

How to Develop an Evangelistically-Minded Church

By Bob Young

Six essentials--

- Make sure that the church leaders are in agreement and willing to be personally involved in evangelism
- Recruit a core group of members who are passionate about evangelism, those who will lead the way as models within the congregation
- Train and equip a core group of those who are willing to teach evangelistic Bible studies
- Help members learn how to use their gifts in support of evangelism, develop “body evangelism” processes so that all members know and fulfill their roles.
- Preach evangelistically, preach always with lost souls in mind
- Make sure evangelism and discipleship are a constant part of the prayer life of the church.

Three pieces of advice--

Be prepared to deal with the natural tendency of churches to let evangelism and discipleship become lower priorities, immediately behind a lot of other good activities and ministries. When a church is active in fellowship, worship, and Bible study, the church sometimes never gets around to the evangelism and discipleship tasks. As much as the church wants to commit to the Great Commission, follow-through is challenging.

Keep evangelism at the forefront – focus assemblies evangelistically in announcements, call to worship, and prayers; preach evangelistically with urgency; have evangelistically focused activities at least monthly to reach the unchurched and lost. If evangelism is not kept front and center, members become lax in reaching the unchurched and lost.

Keep discipling visible – preach for spiritual maturity; develop Bible classes, fellowship opportunities, and small groups around the need to disciple. When church members are helped to become healthy disciples, they naturally build relationships with the unchurched. Unhealthy Christians struggle to share what God has done for them.

Without continually focusing on these ideas, the church will become unhealthy and will not reach its community with the love Jesus Christ.