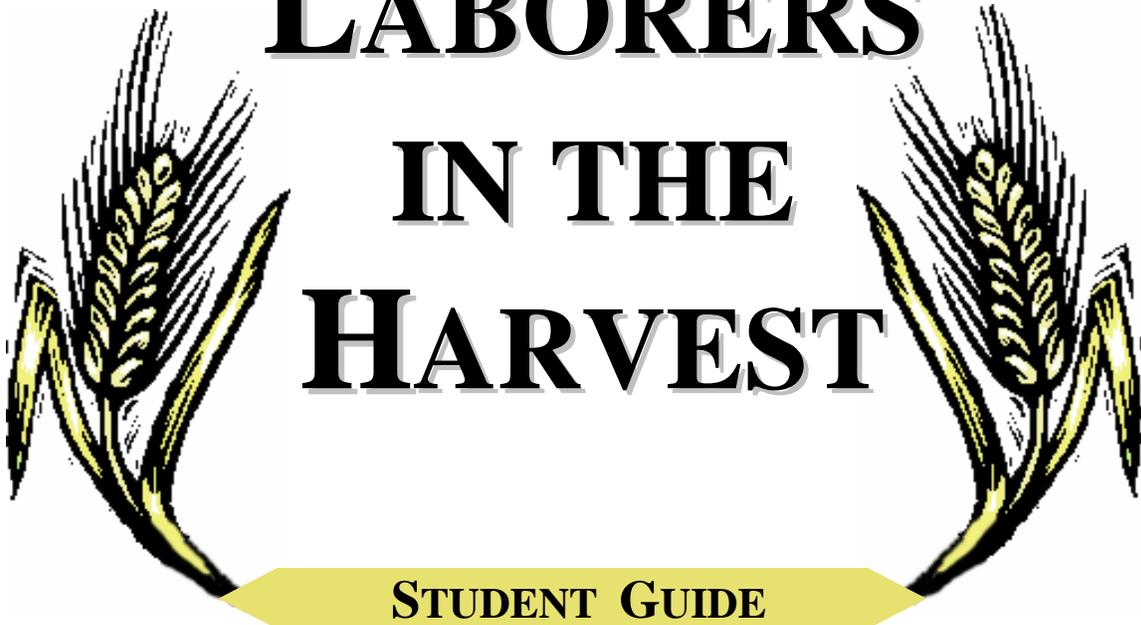


*RICHARD C. HOBBS*

**TRAINING  
LABORERS  
IN THE  
HARVEST**



*LABORERS IN THE HARVEST SERIES*



# Laborers in the Harvest Series: Training Laborers in the Harvest

By Richard C. Hobbs

 First Printing 

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.



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## **About the Author**

Richard Hobbs is the Founder and President of Mercy Street Ministries and a soulwinner for Christ. He is an Ordained Southern Baptist Evangelist training laborers in the harvest in every nation on earth. Since his teachings do not focus on doctrine but our need and how to share Christ, many Christian churches of different denominations use his materials. He is the author of numerous biblical studies and evangelism training materials committed to helping to fulfill the Great Commission. He has shared his heart for world evangelism through media to over a billion people.

His call from God has led him into the streets to share the Gospel of Christ to a lost and hurting world. From years of experience and the teaching of the Holy Spirit, he has taken the principles of soulwinning and published a teaching titled *Training Laborers in the Harvest* along with many other publications. He has distributed his publications freely on the Internet in hopes others would discover their calling to reach this world for Christ. In the first five years of publication his books were circulated in over seventy nations. He invites you to prepare yourself for the greatest harvest of souls that this world has ever seen.

## Foreword

Welcome to this course! I completely endorse and recommend this course of study and inspiration. My dear friend and fellow evangelist Ricky Hobbs has done an excellent job. It is geared for people of all ages, nations, and cultures. The purpose is to help you become a consistent, effective, and fruitful witness for Jesus in your world. The object is to live, love, and witness in the lifestyle of Jesus our Lord. This course helps teach you to live a life and witness led by the Holy Spirit. The emphasis is on Jesus and others and not a plan but the person of Jesus.

To tell others of life in Jesus is a natural response to our 'new birth' in believing in and following Jesus. The early believers told friends and strangers of their personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Jesus asks us to be His witness and commanded us to go into all the world. Sharing Jesus should be natural to your personality and unique character. Telling others of what has happened to you and the way of Jesus should flow from an overflowing heart of love, joy, and peace. Witness training should take into account diverse approaches and the special call of God for ones life. It is not techniques, gimmicks, judgment, pressure, or rudeness that is to be our attitude but love, sensitive and deep concern, and ones being led by the Holy Spirit that reflects our Lord.

Remember, it's God's kingdom and not your kingdom! Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. In love and in the power of the Holy Spirit, lift up Jesus.

Ricky is available to come to your church, witness group, city, or nation to teach, lead an outreach, and training. Ricky, Kay his wife, Sarah and Sally their daughters are close to our hearts and we are in regular contact.

