

**EVANGELISM METHOD IN A SELECTED PLACE IN GHANA**

By

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The work of evangelism and church planting is core to the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord desires that we preach the word and expand His kingdom. The work of preaching is the means by which God would save mankind. Paul was right when he said; “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” No matter how wise the world seems to be, it cannot save itself. It is only through the gospel that the power of God to save would be activated by obedience. In this paper I seek to explore the various applicable evangelism methods suitable for planting the church of our Lord in a typical local area in Ghana. These methods and strategies would not be a mere strategy book but a practical method that can be easily implemented by anyone who chance upon this work.

## **OUR THEOLOGY**

The secret of church planting is “the planting of the cross of Christ”. This implies that for us to be successful we need to go into the community with the message. This is simply the message of the cross. It is about the wisdom of God which has the power to save. The power of God to save is through the message. Paul in Romans chapter 1 verse 16 said; “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” From Paul’s message, the gospel of Christ must be preached so that people can hear. Jesus said that if the people do not believe, they shall perish (John 12:48). So the faith of the people is very important as it sets the pace for other things to follow, example, for salvation to be obtained. But how can people believe, how can they have faith in the Lord? This faith, the scriptures say, comes by hearing as stated by Paul.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:9-17).

My family and I shall therefore make known to the people at Ghana the manifold wisdom of God. Since the people there are predominantly denominational members, muslims, and idol worshippers, our message will be such that we can persuade them. God in the beginning created Heaven and Earth and everything in it. He made man and gave him dominion over everything He (God) has made (Gen. 1:26-31). But man (man and woman) disobeyed God and fell through the temptation of the devil (Gen. 3:1-6). God drove man away from His presence, and prevented

man from eating the fruit of the tree of life. Man from that time fell short of the glory of God. Mankind did not prosper in all our endeavors, we became like sheep without a shepherd (Rom. 3:23). But God, who is merciful and gracious, had an eternal purpose even before the foundation of the earth. So while we were still sinners He loved us and sent His only begotten Son to die for us (John 3:16). He allowed man to sacrifice His Son to atone for mankind's iniquities. For God set forth Jesus Christ as a propitiation by His blood for all who will believe. This was accomplished when His Son came through a virgin into this world. He preached about the Kingdom of God and showed the path that leads to God. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The Spirit of the Lord God was conceived. He was born and dwelt among the Jews. He grew in the lands of the Jews. His name was Jesus. He increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. He had followers whom He taught about the Love of God and the Kingdom of God. When the time was due, He was arrested, rejected, crucified and killed. All these, He endured and offered Himself to be killed. Though He had power to save Himself from the crucifiers, He sacrificed His life for the atonement of the sins of man. He died after knowing that all things were accomplished (John 19:28-30). He was buried according to the custom of the Jews (John 19:38-42). However, on the third day He rose from the dead and was seen by many (Luke 24:1-6). This is the Gospel. It is the message we preach to all. It is the death, burial and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-15). This was well understood when the Lord appeared to His disciples after His resurrection and explained to them that all that is written about Him in the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled. That it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ (Savior) to suffer and to rise from the dead, the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations (Luke 24:44-48). Jesus Christ commissioned His disciples as well as we who believe today, saying

“All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth” therefore He commissioned His apostles as well as all Christians to go into all the nations preaching the good news to the world and baptizing those who believe. We will therefore persuade the people of Ghana that God has a plan for redeeming man. He wants all mankind to hear this good news (Rom. 10:14), believe this message (John 8:24), and be ready to turn away from their sins in repentance (Acts 3:19), and allow themselves to be washed and cleaned through baptism (Acts 2:38). This has been the plan of God to save all after the cross. In addition, we will declare to the people of Ghana, that God has used the blood of His Son to purchase the church (Acts 20:28). This church has the people who have been bought to be priests and kings for our God (Rev. 5:9-10). Therefore, anyone who allows himself to be baptized will be added to the church by the Lord. Because the Lord adds to the Church daily those who are being saved (Acts 2:47).

