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**REACHING THE INNER CITY**

**Dr. Mike Wells**

Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Romans 10:1 “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

**THE GREAT NEED TO REACH THE INNER CITY**

1. It is God’s will that everybody hear the Gospel.

A. That means everybody in your neighborhood.

B. That means everybody in your town.

C. That means everybody in your city.

D. That means everybody in your state.

E. That means everybody in the world.

2. We have a lofty responsibility as those that know the truth of the Gospel to get it out around the world.

3. A part of that world that we often neglect is our inner cities.

4. Most of the inner cities in America are filled with areas of crime, poverty, government aided living, poor character, and broken families.

5. Oftentimes the people that live in these areas in our inner cities are not loved or even wanted by the middle income society of America.

6. Even churches nowadays have neglected their responsibility in reaching such people and bringing them into their local church.

7. What will change the inner cities crime rate, hostility, broken families, and even its economical standard is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

8. Let’s never forget that the Gospel changes a man from the inside out. The Holy Spirit does a marvelous job in convicting a believer when he strays from the truth.

9. But in order for there to be a person who receives the Gospel there must be a person to give the Gospel.

**HOW CAN GOD USE US INDIVIDUALLY AND THROUGH OUR LOCAL CHURCHES TO REACH THE INNER CITIES**

1. Be a personal soul winner all the time.

A. It is one thing to go soul winning at a set time during the week. This is a start.

B. It is another thing to BE a soul winner all the time. This is better.

2. Look for ways to reach the inner city.

A. Bus Routes

B. Bible Clubs

C. Targeted Soul Winning Days

D. In Home Bible Study

E. Evangelistic Meetings

F. Salvation Video shown in community centers.

G. Training personal soul winners that live in the community.

H. Starting an independent Baptist local church.

I. Tract attack.

J. Food distribution – Gospel rally

K. Preaching the Gospel in local parks. ( after gathering a crowd for the local event)

L. Have a Special Event for the sole purpose of giving out the gospel.

i. Make up a flyer promoting the event.

ii. Blitz the area prior to the event. Preferably 2 weeks out.

iii. Have your event divided up into 4 areas.

a. Registration area, then meet in welcome area

b. Welcome area and give the Gospel

c. Dismiss for game – divide children from teens

d. Grab food and dismissed

**RUNNING BUSES TO REACH THE INNER CITY**

1. I would suggest that this be at a designated time.

2. Perhaps you could run them on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday afternoon.

3. Keep in mind that inner city street kids are different than kids that are raised on a farm or that come up in a two parent household.

4. Many of our children that come in on our c routes have never met their fathers, hear gunfire nightly on the streets, and are used to seeing drug deals on a regular basis. Some of them live in very dangerous areas.

5. If you are to bring a young person in that is use to surviving in such an arena and put them in a Sunday school class with a child that knows no such lifestyle the parents of that child would most certainly have a difficult challenge in accepting this.

6. However, we have a responsibility to reach everyone, therefore, you may want to run these busses at different times so that you can fully concentrate on how to help these young people.

7. Some of these young people will become the sweetest young people that you will ever meet AFTER they get saved and grow in the Lord.

8. You will have to be patient with them, yet straight forward in your Bible preaching.

9. You will have to spend extra time with them in winning their confidence and training them .

10. Just like with any bus route or Sunday School program, it takes a person that has a special gift and leading to work in any one of these given programs.

11. The pastor needs to be the one first that has the burden and the vision to organize any and all special programs to reach the lost and train the new believers.

12. Do not allow your fears or apprehensions to overtake you in these endeavors.