Now, whisper a prayer for Jesus to lead, bless, and change you in His way for you to be His true witness in our world today. Please follow the teachings chapter by chapter.

Pilgrim followers of Jesus,

Arthur and Denise Blessitt  
Carrying the Cross around the world for Jesus  
Luke 18:1

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Arthur Blessitt, the man who carried the cross around the world and to every nation, for spending so many hours of his time to share his heart with me. The burden that Arthur has for this world and the love he has for all the people has touched my heart in such a way that I will never be the same. Arthur has taken time to be a friend and a motivating force in my life.

Most of all the Holy Spirit has quickened my heart and has given me love for all people. I love people and enjoy the opportunity to share the gospel in the streets with those I have never met. Also, the Holy Spirit has opened the doors for our ministry to train laborers in the harvest. For the love, favor, and mercy the Lord has given me, I give Him my life to share the gospel to the lost.

I am thankful for the many intercessors that pray for our ministry daily. They have spent many long hours and many tears praying for us in the streets and for the lost. Only God knows what their cries and prayers have accomplished.

Lastly, I am thankful for my family. They have helped me with the many tasks that needed to be completed. Also, for the trust they have that I will return each time that I go to the streets. They have shared the call the Lord has on my life and have been part of this ministry since its beginning.

## Introduction

Christians have become so busy that we have failed to extend our outreach past the walls of our churches. Only a few hundred feet from any church there are lost, homeless, and hurting people. Christians are the representatives of Jesus Christ on this earth. The Lord wants so much to love those in this world and He wants His love to flow through you to all the people of this world. All of us need to awaken and allow the Lord to complete His work in this world. So many times the Lord's witness is limited by us. Let's join the prayers for this world with our actions and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our streets.

I hope that this course will challenge all of those who read it to take their church and their love to the streets. In this book we have included simple principles to share the Gospel to the lost. While this book is intended to be instructional, we pray that it is also inspirational.

Every day, I am amazed at the Christian love I feel from others as I make friends in the streets. Most of the material shared in this book is from experiences of actual street and door to door witnessing. The Holy Spirit has led me from the beginning of our witness in the streets. I started in the very streets of my hometown and quickly realized that I could not win the world alone. It would take all the churches of this world to win all to Christ. From this beginning, the Lord has led me to train churches in evangelism. We are thankful that the Lord has opened the doors of so many churches to our ministry.

### **Revelation 3**

**8** *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My Word, and hast not denied My Name.*

From this simple beginning we are going from church to church equipping Christians to share the Gospel. We have called our ministry Mercy Street Ministries. It is our desire to share this simple method of evangelism in all Christian churches of the world. We trust that you would join with us and extend your hand to your neighbor and begin to care for those in the streets that you have never met.





## Bible Study

2. Study the witnessing life of Jesus through His conversations in the Gospels.

### Matthew 16

**13-15** *When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? <sup>14</sup>And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup>He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

### John 9

**34-38** *They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? <sup>36</sup>He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? <sup>37</sup>And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. <sup>38</sup>And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

### Notes:

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### 1 Peter 3

**15** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

The Lord will make a way for everyone to have an opportunity to receive Christ. It is the Word that will change someone's heart as it is planted as a seed into their life. So often I have watched a life change as the Word of God is sown into a person's heart.

### 2 Peter 1

**11** *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

### Psalms 119

**130** *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

How many of you want to launch out deeper and learn how to be bold and share the word with someone? I challenge those that are led to prepare for a street ministry to learn how to witness where you are. We must learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit. Our witness will be more effective if we are led by Him. Only the Lord knows the heart of man. The Lord will arrange that perfect opportunity to share with that one lost person. Allow the Lord to lead you. Every time I take a team of witnesses to the streets or door to door evangelism, I share with them that we will go out for that one lost person that the Lord would lead us to. Oftentimes, there are many souls saved, but we must be content to share with the one. Being led by the Holy Spirit brings wonderful joy. I am always excited every time someone gives their life to Christ.

Below are some examples of the Lord leading me to that one lost soul. These experiences have been so beautiful to experience. Words are so limited to describe what I really saw as these individuals came to Christ. I hope these stories will motivate you to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We offer the stories as a testimony to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and as an encouragement for all to witness. We realize that in ourselves we can do nothing without the Lord. It seems that much of witnessing is not about our ability but our availability. We hope that you see through these stories that God is moving across our land and in the hearts of many. These stories describe only a few of the many things that we have seen in the streets.







## Bible Study

# Unit One: Section Two

## Listening to the Heart

1. Study the scriptures references where God was speaking and the person did not recognize His voice.

### 1 Samuel 3

**4 - 8** *That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. <sup>5</sup>And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.*

### John 9

**35-38** *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? <sup>36</sup>He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? <sup>37</sup>And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. <sup>38</sup>And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

### Notes:

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When I meet people in the streets they often deal with emotions of their heart that they were no longer aware of and some that they were. When the convicting power of God deals with a heart, the darkness is lifted and the truth is exposed. I remember a man named Jeff that I met at a bus station. God led me to follow him, and I did as he started to walk off into the darkness. I encouraged him to stop and I began to share with him my concern for his soul and shared Christ with him. He listened and was eager to pray and to receive Christ into his life.

