



Evangelism

It's About Sharing God's Love

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

Isaiah 60:1 & 3

Running Sheet For Programme

Please note, these are approximate times and assume an 11:00 am start. To keep the programme flowing you will want the next person or group to be coming up as the previous group is finishing.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10:50 | Prelude music
CD music or music group to play |
| 11:00 | Praise and Worship songs . Choose 3 or 4 songs. There is a suggestion list in the appendix of this programme |
| 11:09 | Introduction and Welcome |
| 11:12 | Item from Sabbath School Group – <i>'This Little Light of Mine'</i> |
| 11:15 | Offering |
| 11:20 | Drama – True Value |
| 11:24 | Sermonette 1 |
| 11:26 | Drama – The Least Of These |
| 11:30 | Reading with lit candle |
| 11:32 | Sermonette 2 |
| 11:36 | Drama – How Urgent Are You? |
| 11:40 | Item |
| 11:43 | Sermonette 3 |
| 11:48 | Candle give away |
| 11:53 | Children's Ministry leader talk |
| 11:55 | Benediction |
| 11:56 | Postlude |

Programme Outline

Introduction

Lights turned off and worship area blacked out as much as is possible. One child comes to the front and lights a candle (or have several children light candles depending on the environment of your church). While the children are lighting candles have other children reciting the verses from different places in the worship area if possible (e.g. balcony, standing in the congregation, up the back etc).

If your congregation has a child who is gifted in keyboard playing have him or her playing 'Here I Am To Worship' (or another appropriate song quietly in the background).

- Child 1** "In Jesus was life, and the life was the light of men, The light that shines in the darkness." (John 1:4&5)
- Child 2** "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)
- Child 3** "I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." (John 12:46)
- Child 4** "Arise, shine; for your light has come," (Isaiah 60:1)
- Child 5** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Have a child sing reflectively the verse of 'Here I Am To Worship' or 'Shine Jesus Shine'.

Welcome

(Lights come up to about half); Have two children think through and write a welcome that introduces the theme of Shining God's light.

Example

Welcome to our worship service today. We're really glad that you are here to worship God with us.

If you're our guest then we're especially glad that you're here.

Things are a little bit different today

The children of our church family will be presenting a programme that looks at what it means to share God's light with the people around us.

God calls you and I to let other people know that He loves them and wants to live forever with them.

We want you to think about what your life looks like when it is shining God's light.

Jesus wants to work through us to make a difference in (name of town/city).

Item: Child or groups singing a version of *This Little Light of Mine*.

Offering

If offering is not already designated it might be possible to have the offering put toward evangelism resources for the church.

Child to Announce Offering

Our church has lots of great resources to help us shine our lights. Today's offering is for evangelism in our community. While the offering is being collected, on the screen we have pictures that we have drawn showing you some ideas for sharing God with others.

The pictures will have to be drawn and collected in Sabbath School time a few weeks earlier. Give children some ideas of what shining God's light might include. Pictures might include a person showing another a part of the Bible; people being friends; people helping one another; people with beams of light coming out of them and people around them seeing the light. The pictures will then need to be scanned and put into your data projector presentation or copied onto OHT.

Drama – True Value

Setting: Game Show

Characters: Larry - Game show host

Sally - Contestant.

This will require a couple of bubbly, probably older, kids.

Use data projector and powerpoint to have the following items listed. Have a teenager or adult who is proficient in powerpoint put together a template and be able to move the items higher or lower on the list as needed. Alternatively you can make up the list on large cards and then attach them to a board with a tack or Velcro so that they can be taken off and shifted. They will also need to have a way of revealing their prices next to them. You could do this by blue tacking a piece of card over the price to be removed at the appropriate time.

