

Keys to Effective Altar Evangelism

BEFORE THE ALTAR SERVICE

- Be clean and neat in personal appearance, and be careful of personal body offenses. Something to sweeten the breath is recommended.
- Always bring a Bible (or New Testament) and a pen or pencil.
- Plan to work with those of his (or her) own sex, and as much as possible, with those of his own age group.
- Be a person that seekers can confide in. Do not betray their confidence. (Proverbs 11:13—“A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.”)
- Have a time of prayer for the altar service before the church service begins.
- Take a seat near the aisle, preferably toward one side of the church, so that he will be available during the invitation.

DURING THE INVITATION

- Bow his head and close his eyes, when asked to do so; at other times he should watch the audience as inconspicuously as possible.
- Watch for those of his own sex and age who are responding and possibly accompany them to the front.
- Create as little disturbance as possible by movements down at the altar.
- Try to put the seeker at ease immediately. The altar worker should not interrupt the seeker when he is praying! At an opportune moment, the altar worker should get the seeker's name so that it can be used in conversation. “What do you need from the Lord?” is an appropriate question to ask the seeker.
- Avoid unnecessary *doctrinal discussion*. Show the person how his need can be met through his relationship to Christ. Keep the explanation simple and brief.
- Make use of the Bible. Allow the seeker to read God's promise himself, if possible.
- Encourage the seeker to make a decision for Christ and have prayer with him.
- See that the seeker stands on the Word of God for assurance—not on feelings alone. **Facts** lead to **faith**, and **faith** brings **feelings**.

- Explain the tremendous importance of hiding God's Word in the heart. (John 3:16 and John 15:7).
- Use five scriptures that will lead an honest seeker to Christ—Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; John 1:12 and Revelation 3:20.

POINTERS FOR ALTAR WORKERS

- Be prayerful. (Philippians 4:6; Matthew 6:6)
- Be clean. (Psalm 66:18)
- Be loyal (I Corinthians 10:31)
- Be tactful. (Ecclesiastes 11:1; 2 Corinthians 6:3)
- Be sure of his or her own salvation. (Romans 5:1; 8:1)
- Be separate from the World. (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- Be definite in his or her work. (1 Corinthians 2:2; John 3:18)
- Be devoted to this work. (Philippians 3:7-9)