

## VISITING PROGRAM TRAINING CLASS

Introductory Class

September 8, 1968

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Here is an outline of the first class for the Visiting Program Training Class. A time limit has been given for each major section to serve as a guide in your preparation and delivery of this material. Notice that the format for this first class is different from the regular format. After opening the class with prayer, begin with the Introduction and proceed through the outline.

You should use the framework of this class in its entirety. That is, you should cover all the points which are labeled with a Roman numeral and with a capital letter. You should also use the concepts that are briefly expounded under each major heading, but you can, of course, put these concepts in your own words. For section III, which is the lecture, you can add additional scriptures under any of the headings, keeping in mind the time limit, or you can delete any scriptures that are given. The scriptures given under each heading are ones which we thought were particularly appropriate, but since the choice of scriptures is sometimes a matter of preference and style, feel free to make substitutions if you would like to do so.

As the material is expounded to the men, you should have them turn to some of the scriptures, and other scriptures will only be referred to. Again, you should determine this based on your own particular delivery in view of the time limit.

You should spend at least an hour in preparation for the class. It would probably be best to mark the outline with a colored pencil and add your own comments and notes right on the outline as given.

Remember that the men will be tested over the major points and the concepts as outlined. Be sure that you thoroughly cover them and exhort the men to take good notes on the material.

### Format for First Class:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Introduction and Purpose of Class (30 minutes)
3. How to Give a Sermonette (30 minutes)

4. Recess (10 minutes)
5. Lecture (1 hour and 20 minutes)
6. Assignments for Next Class
7. Dismiss the Class

## VISITING PROGRAM TRAINING CLASS

### Introductory Class

#### I. INTRODUCTION -- (30 minutes)

##### A. Why This Class Is Needed

Within the past several months, God's Work has shifted gears! Every phase of the Work has undergone drastic changes to keep pace with the stepped-up demands being made upon it. We have entered the final few years of this Work! Christ's earthly ministry lasted just 3 1/2 years, and this is a very likely parallel in view of the transition which has recently occurred in God's Work!

The signal of this new era was the unprecedented breakthrough in the field of advertising during this past June. It was precipitated by the acceptance of our ads for the foreign editions of the Reader's Digest. For years this door had been closed, but God miraculously OPENED this door -- and many others! Suddenly Britain was being reached again, and our office there was inundated with responses to our ads in the Reader's Digest, as well as those in the four-million circulation Drive magazine, the four-million circulation London Sunday Express, the London Daily Times and their weekly supplement, the Sunday Times Magazine.

In the Reader's Digest we are now reaching all of Europe in the English, German, French and Dutch languages; Australia, New Zealand and all of Southeast Asia in the English language; Canada in the English and French languages; and Latin America in the Spanish language.

Here in the United States, mass-circulation advertising was begun in the nationwide circulation of the T.V. Guide and later in many editions of Life magazine. This will later be expanded to all editions of Life as well as other large circulation magazines such as the Saturday Evening Post, Look and the Ladies' Home Journal.

New television stations in Shreveport, Texas and Bellingham, Washington have brought the total number of stations carrying The WORLD TOMORROW to six, and nationwide network telecasting is in the planning stage!

God is opening fantastic doors for the carrying out of the FIRST commission of the Church, and to meet the overwhelming response as a result of that growth, we have made and are now making provision for the handling of hundreds of thousands of additional requests for The PLAIN TRUTH and other literature. Our new printing plant will be the second largest west of Chicago. Our 360 Computer is the latest and best computer that money can buy. The new Administration Building -- which should be ready in January -- will provide a modern, efficient base from which to direct this worldwide Work -- and on and on we could go:

In every way we are gearing for the final push to FINISH THIS WORK:

#### B. Purpose of This Class

As a result of the growth God is giving the first commission of His Work, we are expecting a corresponding increase in manpower needs for the carrying out of the second commission -- which is to "feed the flock." We must make provision to train the hundreds of additional qualified, dedicated, knowledgeable servants of God who will be needed to personally visit with, counsel, guide, and help those who request to be contacted as a result of this tremendous growth. More accurately than ever before in the history of God's Work, we can lament that "the harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few."

It is evident that the men we need must be older, more mature, deeply converted men from local Church areas who have yielded themselves to God. Men who are willing to diligently study God's Word, fervently pray, regularly fast, and who are willing to discipline themselves and sacrifice to qualify as sharp instruments Christ can effectively use to serve His people these last few years. This is why God has established this Visiting Program Training Class. The purpose of this class is to develop men for positions of leadership in God's Work.

