

Big Brother Plan

Our Commission

God has commissioned us to preach the gospel of the kingdom to all the world, according to Matthew 28:18-20; 10:16 and Revelation 14:6-9.

"The church of Christ on earth was organized for missionary purposes, and the Lord desires to see the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth." - *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 29

The church should grow according to God's plan in Isaiah 54:2: "Enlarge the place of thy tent..."

God expects us to make concrete plans to put the church to work. "God expects His church to discipline and fit its members for the work of enlightening the world. An education should be given that would result in furnishing hundreds who would put out to the exchangers valuable talents." - *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 431, 432.

"There should be no delay in this well-planned effort to educate the church members." - *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 119.

"Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged." - *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 149 (*Christian Service*, p. 59).

The Spirit of Prophecy recommends mature and systematic planning. "It is essential to labor with order, following an organized plan and a definite object. No one can properly instruct another unless he sees to it that the work to be done shall be taken hold of systematically and in order, so that it may be done at the proper time.

"Well-defined plans should be freely presented to all whom they may concern, and it should be ascertained that they are understood. Then require of all those who are at the head of the various departments to cooperate in the execution of these plans." - *Evangelism*, p. 94

Aims

To fulfill the commission of Jesus: to preach and evangelize our family members, friends, acquaintances and neighbors.

To involve the entire church

To use the methods of the New Testament.

To train leaders.

To bring about a spiritual revival in our churches.

Goals

To have at least 60% of our members participate in the plan.

Everyone should win one other soul: Every member, a new member; every canvasser, another canvasser; every worker, a new worker; every minister should train a new minister; every evangelist, a new evangelist.

To train a body of Big Brothers in every church and group.

To conduct meetings in different homes and in an appropriate place on special occasions.

To involve the entire ministry in the plan.

To create an atmosphere of revival.

To achieve that at least 50% of the new leaders have success.

Activities

As soon as possible, a committee meeting should be called to explain and approve the plan and ask for support.

Each participant should be provided with a copy.

A circular letter should be sent to all the ministers and workers along with a copy of the plan, requesting their support in participating actively in leading the plan.

Without proper leadership by our leaders we will accomplish little.

The entire church, especially the elders and ministers, should be committed to this plan.

They should know it in detail and encourage, guide, and supervise the missionary leaders, who will be their right hand. In the past, we used to leave all this work in the hands of the missionary leader.

Experience has shown that because lay members do not always have enough time, experience and influence, the minister or worker needs to take this plan in hand. **The local church missionary leader, under the guidance of a minister, should be the coordinator of the various activities.** If there is no worker or minister, we ask the local church leader to assume this responsibility along with his committee. It should be done in such a way that every church leader will be developed as a leader.

Unions and Fields should send the circular to the churches with urgency about five days after sending it to the ministers and workers. It would be ideal if a seminar would be held with the workers, ministers, and leaders.

Creating an atmosphere of revival. We recommend that the following activities be planned:

A night watch of three hours: for example an evening from 7-10 p.m. with a special program conducted.

Outline of the night watch program:

(a) It should be announced on Sabbath, and the invitation should be repeated in every meeting. Prepare a poster on thin cardboard and put it up on the local church bulletin board or in the back of the chapel.

(b) Invite every believer personally, especially those who are undecided.

(c) Make sure they bring their musical instruments, guitars, recorders, etc.

(d) Invite interested souls and friends.

Let the believers participate more in the services so they praise God with songs and words. Our services are generally too cold and formal. Study carefully the outline of the introductory message for the watch, as well as the Biblical support. The members should participate more so they will lose their fear of standing in front of people; their talents should be developed, and they should honor God as He deserves. This will not only please the Lord but also attract more visitors to the church.

Plan a series of visits to the homes of the believers.

It is best to go two by two --- the worker and the church leader, or either one of them with the missionary leader. Tell the people that you would like to visit with them personally. When you arrive at their home, pray with them. Then speak briefly about the solemn time in which we live --- explain to them the talents they have, and the blessings that can be received. Then appeal to them to participate in the plan and be trained as leaders. (According to their talents, as group leaders, instructors who give Bible studies, etc.) Motivate them to participate in the plan.

