

BRING THEM IN KEEP THEM IN

USING CHRIST'S METHOD
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The Great Commission states, "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen.' "

OUR OLD METHOD

RESULT OF OLD METHOD

THE FOUR HEARERS
MATT. 13:1-9

. "The wayside hearers are those superficial hearers upon whom the truths of the gospel have no effect."

Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1980). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 5, p. 404). Review and Herald Publishing Association.

Such people never decide for baptism
at any evangelistic effort.

"The gospel seed that falls into the hearts of stony-ground hearers finds enough soil to germinate, but the soil is shallow and the effect of the gospel is at best superficial. The gospel appeals to their emotions, and they are quick to react to it, but the impression made by it passes with the fickle tide of emotion."

Ibid.

This class are the ones who are baptized after a campaign but they soon slip back into their old ways and leave the church.

In thorny ground the tender plants did not wither as rapidly as they did in the stony ground. Similarly, the experience of thorny-ground Christians progresses further than that of the stony-ground hearers.

They make what appears to be a real start, and apparently they experience justification and the new birth. But they soon become 'weary in well doing' (Gal. 6:9) and do not 'go on unto perfection' (Heb. 6:1).

These are the group of Christians
that eventually leave the church
after a long struggle with the cares
of this world.

The good ground hearers are those who are genuinely converted and forever remain so. They go on to produce plenty of fruit. This refers to the fruit of character (see Gal. 5:22, 23).

It is noteworthy that "the 'ground' is 'good' simply because it yields to the plowshare of truth, because it responds to the softening influence of the Holy Spirit."

Ibid.

It is interesting to note that according to Ellen White, "the wayside, the stony-ground, the thorny-ground hearers need not remain such."

Christ's Object Lessons (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1941), 56.

The sowers of the seed have a work to do in preparing hearts to receive the gospel. In the ministry of the word there is too much sermonizing, and too little of real heart-to-heart work. There is need of personal labor for the souls of the lost.

Ibid., p. 57.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.' "

The Ministry of Healing P. 143.

SMALL GROUP

Since 2009

Melchor A. Ferreyra's testimony

Oyeleke A. Owolabi' s testimomy

The formation of small companies as
a basis of Christian effort has been
presented to me by One who cannot
err.

The small groups approach affords us the opportunity to mingle with prospects as ones who desire their good, show our sympathy for them, minister to their needs, and win their confidence. Then we bid them,
'Follow Me

It is thus that the wayside, stony-ground and thorny-ground hearers are made receptive to the gospel and for that matter, retention rate is increased greatly.

SMALL GROUP AND RELATIONSHIP

CONCLUSION

To bring them in, and keep them in,
we just have to use Christ's method
alone.