

WHY DO WE EVANGELIZE?

1. Christ commanded it; Apostles directed this:
 - a. Matthew 28:19-20 "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."
 - b. John 4:35, Luke 10:2 "the fields are white unto harvest but the laborers are few. Ask the Lord of harvest, therefore, to send out workers...Go..."
 - c. 1 Peter 3: Peter commands believers to "always be...prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." "wives...they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives"
2. Our joy overflows:
 - a. Acts 8:4: "... At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ... Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word."
 - b. spread out over the whole world, proclaiming the gospel, striving to preach where Jesus was unknown -- Acts 1:8; Titus 2:11; Romans 16:26; Romans 15:20-21
3. Love compels us:
 - a. Consider how richly God has loved us (1 John 3:1, 4:10).
 - b. If we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 7:12), we should love them as we have been loved,
4. Sharing our joy builds ourselves
 - a. We grow spiritually – we are engaging with God in his work; bearing fruit (Gal 5)
 - b. God is praised -- How are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14-15); Ephesian 1:6 "In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship...to the praise of his glorious grace"
 - c. Gift of God: "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:6, 11-12

HOW DO WE DO THIS AT CMR?

1. Every Christian is involved
 - a. Your personal ministry
 - b. Our open door policy
2. We have hired an evangelist
 - a. Ministry of the Word
3. We support the work of "missions"
 - a. Foreign Missions Committee
 - b. Russia
 - c. Argentina
 - d. Swaziland
 - e. Individual members

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR FELLOW MAN?

1. Evangelism, but not just evangelism:
 1. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'" (Matthew 7:21-23)
2. Christ's mission:
 1. Preach repentance
 2. Announce the Kingdom of God
 3. Echoes of Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."¹
3. Benevolence/Doing Good Works: We notice that the first church in Jerusalem was very active doing its worship, teaching, and benevolent work there in Jerusalem (Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4:32-35, Acts 6:1-7). So other churches responded in places like Galatia, Achaia, and Macedonia, and began giving assistance sacrificially to assist their brethren in Judea (1Corinthians 16:1-3, 2Corinthians 8:1-5, 2Corinthians 9:1-5). Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." James 1:26-27 "And let us not grow weary while doing good...Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all." Galatians 6:9-10.

BENEVOLENCE

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Definition in Merriam-Webster's Dictionary: Disposition to do good.

Purpose of Benevolence Ministry: To use the funds (money) of the church to meet needs of individuals, members, and non-members, as well as to support organizations that have Christian attributes.

Examples of Benevolence in Scripture:

Luke 19:8-10 Zacchaeus gives half his wealth to the poor. (Individual)

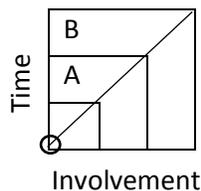
Luke 21:1-4 Widow's two small copper coins. We must use this money wisely because people give out of their poverty. They give sacrificially to the church. We can't spend it without thinking about it.

Mark 8:1-9 Jesus feeds the 4000. He had compassion on them.

Acts 2:42-47 Example of how the early church was able to meet the needs of its members.

1. What are some characteristics of a good Benevolence Ministry?
2. What sorts of things do you want the Benevolence Ministry to get involved in?

Example of graph:



Type of opportunity to serve that reaches the most people. (Corporate)

3. What are some things we can do to help us all be more aware of opportunities to serve on an individual basis?
4. If you have suggestions, contact Tim Wood in any way/shape/form that you are comfortable with.