

## **REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY**

### Part Two : REACHING OUT TOGETHER

Joining Part One (What matters most) with Part Two : What matters most is reaching out together

GCC's original Mission Statement: Helping unchurched people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Is that still our mission?

If every Christian in New Zealand introduced one other person to Christ every 5 years, in 20 years we would be living in a Christian nation.

If we begin with 100,000 Christians, in five years there would be 200,000, in ten years, 400,000, in fifteen years, 800,000, in 20 years, 1.6 million.

How and why do we reach out to our community?

#### **1 It is Scriptural**

Matthew 28.19-20

How did Jesus tell us to do it?

We are to go and teach and baptise, and command them to do the same. It's a circular command. All the activities we do should support this main mission.

So why should we teach Christianity?

First of all, it is the truth. It explains who we are, what we are, what our destiny can be.

Jesus gave two commands: Follow me  
Make disciples

As we help others, our own relationship with God is strengthened.  
In order to grow, begin discipling.

How would you define discipling?

We can't all do the same thing – but as we work together, the discipling is done.  
What different gifts make up a good discipling team?

Reaching out to others is a vital part of our relationship with God.  
As a beginning \_ We are saved. From what? To what?

What has Jesus given to us?

What he gives is ours as we give it away. As we receive, so we give, and so we grow. What we accumulate in the Spirit we have for eternity,

Matthew 10.8b

Luke 6.38

## **2 It is Intentional**

Nothing happens if we are not intentional about it. We have to convert the daydream into action

Matthew 13.22

What most often chokes the word in people's lives?

How do we go about being a disciple and making disciples?

i. Prayer – talk to God about it daily

ii. Listen – listen as much as you pray. Ask God to put someone on your heart

iii. Strategise – how can I build my relationship with this person.  
How can I draw them to Christ? By being Christlike?

How can we be Christlike when we are not perfect? Must we wait until we are perfect before we can be disciples? Jesus' disciples weren't perfect, they learned as they walked with him, watched him, asked questions, and finally were filled with the Spirit. Even then they weren't perfect, but they spread the gospel everywhere they went.

## **3 It is Piscatorial** - in other words, go fishing. Matthew 4.19

Discipleship is like fishing.

First – the bait – make your bait attractive

What kind of bait? Being nice? Helpful? Interested? ??????

Then hook them – befriend them

Then reel them in – love them, disciple them, teach them

Terry mentioned gutting them – what could he mean by that?  
A joke? Or what?

Each person uses their gift – If we work together as a team we will achieve more

As a group, work a strategy,

- i. Small group
- ii. Ask God for a name
- iii. Pray over them
- iv. Bless them with practical help
- v. Look for opportunities to open up conversation about life, destiny, pain, hurt etc. Don't have canned answers, share your heart, your experiences.
- vi. Love them. Want their highest good

#### **4. It is Fruitful**

Discipleship without fruit is not discipleship. The Bible teaches that disciples make disciples. 2 Timothy 2.2.

In 1 Corinthians 11.1, what was Paul's first responsibility in discipleship?

What did he encourage his readers to do?

In order to do this, we have to know Christ. We have to see what he did and how he did it, and do the same. Then we can encourage others to do likewise.

How well do we follow Christ's example, do you think? (in general) What makes it difficult? How can we improve our following?

Discipleship is birthed in obedience to God's word, so we have to know God's word.

Everyone wants to experience love. They try to find it in many different ways, and many of those ways don't work. Give some suggestions as to how the world seeks love.

But until a person receives God's love, and then give it away (so it can keep on flowing in), they will never know real love.

God's love brings peace, contentment, fulfillment.