Ford Falcon
Dishwasher
Boat
Laptop Computer
Person
Watch
Tool Set
Gym Equipment

- Larry** Welcome back to the price is right. We're into our final round and ready to take the challenge is Sally. Sally you've seen the showcase and all this could be yours if the price is right.
- Sally** Thank you Larry I am just so excited, this really is a dream come true.
- Larry** That's great Sally – You're so close to all this being yours – you simply just have to list these items in order of their value. That's not too hard so let's get cracking.
- Sally** I'll put the watch at the bottom – I think. I'm really not sure what brands are worth what. However. I think it would be a bit less than the gym set.
- Larry** O.K watch it is – then the gym.
- Sally** Yes I think so. Then we'll go for the tool set I think. No, lets swap the tool set and the gym.
- Larry** It's your call my dear.
- Sally** How about then the ummm – well I'm not sure where the person fits in. Do you think a person is worth more than the gym set?
- Larry** It's your call Sally.

Sally Well how valuable is a person? What they're 80% water I hear, that can't total too much.

Larry Above or below the gym.

Sally Exercise equipment is pretty expensive. Let's put the person below.

Larry You can come back and change it if need be.

Sally Let's see, how about then the dishwasher, the computer, then the boat then the car – Wait. Let's put the dishwasher below the gym set but above the person.

Larry You think so – some people are very good dishwashers.

Sally No I think I've got it right.

Larry Lock it in then.

Play suitable music in the background to create an air of suspension. Or you could simply use a quiet drum roll.

Sally Yes!

Larry Let's go for the top. The falcon is \$34 000. Is the boat less? Yes it's \$32 000. How about the computer - it's certainly less – Yes its down at \$3 500. All is well so far Sally – Lets jump to the bottom. Show us the watch. It's only \$300, is the tool set more? Yes, well done Sally its \$400. Let's go for the dishwasher. It has to be more than \$400. Lets see – well done its \$650. Just the Gym equipment and the person left. Let's go for the Gym. It's \$2000. O.K then Sally we just have to get that person to be valued between \$400 and \$650.

Sally I'm shaking!

Larry Let's light it up for the person (*Buzz sound – Price card says 'God's Son – Priceless'*).

Larry Sorry Sally – we've struck out on that one. Who would have thought that a person would cost that much?

Sally (*In a protesting way*). I can't believe that you've valued a person over the car and boat. Everyone knows that the world is overcrowded with people and that they really don't matter that much.

Larry I'm sorry Sally, it appears that people are very valuable despite how common they are. However, Sally you do go home with your Encyclopedia on CD. (*to audience*) we'll see you next time when we play The Price Is Right!

Sermonette 1

People Are Valuable

If I was to ask you to write down what you think are the five things you care about most what would they be? Now, think about the top five things in God's heart. How similar do you think the two lists are? The Bible makes it clear that people are very precious to God – all of us are His kids and He loves us all more than we can imagine. He loves us more than parents love their children; He loves us more than the most loving person in the world. How much do you love people? Remember every person you ever see is valuable to God.

God calls us to look after His children. That means caring for the people around us. It includes doing what we can to feed the hungry, looking after people who don't have enough clothes or caring for people who feel that life is hopeless. Jesus reminded us that doing something for even the most unimportant person by our standards is noticed by Him and is seen the same as if we had done it to Him. Over and over Jesus told stories or explained how people are far more important than things. That's something people in our society often forget and we end up treating people as just another way to get more things, or worse we treat people as things. James, a book in the Bible, says that true religion is loving God and then caring for the people who are having a battle.

James reminds us that people are way more important than things. Only people go to Heaven, all our things one day will burn. When Jesus told us to store treasure in Heaven, He meant that people are the real treasure.

You and I need to shine our lights to the people around us who are struggling. Sharing God's light also means doing what we can to shine our lights in far away places where we may never meet the people but our support and help can make a big difference. Helping ADRA is one great way to shine our lights to people. The spare change we leave in the bottom of our bags or in our coin jars can make a huge difference for other people.

