

D. Implementing Your Follow-up Visitation

- Schedule special visitation times - try to visit everyone within two weeks of Crusade
- Pray for visitation teams
 - ✦ For wisdom, discernment, leading of Holy Spirit, boldness, etc.
- Pray for the new believers
 - ✦ to understand the Gospel
 - ✦ to believe the Gospel
 - ✦ for repentance
 - ✦ for assurance of salvation
- Determine spiritual condition - ask diagnostic questions
- Share the Gospel with other family members/roommates
- Check progress in "Download" booklet
- Answer any questions they may have
- Invite them to Sunday School and church
 - ✦ Make arrangements to pick them up
 - ✦ Sit with them in Sunday School and worship
- Pray for them before you leave

E. Discipling the New Believer

- Establish a New Believers Sunday School Class (may need to have adult and youth classes). Topics to cover:
 - ✦ Assurance of salvation
 - ✦ Church membership
 - ✦ Personal devotion/quiet time
 - ✦ Tithing principles
 - ✦ Church doctrine
- Continue the discipleship process by offering courses like:
 - ✦ Experiencing God
 - ✦ Master Life
 - ✦ Evangelism Training
 - ✦ Spiritual Gifts Training
- Assign a mentor to meet regularly with them

F. Developing Relationships

- Assign a pen pal to write them
- Plan special fellowship times
 - ✦ Coffee and doughnuts before Sunday School
 - ✦ Luncheon after worship
 - ✦ Covered Dish Dinner
 - ✦ Youth events, i.e. pizza party, movie night, etc.
- Cell groups



Follow-up Training



"Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" Matt 28:19-20

Just as a newborn baby requires love and nourishment in order to grow, a new believer requires the caring compassionate follow-up of the local church. Not only does the local church have the main responsibility for follow-up, it is also in the best position to make disciples of those committing their lives to Christ.

Go Tell Crusades
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In follow-up, we move from obstetrics to pediatrics. The local church is a pediatric center - a spiritual nursery - that specializes in caring for the newborn. Though it may take only thirty minutes to convert a soul, it could take thirty months to grow a disciple. Maturity is not an overnight proposition.

While it is a thrill to watch a new baby, the task of rearing one can be agonizing at times because . . .

- ❖ Newborns are totally irresponsible.
- ❖ They don't know how to behave.
- ❖ They don't know right from wrong.
- ❖ They make messes.
- ❖ They don't know what you mean when you talk to them.
- ❖ They can't feed themselves.
- ❖ They are defenseless.

Patience and perseverance are the keys to effective follow-up. Babies left unattended will die and the same is true for the new Christian. Churches must develop a strategy to reach those who make a decision at the Crusade and incorporate them into a church family.

DEVELOPING A FOLLOW-UP STRATEGY

1. The task of local church follow-up includes four goals:

- A. **Edification** ~ the new babe in Christ needs to be fed spiritually. The Apostle Peter writes, *"You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation"* (I Peter 2:2). As local church leaders you are charged with feeding the flock (I Peter 5:1-2). The food is the milk of the Word. Therefore it is imperative to get new converts under the preaching of the Word.
- B. **Establishment** ~ all babies need to experience bonding. The baby not only needs food, but also love and acceptance as a family member. Establishment into a church family is essential. The Apostle Paul reminds the church members at Thessalonica how, *"we were as gentle among you as a mother feeding and caring for her children"* (I Thes. 2:7) And *"we treated each of you as a father treats his own children"* (I Thes. 2:11) Mothers are gentle and nourishing. Fathers set limitations, discipline, guide, and put their arms around their sons and daughters when they fail. The purpose of this relational process is, *"that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."* (I Thes. 2:12)

C. **Equipping** ~ as the new Christians grow, they should be taught to contribute to the needs and welfare of the family. In the beginning a baby must be fed by others, then he begins to feed himself, until finally as a mature Christian he is able to feed others. *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"* (2 Tim 2:2). The job of the church is to equip the new believer to become a mature, reproducing member of the body.

D. **Evangelism** ~ When people reach adulthood, they usually get married and start a family of their own. Likewise, spiritual reproduction should be the natural consequence of reaching maturity in Christ. The local church should provide members with organized intentional outreach opportunities. A convert has not been fully disciplined until he has become a soul winner himself. When he reaches this state the evangelistic process has come full circle.

2. Formulate a Follow-up Plan - a follow-up procedure must be in place in order to receive the decision list.

- A. Determine who you will follow-up on
- Your church preference
 - No church preference
 - Salvations, recommitments
 - All decisions
- B. Enlisting Your Phone Calling Team
- Recruit and train team before Crusade begins
 - ↳ Utilize Telephone Committee
 - Calls should be made within 72 hours of decision
 - Purpose of call:
 - ↳ Congratulate their decision
 - ↳ Encourage church attendance, Bible reading, prayer, witnessing
 - ↳ Answer basic questions
 - ↳ Pray with them
 - ↳ Encourage attendance to new believer's class.
- C. Building Your Follow-up Team
- Pray for laborers
 - Existing outreach/evangelism teams
 - Crusade counselors
 - Pastoral staff/deacons/elders/church leaders
 - Anyone who will say, *"Here I am Lord, send me."*