The Big Brother Plan

Sermon of dedication of the Big Brothers: On Sabbath, the minister or the worker should present a subject which presents the New Testament plan for winning souls. We emphasize the motto, "Everyone win one," but how can this be accomplished? We will make a special effort. How? Let us begin with "Operation Andrew" (praying and working for family members and friends, according to John 1:40-45). We emphasize the importance of intercessory prayer and explain the Big Brother_Plan. Acts 9:10-18.

This plan has four parts:

1. Praying for 10 people (family members or friends) for a period of two months.
2. Initiating social contact with these people, showing Interest and friendship.
3. Inviting those who are interested to participate in an evangelistic campaign.
4. Try to determine. if possible, those who accepted Christ several years ago.

After the sermon and after explaining the plan (of praying and working for ten people who will be invited to a special evangelistic meetings two months later), we make a call to see who would like to dedicate themselves as Big Brothers.

To those who respond favorably, we give a form to fill out and sign:

When they return the signed commitment, we give them the form in which they record the names of ten names of ten people for whom they will pray for. They should be people living in

our town or nearby --- family members, friends, neighbors, fellow workers, or students-who can be invited at the end of three months to participate in an evangelistic campaign so they can get to know Christ. The names of these people should be entered in the form within the next 24 hours, and they can immediately be prayed for.

The participants are already Big Brothers and are waiting anxiously, like a mother-to-be, for the time when the little will be born.

How many times to pray

Everyone will pray for Little Brothers at least two times a day, mentioning each one by name in prayer. Every day we check the little box on our list, corresponding to the day when we offered intercessory prayer for our Little Brothers.

Contact work

"God helps those who help themselves." We should reinforce our work and prepare hearts through friendship and social contact. During these 90 days. let us try to work for the people for whom we are praying. How? By visiting them, talking with them on the phone, showing interest in their well being, and, if possible, giving them special attention by spending time with them and doing everything possible to help strengthen the bonds of friendship.

Testimonies about what God is doing

Every Wednesday, and during the 10 missionary minutes on Sabbath, the believers should take a few minutes to tell their experiences as a result of their prayers. Wherever we have applied the plan, we have heard wonderful testimonies about the miracles God works through intercessory prayer.

How to promote "Everyone win one"

It has already been explained that this slogan is presented during the personal visits and in the sermon dedicating the Big Brothers. It is good to prepare a poster with the motto "Everyone win one" and let all the Big Brothers participating in the plan sign their names under the motto.

At the end of the 90 days of prayer

When the time comes for the public lectures_at the end of the 90 days of prayer, we visit the people we have been praying for and explain that we have been praying for them several times a day for three months, and we give our personal testimony, telling them what Christ has done in our life_Then we invite them to the special meetings which have been organized for this time. We offer to come and pick them up, sit beside them at the meeting, if possible, and let them feel our friendship. At the end of the meetings, we continue to work for them. They are our Little Brothers. If they do not come but have shown interest, we continue to pray for them for another 90 days, checking the corresponding box on the form every day; and we invite them to special meetings which will be organized again. If they do not react, we prepare another list containing another ten people to pray for another three months.

If they react favorably, now during the program of lectures or at the end of three months, we start the Ananias plan, which is the second part of the Big Brother Plan---confirmation or the discipleship.

Prayer groups

The purpose of our advanced missionary plan is to create home groups. The call has already been made, the Big Brothers have already been integrated, and each one is praying for ten people; they have also tried to have social contact, and a program of special evangelism is being prepared for the end of the prayer period. Everyone can easily participate in this work. But we need something more. A system of multiplication leads the believers to act; it is not difficult, and it trains leaders and assures us of a greater number of interested souls. This is accomplished by creating

prayer group --- small group which come together during the week in private homes. These groups will grow and turn into additional or affiliate groups and later into new churches. The ideal would be for these new churches to be self supporting under the guidance of a worker or lay minister.

What does a prayer group consist of?

Once every week, at a set time, a group of at least three believers comes together to pray for the needs of those who are not converted.

In our daily contact with neighbors, customers, friends, family members, fellow students or workers, etc., we try to determine if they are having problems or concerns of some kind. We try to come close to them and identify with their needs. Then we tell them:

"I participate in a small group of people who meet every week to pray for the needs and problems of our friends. Would you like us to include your problem in our prayers and pray for you?"