All of you are here to develop and qualify as effective Visiting Program leaders and IF CALLED BY GOD, some may become local elders in His Church. Since the leaders in the local Church are in this class, a few elders may come out of this class, but most of you will probably not become elders.

The class has been designed, first of all, to work intensively on the man to insure deep conversion and to teach him self-discipline, leadership and service. Secondly, the class has been designed to teach the man the practical knowledge and application of scriptural principles for the Work of the ministry.

#### C. The Overall Approach in This Class

The overall approach in carrying out these goals will be that given in Matthew 7:5 -- IN ORDER TO TEACH AND HELP others, WE MUST FIRST CLEAN UP OUR OWN LIVES AND PUT OUR OWN HOUSES IN ORDER. This class will be tailored to help you do what you know you should be doing, and to help you overcome and qualify to be used to help others.

We were called to do the Work of God -- not just to become members of His Family. All of us, as members of God's Church, have a direct part in the first commission through our tithes, offerings and fervent prayers for the Work. All of you men here also have an opportunity to have a direct part in the second commission of the Church -- if you will set yourself to overcome and qualify to be used:

D. Format of the Class (Explain the regular format of the future classes)

1. Discussion of world news -- (5-8 minutes). All of you should be alert during the week and think about events that can be discussed at these classes. You need to learn to properly read and analyze a daily newspaper. Also listen to newscasts and telecasts and read the U.S. News and World Report if you can afford it.
2. Drill on difficult and basic scriptures and questions most often asked during visiting (25-30 minutes).
3. Two ten-minute sermonette-type speeches with evaluation by the minister (35-40 minutes).
4. Recess (10 minutes).
5. Lecture on basic doctrines and other topics (1 hour).  
pass out schedule for the Visiting Program Training Class.
6. Certain material will be assigned at the end of each class in preparation for the next class.
7. You will be tested once each month over basic concepts and overall knowledge covered by the class. You will take these tests at home and hand them in to the minister at the next Sabbath service. These will be graded at Headquarters and returned within a few weeks. After six months you will have a mid-semester exam which will be taken in class, and at the end of the year you will have a final exam which will also be taken in class.

II. HOW TO GIVE A SERMONETTE -- (30 minutes)

Use the following outline in instructing the men on how to give a

sermonette.

#### A. Purpose of Sermonette

1. It is an introduction to the services to get the minds of the people off the physical and on the spiritual and to prepare their minds for the sermon.
2. It serves to edify the congregation on a limited subject.
  - a. Never rebuke or correct. Within the short time limit you would only offend the congregation.
  - b. Do not make the sermonette into a big production. No matter how eloquent you are, the sermonette will be a flop if no one is helped by it.
3. It gives men with potential ability an opportunity to speak before a congregation and will show whether they should be used further in a speaking capacity.

#### B. Length of Sermonette

1. For Sabbath services, unless the minister in charge gives you extra time, 10-12 minutes is a good length, and 15 minutes is the maximum.
2. For the VPTC, 10 minutes is the time limit. (The minister should have someone time these and give the speaker a one-minute signal after nine minutes.)

#### C. Selecting a Topic

1. Select a topic that can be covered within the time limit.
2. Don't come up with a new topic that you have not heard expounded before. (It may be heresy!)
3. There will be three basic types of sermonettes given in this class. You will be assigned a particular type each time you are scheduled to speak. (The emphasis will be on the first one since training in how to explain and expound God's Word is an important part of this class.) These types of sermonettes and some examples of each are:
  - (1.) Explanation of a difficult scripture
    - a. I Timothy 4:4 -- Does it justify eating unclean meats?
    - b. John 14:2 -- Does it prove Heaven is the reward of the saved?

c. Luke 17:21 -- Is the Kingdom of God in the hearts of men?

(2.) Instructive

- a. How to use your second tithe
- b. Should you accept birthday or Christmas gifts?

