

**DEEPER LIFE CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP, CANADA**

**FEBRUARY 2019 INTERACTIVE COUNSELLING/SEMINAR**

**TOPIC: LIVING AND SHARING YOUR FAITH ON THE CAMPUS**

Romans 1:16; 1Corinthians 9:22; Psalm 9:17; Mathew 8:38

Evangelism is from a Greek word “*Evangelion*” meaning Good News. It is the sharing of the Good News from a loving God to a lost world (John 3:16). It is of great importance and it demands our fullest attention, time, talent, money and lives (Ezekiel 3:17,18). Knowing the purpose of evangelism is not enough, it must be practically done. In the early church, all the disciples of Jesus were involved in the business of soul winning from house to house, street to street, place to place, and nation to nation. If we seek to have similar results as they experienced, we must do what they did (Acts 2:46). Despite the pressing challenges of our time and environment, we can reach out to our campus community today, if we like the children of Issachar utilize the ripe time of harvest set before us. There is a pressing need to get involved in this great task before it is too late. No true Christian will be guiltless if he/she neglects the winning of souls (Esther 4:14). The great commission is a priority in the heart of Christ (Mathew 10:1,7,8; Luke 10:1,2,9), hence it must be the priority in the heart of every Christian student. It must be carried out heartily and diligently. Over ten years ago, statistics tells us that the average life span of people in the world is 40 years. About 87 million people die every year, more than 238,000 die every day. In major Canadian university campuses, student populations teem to about 28,000 from over 90 countries. The question before us is this; how many are free from sin?

**RELEVANT SCRIPTURES FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF SEEKERS**

Out of these many categories of seekers on our campuses today, a proper understanding of their spiritual state is requisite in order to know how best to reach them for Christ. Notably, each category would require a different approach (1Corinthians 9:22). In addition to having a clear testimony of holy living, it is important to be well equipped with necessary Bible verses to help these various categories to understand what the mind of God is concerning them.

1. God cannot destroy everybody that is not born again (Psalm 9:17).
2. Sinning, contented church goer (1John 3:6-10).
3. Unconcerned, self-righteous sinner (James 2:10; Revelation 21:8).
4. Obstinate rebellious sinner (Luke 13:3; Proverbs 14:12).
5. My sins are too much, I don't think God can forgive me (Isaiah 55:7; 1John 1:9; John 6:37; Romans 10:13).

6. It is too late for me because I have gone too far (Hebrews 4:7).
7. There is no God (Psalm 14:1).
8. Hypocrites (Job 20:5; Romans 14:12).
9. My heart is too hard (Ezekiel 36:26,27).
10. I cannot surrender all to Jesus (Mark 8:34-38; Philippians 3:7-9).
11. I have tried but cannot stop sinning (John 8:36).
12. I am ashamed of ridicule/ I am shy (Mark 8:38).
13. I will lose my friends (Proverbs 13:20; 1Corinthians 15:33; James 4:4).
14. I will be persecuted (Mathew 5:10-12; 2Timothy 2:12; 3:12).
15. I HAVE TRIED AND FAILED (2Corinthians 9:8; Romans 5:20)
16. I have committed the unpardonable sin (Mathew 12:30-32; 1Timothy 1:13-16).

*Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost which Christ refers to means denying that the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin because a person can only be saved through the work of the Holy Spirit. To refuse to repent or even to acknowledge our sin under the conviction of the Holy Spirit is to refuse God's forgiveness. Jesus said so not because their sin is worse, rather because such will never ask for forgiveness. The soul winner must understand these verses and be able to explain deeply and apply them to the condition of the sinner.*