Jeff shared with me and said, “The words you spoke were so truthful and full of light.” This man’s words gave me an insight into what was happening in his heart as I spoke to him. Somehow God used my simple words and pierced this man’s heart and reached down deep into his soul and shined the light of the Gospel into it. This man shared with me that he had lived with prostitutes and drug dealers and he felt he had to leave and get away from all of it. Other sins in his life were exposed and he began to walk the best way he knew how but still did not have a relationship with Christ. He said he took a job as far as he could from where he had lived and tried to stay busy so he would not revert back to his old life.

Jeff was following his heart, the best way he knew how and his heart was leading him to Christ all along, without him even knowing it. I found it encouraging that God was dealing with him so intensely and He was leading Jeff to Him. Every day Jeff was walking further away from sin. Then one day God arranged for me to share Christ with him and to help him complete his new life. Now Jeff has a heart that is new and a heart that will not fail him but will lead him into eternity with Christ. I will always remember that night when I went to the bus station. I had been in one of my favorite areas in town witnessing and felt led to go across town to the bus station. Oh, how precious is our Lord who can direct our lives if we will just listen to our heart.

I am reminded of a Scripture in the book of Acts that is much like others who heard the Word and their heart responded to what they heard. Remember, when we share Christ with others there is more happening than what can be seen. The person of the Holy Spirit will speak to their heart with such intensity that they will hear Him, that they will come to knowledge of Christ, become saved, walk away from their past, and repent of their sin.



**“Use the Word of God in your witness to produce faith and conviction in a heart.”**

**Acts 2**

**37** Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

**38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Most of us deal with certain aspects of our heart on a daily basis. We must let God examine our lives and allow Him to expose our heart to the Light of the Gospel. God is speaking to His creation, but are we listening? In my own life when God called me, He began to cause me to deal with certain things in my life. For years, He has spoken about what I needed to change in my life and I had to deal with these areas of my life to walk further in my calling with God. It is a choice to follow God further and we must be willing to change.

For years, the Lord has preserved my life in some of the worst areas in our nation. I have had guns, knives, and ice picks pointed at me and attempted robberies but God has protected me through all of this. I do not trust in what I have seen or what I have experienced in the streets. I simply trust in Him. I have come to know that I can enjoy life to its fullest by walking free from fear. Only God can produce this trust that I have in Him. It is my prayer that if God is calling you to this type of ministry, you too would find peace in the midst of uncertain circumstances and trust Him with your life. We must not fear those who we are there to help. The Bible speaks of love being able to conquer our fear.

**1 John 4**

**18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

My night ministry began with my witness in city parks at night. These parks were in the inner cities and had many addicted people and youth identifying with gangs. At first, I was concerned for my life when it became dark. While it seemed that the number of conversions for Christ would increase, I would often quit witnessing at dark or stay close to well lighted areas. It seemed that the darkness brought fear, and I was not enjoying the freedom that I would like to have to witness.

One evening while I was in a park, I was walking along side a lost person and sharing the Gospel. As I witnessed, I started feeling very uncomfortable as a group of youth who considered themselves as a gang began to follow me. The further I walked, the closer they seemed to get. I was witnessing in the darkest area of the park with a gang of youth coming closer and closer. I would look at them and then turn back to witness and then look back again. I finished my witness, and now I was alone and seemingly in danger. I prayed and said, "God I cannot witness with fear in my life. I want to be able to see the hearts of the people." Immediately, I heard the Lord say, "Then give me your life, and I will remove the fear." I simply said, "Lord, I give you my life." I said these words with all of my

**Group Discussion**

**1.** Study the scripture references describing the presence of God indwelling a believer. Do you remember the moment Christ came into your heart and have full assurance that He dwells your heart?

**Isaiah 57**

**15** For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

**Revelation 3**

**20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me

**Romans 10**

**8 - 10** The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; <sup>9</sup>That 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. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Response/Notes:**

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God will expose their sin and allow them to hear God. It was God's desire to restore His creation back to Him.

Moses heard from God and God used him to direct the lives of many. He enjoyed the fellowship of God on a daily basis. Others that followed Moses often found themselves in disobedience and wanting to go back to Egypt. Although God was speaking through Moses, the people were not hearing for themselves. It is the will of God to speak personally to all of His creation. We must put ourselves in a position to hear Him.

**John 5**

*37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*

*38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.*

*39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

How many times do we seek to hear from God in times of tragedy or trouble? We need to prepare to hear from God and maintain our relationship with Him. We should not ignore the condition of our heart because someday we may not recognize the symptoms of sin in our life anymore when we no longer struggle because we no longer resist. When we have accepted defeat and sin into our life, we are out of fellowship with God. There is hope in this struggle. Never ignore the storm warnings that come to your life. Begin to walk closer to God and hear His voice in His Scriptures and in your heart and life. God has made a choice for you to enjoy freedom. There was a cost and that was sending His Son to pay the price for your sin. There is a cost for you and that is to deny yourself and take up your Cross and follow Him.

