

Evangelism Stats/Data and Exhortation

The average Christian has heard 4,000 sermons, sung 20,000 songs, participated in 8,000 public prayers....and converted zero sinners. Most preachers and elders don't do active community evangelism work in their local area. Leaders don't lead. They preach sermons and pray for such work, but never do anything, except a annual gospel meeting, where they might get a few people for an hour to pass out flyer, a few days before the event.

How many people in the Lord's church do you know who actively do evangelism? Sad truth most don't. Many preachers and saints who have been in the church for 50 years don't have any experience in outreach.

They horde their salvation and practice hypocrisy...in praying for growth and opportunity's, yet never act. They teach the themes during Bible class, but never do what they admonish others to do.

Those 19-year-old "elders" in the Mormon church do 7 hrs a day of door knocking or interactive Bible studies. Yet if church members spend 1 hr to pass out flyers for a annual gospel meeting, they think they are zealous for His house and are actively trying to help the community. Its a taboo in the Mormon and Jehovah witness culture, to NOT actively do evangelism. Why? I asked them...they said they do this, because the Bible commands it.

If the Bible commands it, why aren't God's people actively doing outreach? Why is apathy in trying to save people from Hell, condoned, yet, adultery and forsaking His church condemned? Is not a sin a sin? Not doing evangelism needs to become a taboo. Evangelism needs to be encouraged in the churches. And apathy condemned in the sermons, error of indifference, discouraged.

The Jehovah Witness and Mormon groups are two of the fastest growing groups in the US. Yet we are fading to near extinction. Why do you think that is? They are practicing what the Bible teaches. We are not.

And those who should be encouraging such work, undermine it. Door knocking is poo poed, in the Lord's church. People who have little experience in outreach, say it does not work. They may have done it for an hour or two and come to that conclusion. It's the equivalent of an overweight person going to the gym for a hour or two and giving up and saying the gym does not work. If a person thinks they are going to get a 6 pack and be cut and ripped, after a few workouts, are not living in reality. So it is with evangelism, it takes work, investment and time. But it does work.

The Jehovah Witness do door knocking with success. The Mormons as well. This is their main format for outreach. Yet to many people in the Lord's church use excuses, like "it does not work" to try to validate their passionless lifestyle of indifference to the lost. Fact is door knocking does work. See my article on this method and it's data. <https://www.facebook.com/notes/joseph-sullivan/door-knocking-cracking-the-myth/10153949111976139/>

If you saw a car on fire and a person stuck in it, would you not try to save them? If you saw a young person drowning, in the ocean would you not try to get help or get them? Yet we see people every day, who are walking to an eternal pit of fire and pain, and we do nothing? How can we say we love or neighbor, enemy, etc as the Bible commands, if we are silent, when people we know, need our help and we say nothing?

Even though, I am sure you would save a person from the fires of a burning car, and be a good Samaritan, must folks don't care enough to save people from eternal harm. We are supposed to not just love people enough to help them in this life, but to also, snatch people from the spiritual flames, of hell, as Jude 23 commands. Be a hero in every way that counts.

In the 1940's-1950's, the Lord's people were known as walking Bibles. They were zealous for outreach. And we were one of the largest religious bodies in the US. Now people scratch their heads, when they hear about us. They have no idea who we are! This is tragic. We are shrinking fast. See stats.

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/joseph-sullivan/the-numbers-the-decline-of-the-church-in-america/10153579829621139/>

In online stats, "Churches of Christ that are non-institutional were estimated in 2009 to comprise 113,656 members across 1,898 congregations." See link

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_churches_of_Christ_\(non-institutional\)#Present_day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_churches_of_Christ_(non-institutional)#Present_day) And that stat was many years ago. Think where we are now.

(For more info on the difference between institutional/non-institutional church of Christ churches see my Bible article on the subject. <https://www.facebook.com/notes/joseph-sullivan/institutionalism-the-red-line-of-bible-authority/10154396962271139/>)

And even in lumping us with other folks, as liberal "churches of Christ." The decline is still staggering See quote: "In the newly released directory, 21st Century Christian identifies 12,629 a cappella Churches of Christ with 1,578,281 adherents nationwide. Those figures represent **526 fewer churches and 78,436 fewer people in the pews than just six years ago.**" - See more at:

<http://www.christianchronicle.org/article/church-in-america-marked-by-decline#sthash.Db9M4pPt.dpuf>

That is from the general 2 million number from all church of Christ groups, largely from the liberal body, but would also includes conservative as well. Does not take much math to know **2 million/2,000,000 subtracted from 78,436 is 1,921,564 in JUST 6 years! At this rate, where will we be in another 10 or 20 years??**

12,629 is staggering yet even with the receding 2 million number, this is small in consideration that these numbers are global, not national.

