

Evangelistic Local Churches



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What does a Church look like that's involved in Community Care?

It's a church whose people have made Christ the center of their life. It's a church made up of believers who are intentionally seeking to be "salt and light" for the glory of God.

In the past three months I've had the privilege to minister in fourteen different churches and to observe what God's people in these places are seeking to do to share the Gospel in their community. Some of the things I've observed are:

Three men at one church conduct a church service every week at the local truck stop, sharing the Gospel, and handing out tracts.

Four young couples in another church conduct an English As A Second Language class, offered free, using this as an avenue to present the Gospel.

At another church two couples take turns visiting the residents of the Nursing Care Center every other day, talking about the Savior, praying with and encouraging the people. They also conduct church services for them each Sunday afternoon.

Two young computer techs have produced CDs with their personal testimony of faith in Christ, including the plan of salvation, and they give these out free at local businesses and wherever possible.

In a farming community, a couple who are part of the church use their farm as a location for teens to gather, providing activities and also giving the message of Christ. Two boys trusted Christ the week I was visiting there.

In another town a man with a speech impediment invited a friend to lunch and led him to Christ. The Pastor told me, "More people in our town have been led to Christ by this man, and he does it quietly."

Several ladies at a small church work together to conduct weekly Children's Bible Clubs at the Elementary School. Many of the boys and girls have been led to Christ and are now coming to Sunday School.

At a new church, that's part of Vision America, several ladies are working together to prepare "Gift Baskets" which they personally deliver to neighbors and to anyone who visits the church for the first time. An attractive brochure is included that explains "How You Can Know You Are Going To Heaven."

An elderly gentleman in another place said to me, "I can't do much anymore to serve the Lord, but I do yard work and repairs for some of the old folks." The Pastor exclaimed, "You'd be amazed how many people have come to Christ because of this dear man, and the help he gives!"

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I met with a small group for prayer at a church that's gone through a lot of difficult problems. Instead of being discouraged, these folks were praising the Lord for His goodness, and they prayed primarily for friends or neighbors to whom they've been witnessing.

At a church with about 220 in attendance, I noticed that there are several evangelistic Bible studies being conducted by various church members. Each one, I was told, has a unique emphasis, and is designed to appeal to people with a variety of interests or needs. Each one is taught by a different person, but each one also presents the Gospel.

At a church in the southern part of the state, I was told that "we've got a Prayer Club going. Each member of the club walks through their community each day, and prays for the folks who live in each house they pass. Then once a week we all meet together and pray for the neighbors who live in these houses." "It's changed our

focus,” the Pastor said, “and already 3 people have come to Christ.”

The people at yet another church excitedly told me about their once-a-month “Teen Scene Music Concerts.” Their excitement was the result of what God was doing in bringing several kids to faith in Christ.

Several men, including the Pastor, at the last church I visited are praying and planning toward involvement in IFCA Vision America. They’re also working toward starting a branch church. One of the men said to me, “Our church will soon have its own baby church in this town that’s on the other side of the valley. And we may also be able to “nest” an Hispanic church right here! I don’t know why we’ve never thought of this before!”

I’ve been thrilled to observe these commitments to “hold forth the Word of life,” and I’ve prayed, “O Lord, help every IFCA church to aim toward this kind of involvement.”

“The Lord gave the Word; great was the company of those who published it.”
–Psalm 68:11