The majority will agree with pleasure. We take down their name, a short description of their problem, their address, and the date on a piece of paper that we take to our prayer group.

What is done during a prayer group meeting?

At a set time, the three leaders who have been chosen come together. It is also possible for the hosts and family members of the participants to join in. The program is as follows:

(a) One of the three leads out in the small meeting, welcoming the people, inviting them to sing some hymns of praise and asking them to give testimonies to glorify God. Then he turns the meeting over to the leader who is in charge of reading a section from the Bible.

(b) The second brother or sister then reads a chapter from the Bible, preferably from the book of Acts, because it contains records of similar experiences.

(c) The third person has a notebook in which he writes down the prayer requests and the information received from each person who requests prayer. Then the notebook is kept open while each of one prays, mentioning the names of the people and their needs or problems. Every believer stays in contact with the people they pray for. When they see their prayers being answered, they will tell about their joy at the next prayer meeting; the individual's name will be underlined in red, and the date of the answer is written down. About 90% of the prayers are answered.

Example of what can be recorded in the book:

No.	Date	Request pre-sened	Request	Name and Address	Date of answer	Chapter read
1	1-9-05	John G.	A sick cousin	Joan Sullivan	15/2	Acts 1
2	1-9-05	Ruth C.	Suffering from depression	Andy Farmington	12/2	Acts 2

Inspired foundation for forming prayer groups

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:19, 20.

In Acts 2:46, 47 we see that the believers met in homes, and multitudes were converted to the Lord.

Acts 12:12 shows that they gathered together for prayer in a house.

1 Corinthians 16: 19 shows that Priscilla and Aquila held meetings in their home.

Acts 20:20. They preached publicly and in homes.

Ellen G. White says: "The formation of small companies as a basis of

Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there

is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers." -*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, pp. 21, 22.

Strategies to be considered

The minister or organizational leader should ask himself:

- (a) How many prayer groups should we start? It is better to start with two or three groups in every church during the first three-month period. If there is only one and it is not successful, people will become discouraged; and besides, more than one group will produce more enthusiasm.

If there are too many, the training and supervision will cost more effort. The optimum is at least one group for every ten members.

- (b) **In what kind of house can we start a group?**

At the beginning, until we have gained experience, it would be better to have the meetings in the homes of believers, but later there can be new groups in homes of interested people or in mixed homes, where some are in the faith and others not.

- (c) **Where should the groups be located?**

_____ The distance is not important; they can be close to or far away from the church. If a family lives near the church, it could offer its house for the meetings to be conducted there, because sometimes people could go there with less prejudice than to the church; later the people will be taken to the church. If the house is located further away, a branch can be established there later and even become a new church. This is the best way to grow. The houses where the meetings are held should be large enough to provide space for a few families and perhaps to begin a new church; later they may be able to obtain their own meeting place. Not all the groups will be branches or new churches, but a 30% success rate may be expected with time.

- (d) **How to choose the group leaders.**

One can expect there to be two groups of people in every church: Generally 20% are active and 80% are passive. Among those who are passive there are three classes: (a) The indifferent (30%), (b) the negative (10%), and the positive (40%). Cell leaders should be chosen from the positive class, because the active people are already working. Choose one additional active person in each group to have an engine for the group. It is not unusual for new members to be more active than the older ones. The group leaders do not need to have much experience. Our aim should be to engage in the work those who are not involved in other special activities in the church. The group gives them the opportunity to develop and work for God. They could, of course, be women. In *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9,

p. 128, it says: "Women as well as men can engage in the work of hiding the truth where it can work out and be made manifest. They can take their place in the work at this crisis, and the Lord will work through them."

The ideal would be for the responsible minister or worker to propose the names of the leaders to the local church committee, and then the call should be directed to them personally, as Jesus did with His disciples. Luke 6:12-16. Thus the members will become leaders, the leaders will become preachers, and with time they can become ministers. This practical work is the secret of growth.