Often, sharing God's light involves looking after people's feelings. This is a far more common problem in our society where people are often lonely or don't have any purpose. They might have lovely houses and flash cars but they can be very empty on the inside. However, as God's children He asks us to care for these people and show them they are loved by Him.

There are lots of ways to share God's love. However, one of the best ways is getting to know the people around you and when the time is right letting them know what a difference God has made for you.

Sharing God's light only really happens when we understand how much God cares about each person on the planet and that out of love for God we will care about people as well. Our love for God overflows into caring about the people around us so much that we share God with them.

How important are people to you. Think of the people you will spend time with this week. How are you going to shine God's light to them? How are you going to shine God's light to people you haven't met yet, especially those who might be having a battle? Remember people are way more important than things – when we get this in the right order then we are on the way to sharing God's light.

Points to include if you are writing your own sermonette

1. People are very valuable to God.
2. We are to do what we can to meet people's physical needs here and further away.
3. True love for God overflows into love for others.
4. People are more important than things.

Drama - The Least of These

Characters

Tara
Kelly Mean girls
Jill
Evan Outcast
Vince Helpful Christian

Props

Children to be dressed in school uniform
Skipping rope
Sandpit toys

Scene

Girls are skipping and Tim is sitting in the sandpit by himself pretending to play but is looking sad and lonely. He wipes his nose on his arm and begins looking at it while the girls skip. He thinks no-one is watching him.

Jill is skipping and Tara and Kelly are turning the rope as she skips. The chant is coming to an end (They can chant the following skipping song or replace it with something else that is being used in the local playground).

Girls Chant: Teddy bear, teddy bear say your prayers. Teddy bear, teddy bear go to bed.

Tara: My turn, My turn.

Tara drops the rope and Jill picks up the end. Jill sees Evan sitting in the corner. She looks disgusted but then gets a sly look.

Jill: Ok, lets do the alphabet song now. Then we can see who you love Tara. I bet it is Daniel from Room 1.

Tara: *(blushing)* No I don't!

Kelly: I saw you looking at him in assembly.

Tara: No you didn't.

Jill: Ok, here we go.

They begin turning the rope and chanting.

Girls Chant: Boyfriend, boyfriend who will it be. We can work it out through the abc. A
– B – C – D – E

Jill purposely gets Tara out on E. Then looks straight at Evan.

Jill: Ohhh E, no let me see. Who's name begins with E... I know. *(pointing)* You love Evan.

Tara: *(Looking horrified at Evan)* Not likely. He is grose!

Tara and Kelly laugh

Kelly: He wipes his nose on his arm and he smells.

Tara: Oooooow Evan. You didn't, that is disgusting!!

Jill: Wonder what else he does...maybe eats worms from the garden. Do you like worm sandwiches for lunch Evan?

Evan stands up to walk away but Jill walks over to him and turns him around.

Jill: Come on Evan. You know you love her!

Evan: No I don't, you lot are mean.

Girls all laugh.

Kelly: Is that the best you can come up with *(copying him)* You girls are mean.

Jill: Come on, let's go leave him with all his friends...that's right, Evan doesn't have any friends.

Kelly: I guess that is because he smells!!

Girls all laugh and walk away. Jill pushes Evan over as she goes and he trips over a sand toy and hurts himself. Girls all laugh and leave the stage. He doesn't get up. He just sits there looking sad.

Vince walks onto stage from other direction. He sees Evan and walks over to him. He helps him up and pulls out a hanky and puts it on Evan's knee.

Vince: What happened here Evan...You're bleeding. Did you trip over?

Evan: No, it was those girls, Jill is...

Vince: Don't worry about them Evan. They tease everyone.

Evan: But they are always picking on me...every lunch time they purposely come and play right next to me so they can tease me.

Vince: Mum says, you just have to ignore people like them and they will give up and go away.

Evan: Tried that...anyway, you had better get out of here because they might come back. If they see you with me then they will just start teasing you too.

Vince: That is ok, I can handle it. Shall we go to the office and get a bandaid for your knee.