**Matthew 16**

*24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

*25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

I challenge you to walk closer to God and He will walk closer to you. Listen for His voice in your daily life and in the scriptures. What I enjoy so much about God is that I find great comfort in knowing that He is always listening to my prayers and thoughts I have of Him.



*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*  
**1 John 3:21**

**Bible Study**

2. Study the scriptures references in Acts 9:11-12 depicting an example where Christ spoke to Ananias and sent him to a specific street, a specific house, to pray for a specific person that was expecting him to pray for his sight.

**Acts 9**

*11-12 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, <sup>12</sup>And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.*

**Notes:**

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**Assignment**

1. Spend time in the Gospels and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. What has the Holy Spirit spoken to you through these Scriptures?

**Response/Notes:**

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## Bible Study

1. Study the New Testament Scripture references describing Christ's heart to reach the lost.

### Luke 15

**4-6** *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? <sup>5</sup>And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost*

### Luke 14

**23** *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

### Matthew 13

**1-8** *The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. <sup>2</sup>And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; <sup>4</sup>And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: <sup>5</sup>Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: <sup>6</sup>And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: <sup>8</sup>But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold*

### Romans 10

**14** *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

**15** *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Christ is wanting to be among His people and is looking for someone that will go in His name. Will you go?

Christ called many along His journey and sowed His life into them. It was His hope to leave behind witnesses that would share His message with this world. Those He chose first were simple fishermen along the shore. As He walked further He called others to carry His message. The New Testament depicts those that accepted this call as the Apostles. Christ chose simple people like you and me. What made them different was the time they spent with Him and their choice to follow Him.

### Matthew 4

**18** *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*

**19** *And He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

**20** *And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*

Peter and Andrew were to be the first called by Christ to follow Him. The message to follow Him was the condition to receive from Him. We must be a follower of Jesus Christ. To share His love we must first experience His love. Also, they were to expect further training from Christ. He said, "And I will make you fishers of men." I feel these Scriptures are saying that if they followed Him then He would teach them personal evangelism. There is no doubt that personal evangelism is the way Christ expected to share His message with the world. We can see from the scriptures below that the call of Christ upon Paul's life led him to minister to all people. We must be willing to accept the same call.

### Acts 20

**18** *And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,*

**19** *Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:*

**20** *And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,*

I remember one night that Jesus surely walked among His people. My wife and I went with over twenty Christians on a trip. I especially enjoyed the stops that we made during our trip. Each time that we stopped, I had another opportunity to lead someone to Christ. It was so beautiful to see God change lives in every town we stopped. Some say the harvest is here



## Assignment

1. As we walk among the people allow the Lord to show you the people as He sees them. Let Him use your eyes and your heart.

### Notes:

The bus was now loaded and everybody on board was watching this man hold on to me. The man was crying and saying, "You can't go. You can't go." He asked me how far I was going and when I would be back and so many other questions. I explained that what he felt was the presence of the Holy Spirit and that He loved him and would be with him. I handed him a Bible and said that he would find all about the Lord in the Bible. He asked, "What if I can't understand it?" I said, "You can go to church and someone will help you." He then said, "I don't know where to go." I turned to his friend that I had met earlier and asked him if he would help him get to church and find someone to help him understand the Bible. The young boy said, "I will! I will!" It seems even his friend watching was touched by what God was doing in this gas station parking lot.

It was so hard for me to pull my hand away and leave this man. He took steps with me as he followed me and was grabbing my shirt. I will never forget that moment. It was God's love that he was feeling. So many people in this world will never know the peace and presence of God unless we reach our hearts and hands out to others.

While Jesus paid the price for the sin of the world, He did not save the entire world Himself as He walked this earth. He was here to begin His plan of evangelism on this earth. He sowed His life into a few that in turn would sow their lives into many. When our witness began in the street of our hometown, I stepped out of my car and in moments many people came to Christ. I went back to that corner and led person after person to Christ. The Lord seemed to speak to me that He wanted me to take my church out. Within a few weeks I trained over forty youth from my church and took them to the same street corner. With more witnesses in the streets we saw more people saved. I thought this was to be my ministry and the Lord spoke to me saying He wanted me to teach churches.

In a few days, a church found out about our work and I took them to the streets. In a period of several months there were over four hundred individuals saved and we had knocked on most of the doors of that town. Church after church contacted me and we trained many witnesses for Christ. Once again, I thought this was my only calling.

The Lord spoke again and told me He was calling me to the world. Within the course of a few years I had led thousands to Christ and trained thousands how to witness. I placed our training on the Internet and people all over the world have found it and trained themselves and others. To God be all the Glory!

All along the way Christ was teaching me evangelism and giving me His plan to teach others!