Training, motivation and supervision

It is good that the minister or worker (if there is none, it can be the church leader) be integrated for some time in one of the home groups so he can learn and experience everything. Later he will limit himself to the mother group. In a consistent, responsible way, he should assume his role of instructor and main leader. He should meet once a week with all the group leaders.

This meeting is called "mother group." Its purpose is to inspire, guide, and motivate the leaders or disciples. For example, the group may meet in the homes every Thursday night; and on Monday all the groups may meet together in the church- the nine leaders (if there are three groups), the missionary leader, and the minister or Bible worker. In this meeting, the participants share testimonies and experiences and participate in practical classes on how to advance the work. Plans will be presented for the upcoming campaign, to which the people for whom we prayed and worked will be invited. These meetings should be motivating and cheerful, with all the participants being encouraged. If something negative has occurred, it should be handled privately and not presented in public, unless it is a common problem for all the groups. People do not work well under pressure, but only by enthusiasm and love. They need to be encouraged, encouraged, and again encouraged. Every leader presents a report; this provides enthusiasm as well as a way to evaluate the work that is done each week.

The meetings of the mother group are directed by the minister, Bible worker or leader. If the mother group is suspended or not active, the entire system will break down. Constant encouragement is necessary.

If disagreements arise, the minister should carefully, prayerfully settle them. If there are problems, he should help find a solution, paying careful attention to every detail. It is best if the group leaders are not the owners of the house where the meetings are held, because he may be distracted by personal surroundings and find it more difficult to properly carry out his responsibilities and develop as a strong leader.

What should be taught in the mother group?

First, the entire plan should be explained, studied, and learned thoroughly. All the participants need to practice how to create the right atmosphere so people will feel free to open up concerning their needs and problems. Bible verses to encourage people to trust in God's help will be a help.

Furthermore, they should study about the power of prayer, the purpose of the groups and family groups in the New Testament, the concern of Christ for the unconverted, and later the doctrinal subjects to be taught, particularly the subjects concerning the gospel.

Multiplication

After the group has been active for three months, the leaders can divide up. One should stay at the first home with two new leaders, and the others can each start a new group and teach what they have learned to two new individuals. Thus the groups multiply. Of course, this will only work if the leader is dedicated to the Lord with all his heart and promotes the plan with energy and consistency. Therefore, the general leadership should not be delegated to anyone else. The minister, Bible worker, or church leader should be the one to take the initiative.

Useful advice

Each leader should lead only one group, in addition to meeting with the mother group. The meeting should be no longer than 45 to 60 minutes in total.

One should not give a Bible study, for ministers would be needed for this and the number of groups would be limited. It is enough to read a Bible verse or two at the first time. When the group changes into a branch group, the form will change somewhat; but the group itself is very simple.

Other than the owners of the house and the families of the leaders, no other church members should be invited. If there are more than ten people, another group should be formed.

If there are couples, they should work together to lead just one group.

Normally, no drinks or meals should be served, because this would be a burden which would limit the growth of the groups. The purpose of meeting together is to pray.

The petitions should be centered on the needs of the people who do not belong to the church. The members of the group should try to identify the needs of those they meet. They are fishers of men. For example, Sister Anne goes shopping and meets Mr. Frank; she notices that he has a problem and speaks with him briefly. She tells him that she is meeting with a group of friends who pray for the needs of different people who have problems. Then she offers to pray for him if he would like her that. When she meets with the prayer group the next time, she presents his problem. We know that every beginning is difficult, but soon one will gain practice and everything will go well, especially if he or she has a heart which loves Jesus and cares about other people.

Do not invite unbelievers to the prayer group unless they personally request to attend.

They will be invited to the special meeting at the end of the period of two to three months. After these lectures, the group will become a family group in which regular services will be conducted, encompassing sermons, praise, and prayers for people with problems; fellowship will then be cultivated; and interested people will be invited to these meetings.

The evangelistic campaign at the end of 3-4 months

An evangelistic campaign should be planned either in the same house where the prayer group has been meeting, in a place nearby, or in the church. We propose the following plan:

Start the Big Brother plan. After three months, invite all the people for whom

Start the Big Brother plan. After three months, invite all the people for whom prayer has been offered, both in the groups and personally, to a meeting giving thanks to God. To make the invitation attractive, an interesting subject should be selected and included. It is good to prepare a special Invitation card giving all the details of the meeting.