Evan: *(surprised)* O-o-o-Ok, sure!

They begin to walk away together. Evan stops.

Evan: Why are you being so nice to me?

Vince: Why shouldn't I be?

Evan: I know no-body likes me, you should be careful or they will start being mean...

Vince: Mean to me? I don't care.

Evan: Why?

Vince: Because everyone is important.

Evan: Could have fooled me...Who told you that?

Vince: God did...

Vince and Evan walk off stage

Reading – Jesus Said

If possible, have the church in semi darkness for this reading. Have each child pass along a candle as they recite the verse.

Child One: Jesus said: Do not store up your treasure here where they will rot but store for yourselves treasures in heaven. Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

Child Two: Jesus said: The father in heaven is not willing that any of His children should be lost.

Child Three: Jesus said: Love your neighbour as yourself.

Child Four: Jesus said: I will make you fishers of men.

Child Five: Jesus said: Go into all the world and make disciples teaching them everything I have commanded you.

Child Six: Jesus said: Love one another as I have loved you – by this everyone will know that you are my disciples.

Child Seven: Jesus says: I love you – tell everybody.

Sermonette 2

Lost Things

Have you ever lost something really valuable to you? It might be a special toy, book or sometimes even a wedding ring. (*Speaker tells of something valuable they have lost*). When valuable things get lost we get urgent and search and when we find them we are very happy. Luke 15 tells us that Jesus is very urgent about lost people. These are people who are trapped in darkness and who need to see the light of His love. You and I meet these people everyday yet we forget they are lost. Lost people are in our classrooms, playgrounds, workplaces and even can be in our homes.

One day Jesus was teaching. Off to one side, a huddle of religious leaders were shaking their heads and talking in muffled voices. They were complaining about how Jesus was hanging around with what they thought were the wrong people. Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking so He moved toward them and told them three stories. The first story was about a lost sheep, the second about a lost coin and the last about lost sons. One son realised he was lost and returned to his very excited father, the other thought he was found but really did not understand his father and was lost in a different way. You can read these stories in Luke 15.

In each story, something of great value was missing, something that really mattered. The sheep, the coin and the sons were lost for different reasons and had different abilities to respond. However, in each story what was lost was important enough for there to be a huge search and then when it was found they had a party. The stories show us how important lost people are to Jesus and all Heaven celebrates when a lost person is found. In Luke 19:10 Jesus said: *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

When we realise how much God cares about lost people it should make us care too. People are God's treasure regardless of where they come from, how smart they are, or what church they do or don't belong to. Lost people matter to Him and therefore they'd better matter - really matter - to you and me.

When you start to look at others with this kind of attitude, it changes the way you treat people. Jesus' stories in Luke 15 tell us you have never looked at anyone who wasn't incredibly valuable to God. There is more going on around this planet and your life than just going to school or work, hanging around with friends, getting the latest play station or whatever matters for you. God calls you to be part of His mission. In the battle for lost people God calls us to step up and make an impact for eternity. Once we are His, God uses us to reach others. The Bible says. *"We have been sent to speak for Christ"* 2 Corinthians 5:20. We are the messengers of God's love and purpose to the world.

Jesus calls us not only to come to Him, but to go for Him. He chooses to work through you in reaching lost people. He sends us into the world. John 20:21 says *"As the father has sent me, I am sending you"*. Telling others how they can have life with God forever is the greatest thing you can do for them. If your neighbour had cancer or AIDS and you knew the cure, would you tell them? Why keep secret the way to forgiveness, purpose and eternal life. Sharing the greatest news in the world is the greatest kindness you can show anyone.

Paul said *"My life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus - the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love."* Acts 20:24. If just one person is in heaven because of you, your life will have made a difference for eternity. How urgent are you to search for lost people?

Drama - How Urgent Are You?

Live Newsreader Cross

Welcome back to tonight's news.