*And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matthew 4:19*

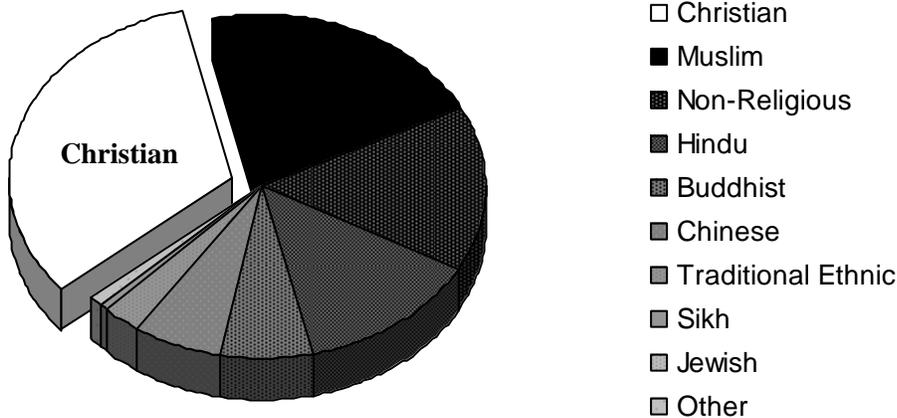




led to two people in a public park. As I approached them, they appeared very uncomfortable. I followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and shared the Gospel with them, listened to their comments, and answered their questions. I soon discovered that I was talking to two gang members from Chicago. During the witness it seemed hopeless; I continued to press on as I was led. When I issued the invitation for them to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, they prayed with me and a wonderful change appeared on their face. They were moved by the Holy Spirit and were looking down at the two New Testaments that I had just given them. One man looked up at me and said, "What do I do now with the rest of my life." I told them both to go back to the Chicago inner city with a new message and new mission. You see, they were radically saved and no longer drug pushers. One said that he knew what he was doing was not what he felt he was suppose to do, but it was all he knew. He said that now he knew God had a call on his life because he was always protected from danger and had an ability to captivate kids. He said he would share the witness of Jesus with the kids of his city. This was one of the most remarkable experiences that I have ever witnessed. Truly they both received a new heart.

We cannot wash our hands of a lost, sick world. We want to allow the Word to create a desire in our hearts to reach the lost. The most important thing is that we know the Lord and live our life for the Glory of God. Your witnessing must be motivated from deep within and should be an overflow of your life in Him. God wants to enlarge our hearts so He can enlarge Himself in us. He is interested more in you than what you do for Him.

### Over Two-Thirds of Our World Is Lost



Data Source: *Operation World*. CD-ROM. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Publishing, 2001.

### Bible Study

2. Why did no one share the message of Christ with Saul? Would you have been prepared or willing?

#### Acts 9

21–22 *But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.*

#### Response/Notes:

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### Assignment

1. Spend time in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to show you the lostness of the people in your community and the need for witnesses to share Christ with others.

#### Notes:

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**Amos 9**

*13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.*

To be an effective witness we must issue the invitation by inviting others to Christ. We need to develop an attitude for witnessing and realize that God can save and that He will work through you. Also, an effective witness shows love toward everyone. We must witness with an attitude of understanding and not be confrontational. Let's have an attitude that Jesus is with us when we witness. Your witnessing life will not be any stronger than your own life in Christ.

We don't need to wait for the ideal circumstance because it may never come. Simply be bold and compassionate with your witness. Sometimes I create an environment for witness. What I mean by this is if I am in a disruptive area, I will ask the person to step over to an area where I can speak to them. Occasionally someone may want to argue with you. If someone is arguing loudly, just keep your pitch soft and volume levels the same. They will come down to your volume. We should stay in the spirit of communication as we witness and further develop our prayer life. There is no substitute for prayer.

The following are a few of the common sense things that a witness should remember as they are in the streets and sharing the witness of Christ.

**Assignment**

1. Have a practice session and go through the way of salvation with someone that is already saved.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone that is lost and prepare their hearts to receive Christ. (Obtain witnessing materials and have them with you.)

**Notes:**

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- DO**
- Ask them if they would like to receive Christ.
  - Use sidewalks as you walk door to door and respect others' property.
  - Invite others to your church.
  - Obtain follow-up information for the pastor or minister of visitation.
  - Drive your vehicle as a witness in the streets and obey all laws.
  - Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
  - Have them pray the sinners' prayer aloud with you.
  - Use Scriptures in your witness.
  - As you walk from door to door pray and ask God to be with you.
  - Prayer walk the area you will be witnessing in.

- DON'T**
- Don't take risks.
  - Don't repeat anything told to you in confidence.
  - Don't debate religion.
  - Don't be confrontational with others.
  - Don't be disruptive.
  - Don't say words that can be misinterpreted.
  - Don't be judgmental.
  - Don't stay past your welcome.





## Optional Assignment

1. Witness with someone by going door to door in your neighborhood or witness with someone on a sidewalk in your city.

### Notes:

convicted when we ask them if they are living for Him now. It is at this point that we ask if they would like to come back to Christ. You will find many respond to this simple method of witness.