It's so sad. People lament there are no young people in their church or families or that they are so small. Then they do NOTHING ABOUT IT. If someone heard they had cancer, would they just sit around and complain about the problem or would they get busy to work on the problem, with doing research, to find the best doctors, and DO the most successful treatments? If we are aware of a problem in our local church, why are we not actively trying to fix it?

Below: Evangelism stats and accumulated researched data from the book: Hearts of Fire by Don Humphrey.

Note: many of the stats are combining the general church of Christ, both liberal/conservative.

- **The church in Nashville losses 100 members more a year then they gain.**
- **A 400 member congregation were reminded by their preacher that they had baptized no one in 18 months.**
- **One large prestigious church only baptized 4 people during a previous year.**
Note: despite the negatives on this statement. Most years, many churches baptize no one, except family members from those in the congregation.

Are these churches in Texas and Tennessee any different from churches in other states, like California, Florida, Ohio, etc? No. This is a trend. A trend that has churches winking out across the US.

- **89 percent of churches have less than 200 people.**
- **73 percent of churches have less than 100 people.**
- **50 percent of churches of 50 people or fewer.**

Many churches have a “come to us” mentality. They think that if we have a building and we pray for the lost to be saved, a steady stream is going to start coming in each week. The gospel says in the Matthew 28:19 for us to “go” and “preach” the gospel.

Not sit and wait for things to happen. A mentality of sitting has never got us anything we wanted.

If you wanted to ask a girl out, did you sit around hoping and praying she would start dating you, or did you act? Prayer works with active faith. As James says, in chapter 2:19-20, "faith without works is dead or useless." If you pray for a opportunity to get a education, if you are a young person, or for a job if your in the work force, would you not do the things necessary to get the result, like go to college, study, take tests? Or make a job resume, do interviews? So it is with evangelism, we must pray, give it to God and then get to work and find ways to reach the lost.

The church is a museum! Is a complaint from many. To many churches are emotionless, stagnate, filled with dry husks. WE must change our attitudes to recognize the need to reach others and find our passion again.

We are commanded in Romans 12:11, to be passion-filled people. Not passionless!

What would you think of a cafeteria where the staff members showed up for work at the proper time each morning, the management lets them in and then promptly locks the doors, and the staff spends all day making food for each other? Is that the role of a food business?

Most churches are no longer "soul saving" institutions. They are focused on just having worship for the members but in not sharing their spiritual food, (teachings of truth) with the lost local community. Churches are just involved with planning their services and the things involved with the building and worship, yet they ignore the bigger picture. That church is a place to bring people to Christ. Not just feed the saved.

To many of God's people have a maintenance mentality, instead of a outreach attitude. Most churches don't try to format a active outreach campaign. Most preachers and elders don't lead the charge or actively do outreach. Churches with no evangelism vision are not going to grow in numbers through saving souls. Simple

as that. Preachers, elders, Christians need to step up and lead others in such important spiritual pursuits.

Most churches would rather spend their money on updating the church windows or renovating the furniture then get members and funds together to do monthly outreach in things like door knocking, flea market/campus work. While the church building gets smaller, the funds get smaller, the leaders focus on such activities, does that make sense?

Most churches want to pay for a preacher to feed them with spiritual food in services and ignore the starving world without. This needs to change, when Christians do nothing, the only result will be nothing! If we want change, we must step up.

Note: Have notes in this article from the book: **Hearts of Fire by Don Humphrey. I don't endorse the "church funded secular social" elements the author mentioned in this book. The Bible is silent in this matter. Col 3:17/1 Peter 4:11. The rest is pretty spot on and inspiring. Encourage you to get the book.**

For other articles I wrote see this FB page link

<https://www.facebook.com/A-Cup-of-Joe-117473998655339/>