The meeting can be conducted in a central place, in a special room, in the church, or in the open air. If enough ministers are available, the same meeting can be conducted in several districts of the town.

A campaign should be conducted in every church and district. Afterward, the weekly meetings will be continued in the private homes, which will thus become family groups with singing, sharing of testimonies, prayer for the needs of the participants and their friends, and study of God's word. The secret of the continuity of this plan lies in the Big Brothers and in the leader's maintaining the enthusiasm and energy through constant motivation, held, and supervision.

Meeting in private homes

If the lectures cannot be given in the church, the best idea is to organize a meeting in the houses where the prayer groups met. The first subject could have a theme such as, "How to avoid and overcome depression." As already mentioned, the people for whom we have been praying in the groups and who have received an answer from the Lord are invited to come and participate in thanking God for answering all the prayers and to acquaint them with the friends who had been praying together. It is also good to invite the Little Brothers, the ten persons for whom each one has prayed. This meeting should be organized in such a way that each participant can be happy. Of course, neighbors, friends, and family members can also be invited.

One of the leaders of the group makes the announcements:

He welcomes everyone warmly.

He thanks everyone for coming and mentions the purpose of the meeting --- to thank God for His help, to get acquainted with each other, and to share information on a timely subject.

He introduces the friends who have been praying together every week (the participants in the prayer group).

He now gives opportunity to the members of the prayer group to greet the people and tell how wonderful it is to share the concerns of our friends and present them to the Lord.

If the atmosphere permits, the leader gives opportunity to the visitors to share some experiences of answered prayers. (This needs to be done tactfully so the people are not placed in an uncomfortable situation.)

He can invite those present to sing a joyful song while they remain seated and hand out photocopies of the song.

He invites everyone to stand for prayer; he offers prayer, thanking God for the meeting and asking for His blessing for each participant.

He introduces the preacher and announces the title of the subject to be presented, "How to avoid and overcome depression."

At the end, it is nice when a special song which is appropriate to the subject is presented as a solo or by a small group.

The preacher thanks God.

At the end, the leader explains that once a week (giving the day and time) there will be "family group meetings to pray for our friends and those with problems," which will be held once a

week in that same house; and he invites everyone to participate.

He dismisses the meeting.

Special program for the so-called Holy Week

In countries of Catholic origin, the so-called Holy Week or other religious holidays can be a good time for evangelism because people are thinking about religious matters. Experience has shown that with small efforts a good number of people can be reached.

We do not want to work sporadically but to obtain fruit for God's honor and glory, therefore we suggest that the plan for the prayer groups and the Big Brother be used.

The purpose is to find interested souls and prepare their *their* hearts for public lectures or special meetings. We can also invite friends from the neighborhood, acquaintances and the general public to such meetings. The home meeting has already been explained.

Operation Andrew or the Big Brother Plan

In Acts 9:10-19, it is reported how God sent Ananias to help Saul of Tarsus. Ananias represents the church and its ministry of which you are a part. It is God's desire for you to have a soul whom you can serve with a loving heart. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

What are the responsibilities of a Big Brother?

A Big Brother is a missionary in training, a leader in development, who shows his loyalty and love to his Lord and fulfills the commission to "go and preach." After committing to do such work, he limits himself for the first two months to prayer and make social contacts; many Big Brothers are also group leaders. As Big Brothers, we pray and watch for the time when our Little Brothers appear. When this happens, we invite the people for whom we have prayed to come and meet with us.

- . Always pray for your Little Brother by name.
- . Become friends with him.

Always pay attention to whether or not he is at the meetings. Visit him when he misses the meeting.

Stay close to him and watch so he avoids being confused by false doctrines, and help him when doubts arise.

Help him when he has problems, discouragement, and disappointments.

Give him Bible studies as far as you are able.

Help him connect with other believers.

Encourage him make progressive decisions and, finally, to prepare for baptism.

When the time has come, help him to attend the baptismal classes.

Watch over him later in the church so he does not become discouraged when he has to pass through trials.

Take him with you to do missionary work, and encourage him to be an active lay worker in the church.