Initially, it seemed to be difficult for me to approach a large group of people. I was concerned that I might be embarrassed by their reaction. However, after I have spent so much time in the streets I have seen the Holy Spirit save several people at one time. Don't let fear have an effect on your witness. When I feel the Holy Spirit say that it is time I say, "Take my hand now. I'll lead you in prayer to receive Jesus Christ as Lord." I continue to say, "Be bold and do it right now!" as I take their hand. I have seen even those in a gang take my hand to receive Christ. Don't expect a negative reaction. Also, as you approach, don't distinguish someone's dress or actions. If we let the way people look affect how we witness to them, then we are trying to do the works within ourselves rather than with the Person of the Holy Spirit. Allow Jesus Christ to have compassion on this world and speak through you to the homeless, the poor, and all that come across your path. As you allow this love of God to stir your heart, you too will be blessed. God loves all people and wants to use you to share with them.

### John 3

**16** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

After spending time in the streets I am comfortable talking to anyone. I am not moved by rejection or rudeness. I simply continue on down the road to the next person in expectation that at least one person will come to know Him. It is so wonderful to see the one come to know Jesus Christ. Yes, I have seen gang members come to know Him, along with drug users, homeless people, those just released from prison, doctors, business men, and young people.

### Matthew 25

**35** *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

**36** *Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

**37** *Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

**38** *When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

**39** *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

**40** *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

Remember not to approach young children without their parents present. You should approach the parents of young children, and ask permission to give their children a sticker. This is very important to remember in today's society. Your actions could be quickly misinterpreted by parents or others watching.











## Optional Assignment

1. The next opportunity that you have to witness, take your time with the person you are witnessing to. Watch for the delay of the heart.

### Notes:

**6** *Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.*

**7** *Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.*

On another occasion, we met a young girl in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and her name was Candy. She was sitting on the passenger side of an old red pickup truck. We shared with her about Christ, and I asked the Question as I extended my hand and placed it on the ledge of the pickup window. She looked at my hand, and for some reason, just sat there and trembled with conviction. At an early age, Candy had already been involved so deep in sin that it was difficult for her to make a decision. It was so sad to watch as she tried but could not take my hand to receive Christ.

Her mother returned to the truck, and I spoke to her as I left my hand on the truck window's ledge for Candy to take. The mother said that they both were Christians. I told her mother that Candy was not a Christian and was lost in this world and for her to begin praying that her daughter would come to Christ. As her mother cried, I waited and waited. Finally, about ten minutes later it seemed to take all her strength to reach and take my hand. Candy took my hand that day and I was glad that I waited for her to come to Christ. I was so excited to see this miracle of salvation as Candy was born again. There seemed to be a delay in Candy's heart as the Holy Spirit worked within her soul. Candy wanted to make the decision, once and for all, for Christ. Was it unusual to lead someone to Christ in a pickup truck? Should I have waited until she somehow found the front door of a church? Would she have had the courage to come? Only God knows!

In the Bible, we have seen many examples of delays working in the life of an individual. We can see that the answer to Daniel's prayer was delayed twenty-one days.

### Daniel 10

**12** *Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.*

**13** *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.*

While the Lord answers immediately, it seems that Daniel's prayer was delayed from spiritual influences in this world. Oftentimes, we see this in the lives of those that we speak to as they try to choose between Christ and that which they plan to do even that night or next week. The Holy Spirit causes all of us to deal with sin and offers us a choice to receive Christ.

### Psalms 130

**5** *I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.*

**6** *My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.*



















## Bible Study

1. Study the Scriptures describing where and how Christ shared with others.

### John 4

**6-14** Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup>There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) <sup>9</sup>Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. <sup>11</sup>The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? <sup>12</sup>Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? <sup>13</sup>Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: <sup>14</sup>But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

### Notes:

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This type of unity with other churches will produce results and be received by the religious community as you evangelize areas. Too often, I have seen criticism of those who go door to door by other churches if witnessing teams try to direct other congregations to their church. Let's look for the lost and those who do not attend church and focus on them. Be sure and keep a record of the homes that you have visited and the results learned from the visitation. You may use your records in the future to revisit the doors of the lost.

One afternoon we were going door to door in a city and saw a Laotian man standing in his yard watering his lawn. Several of us approached him and we began to make friends with him. We were so thankful that he could understand English. He had been heavily influenced by eastern religions and knew nothing about what we spoke. I saw an old dog walking across the street. I said, "Do you see that dog? Should a car run over him, his life is gone forever. However, should you get run over that is not the end of your life. We were made to live forever." The man leaped with joy and said, "I knew I was more than that dog. I knew! I knew! I knew!"

I went on to explain that God had written a book called the Bible and he took it from my hand and began to read. He sat down in the middle of his yard and read the scriptures that I had shown him. For once in his life he had found what he was looking for. He had found hope. That day in the middle of his yard we led him to Christ. I was so excited to see his expression to know that he would live forever in a place called heaven.

