Allegheny East Conference
2020 Officers’ Training
Personal Ministries

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37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)
37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;
38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.  

Matthew 9:37-38 (KJV)
Three Basic Questions

- What are you trying to Accomplish? What are your Goals?
- What are your plans?
- What resources will you need?
The greatest unmet need in your community is love. People crave fellowship and love. They want to know and to be known, to love and be loved.
Three Necessary Things

1. Motivation
2. Regular Fellowship with Christ
3. Witness to Him
Motivation Two Directions

1. Inward
2. Outward
Motivation Two Directions

Inward
Motivated to have fellowship with Jesus Christ
1. Aware of their need to spend time in the Word, reading it, studying it and memorizing
2. Daily time for prayer
3. Not dependent on weekly sermon, but able to feed themselves on daily basis

Outward
Witness for Jesus Christ

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
Acts 1:8 (KJV)  Isaiah 43:10

People will not witness unless they first spend time with Jesus Christ
Acts 4:13  Romans 1:16
The first principle of witnessing is that God Does It. Witnessing is not a human invention and it is not carried on in human strength alone.

Zechariah 4:6
Acts 2:47
2 Samuel 23:9-10

A proper understanding of this principle takes some of the fear and nervousness out of people witnessing, it places their confidence in God. He is the one who does it through us. Philippians 2:13
The second principle is that **God uses People.** Christian men and women are His chosen means of spreading the gospel to people who need to hear the Good News.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

*2 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV)*

**Cornelius** Acts 10  
**Philip** Acts 8
During His ministry, Jesus had kept constantly before the disciples the fact that they were to be one with Him in His work for the recovery of the world from the slavery of sin.

*Acts of the Apostles*, p.32

1 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

*Luke 19:10 (NKJV)*
People are God’s witnesses, and they become that as a result of abiding in Jesus Christ. Jesus told His disciples, 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.  John 15:4-5 (KJV)

Our fruitfulness is the result of abiding in Christ. So fellowship with Christ must come first. For witnessing is not overwork but overflow. It is Christ through YOU to other people.
Witnessing must be approached with much prayer, thought and planning and the ones who will do it are your trained mature and dedicated disciples.

Peter  John 21:15-17

John 14:15
The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. The work committed to the disciples would require great efficiency; for the tide of evil ran deep and strong against them. A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them.

*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 31.1