- Mark:** A search team is still out looking for a little four year old girl lost in the bush. She wandered off from her home yesterday and has still not been found. We cross to Hillary who is with the search team.
- Hillary:** Thanks Mark - Yes the team is here and have set up a base. Helicopters are here, there are a number of search and rescue teams and many of the townsfolk have turned out. The resources here are amazing.
- Mark:** So Hillary how is the search going?
- Hillary:** Well, it's an unfortunate time as it is the cricket final so most of the search team have gathered around the radio. However, all is not lost because the radio station is giving updates on the search.
- Mark:** So what are our latest updates?
- Hillary:** Well there has been a lot of training on search techniques today - the training programme has been excellent and the people here are feeling a lot more confident in their searching skills. There have also been many donations of money to the search fund which is very pleasing. There are also a number of pamphlets being distributed on what makes for a good search.
- Mark:** Is there any word on the little girl?
- Hillary:** Well Mark, every once in a while someone has wandered into the bush and called her name. However, there has been no response from her so we can only assume she may not want to be found. In fact, some people are saying she must actually enjoy being lost.
- Mark:** What's the plan from here?
- Hillary:** Well Mark, evening is setting in so the plan is to build a fire to keep the search teams warm and if it is anything like last night you can be sure that there will be some pretty exciting search stories from the past being shared.
- Mark:** Thanks Hillary we'll keep you updated as more news comes to hand. After the break we have tonight's business news.

Speaker Two comes back up

Lost people really do matter - you and I need to reach them. Jesus is coming soon and people really will be saved or lost for eternity. This week remember that you are in an urgent search for lost people.

Points to include if writing your own sermonette

1. People are lost without God.
2. God cares very much about lost people.
3. Because we love God we should care too.
4. God calls us to be His messengers.

Item

You could use a Sabbath School group or have a solo or small group singing an item that fits with the evangelism theme.

Sermonette 3

You're An Evangelist!

When you think of the word 'evangelist', what pictures come into your mind? Often we think of a visiting preacher doing a three week series. While these type of evangelists are important and are one way of reaching people, especially the friends we have invited, they are only part of what it means to be an evangelist. Every person in the church, from kids to the members who have been here a very long time, are called by God to be evangelists. Each of us has to shine God's light into darkness in our own special way.

Jesus said: *"I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth."* Acts 13:47. This means that all of us are to shine our lights to as many people as we possibly can.

Most times, people make a decision to follow Christ based on a number of different influences and conversations. You and I need to be part of the process. We are all different. However, those differences can all be used to move lost people closer to Jesus. Ellen White puts it this way: *"He who becomes a child of God will look upon himself as a link in the chain let down to save the world. One with Christ in His plan of mercy, going forth with Him to seek and save the lost... evangelism is our real work."* (E G White, Ministry of Healing, p.105).

God chooses ordinary people to share His light on this planet. To every believer He says, 'You are My special agent; you are the person I need to reach a certain group of My children in a particular corner of My world'.

You might ask where do I start with being an evangelist?

The first place to look is your family and friends. These people are interested in your story, thoughts, feelings and background. Remember that often, before we talk about Christ, we need to earn the right by first being real friends. Maybe the first step for you this week is to build real friendships with the people God has put around you. Ellen White said that this is how Jesus worked. *"Jesus mingled among men as one who desired their good. He won their confidence, met their needs, then He bade them Follow Me."* (Desire of Ages).

Peter reminds us to *"be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect."* 1 Peter 3:15-16 (New Living Translation).

As part of your story, or when you are expanding your story, you will need to know how to explain the Good News in a way that is easy to understand. Think about what you would say if you had 45 seconds to share what it means to be a Christian with someone who knows nothing about Jesus.

(Check with church leaders when the next evangelism training is on and include it in the following paragraph). There are some great courses for learning how to share your faith. These are great for kids and adults because we are all evangelists. *(Include here particular programme and how to be part of it).*

Don't worry if you are a bit scared to talk about Jesus. It might be a bit scary at first but it is worth it. Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit's power. He said; *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8.