We went on down the street door to door and met many other people along that street. We witnessed for several hours and came back by this man's home as we walked to the church. He was still sitting in the middle of his yard reading his new Bible. Oftentimes you will see that God does such a deep work in the life of an individual. Our witness that day was not dynamic or special. We simply shared the basic truths of the Word and the whole time it seemed that God was speaking to his heart and knew what he needed to hear. He found hope and an opportunity to read the Words of his Creator to know what life in Christ is.

### Fast Food Restaurants

Witnessing in fast food restaurants is so exciting and can be explosive. As we witness in a restaurant, we often see two or more people come to Christ at the same time. You need to be kind, avoid any debates and don't be pushy. If you are pushy or disturb people, you will be asked to leave by the manager or challenged by the person you are speaking to. I often will purchase a soda or food before I witness. As a patron of the restaurant, I have a right to be there. We are often so welcomed that people come to us for stickers and WWJD bracelets. Many times people will ask us for Christian materials and not even know Christ. It is in this kind of atmosphere that many will come to Christ. The atmosphere seems to be spiritually charged with the witness of Christ. As you witness you will see God move sovereignly as He wishes. We have seen many lost people find Christ in seconds as we witness in restaurants. I hope you enjoy the next

example where a class we trained in California experienced witnessing in a restaurant.

I went to a beautiful church at Nipoma, California to teach a group from two different churches on how to witness in the streets. As I approached the platform to speak, I looked up at the pulpit and it just did not seem comfortable to me. I stepped down from the platform and told the group that the step would be my curb and the carpet would be my street. You see, I am more comfortable in the streets than in churches. I have spent so much time in the streets that it has become my church. Once again, I shared my heart with the people. I was so excited to see the tears from many that listened. It is the tears that are released from the heart. Certainly God was sharing His love for the lost of their community.

I was shocked to see so many hands go up when I asked how many wanted to go to the streets with me to witness. We prayed for the city and departed for a McDonald's located near the church. As I was leaving for the restaurant I was reminded how difficult my ministry would seem. I am always a spectator and must wait to see what God is going to do in the lives of those we encounter. All those who had just listened to what God does in the streets were now ready to see lives changed. I remembered when I was on the plane on the way there praying, "God, you must move! The people of California are expecting you to begin a work in the streets." It seemed that God spoke to my heart and said, "That is my responsibility and yours is to go." My ministry is totally dependent on the Holy Spirit to protect our lives and to convict and save souls.

At McDonald's, we stepped out of our vehicle, walked less than ten feet, and spoke to a lady by the pay phones. The young lady's name was Genese. The witness was so moving and yet was so typical. In response to questions about her relationship with Christ she said, "I pray. I pray everyday." Oh, I hear this so often! I asked her if she knew Christ and if He was in her heart. She said, "I believe in Him." I pursued the witness a little further and asked her if she was living for Christ. She was lost and without Christ. The witness and the Holy Spirit had brought her to a point of conviction. She only knew of Christ. We shared the scriptures from Romans 10:9-10 and she quickly came back to Christ. Within less than a minute someone had already found Christ. God is so good!

We went into McDonald's and before I could sit down, a customer called me to their table. I knew God was about to do something again. He was moving so quickly. I call these events explosions in the spirit when God is moving. I have seen this happen so many times in the streets. Sometimes it happens quicker than we can imagine. So I pulled up a chair and seated myself at the end of their table. I said to the family, "What's up?" They were curious about the orange sticker on my shirt. I told them it was a Jesus sticker and gave them one. I gave the children WWJD bracelets and simply tried to be friends with this family that showed an interest in my sticker. I have had gang members before ask what was in the bag I was carrying. It was so neat when I showed them it was Bibles and often they would come to Christ when I witness to them. Certainly God can stir

## Bible Study

2. Study the Scriptures describing where and how Christ shared with others.

### Matthew 13

*1-9 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.*

*<sup>2</sup>And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; <sup>4</sup>And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: <sup>5</sup>Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: <sup>6</sup>And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: <sup>8</sup>But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. <sup>9</sup>Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

### Notes:

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## Bible Study

1. Study the Scriptures where the Lord sent Ananias to a certain city and a certain house to speak to a man named Saul. Review Ananias's response to ministering to someone that had done much evil. Also, notice the Lord's response in verse 15. These Scriptures remind me of the Lord's Heart towards those in the streets. He wants us to go because He cares.

### Acts 9

**10 – 15** *And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, <sup>12</sup> And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. <sup>13</sup> Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: <sup>14</sup> And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*

### Notes:

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I would not recommend you to pickup anyone in the streets and drive them anywhere. Drugs and illegal firearms are very prevalent in the streets, and you could find yourself in trouble if you are stopped by law enforcement and the person in your vehicle is in possession of illegal substances or firearms. You need to be careful receiving anything from someone in the streets. A homeless friend of mine picked up a simple pipe in the streets, and when he was arrested, they found the pipe in his backpack. He was unaware there was drug residue in the pipe. His one night stay turned into six months in jail because of the pipe.