### **THE CULTURE OF THE PEOPLE**

Culture is the way of behaving, thinking and reacting. It constitutes the unique way of life of a people or their design for living. Ghana is a country but will be best described as an underdeveloped country. For the purpose of this strategic work, we shall pick a typical town that has the characteristics of a city, town and village in an African country like Ghana. This town is called Bedomasi. It has a population of about three thousand five hundred adults with the age bracket of about 17 years to 92 years. The people there are more connected on family ties but relate to each member of the village as kinsmen. The occupation of the people is predominantly farming. This is such that they go to their farms early in the morning from the hours of 5am to 10am and mostly return after 2pm. Some return as late as 5pm to 7pm. Their farming machineries are absolute primary tools. They do not do mechanized farming and hence more human efforts are

applied in the farms, both cultivating and harvesting. This result in tiredness after the day's work and can hinder a total concentration.

**Language:** The People of Bedomasi are mostly Asantes and those who are not can still speak the Twi language very well. Less than half of the population can speak English language and hence it is proper to use the Twi language in that setting.

**Religion:** The people of Bedomasi are very religious. They are predominantly Christians by denominations. Though some exist in the community who worship in their ancestral ways, they are also church goers. The predominant denomination is the Seventh Day Adventist and the Methodist Church. Even though there are other churches like Assemblies of God and the Pentecost Church, almost 60% of the people associate themselves with the S.D.A and the Methodist. This is simply because they were the first to have started their mission works there. To the advantage of us, the people have not been well taught in scriptures, they are not brainwashed too much to be able to ignore the truth. The only difficulty is the fact that they follow those in the leadership of their denominations. Our target will therefore be those leading those denominations because if we win them, the rest of the people will easily accept the truth.

**Immoral:** There are all sorts of sinful behavior in the daily lives of the people of Bedomasi. There are sexual immoralities there; the practice of polygamy which is adulterous and fornication is in rampant. From as young people as the age of 12 years to the elderly, the people have given themselves to sexual immorality. This has resulted in teenage pregnancies and other related problems. Most of the girls are unable to complete their basic schools and a sizable amount of the boys are school dropouts. As destructive this situation may be to my family and I as missionaries as well as other groups and individuals we would want to engaged in this work, we believe the

gospel is powerful enough to turn around the hearts of man. Another serious problem is the sin of alcoholism and drugs. These people start their day with alcohol and go to bed almost always drunk. There are also young adults who engage in the smoking of marijuana and other intoxicated drugs. These people, therefore, need the word of God which can set them free. They have been enslaved by these sins and need to be freed.

### **OUR GOAL**

As Christians, we have been commissioned to send the message of the kingdom to all nations and all kinds of people (Mat. 28:18-20). Therefore our mission is simply to preach the gospel of Christ as commanded and help to make men right with God. The people who believed and obey in Acts chapter 2 were together and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2). Congregations should also be able to propagate the gospel and help establish other congregations in the area. We believe that every congregation that we help to establish should also be self-governing where each congregation will have her own elders who have control over the congregates within them. (1 Thess. 5:11-12; 1 Pet. 5:1-5). We believe in church cooperation and that is why we have cooperated with Agona church of Christ congregation and KNUST church of Christ congregation to set up the Bedomasi church of Christ. Bedomasi congregation should independently be able to organize their own evangelism and other activities without the influence of other churches after its establishment.

### **OUR STRATEGY**

Our strategy is to use every proper avenue to draw the people near and to preach the gospel unto them. Therefore the “social gospel” strategy where missionaries make it a first plan to send healthcare, education, other social supports and socially beneficial programs would be used but but

such would not be our primary objective. We believe that as much as we can assist in providing some social programs for them to benefit, what the people really need is the word of God which would set them free from the bondage of sin. We believe that we can assist them to come to the light. We conducted a feasibility study in the town before choosing them. When we consider the feasibility study we conducted before concluding that we can plant a church in this community, we saw that the people have believed lies by the denominational teachings. We also saw that the people are zealously worshipping God but lack the knowledge of the New Testament pattern. We could be helping them if we could do a free health screening for the community since they travel miles to gain access to health care. We want them to know the whole council of God and accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord, but we offer something they need in their lives then add the gospel which is the ultimate. The strategy is therefore to preach the gospel and make the people of Bedomasi to know the truth. We want to reconcile them to God. We will want to declare the message to the elderly people as our topmost targets. We shall do this by looking for the influential people in the town to preach to. We want to reason with them from the scriptures. They, after accepting can become open doors for the entire people in the community to accept the gospel. Furthermore, we will target the educated (literate) among them. Strategically, we know that as we plant a congregation in such an area, we would need to train those who can lead the church and be able to train others. Especially, men who can pick up the running of the church. We will target a learned men who can read tracts and study to teach and manage the congregation. We believe that the influential people will make our work easier in reaching out to most of the people, however, for the church to be self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating congregation, we need to train people to especially teachers who will be able to teach others. Another strategy that we will adopt is