You will be blessed in having not only another brother, but also a friend, and the sweet satisfaction of having fulfilled a duty out of love for Jesus.

Outline for the prayer groups

- Welcome
- Opening song
- Prayer
- Hymns of praise for 30 minutes
- Every 10 minutes, intersperse the reading of Psalms 145 and 150 • Central message: Adoration and Praise

Introduction

1. In 1892, Sister Ellen G. White was in Australia. Soon after she arrived, she was affected by a long and painful disease. She was not able to sleep for more than three or four hours every night, most of the time only two hours, because of terrible pain in her hip and her lower back. She commented:

"When I first found myself in a state of helplessness I deeply regretted having crossed the broad waters.... Time and again I could have buried my face in the bed quilts and had a good cry. But I did not long indulge in the luxury of tears.

"I said to myself, 'Ellen G. White, what do you mean? Have you not come to Australia because you felt that it was your duty to go where the conference judged it best for you to go? Has this not been your practice?'

"I said, 'Yes.'

"Then why do you feel almost forsaken and discouraged? Is not this the enemy's work?'

"I said, 'I believe it is.'

"I dried my tears as quickly as possible and said, 'It is enough; I will not look on the dark side any more. live or die, I commit the keeping of my soul to Him who died for me.'

"I then believed that the Lord would do all things well, and during this eight months of helplessness, I have not had any despondency or doubt... And I am happy in my affliction. I can trust my heavenly Father. I will not doubt His love. I have an ever-watchful guardian day and night, and I will praise the Lord, for His praise is upon my lips because it comes from a heart full of gratitude." -*Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 234.

In the past, the greatest victories have been won through praise.

1 Kings 20:1-30. (Read carefully, then tell the story with details, emphasizing how Jehovah delivered the people when they praised God instead of using weapons.)

. Three nations formed an alliance to destroy Israel --- Moab, Ammon and Mount Seir. 2 Chronicles 20: 1, 10.

Jehoshaphat prayed fervently to God.

. God promised, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle:... stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you".." Verse 17.

. The secret of their liberation was in their praise.

They praised God, and a marvelous victory was won. Verses 19, 21, 22.

They gathered great spoil. Verse 25

Later they returned, full of joy about the victory the Lord had given them; and they again praised God. Verse 27.

When adversity strikes and threatens you, praise the Lord; and the possible defeat will turn into victory.

Examples of verses which can be used to praise God

(The following points can be written down on paper and distributed to the believers, so all of them have the opportunity to come forward and praise the Lord, first by reading and explaining their verses and then by emphasizing the virtues of God and Christ.)

1. His majesty. Isaiah 24:14.
2. His magnificence. 1 Chronicles 16:27; 29: 11. 3. His glory. Nehemiah 9:5; Psalm 66:2.
4. His greatness. Psalm 150:2; 7:17.
5. His power. Daniel 2:20.
6. His wisdom. 1 Timothy 1:17.
7. His goodness. Jeremiah 33: 11.
8. His holiness. Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3.
9. His righteousness. Psalm 7:17.
10. His truth. Psalm 57:9, 10.
11. His mercy. Romans 15:9.

12. His fidelity. Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 89:1-5.
13. His magnificent works. Isaiah 12:5; 25: 1.
14. His salvation. Isaiah 12:2; Jeremiah 31:7.
15. His transforming work in us. 1 Peter 1:3.
16. His forgiveness. Psalm 103:1-3; Ephesians 1:3, 7.

17. His grace. Ephesians 1:6.
18. His commandments. Psalm 111:7-9.
19. His protection. Psalm 28:7; 59:17.
20. His preserving care. Psalm 71:6-8.
21. His liberation. Exodus 15:1; Isaiah 38:20.
22. His faithfulness in fulfilling His promises. 1 Kings 8:56; Psalm 50:4.
23. His open ear to our requests. Psalm 28:7; 34:4.
24. His comfort. Isaiah 38:20; 25:1,4.
25. His regenerating power. 1 Peter 1:3, 4.
26. His spiritual blessings. Psalm 103:2; Ephesians 1:3.
27. His physical blessings. Deuteronomy 8:10; 5:29.