(3.) Exhortive -- (to correct a minor problem or exhort in a positive way) such as:

- a. Be on time to services
- b. Too much noise during services
- c. Get in your prayer at the Feast of Tabernacles

#### D. Organization of a Sermonette

1. S.P.S. -- After deciding on a topic, write out the Specific Purpose Statement which states the one point that you want to get across to your audience.
2. Body -- Organize the body into two or three points which are part of the main point.
3. Conclusion
  - a. Summarize by giving the S.P.S. in different words or by phrasing it differently than you did before.
  - b. Make an appeal for action on the exhortation or instructions you have given.
  - c. Plan your last sentence -- memorize it if necessary.
4. Introduction -- After planning the S.P.S., body and conclusion, now go back and plan an appropriate introduction.
  - a. It must be related to your main point in such a way that it logically leads to the S.P.S.
  - b. It must grab the audience's attention and make them want to listen.
  - c. Some types of effective introductions are:
    - 1.) Use a short anecdote or cite a recent happening or news event
    - 2.) Give some startling facts or figures
    - 3.) Ask a moving question or questions
    - 4.) Present a challenge

#### E. Delivery of the Sermonette

1. Show zeal and interest by being lively and enthusiastic in your presentation.
2. Be warm. and friendly.
3. Use intensity to drive a point home, but don't overdo it.
4. Strive to be natural and sincere, not affected.
5. Don't try to impress everyone with your speaking ability. You are not an evangelist and cannot speak like one! Don't think you should try to "save" the entire congregation in a ten-minute sermonette:

(Recess -- Ten Minutes)

### III. HOW TO BE A SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS - - (one hour and 20 minutes)

#### A. Have a Right Attitude:

Your success in this class depends to a large degree on your attitude toward it. Do you view this class as a stepping stone to an exalted position -- perhaps to the ministry? If so, you will be sorely disappointed! Our goal must be the Kingdom of God and the righteousness of God (Matt. 6:33) -- Nothing ELSE!

All of us have the very nature of Satan the Devil -- human nature. Humanly, we all want to be worshipped. That is the strongest drive in human nature: We need to understand this and not kid ourselves about our motives and our sincerity. We often deceive ourselves into thinking that our motives are pure, but our minds are deceitful above all things (Jer. 17:9). Know your own mind. If you don't realize that this applies to your mind, you are the very one it applies to the most:

All of us carnally, humanly want to be exalted. That is what really appeals to our human nature. It isn't natural to want to be in God's Kingdom and to want the spiritual rewards God has promised us. We want our reward now -- and we equate a position or an office in this physical life as a reward from God.

**UNDERSTAND THIS!** When Christ said in, (Matt. 23:12), "Whosoever humbles himself shall be exalted," He did not mean in this life -- in the flesh! (Rom. 7:18 -- In this flesh dwells no good thing!) He was not saying that if you humble yourself you'll be ordained. God will NEVER exalt us while we are human! Our reward is reserved in heaven for us (I Pet. 1:4) and will come with Christ when He returns (Rev. 22:12).

In Philippians 2:5-9 we are pointed to the example of Christ. We need to have this mind! Verse 7 -- He was a servant. Verse 8 -- He humbled Himself. Verse 9 -- God has exalted Him -- at His resurrection -- not before.

Colossians 3:1-3 -- We must set the Kingdom of God before us as our goal and keep our eyes on things above, rather than lusting for position or status in the sight of men here below.

#### B. Seek To Serve!

All offices in God's Church are offices of service. Set your heart on service -- not on an office. God will then give you an office when and if you should have it -- not as a reward, but so that you can serve more fully. Let God decide whether you should have it.

Matthew 20:25-27 -- The chief will be the servant.

Luke 12:48 -- Our reward will be based on what we do with the abilities we have. Since you are in this class, more will be expected of you.

Seek to serve as a "doulos" -- a bond slave -- of Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1). Don't be concerned about who sees you serving. God sees you. Apply Matthew 6:3 -- Don't let your right hand know what your left is doing. God will reward you with a lasting reward in His Kingdom.

#### C. Get Rid of Vanity!

Ecclesiastes 1:2 -- All is vanity. Vanity is anything that does not lead to an eternal end.

Psalms 39:5 -- Man at his best state is altogether vanity. Envy, competition, comparing the self with others, self-exaltation, self-righteousness -- these are all forms of VANITY. God hates it! Do you see it in yourself and abhor it? Are you overcoming it? It is not a question of whether we have vanity -- it is a question of whether we recognize it, are repenting of it and are overcoming it!

I Corinthians 1:26-27 -- Do you realize deeply and personally that this applies to you? Of ourselves we are utterly useless to God. He didn't call us because of our abilities, and He won't use us because of any ability we may have. Any of you who feel you are God's gift to His Church will find that God can't use you until you get rid of your vanity and humble yourself before Him.

I Corinthians 10:12 -- Many of you, by virtue of being a deacon or being in this class, think you have it made.

Isaiah 66:2 -- To this man will God look.

Matthew 18:3-4 -- We must learn to have childlike humility.

Earnestly beseech God to reveal your vanity and to help you get rid of any feelings of self-importance, self-exaltation and self-confidence so that He can use you in His Work!