targeting of family heads. Bedomasi as a town of Akan people have homes or family houses that are headed by elderly males or sometimes fathers. Women and children are more likely to follow their husbands and fathers respectively to their church. This implies that winning a soul in the capacity of a husband or a father is winning a household. This strategy is the Cornelius strategy where we look for opportunities to speak to entire household through the permission of the head of the home (Acts 10:17-48). All these (above) strategies will commence after we have dedicated our entire idea to God. We shall have a fasting and prayers for the program. This will take place the week preceding the week of the mission program (Acts 13:1-5).

## **OUR METHOD**

### **Local Authorities Permission**

The Ghanaian communities are made up of cities, towns, and villages headed by kings or chiefs and their local government authorities. We will visit the chief and his elders at Bedomasi to seek for their permission for us to go to their land to preach the gospel. After meeting with them, on that same day we will meet the Assemblyman and his unit committee which is the local government representative in the town. Bedomasi is a place which is a city/town yet looks more skewed to a village setting. The permit if granted by the chief and the local government will ensure peace and order. The people in the town accord these leaders with much respect and so must we do same. (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-7).

### **Surrounding Congregations**

Bedomasi is about seven kilometers away from Agona a major town which has a congregation of the Lord's Church. We would like to link up with the leadership of Agona church of Christ. This

will build a good initial relationship between the church we will be planting and that of Agona. We shall need some of their members to come and help in planting the new church. Other surrounding congregations are Jamasi church of Christ, Bepoa church of Christ, etc which we shall cooperate with in making the work a success.

### **Supporting Congregation**

As a mission method, we seek to great an impressive awareness of the new congregation in the town. We believe a way to achieve that is public singing, public preaching, massive personal one on one bible studies. This can be achieved by collaborating with a predominantly youthful congregation. The congregation which we planned to collaborate is the KNUST church of Christ, which is a university campus church. This congregation has a relatively young men and women who have dedicated their time and love for the work as they go on school vacations. Going for a missionary work during school vacation holidays has been the core work of KNUST Church. We will go with them to the war front as we preach house to house and door to door to rescue the perishing (Matt. 28:18-20). The KNUST Church will provide about two hundred members (both men and women) who will help in singing and personal work. Other strong congregations like Nsawam Road church of Christ at Accra, Adum church of Christ at Kumasi, and Old Tafo church of Christ also at Kumasi will help in embarking on this Church planting work.

### **The Planned Program**

The one week gospel campaign and church planting will be done in May 2017. As afore mentioned the main objectives is to plant a church, we have therefore outlined these programs for the week.

#### **a. Dawn Broadcast and Songs**

We shall embark on dawn broadcast where we will walk through the street of Bedomasi town-ship with songs of praises and hymns. The young men and women together with the entire members who will travel to Bedomasi will be singing praises early in the morning for 6 days Monday to Saturday at 4:30am each day. This is to showcase how it is to serve the Lord with our voices. We shall leave two to three member groups behind with megaphones in the street as we sing and march through every corner of the town. These groups will be informing the people who we are and our mission in the town. They will request their permission for the members to approach them during the day to share the gospel with them. In addition they will preach the gospel to them at the same time each day.

#### **b. Usage of Information Center**

There is an information center at Bedomasi town which is in the form of a mini radio broadcast where big megaphones (horns) are hanged on high poles for communicating information to the people of Bedomasi. We shall make a good use of this medium. During the dawn broadcast some of the preachers will be assigned to preach on it. This medium will also be used during our evening public preaching. We believe that the use of the information center will help carry the gospel message to the surrounding villages which we cannot visit in the dawn and also prevent the owners from using it to distort the hearing of our message to the people in the town in case they choose to play songs or broadcast something to distract our hearers. We will hence pay for the use in all the days we will stay there.

