28:19-20

## Evangelism

The evangelism that we undertake confronts the unsaved individual's worldview with the Lordship of Christ, the problem of sin, and the redemptive love of God.

## Aim of Evangelism

The aim of evangelism is twofold: firstly, there needs to be evangelistic activity aimed at 'reclaiming of our covenant

children'. There are many people in all our communities, towns, and cities, who have a covenantal, baptismal link with the Church of Christ. Secondly, there needs to be that evangelistic activity which is aimed at 'claiming the unchurched' for the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Prerequisites of Evangelism

### Training

Training is essential. We must equip and train people for evangelism.

- Christians must understand the biblical mandate for evangelism.
- They must have a clear grasp of the biblical teaching regarding their own faith in order to be able to articulate their faith in an evangelistic situation.
- The evangelist must understand the biblical teaching regarding the characteristics of the unsaved, to understand 'where they are' biblically and psychologically.



### Gifting

Different Christians will have different gifts that can be used in the work of evangelism. These gifts need to be discerned, developed and utilised. Some may have a gift that can be used in making contact with the unchurched in 'frontline evangelism,' but others may have different gifts

(such as administration, prayer, hospitality, or teaching,) that are a vital part of our efforts to reach the lost.

### **Minding the Gap**

In order to 'mind the gap' between the unsaved and the Church we must know something of 'where people are' sociologically. The strategy for local church evangelism will therefore be localised and contextualised, and will vary from place to place. This will include intensive survey work, which looks at reaching the immediate and surrounding communities, and also extensive survey work, which looks at the extension of the gospel witness into new communities, by church planting, for example.

### **Bridging the Gap**

The method of 'bridging the gap' and 'making the connection' will be determined by the results of the survey work and may include any combination of the following:

- personal evangelism
- distribution of evangelistic literature
- pre-evangelistic social events
- the evangelistic meeting
- group evangelism
- diaconal work or mercy ministry



*Making the connection*

### **Preserving the Results of Evangelism**

The results of evangelism are those individuals and family units which have embraced Jesus Christ by faith. These new converts must be nurtured and instructed in the faith. The task of the church is to provide teaching that will enable the new Christian to witness to Christ before men and to advance the witness of Christ's church. This can be enabled through:

- pastoral classes of instruction
- discipleship classes
- pastoral visitation
- mentoring and involving the new Christian in different aspect of the churches work and witness.

Materials are available for teaching and instruction in all of the above-mentioned areas. Information about resources is available on our website:

[www.freechurch.org/evangelism](http://www.freechurch.org/evangelism)



*Produced by the Church Extension and Redevelopment Committee*