



# LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*

## Reaching People for Jesus

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:17-18

Ellen White, in the book *Ministry of Healing* page 143, says this: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

In Matthew 20 we read about the blind men. What did they need? They needed to see! Before they could see spiritually, they needed to get past their felt need. Jesus didn't tell them to "Get over it" or even "Hang in there fellas." If He had, they would have forgotten about Jesus and spent the rest of their lives holding out a tin cup and accepting pity. Maybe I don't have the kind of faith that can heal a blind man, but I can be of greater service than just pity.

In John 8 we read about a woman caught in adultery. What did she need? She needed protection and acceptance and forgiveness. Jesus could not show her a better way until He had won her love. So many are quick to condemn but slow to love. Shame on us. We can't expect people to follow us to Jesus if we have just kicked them in the gut with condemnation. God did not call us to be policemen enforcing the law. He called us to be lovers of law breakers. There is a time to call sin by its right name but only after the sinner has been loved unconditionally!

In John chapter 3 we read about Nicodemus. What did he need? Spiritual counsel, someone that could speak to his heart, to be born again. He did not need to be condemned for being a coward, for being sneaky about searching for truth only after dark. He did not need arrogance from someone that feels that their way is the only way. He was part of such a group himself. Jesus gently opened his mind and his heart in love, and gained a follower.

In Mark 6 we read about the feeding of the 5000. What did they need? It depends upon when the question is asked. First, they needed to hear the teachings of Jesus. That is why they were there. But as the day progressed, their needs changed. Their stomachs started growling and drowning out the words of Jesus. Their needs for teaching changed to their needs for eating. Jesus met this need so that He could once again meet their need for teaching. People's needs change and we continually need to meet them and continually say, "follow me."

Jesus taught His disciples this very thing. Look at Luke 10:8, 9. The disciples are about to be sent on an evangelistic crusade, a tour. **"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'**

Notice what Jesus said. Heal first, then tell about God. Meet their needs and then share with them the answer to their greater need. This is not an evangelistic trick. It is the method of someone who truly cares about the people around them. This does not deny the validity of various modern forms of communication and evangelism with people. But the motives should always be to meet the needs of the people we touch. Then, we can say Follow Me.

Shortly after WWII came to a close, Europe was in an uproar. Things had been destroyed and families had been torn apart, and they began picking up the pieces. City after city had the same sight: bombed out buildings, starving orphans in the streets. Perhaps the saddest sight of all was that of the little orphaned children starving, and nobody knew who they were, who they belonged to.

Early one chilly morning an American soldier was making his way back to the barracks in London after a day of duty. He rounded a corner and spotted a little boy with his nose pressed to the window of a pastry shop. Inside, the baker was kneading dough for a fresh batch of doughnuts. The hungry boy stared in silence, with his nose pressed against the window, drooling and watching the cook's every move with a hungered look. The soldier saw the doughnuts that had already been made and he looked at the little boy and said, "Son, would you like some of those?" The boy was startled. "Oh yes, I would." The American stepped inside when he came out he held a bag with a dozen doughnuts. He handed them to the boy and said, "Here, you can have these." He turned and started to walk away, but in three steps he felt a little tug on his coat and he looked back and there's the child with his dirty face looking up at him and asking quietly, "Mister, are you God?"

When we meet the needs of others, who shines through? God shines through us.

We all have needs, whether they be physical, mental, or spiritual. We have been given gifts to help each other meet those needs, whether it be someone sitting next to you, or someone who should be sitting next to you. Whether it be your neighbour or someone at work or school. We can be of help to someone, each of us individually, to help someone individually because we truly care.

Our church need to care for the community in Sydney. We are living in one of the most beautiful city in the world. But within the city and suburban, increasing problem arise.

## HOMELESSNESS

The number of people receiving support from homelessness services rose in 2013-14 - with 254,001 people assisted over the year. However, the number of people whom services could not assist also continued to rise. Last year, on average, 423 people were unable to be assisted each day. Domestic and family violence continues to be the single largest reason people sought assistance. Source: <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/>

Do you know one woman dies every week from domestic violence in Australia in 2014? In NSW, 24 women were killed last year in domestic-related incidents. Of all homicides in NSW, 42 per cent are domestic. One woman is hospitalised every three hours across the country.

Access Economics has estimated about 1.6 million Australian women have experienced domestic violence in some form.

That's just the official toll. Less than half the abuse is reported.

As NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione says: "These are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, wives, girlfriends, these are the people that work at the desk next to you at work. These are real people and they are horrifying numbers."

Children are being assaulted, traumatised and used as weapons.

What can we do to care for this group of people?

1. Be a person who respect and care about others.

2. Involve/donate in White Ribbon Campaign <http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/>
3. Teaching men/women effective conflict resolution skills.
4. Teaching men/women what real love is: love is gentle, love is kind.
5. Help a friend to seek help when they are abused.

In the foyer is a copy of information where you can give or help people when they are in trouble. The most important reason we care for the world is because Jesus care about us in the first place by coming to this world and die for us.