#### **c. Personal Works (Heart To Heart)**

During the day, after we have returned from the dawn broadcast and have rested, we will go back into the town and enter every house to teach the people. We shall do this every day from the hours of 9am to 5pm between which we shall have a lunch break (12pm to 1.30pm). This is designed to make the members which we have put into groups of two or three to sit one on one and face to face with the people and study the word of God. This will be done from house to house and door to door. We will share with them the wisdom of God, the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Church He has purchased with His own blood. We believe this will help us make personal contact with the people and establish relationships. It will also help us to create prospect for subsequent studies and follow ups. This method was used by the early church and the apostles in Acts 20:20-21: “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

#### **d. Public Preaching**

This is where we will mount podium and speak to invited prospects and the general public. Here our preachers will have allotted topics on each day and to preach to the people. This will be carried out in the evenings when almost all the people have returned from their farms and other workplaces. The information center will be used to broadcast the message as stated above. The public preaching will be scheduled from Monday to Saturday in which our preachers will be given selected topics. The topics will be carefully selected to deal with the problem of the people and their ignorance of the scriptures. We believe it will help us persuade them to believe the truth

and offer themselves for baptism. The following are the topics and the days they will be discussed:

DAY 1: *THE VARIOUS DISPENSATIONS AND THE COVENANTS OF GOD WITH MAN*(How To Understand the Bible and the Sabbath Worship of the Jews)

DAY 2: *THE GREATEST PROBLEM OF MAN*(SIN)

DAY 3: *GOD'S UTMOST SOLUTION TO MAN'S PROBLEM* (The Plan of Salvation).

DAY 4: *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST* (Prophecies and it's Establishment)

DAY 5: *IDENTIFICATION MARKS OF THE CHURCH TODAY* (The Worship of the church versus denominational worship)

DAY 6: *FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS AND THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD.*

We believe that after preaching these messages to the people, those who didn't understand the Bible will have understanding. Those who have not heard of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the Church He purchased will hear and have the knowledge about God's salvation plan. Those in the denominations especially the Adventists and the Methodists who are dominant in the town will know the way God want us to worship in terms of prayers, singing, Lord's Supper etc and how public worships are to be conducted. We will finally caution them about the second coming of the Lord and the need for them to flee the wrath of God. We shall preach all these to them as we have been charged by the Lord and His apostles (2 Tim 4:1-5).

### **THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH**

On the first day of the week (Sunday) after we have finished the entire planned program, we will have our first worship in the town. We will invite people whom we have studied with and all

those who would have offer themselves for baptism during the week. This will be the commencement of the church of Christ at Bedomasi. We will have a meal fellowship with all our visitors and the new converts. We will invite some brethren from Agona church to join us so that we can hand over the prospect list and discuss plans for follow ups.

### **CONTINUITY OF THE CHURCH AND ASSISTANCE**

We believe that the local congregation is autonomous. This means that the new church we will plant at Bedomasi is not an exception. The church needs to be self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating congregation. However, before we get leadership to manage it, the leaders of Agona church will be asked to be care takers till the a preacher is employed. We would strategize to employ a permanent preacher for the church but in the mean time my family and I will continue to visit the church and do follow ups on the prospects. This is what we will be doing in all our missionary works.

### **ACQUISITION OF LAND AND BUILDING OF A MEETING PLACE**

We have already acquired a land for the building of a meeting place. As policy, we have decided that we will always acquire a land wherever a new congregation is to be planted. This place of meeting will be prepared before the missions work commences. We shall therefore procure the land and hope to handover to the leadership as soon and the church select some. We shall also assist them in building their meeting place.

### **MAJOR CHALLENGES**

Our major challenges that we are anticipating of facing as we prepare toward the campaign's commencement is the date to schedule the program. We would want to have the program on the date that would be convenient to KNUST church which would be providing the personal workers. We also have a huge challenge raising enough finances to feed the number of people coming to participate. Again, we anticipate the works of the devil in hardening the hearts of the people but we pray for fertile soil to receive the seed of the gospel.

### **CONCLUSION**

The “gospel must go” is a popular phrase that is being used to indicate the essentiality of preaching the gospel. However, the urgency of the work does not suggest that it can be done anyhow. For we are mindful of the words of Jeremiah the prophet that “cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully” (Jer. 48:10a). There is not just one method in evangelism. Depending on the culture and other factors, a method may work perfectly but same may not be workable in another place. Therefore, it is paramount to know the area and strategy that would work there. We have much confidence that the location we have adopted and the method we seek to apply would result in great success. Bedomasi is being used for the purpose of strategy/prototype, for any town that would be a strategic place for planting the Lord’s church, however, there is the need to ensure the methods are well implemented. May the Lord give us the increase.

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