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Bible Forethoughts

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THE REWARDS OF CAMPAIGNING

By Jerry Jones

The primary goal of the church is the salvation of souls. In the past few years several congregations have been using the campaign method of evangelization. Actually this is not a new method but just an elaboration upon methods that have been used in the past. The famous Hardeman Tabernacle meetings conducted in Nashville, Tennessee, many years ago are very similar to the campaigns that we are conducting today. Christian people throughout the nation are asked to assist and help in these campaigns. Some of these campaigns are conducted in large metropolitan cities and sometimes in large cities where the church is extremely weak. There have been several campaigns conducted abroad. When a Christian is confronted with the idea of going on a campaign, he must ask, "What are the rewards of campaigning?" Notice some of the rewards of soul winning and campaign work which will perhaps induce many Christians who have not availed themselves of this wonderful spiritual feast to plan to go on a campaign in some area of the world in the very near future.

One of the great rewards of campaigning is having the feeling of fellowship with Christ and his co-workers. In II Corinthians 6:1 Paul said that we are workers with him. It is wonderful to realize that we are actually co-workers with Christ. Christ has no feet but our feet, no hands but our hands. So not only is this fellowship with Christ, but also with the Christians with whom we are working.

In campaigning one has the opportunity to develop greater Christian character. In Acts 4:13 the people marvelled and were amazed at the knowledge of Peter and John. When they realized that these were unlearned and ignorant men, they made a statement concerning these men that is very important; "These men must have been with Jesus."

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IN ALL REMAINING MONTHS.

Being associated with Christ changes one's character. In Matthew 11:28-30 we find that we are to walk with Christ.

Through campaigning and personal work one is able to develop his talents. We understand from Matthew 25 that people have various degrees of ability. Many of us are diamonds in the rough, but we need opportunities to become greater workers for the Lord. The Bible commands us to mature in Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18). By campaigning and doing personal work one begins to develop the talents that God has given him and discharges the responsibility that God placed upon him in Matthew 25.

Another reward in campaigning is the lasting friendships that are formed. There are people in towns and countries that have never known the Lord Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of their sins. Perhaps it is going to be on some lonely street in some large metropolitan area that we will find an open door and an open heart to the gospel of Christ. Some of the finest friends I have are those that I have been able to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ. These people, of course have a great appreciation for you, because you took time to tell them about the Lord.

Another advantage in doing campaign work is the "joy unspeakable." Paul refers to many of the people that he converted as "my joy and my crown" (Philippians 4:1). In II John 3 John said, "For I rejoice greatly when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, in as thou walkest in the truth." John was encouraged because of the report that he heard about the brethren. When you win a soul to Jesus Christ, you will experience joy unspeakable.

Campaigning and personal work give purpose to one's life. In II Corinthians 5:20 Paul says we are ambassadors for Jesus Christ. We are Christ's representatives here on earth. He is staking his reputation upon us.

Campaigning crowds out worldliness and unnecessary activities, since your time is spent

working for the Lord Jesus Christ. It is very easy to become overwhelmed by this world's offerings and to miss the true and spiritual things of life.

One of the greater rewards of campaigning and personal work is that one has a greater awareness of his dependence upon God. Campaigning drives a person to more prayer. In doing personal work many times one uses all of the persuasive techniques and teaching aids that are available, but seemingly to no avail with a particular prospect. Finally after we have said and done all that we can, we have to get on our knees in prayer and ask for more guidance and help from God.

All of the things mentioned are great rewards for campaigning and personal work, and any one of these would be a justifiable reason for going on a campaign. But one many times asks the question, "Why should I go on a campaign to some other place in the United States, or even some other place in the world, when there is so much work to do in my home community?" This could be a justifiable reason if we were doing all in the home community that we should be doing. But the truth of the matter is that many times we are not winning souls in campaigning for Christ even in our home community. When one goes to a community outside his own, he becomes aware of the need for teaching Jesus Christ to others. Upon returning from a campaign, whether far or near, he usually returns to be a better teacher, personal worker, elder, deacon, wife or mother. Many Christians who were just "average" in their work for the Lord in their home congregation before going on a campaign have returned zealous and on fire for the Lord. Some congregations are sending groups of their members, anywhere from six to twelve, on these campaigns, because they know when they return they will be better people.

Find a campaign that you are par-

ticularly interested in or an area where you think you could be of great service. Contact those in charge of this campaign and volunteer your services. Remember, every Christian must answer the question, "Will there be someone in heaven because I lived?"

STUDENTS PUT CAMPAIGN IDEAS TO WORK

During the last six week period students from Harding College have engaged in evangelistic campaigns in congregations varying in size from 70 to 700 members and in states in both the north central and southern regions of the United States. Approximately 361 workers have gone door to door, making at least 26,136 calls with significant results.

At this time 1,217 home Bible studies have been arranged, 3,599 Bible correspondence courses subscribed, 39 persons baptized and 58 restored. Each day brings reports of increase in the statistics resulting from the efforts of these campaigns.

Cities reached by these efforts are Donovan, Mo.; Davenport, Iowa; Freeport, Ill.; Baton Rouge, La.; Tulsa, Okla.; Little Rock and Searcy, Ark.; and several neighboring Arkansas towns. Additional campaigns are planned for Indianapolis, Ind.; Morenci, Ariz.; Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany; Australia; and the northeast regions of the United States.

We are receiving letters each week asking for students to come and help conduct week-end campaigns. At the present time approximately 22 per cent of the student body at Harding is committed or has participated in

one or more of these evangelistic efforts.

Concerning the Tulsa campaign, Delmar Owens, minister for the East Side congregation, commented, "The campaign conducted by 100 students from Harding College under the leadership of W. Joe Hacker, chairman of the Bible Department, has been a greater boost to this work than anything in recent years. This one day's work resulted in more than 200 home studies being set up and more than 225 correspondence courses arranged. Many of these home studies were in the shadow of our building.

"Too much religion today is building-centered and I would strongly urge any church or churches to have this fine group with you for a day's work. In addition to the classes and correspondence courses arranged, the operation has been an indescribable boost to our work. We have more people now working than we have ever had in our history, and we feel that much of this can be attributed to the zeal and dedication of the students from Harding College."

**Plan to Attend 1967
Christian Workers'
Workshop**

"Leadership, A Sacred Trust"

- Bible Teachers Workshop
- Leadership Forum
- Youth Forum

August 7-10, 1967

~~Miss Shirley Birdsall~~
Harding College
Searcy, Arkansas 72144

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