

The First “Personal Work” Program

by Wayne Goff

Many churches go out and try to hire a preacher who is good at evangelism. Well, that makes sense because the chief job of the evangelist is to evangelize! Furthermore, churches spend much time and energy on what are called “personal work programs” (even though they are actually “church work programs”). But the first evangelistic program we read about in which the whole church was involved is in Acts 8:4 — *“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”*

The lesson to be learned is obvious: Christians properly taught and grounded will share the Good News with their circle of influence. That has always been the best, most effective “personal work program”!

Go back to Acts 2 and see that the first local church *“continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship”* (42). These people stayed together for a period of time as they learned what it meant to be a Christian and a church (44-47).

Acts 3-7 demonstrate the power of a miraculously-confirmed message as the apostles performed *“many signs and wonders... among the people”* (5:12), and *“believers were increasingly added to the Lord”* (5:14) so that *“daily in the temple, and in every house, ...did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ”* (5:42). That confirmed message is now in our hands. It is the New Testament. We can take that same message and share it with our friends, family and associates and convert those whom God wishes to convert. But we must have courage, conviction, and grounding in the truth. Prepare yourself with the knowledge of God’s Word and then go *“everywhere preaching the word”*! It caused the entire first century world to hear the Gospel (Colossians 1:6, 23). Thousands were converted then, and the same results can be had today if only we will work the plan.

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