## **REACHING OUT TO THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES**

John 1:40-42; Acts 16:6; 2Timothy 4:2; John 4:35; John 4:7

There are two major methods through which evangelism can be carried out. The application of these methods varies from one situation to the other. The first category is personal while the other is carried out as a group. **Personal** evangelism is the **Person to Person** sharing of the gospel message with the aim of leading the sinner to repent and turn wholly to God through Jesus Christ the Savior (John 1:40-42). It is a very effective way of reaching out on the campus and it is expected to be a daily affair in the lives of Christian students on the campus. It is employable within the halls of residence, free periods in the classrooms before or after lecture hours (John 4: 7), along the tunnel (Acts (Acts 8: 29-31), or in a general place such as the university centre (John 4:3-7). **Group evangelism** on the other hand is the type that requires believer(s) going out as a group to preach the gospel to people in their community. It is the sharing of the Good News with more than one person at a time with the aim of soul-winning. Our Lord Jesus demonstrated this by sending out His disciples in pairs (Luke 9:1, 2, 6). On our campus too, Christian students can go out in pairs to reach out to their fellow students with the aim of bringing them to the knowledge of Christ. While personal evangelism focusses on an individual, group evangelism focus

on a group of people. On the campus community, Christian groups can be led to reach out to a particular hall of residence, the University centre or even the entire university community if they have enough hands to cover the targeted community within the specified period of time. There are several spiritual resources that can be used to facilitate evangelism on the campus such as Christian **Literatures** which involves the giving out of tracts, magazines, lending out books to friends and colleagues on the campus; use of **Electronic** means which includes sharing e-books, sending edifying text messages to friends, e-mails etc. Depending on the numerical strength of our fellowship, the following evangelism strategies can be adapted and employed:

**1. Invitation to our weekly meetings**

- a. Fellowship business card.
- b. Fellowship T-shirts/jackets/hoodies/pens.
- c. One-on-one.
- d. Campus residence evangelism.
- e. Fellowship Facebook Page.

**2. Personal evangelism**

- a. Assigning students to specific spots on the campus (Personal Evangelism Spot).
- b. Reaching out to the student residences.
- c. Reaching out to colleagues in classes and residences.
- d. Conversation strategies that can open evangelism opportunities.
- e. Training members on how to initiate and sustain evangelism conversations.

**3. Friendship evangelism**

- a. Taking a friend for coffee.
- b. Giving out of evangelism literatures.
- c. Rendering helps to other students:
  - i. Volunteering to help graduate students in research work.
  - ii. Helping New students get accommodation or settle during their first semester.
  - iii. Tutorial classes.
  - iv. Mentorship programs for new students.

**4. Special events addressing problems common the students**

- a. Relationship seminars (with Questions and Answers session).
- b. Academic Seminar (facilitated by graduate students/Christian staff of the university)

**5. Literature evangelism**

- a. Campus pearls.
- b. Evangelism Tracts.

- c. Christian cartoons on notice boards.

**Others means includes but not limited to:**

6. Barbecue evangelism
7. Train/Bus evangelism or at the train/bus stations
8. Use of banners at strategic locations on the campus and meeting venues.
9. Recorded short clips/messages on social media.
10. Magazine stands at specific locations on our campuses

**REINFORCING OUR EVANGELICAL CONVERSATION ABILITIES**

One of the limiting factors in contemporary evangelism in the western world is how to initiate and sustain a conversation in such a way that we could convert a general conversation into an evangelical discourse without fanaticism or sounding too spiritual for many of the unchurched folks in the world. Sometimes we understand what we want to say but do not know how to communicate it to the people, especially the unchurched. The excerpt below is only an example of how to start and sustain such conversations. However, we must depend on the Holy Spirit for total guidance as opportunities comes our way.

**Leading Questions1: Do you think it is possible to change the world?**

*Triggers: If you could change the world, what is one thing you would want to change?*

*Triggers: How would you go about changing it?*

**Leading Questions 2: Is there anything in your own life that you want to change? Is it possible to change ourselves?**

*Triggers: Do you see any of those things that are in those people who are messing up the world in you?*

*Triggers: So how are we going to fix ourselves?*

**Leading Questions 3: Do you think there is a spiritual dimension to life?**

*Triggers: How do you think the spiritual realm relates to the idea of change?*

**Leading Questions 4: If it was possible to have a personal relationship with God, would you be interested?**