#### D. Discipline Yourself!

It isn't easy to discipline ourselves when we are accustomed to living in a soft, "take-it-easy" society and when life around us seems to be going on as usual. The world does not recognize the signs of the times, but we, of all people should discern the signs. Just as this Work has "shifted gears," we as a Church must shift gears in our personal lives!

Romans 13:11-14 -- The time has come to WAKE UP, to stop seeking to please ourselves and to stop gratifying our senses.

We were called to strive to enter the strait gate (Matt. 7:13-14) and to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (II Tim. 2:3). With 3 1/2 years left, we must become the faithful, disciplined, dedicated ser- of Jesus Christ, not the self-indulgent, weak-willed, lethargic servants of our own carnal desires. This requires self-discipline and self-denial!

#### E. Seek and Accept Correction

John 15:2 -- Realize that correction is necessary for growth.

Hebrews 12:6,12 -- God corrects us out of love. Correction hurts for the moment, but it produces fruit in us.

II Timothy 3:16 -- Seek correction as you study. Ask God for it and ask Him to help you accept it.

Expect correction in this class. Don't justify yourself in the face of it -- even in your mind. The correction may not apply exactly as given, but the principle ALWAYS applies!

God has, in His Word, corrected us in principle for every fault that a human being can have -- and it all applies to us. We haven't literally fallen down before an idol, perhaps, but we have and all too often DO make an idol of some thing. Accept and profit from correction; don't

resent it -- take it and CHANGE!

F. Put First Things First!

Matthew 6:33 -- You must seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness first.

In Matthew 16:19, Christ referred to the "keys" of the Kingdom. We understand that among these keys are the knowledge of the Sabbath and the Holy Days. These keys unlock to us the understanding of God's purpose for man on earth and the understanding of how He is working it out.

We USE these keys: We schedule all our activities around the Sabbath and the Holy Days, and as a general rule, we let nothing interfere with that schedule. Only in rare, ox-in-the ditch circumstances do we deviate from the regular observance of these days, and even then, it is within God's Law.

In the same way, God has given us, in His Word, certain principles of Christian living which are KEYS to our success as a Christian. We must not only know these keys, but in order to succeed, we must also PUT THEM TO USE!

These keys are regular prayer, study, meditation and fasting. They unlock to us the understanding of God's purpose for us personally and what we must do to bring it about. Through the use of these keys we learn what we are, how to overcome what we are, and we receive the spiritual strength to overcome what we are.

To be successful as a Christian -- in short, to grow and overcome -- we must diligently and faithfully use these keys.

Set yourself to let nothing interfere with your prayer in the morning. To really grow, pray at least 30-40 minutes every day, and 45 minutes to an hour most days.

Set yourself to study your Bible an average of 45 minutes to one hour every day. God compares His Word to physical food (Matt. 4:4). Without regular Bible Study, we would starve to death spiritually. Don't have a superficial approach to the Bible. Drink in of it deeply, asking God for wisdom (James 1:5), and meditate on what you are learning.

We must become skilled experts and artisans in the use of God's Word. is like a fine instrument whose effectiveness depends on the skill and experience of the one using it. If you men are to be spiritual Leaders, you must go above and beyond the average Church member in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word -- and in your ability to explain it

clearly.

Set yourself to fast at least once or twice a month. Fasting teaches us humility and helps us to draw closer to God and get our minds on spiritual things. Regular fasting requires discipline, but it pays off in real spiritual growth when it is done with a right attitude. Don't just starve yourself. Make it a profitable fast, and take extra time for study and prayer. Use the time you normally would have eaten if you cannot set aside an entire day to pray, study and meditate.

#### G. Use God's Spirit!

Realize that your success in this class depends not on yourself, but on the Spirit of God! Use that Spirit. It is the Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7).

John 5:30 -- As a physical man, Christ could do nothing of Himself.

John 15:5,8 -- We can do nothing -- apart from Christ. God is glorified by our fruit. His Spirit produces that fruit.

Zechariah 4:6 - Not by might but by My Spirit:

#### SUMMARY:

To be a success in this Class:

1. Have a Right Attitude
2. Seek to Serve
3. Get Rid of Vanity
4. Discipline Yourself
5. Seek and Accept Correction
6. Put First Things First
7. Use God's Spirit

Assignment for next lecture on How to Organize Your Time: "Here's How to Get More Out of Your Time" -- by Mr. Dennis Luker in the February, 1967 GOOD NEWS. Assign two men to prepare 10-minute sermonettes for the next class on a difficult scripture of their choice.