Whenever you feel a bit scared, spend time thinking about what Jesus did for you on the cross.

A parent will run into a burning house to save their child because their love for the child is greater than their fear. If you're afraid of sharing the Good News with people around you, ask God to fill you with His love for them.

God calls you to be an evangelist. Shining God's light into darkness will be the greatest adventure you have ever had – and the results are forever.

(This would be a good place for an older child to interview someone or a family who has recently come to Christ and how this process happened. Especially focusing on how various people were involved in the process. It would be particularly valuable if a child had been part of the process. If you feel this might be too long or have the potential to move away from the theme perhaps you could do a video interview)

Points to include if you are writing your own sermonette

1. *We are all evangelists.*
2. *We all need to be a link in the 'evangelism' chain.*
3. *Share your story with family and friends.*
4. *Sharing God's light is the greatest adventure you will ever have.*

Candle Give Away

Dim lights and have the children come running out with four candles (or more if necessary) and the tags attached. Each child is to keep one candle and pass the rest to a member of the congregation. In turn, each person keeps one candle and passes on the rest to another person until everyone has a candle each. While this is taking place play "Take Your Candle and Go Light Your World" by Kathy Troccoli. As the song finishes the Children's Ministry leader should come up and say the following:

Children's Ministry Leader

(Song continues to play in background). Each of you now has a candle. We would ask that you put this candle somewhere in your house to remind you that your foremost task on this planet is to share Jesus with those who don't yet know Him. Let this candle remind you that everyone matters to Jesus and it is our task to make sure that everyone knows just how much He loves them. We would encourage you to get together each Friday night and have a candlelit dinner together as a family. At the end of your meal together it would be wonderful if each person could share how they've shared Jesus that week with someone. Just imagine what a huge difference we could make in this city/town if every year we could each just bring three people to Jesus; who in turn brought another three... just imagine what a wonderful difference that would make to His kingdom.

Closing Prayer

Child or Children/Children's Ministry Leader/Pastor or Elder

Postlude

Children who play music at your church

End of Programme Give Away (see appendix 2) - Candles

Purchase one candle per person in your congregation. Attach the card to the candle. This candle should be lit each Friday night during dinner as a reminder that we are to be a light to the world. During family worship remember to discuss the significance of sharing the light with those around us. If each of us could bring just three people to Jesus during our lives we could change the world!

Song List

PLAY TODAY

Produced by Lyell Heise, Valmai Hill and the Institute of Worship, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Avondale College and SPD.

- Fairest Lord Jesus/Shine Jesus Shine Book 2
Just Let Me Say How Much I Love You Book 2

KIDSOURCE

Compiled by Cpt. Alan Price, CA in 1999, Published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd Buxhall, Suffolk.

- I Am a Lighthouse 114
I'm Gonna Shine 152
Lord the Light of Your Love 237
This Little Light of Mine 343

THE SOURCE

Compiled by Graham Kendrick in 1989, Published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd Rattlesden, Suffolk.

- God Forgave My Sin (Freely, Freely) 123
We Wanna See Jesus Lifted High 559
These Are the Days of Elijah 503

THE SOURCE 2

Compiled by Graham Kendrick in 2001, Published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd Buxhall, Suffolk.

- I Will Come into Your Presence 815

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH HYMNAL

Published by Review and Herald, 1985.

- Bringing In the Sheaves 369
Rescue the Perishing 367
Seeking the Lost 373

SPIRIT ALIVE - CD

Published by maxiPraise, Cooranbong NSW, 2001, Share Jesus, Composed Coralie Fraser, 2000.

LINK IN THE CHAIN - CD

Composed by Kimberly Houliston, Published by Houlico.

