



EVANGELISM

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The Word “Evangelism” is not new in Christendom. It has been in existence since the era of our Lord Jesus Christ. One can begin by first defining what Evangelism is all about?

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

According to the dictionary, Evangelism has been defined as an act or process of persuading as many people as possible to become Christians. It denotes the effort or eagerness to persuade people to accept your ideas and beliefs in Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Also, in accordance with *Spiritual Interpretation and definition*, Evangelism is the proclamation and communication of the Gospel to the whole world (All Nations). It involves the exercise of soul winning and reconciliation of lost souls to God, the creator. It includes the preaching of the Good News (Gospel of Christ) to all people irrespective of color, race, tribe or nationality.

Purpose of Evangelism

One may ask, what is the whole essence or goal of Evangelism? Evangelism aims at reconciling a sinner to the loving and caring God, through our Lord Jesus Christ who had paid the unique price for our salvation. It includes the clear call to repentance i.e. to turn away from sin and turn towards God, and also believe the gospel by Faith. The whole essence of Evangelism therefore is to bring the Gospel of Salvation to all Nations; for men and women to be saved so that we can inherit the kingdom of God which is

Heaven.

EVANGELISM AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

Evangelism aims at fulfilling the *Great Commission*. In Matt. 28:18-20 KJV Jesus said: *“All Authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all Nations; baptizing them in the name of God the father, the son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always to the end of the world”*. The Great Commission is also mentioned in Mk. 16:15-18 KJV which says *“Go ye into all to the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe in my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”*.

The *Great Commission* is God’s plan for building his church, the Body of Christ. His plan involves the making of disciples. The Great Commission stipulates that the Gospel must reach every nook and corner of the earth before the second coming of Christ. This assignment can best be carried out through Evangelism which is the tool for preaching the Gospel of Christ to all Nations.

The work of Evangelism is the business of all believers in Jesus Christ. It is also the function

of the Ministers of God i.e. Pastors, Prophets/Prophetesses, Apostles, Bishops, Reverends etc. Jesus Christ has given us that duty to evangelize and win souls for the kingdom of God. A Name is specifically tagged for those who carry out the duty of evangelism; they are called “*Evangelists*” and they involve both men and women of proven ability.

BENEFITS OF EVANGELISM TO THE CHURCH AND THE WORKER (EVANGELIST)

The benefits of Evangelism are numerous. They include but not limited to the following:

To the Church

- a) It helps the church to grow spiritually.
- b) It increases the number of both physical and spiritual worshippers in the church.
- c) It exposes and destroys the strategies of darkness in the church
- d) It prepares the church for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To the Worker (Evangelist)

- i. It facilitates the development of the Grace of God in the worker’s life.
- ii. It matures spiritually the participating worker.
- iii. It helps the worker to be heavenly – conscious
- iv. It rewards the worker with his/her name being written in the book of life
- v. God will also reward the worker with the crown of life for winning souls

WHO IS AN EVANGELIST?

An Evangelist is someone, man or woman, who preaches and travels to different places and tries to persuade people to become Christians i.e. Preaching the Gospel (Good-News) to all Nations as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ. Also, an Evangelist is an harbinger of Good tidings (Act 21:8). Furthermore, an Evangelist is a Ministry’s worker; as we know that Evangelism is a Ministry, as written in 2 Tim. 4:5.

FUNCTIONS/DUTIES OF AN EVANGELIST

Some of the primary functions and duties of an Evangelist are presented below:

- a) An Evangelist witnesses for God through Jesus Christ. Act 1:8 says “.....*and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth*”
- b) An Evangelist is a vehicle used by God for his Ministry. This is well illustrated in Eph. 4:11 NIV which says: “*it was he who gave some to be Apostles, and some to be Prophets; and **some to be Evangelists**, and some to be Pastors and Teachers*”.
- c) The Evangelist has a great task of taking the ‘word of God’ round every corner of the earth in order to fast track the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The duty is to prepare the world for the second coming of Christ because Christ will not come until the Gospel has been preached to all Nations.
- d) An Evangelist is a soul-winner for God i.e. telling people to be heavenly-conscious and repent from sin.
- e) An Evangelist helps to consolidate and sustain the faith of people in Jesus Christ.
- f) An Evangelist acts as catalyst for the planting and growth of the church of God i.e. Body of Christ.
- g) An Evangelist draws people closer to God, the Creator of the universe.
- h) An Evangelist enlightens the people about the benefits of the Gospel of God.

THE ATTRIBUTES/QUALITIES OF AN EVANGELIST

An Evangelist must be:

- A born-again Christian with repentant heart.
- Knowledgeable in the word of God.
- An eloquent Preacher.
- A practicing Christian.
- An imitator of Christ i.e. an ambassador of Christ in character, humility, patience, love, endurance, meekness, kindness etc.

- A Role Model for people to emulate.
- Spirit-filled. Act. 1:8 says *".....ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."*
- Ready to create time and be available for the work of Evangelism.
- Must not live in the flesh but in spirit. Must possess the fruit of the spirit as stated in Gal. 5:22.
- A doer of the word of God, not only preacher or hearer of the word.
- Must not be greedy for money, wealth and worldly things.

HOW TO BE A RELEVANT AND EFFECTIVE EVANGELIST

To be relevant in today's Evangelism, the following ingredients must be possessed and sustained. These are:

- a) You must be prayerful and constant in fasting. This will bring spiritual growth and development. Eph 6:12-18.
- b) Read and meditate in the word of God Josh.1:8.
- c) Have Regular Relationship and personal fellowship with God and His son Jesus Christ. Jas 4:8
- d) Study to show yourself approved unto God i.e. Expose yourself to regular training and re-training, attend workshops, seminar, conference that will improve your understanding and knowledge. Don't be an Island of yourself. 2 Tim 2:15
- e) Develop the act of reading and writing culture i.e. writing tracts or books; reading other people's books or tracts. 1 Tim 4:13
- f) Be steadfast and strong in the Lord. Evangelical work has its own

challenges. Josh 1:9

- g) Don't succumb to temptation or blackmail. Jas 4:7
- h) Always ask for wisdom and Grace of God to accomplish your work. Apply wisdom in all your ways. Dan 1:20
- i) Ask also for the power and Holy Spirit that will enable you to do the work. 2 Tim 5:6
- j) Always remain humble, don't be proud. 1 Cor. 4:1
- k) Always acknowledge yourself to be a servant of God, and not a master. 1 Cor. 4:1
- l) Be firm, disciplined and always preach and speak the truth, even in the face of tribulation. 1 Tim 2:7
- m) Always remember that you are not the one doing the work but God is doing his work through you. 1 Cor. 3:7
- n) Always give God the Glory and Honor, and not yourself for any success or miracle recorded. Ps 145:5
- o) Refuse to be frustrated or intimidated in whatever way(s) during the course of your evangelical work. 2 Tim 4:5
- p) Show kindness and exhibit hospitality etc. 1 Tim 3:2

CONCLUSION

In the C&S Movement Church Worldwide, we have the structure of Evangelical Council that ensures the duties and propagation of the Ministry in the Church. I therefore urge you to be in tune with what is said in 2 Tim 4:5 which says *"keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an Evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry"*. And as you do so, may the Good Lord help and reward you handsomely in Jesus Name. Amen