I do not give anyone money in the streets. I will walk with them to a restaurant or go and buy them food and bottled water and give it to them. Christians have the responsibility to feed the hungry. I encourage you to help those less fortunate. Have addresses and phone numbers of the various community services that can benefit the people. Oftentimes when they come to Christ, they will be looking for a place to stay to remove themselves from previous associations. I would not recommend that you let others in the streets lead you to places. I would stay in well lighted areas and not go into old buildings with them. You may find yourself in a dangerous situation or trespassing. Be very careful crossing the streets. When you cross the streets in an inner city, you should not expect cars to yield to you in the streets. Watch your step in the streets, sidewalks, and alleys. The inner cities of our nations are filled with debris of syringes, vials, broken bottles, and many other infected waste.

### Street Etiquette

There is a code in the streets: don't tell others about things you have seen or heard. Oftentimes, people will share details about their lives or others, and I politely interrupt and tell them that I don't need to know these things to pray for them or to help them. You will gain respect in the streets if you respect confidentiality. It is of the utmost importance that you do not repeat other things to team members in the street. You can easily be overheard and promote a situation that could risk your lives and the lives of others.

I don't feel Jesus looked for individuals to turn over to the authorities but rather to touch the hearts of those He met. I remember one time that I was being followed for a period of time by undercover officers and became uncomfortable with this. I had spent so much time in an inner city that I was not understood by law enforcement. I went and met with the Chief of Police and shared with him who I am and what I was called to do. I told him that I don't keep records and will never repeat anything that I have heard. The Chief of Police understood and wished me the best. He said that everyone who I am able to reach will be one more person he will not have to deal with. Since then I have enjoyed free access by all into the areas of this city. I don't make an effort in the streets to witness to the police. I thank God that they are in the streets; however, I cannot be seen spending time with them and then walk into the alleys at night. I do not want my intentions misunderstood by those who we are there to meet. I highly recommend that you take proper ID with you to show any law enforcement when asked. Leave large amounts of cash or credit cards at home. I don't take anything









## Unit Four: Section Thirteen

### Follow-up Evangelism

Follow-up for those that recently come to Christ is very important. Help your church's visitation team follow up on those that have been led to Christ. If you don't have a follow-up team, form one. If you have enough knowledge to witness you have enough knowledge to lead a follow-up group. Follow-up will produce results in the lives of those who come to Christ. You will see a higher rate of individuals attending church or becoming disciples for Christ if you visit them again. Follow-up is a key to effective evangelism.

In Acts 14, we can see Paul determined to follow-up on those he had shared his life with. Although Paul was stoned and left for dead, he picked himself up and went back to the cities from where he came. This sets the pattern for the concept of "follow-up" work among new converts. This emphasizes the need to return to those you have ministered to and help them to resist the temptations that all face and to share how to follow Christ.

#### Acts 14

**19** *And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*

**20** *Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.*

**21** *And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,*

**22** *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

I often use the term "Follow-up Evangelism." I have seen that when you visit a home of a new convert you are often welcomed into the home. When you first encountered the person in your initial witness you were a stranger and now you are a friend. When you are allowed entry into the home it can become an opportunity for others in their home to come to Christ. I have seen many times that the whole family will come to Christ.

Another purpose of follow-up is to remind the person to become water baptized. Their need to fulfill the commission of Christ to be baptized may be the very opportunity the Lord will use to bring this person to your church and thus begin the discipleship process. It is important to help bring the new converts to church and be around others who can help them. Be prepared to explain water baptism but not to pressure the person. So often I have seen God change people's lives over the period of many years. Allow God this opportunity and be patient with the person. A friend of mine was saved and I knew many areas of his life that were not right but I never condemned him. Over a period of time I watched and was shocked that nearly a year later he cleaned his home of the things that were not of God, he changed his music, continually studied the Word, and began attending church. When you see

### Group Discussion

1. Discuss how follow-up may have encouraged you to walk further with Christ.
2. Discuss how to include follow-up into your ministry.

#### Response/Notes:

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### Bible Study

1. Study the Scriptures in Acts 14 and see how determined Paul was to return to those he had ministered. Search the Scriptures and you will see that much of the letters he wrote in the New Testament were composed of encouragement to those of the church.

#### Response/Notes:

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I pray that you have clearly heard the heart of God for His people though the words He inspired me to write from the many experiences He has given me and the scriptures that show the need to share Christ with all people of this world. I am unable to record all my life experiences into this course because His works continue in my life. I have chosen to be a witness for the rest of my life and I challenge you to do the same. We cannot let generations perish from this earth without an opportunity to know Christ as Lord and Savior. Choose to serve God with a pure heart and follow the ways of Christ by showing His love for all people.

It has taken me over three years to write this book because I had to first experience what I have written. Thousands of individuals have been trained with this course and thousands of souls have come to Christ through these teachings that were given to me by the Holy Spirit and my good friend Arthur Blessitt, the man that carried the cross around the world and to all nations.

May God lead you to the streets and homes of this world to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. May your life reflect the Glory of the Lord. I hope that many will know Christ as you share the witness of the Word. Always trust that God will be with you.

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