Link In the Chain

Other Useful Songs

1. *You Said* by Reuben Morgan, By Your Side, © 1998 Reuben Morgan Hillsong Music.
2. *Go Light Your World*, Words & Music by Chris Rice, © 1993 BMG Songs, Inc.

Background Reading For Leaders

This section provides a short devotional on evangelism. It is provided here with a view to having you become immersed in the value and why this is such an important concept to share. As you think through the concept you might generate other ideas that allow you to present this purpose even more clearly in your context.

Deep in every true Christian there is an awareness that we are on this planet for purposes greater than having a career, paying the bills, loving our families and fulfilling our role as upstanding citizens. We sense that there is a greater mission going on around us. God calls you to be part of that mission. In the battle for lost people God calls us to step up and make an impact for eternity. Once we are His, God uses us to reach others. *"He saves us and then sends us out."* (Rick Warren, *Purpose Driven Life*). The Bible says. *"We have been sent to speak for Christ."* 2 Corinthians 5:20. We are the messengers of God's love and purpose to the world.

"God wants us to become Contagious Christians – his agents, who will first catch His love and then urgently and infectiously offer it to all who are willing to consider it. This is His primary plan, the one Jesus modelled so powerfully, to spread God's grace and truth person to person until there's an epidemic of changed lives around the world." (Mark Mittelberg, *Becoming A Contagious Christian*).

Sometimes we get so caught up with our own agendas that we forget the importance and value of people who are not in the family of God. In fact, sometimes we can look down on these people in a religiously superior type of way.

We need to be woken up and reminded that this life is a small speck in the scope of eternity and the real action is the unseen world around us where lives really are won or lost forever. Our friends, family, neighbors – everyone we lock eyes with, really will be forever with God in heaven or miss out. Read that sentence again with the faces of your family and workmates in mind.

You're On A Mission

Your mission is a continuation of Jesus' mission on earth. *"As the father has sent me, I am sending you."* John 20:21. Jesus calls us not only to come to him, but to go for Him. He chooses to work through you in delivering His message. The last words the book of Matthew records Jesus saying is a call to action: *"I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20.

To take His mission light heartedly or leave it for spare time is to ignore God's clear instructions to you and shows a blatant disregard for Him, what He has done for you and for what He cares about.

While this is a big responsibility, it is also an incredible privilege to be used by God. Paul calls us 'co-labourers' and says, *"We are labourers together with God."* 2 Corinthians 6:1. Telling others how they can have eternal life is the greatest thing you can do for them. If your neighbour had cancer or AIDS and you knew the cure, would you tell them? Why keep secret the way to forgiveness, purpose and eternal life. Sharing the greatest news in the world is the greatest kindness you can show anyone."

We must remember that no matter how contented or successful people appear to be, without

Christ they are hopelessly lost and headed for eternal death. This is a life and death deal. It is more important than any achievement or goal you will reach during this life on earth. The truth is, only the Kingdom of God will last forever. Paul said *"My life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus - the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love."* Acts 20:24. **If just one person is in heaven because of you, your life will have made a difference for eternity.**

When you think of the word 'evangelist', often a visiting preacher doing a three week series comes to mind. However, everything a church does can and should be evangelism. The three week 'evangelistic' series is a part of the evangelism process however it is often the reaping event that rises or falls on the continuing process of evangelism that includes all sorts of contacts and opportunities. Every person in the church, from the three year old to the seasoned member is to be an evangelist in a way that matches their spiritual maturity and their spiritual gifts.

What Will It Cost?

To fulfil your mission will require you to abandon your agenda and accept God's agenda for your life. You can't just 'tack it on' to all the other things you'd like to do with your life. You must say, like Jesus, *"Father... I want your will, not mine."* Luke 22:42. You stop praying a selfish prayer like 'God bless what I want to do'. Instead you pray, 'God help me to do what you're blessing!' You hand God a sheet with your name signed at the bottom and tell him to fill in the details' (Rick Warren). Paul says: *"Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given a new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God."* Romans 6:13.