In between the reading and explanation of the verses by the believers, songs, poems, experiences, and seasons of prayer should be interwoven so that God may give us a spiritual revival and use us in His service.

This is an appropriate moment to confess our faults and come closer to each other. We then end with joyful hymns of praise to the Lord.

Outline of the subject for Sabbath (the plan is presented to the church)

Divine plans for winning souls

Introduction

In a poor fishing village, Bethsaida, located by the sea of Galilee, one of the most productive and soul-satisfying missionary plans was born.

. Andrew and John had been disciples of John the Baptist.

- When Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized, the preacher in the wilderness exclaimed: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

Both disciples followed Jesus to where He was residing and stayed overnight with Him.

Andrew was thrilled at finding the Messiah and went to seek his brother. John 1 :35-42.

Missionary methods of the New Testament

1. Andrew found his own brother, and his message was, "We have found the Messiah,..." John 1:40, 41. Philip also lived in Bethsaida. Jesus called him and asked him to follow Him. He not only obeyed immediately but also went to find his friend Nathanael. John 1:43-51.

3. From this, we should learn the following lessons:

(a) Our priority should be to inspire our family members and friends to come and meet Jesus. This is our great privilege and first duty.

(b) The method is called "Operation Andrew" and is part of the plan of the Big Brother.

(c) With the same anticipating that a family awaits a new child, the church awaits newly converted souls.
- They get everything ready and wait for nine months.

(d) The Big Brothers love their Little Brothers and help take care of them. They share their knowledge, experiences

and activities.

More than arguments, these people share their personal

testimony; in other words, they tell what they have

experienced: (a) Andrew said to Simon: "We have found the Messiah,..." Verse 41. (b)

Philip said: "We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write,..." Verse 45.

(c) It was this method which moved the inhabitants of Sychar to come in a great number to listen to Jesus. The Samaritan woman told her personal experience.

John 4:28-30, 39-42.

(d) It is the method which Jesus asked the possessed man in the country of the

Gadarenes to use after He healed him. Mark 5:19. (e) Paul used this method when he

appeared before King Agrippa. (f) It consists of telling our own experience with Jesus, divided into three parts:

1. My life, problems, feelings and needs before I knew Jesus.

2. Some details of how I came to know Jesus, such as through whom, where, and when.

3. My life since I became a Christian, the blessings, the security that I have in Him, etc.

(g) Sister Ellen G. White wrote: "Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the worldthat which will be most

effectual is the testimony of our own experienceThese precious

acknowledgments... have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls." -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.

(h) Every Christian should write down his testimony, memorize it, and then tell it to others often so as to arouse the desire in others to have the same experience with the Saviour.

Illustration: The river Jordan receives, transports, and gives water, flowing into the Dead Sea. Its water is full of fish, of life. However, the Dead Sea receives but does not give. As a result, no life can live in it; that is why it is called the Dead Sea. What do we want to be like-like the Jordan River, which receives and

5. gives, or like the Dead Sea, which only receives and keeps everything for itself?

Andrew found his own brother. "And he brought him to Jesus." [Verse 42.] - Philip invited his friend and said, "Come and see." [Verse 46.]

(a) The emphasis is on bringing souls to Jesus, not just to a religion. People need to be converted, not just convinced.

(b) When souls are not grounded in Jesus,

- they come to the church; but when they experience some failure, they get discouraged.

- they do not have strength to live the Christian life. John 15:5.

Illustration: The man who was sick of the palsy in Capernaum asked his friends to take him to Jesus; but when they arrived at the door of Peter's house, they couldn't get in because the multitude was blocking the door, because many Pharisees had come from the villages to see Jesus. So, the sick man's friends took him up on the roof, made a hole by removing some of the tiles, and let him down right in front of Jesus. How wonderful for this man to hear the words, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." Just imagine if they had made a mistake and removed the tiles from the neighbor's house or from the room next to Jesus! Let us bring our Little Brothers to the right place-to the Saviour's feet, where there is joy and peace, forgiveness, and eternal life!

(c) Paul had preached with supreme eloquence in Athens, just like the great speakers of that day. But after seeing the results, he wrote when going to Corinth: "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ,

and Him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2.

The great secret of success lies in intercession.

