

# The Team Pastor/Evangelist

There is no greater joy than meeting the needs of people. The gospel is real. It works! It really does. It works in every culture among every class of people. Jesus Christ is the greatest need of every person in every culture, and you have a great opportunity to share Him.

A medical-dental mission has the effect of a citywide crusade and more. It touches people at the point of their hurt. Every person who comes to a clinic is touched, physically and spiritually. When you think about it, it's just how Jesus ministered.

But it doesn't stop there. Each and every team will return home excited with their lives forever changed for missions. That excitement catches on and others are motivated to participate in missions at home and abroad. Some are called to serve in missions full-time. All nine Field Directors (Earle Elkins, Russell Patterson, Ed Elkins, Jim Baldwin, Eddie Wehmeier, Wil Pounds, Archie Crawford, Rod Smith and Michael Andersen), that have served the mission were all called to the field after they had gone with teams to Honduras.

The Good Shepherd Clinic (a free medical and dental clinic) was started in Laurel by William Wells and a group of men and women involved in missions in Honduras.

Mission giving and total giving is stimulated. It's a win-win situation!

We hope the following suggestions are helpful to you as you participate in fulfilling the great commission of our Lord.

## **USING LITERATURE ON THE FIELD**

The use of literature in evangelism is without question one of the greatest ways known to share the gospel. One of the weighty promises of the Bible is that God's word will not return void.

Two efficient ways to use literature in the context of mission teams is the use of gospel tracts and Bibles.

Gospel tracts can be produced and distributed very economically. Here are a

few suggestions for using tracts.

1. Saturate the village with simple, clear, gospel tracts.
2. Provide each person who attends your worship services with a tract.
3. Provide each patient in your clinic with a tract.
4. Use one tract in your services and another in your clinic.
5. Use bilingual tracts in witnessing. Even if a person doesn't read or speak Spanish, they can witness using this method.
6. Have tracts available on the home and other timely topics.
7. Have a good soul-winning tract for your team members who speak Spanish.
8. Distribute tracts to local churches.
9. Take a minimum of 5,000 gospel tracts with each team.

God's word, the Bible, is always precious in the hands of a believer or unbeliever. Nothing can take the place of the word of God.

Unless you have an unlimited budget, you will have to be selective in Bible distribution.

1. When possible, give a whole Bible as opposed to a New Testament or scripture portion. They are more expensive but well worth the cost.
2. If at all possible give a Bible to every new believer. Though some have been given out in church and some through the pharmacy, we have most recently found it to be MOST effective to leave the Bibles with the local pastor and have him present them at each first home visit or follow-up.
3. Provide the pastor with some Bibles for use in the church. He will know people in need.
4. Give the pastor a nice study Bible. Most pastors in rural areas have very few study aids.
5. Spanish bibles are available for purchase in Honduras from the American Bible Society. You will want to check with the Field Director on prices before ordering. Prices are reasonable especially considering the cost of shipping.

## **THE TEAM PASTOR**

The team pastor should function in at least two ways:

1. He should be a pastor to the team. He should organize team devotional (not DO -- but delegate to men and women) and team share times. He should be sensitive to each member of the team during the week and offer counsel and encouragement.
2. He should lead in the evangelistic efforts of the team by organizing the total outreach program of the team. The mission will take on many aspects of a citywide evangelistic crusade. Evangelism training should be provided for team members before going on the field. Evangelism should be done in church, on the street, and in the clinics. Do not overlook team members' response to God's call. One team captain was saved on the first team with which he participated. Others have responded to God's call to the mission field.

## **Step by Step Example**

1. Registration should begin at 5:45 a.m. at a site at least two blocks away from the clinic and the church. Having your registration, services, and clinic in three separate locations greatly enhances patient flow and makes the time more pleasant for all. Secure enough cards for one day and use those only. Place one person in charge of registration cards and use no other cards without his/her permission. Keep them in a secure location.
2. Your first service should begin at about 7 am depending on your team preference. Try to have 50 to 75 persons in each service. This will keep down long lines and will make it more pleasant in the clinic area. Generally it is a good idea to hold your services at a separate location from the clinic. Your services set the tone for the day. Do not crowd your building. Let it be a time of praise in a comfortable setting. Share information about they are from, the fact that they come at their own expense and use vacation time, etc.). Do your best to demonstrate love. Touch the people. Shake hands. Show concern.

Ask team members to give testimonies.

Share a simple gospel message and expect people to accept the Lord as their Savior. Give them an opportunity to respond to the gospel, fill out a decision card, pray with them and let them return to their seats. Give this information to the Field Director to assure follow-up by a local pastor.

Make this card out of heavy, colored paper.

### **Tarejeta De Decision**

Nombre Completo:

Direcciones:

Para Recibir Cartas:

Para Localizar Su Casa:

Edad:            Sexto:

Decision Que Hizo:

Le Gustaria Estudiar La Biblia Por Correspondencia?

3. Your patients should be in line at the clinic by 8 a.m. depending on your team schedule. By this time your medical team should be in place ready to treat their patients.
4. Begin your second service about 8:00 a.m. Notice the flow of patients through the clinic. You will have to adjust the preaching services according to the flow. Try to keep enough people in line so the medical personnel will have patients, but avoid a huge crowd in the line. Again about 50 people per service is a good number. Do not have long services! Sing a song or two and share a brief evangelistic message.
5. Interact with people in the lines. This is a good time to lead people to Christ and to discover their needs and know their feelings.
6. Encourage your medical personnel to pray and to witness to their patients. A pastoral prayer is always in order, especially for those who have serious problems. We are providing a tract (What am I going to do? Que Voy Hacer?) that is very easy to use and very effective. An English copy should be given to each team member. Copies of the same tract should be at appropriate stations.

After or during treatment the team member should simply read the tract to the patient and a translator can read it at the same time in Spanish. It is important that the team member read it and not just the translator. We are interested in team members increasing their soul winning skills.

7. Try to conclude your patient flow so the clinic can close by 5:00 p.m. each day. Your clinic personnel needs time to relax, eat, visit in the village, and prepare themselves for the evening worship.
8. The evening services should be bilingual. As much as possible, translate all communication, including announcements. Encourage team members and local people to participate through singing, scripture reading, and testimonies. Sing in Spanish, sing in English! Mix and mingle in the services. Do not take a back seat! Don't sit as a block, but sit among the people. This is a team effort, of Hondurans and North Americans, to worship and bring honor to our Lord.
9. Evangelistic messages are always in order. However, feel free to preach on the home and other subjects. Their problems are similar to ours.