(a) Jesus spent much time in prayer. Luke 5:15, 16; Mark 1:35.

(b) He prayed for His disciples and for us. John 17:20.

(c) He said that the power lies in fasting and prayer. Mark 9:29.

Without doubt, everyone who is present in our meetings has already made experiences through prayer; but we wish to have new and greater experiences.

6.

Missionary methods for the last church

There is an urgent call that needs to be given to the world. Revelation 22:17.

God needs Big Brothers in the church who are willing to join forces with Jesus in winning souls.

A great moment has come for the church in the world. Today a plan is proposed which produces wonderful results wherever it is put into practice.

First we work with our family members, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. Their hearts are prepared for a campaign which will take place in two months. How?

(a) Let us begin with "Operation Andrew."

Everyone who wishes to participate in the plan receives a *form* in which he writes the names ten people who live in his town or village or nearby, and *for* whom he will pray two or three times a day for 90 days.

(b) The name of the person *for* whom we are praying is mentioned specifically in every prayer.

(c) A check mark is placed in the box *for* each, showing that we prayed *for* the person.

4. Contacts. There is a saying: "God helps those who help themselves." Let us do our part to win the confidence of the soul *for* whom we pray. Without saying that we are praying, we should try to establish social contact, and call the person or make a friendly visit, if possible.

During these friendly contacts we do not try to persuade him or her.

We drop some Bible pearls--counsels, proverbs, promises, etc.-which can motivate and awaken the person's interest in God's Word.

At the end of the 90 days we visit the person. We tell him/her that we have been praying *for* him/her every day *for* three months, because we hope that he/she can have an encounter with God that will make him/her happy. We give our personal testimony and invite the person to the special program of lectures which we will have in the upcoming days.

After this time, three important public lectures will be held.

We also want to *form* prayer groups in some homes, where three brethren and perhaps some of their family members come together once each week to pray *for* the problems of the persons with whom they have been in contact. We want to conduct a program after the 90-day period of prayer is completed. To be a leader in such groups, it is not necessary to have great knowledge or be a minister. It is very easy.

The Big Brothers are those who pray *for* souls, seek *for* them, show them sympathy, invite them to the meetings, accompany them every moment, put forth efforts so they get to know Jesus and His word,

and protect them *from* discouragement. More than godfathers, they are their friends and Big Brothers.

There is happiness in giving and sharing what we have seen and heard, in loving our neighbors with the pure love of God.

An example of a Big Brother is written in Acts 9:10, 19.
Ananias was Paul's spiritual Big Brother.
He had hardly said, "Hello," before he called him "Brother Saul."

And thou shalt be a blessing

God said to Abraham three times, "And thou shalt be a blessing" and "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18.

He repeated the same words to Isaac and Jacob. Genesis 26:4; 28:14.

Through us, the nations should come to know the name of God. 1 Chronicles 16:8, 24, 28, 31; Psalm 67: 1, 2.

It is the Lord's command to His disciples. Matthew 28:18-20.

It is our greatest privilege. 1 Peter 2:9.

It is a duty which we cannot evade. Matthew 10:32.

Conclusion

God wants as many Big Brothers as possible to be dedicated today

(a) God does not have grandchildren. "All ye are brethren." Matthew 23:8.

(b) Therefore, the plan is to assume the task of praying for ten Little Brothers.

(c) As a family expects a baby and prepares for him, there is a time of waiting, of prayer.

Each of us should ask God, "Lord, give me a soul this year; give me a Little Brother whom I can bring to Your feet."

Our motto is, "Everyone wins one."

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come." Revelation 22:17.

Make the call: Who wants to be a Big Brother and participate in this plan?

Life is passing like the wind. Often we are wasting our gifts and opportunities.

Who wishes to devote himself today to being a Big Brother? Those who want to make a promise before God will receive the form to pray for ten persons. (Hand out the sheets entitled "My Commitment as a Big Brother.")

In every meeting, a few minutes will be given to share what God is doing for each one.

Our talents will be developed, and we will experience the joy of bringing those whom we love to Jesus.

Make a fervent call to the congregation to dedicate themselves as Big Brothers, and then call them forwarded to be dedicated as Big Brothers by a special prayer.

The End