

“Aftercare” is the beginning of evangelism!

By Larry West

In a large Midwestern city parents of a toddler made arrangements with a sitter to stay at their house and keep their baby while they went away on a two-week “second honeymoon” vacation. The day came. All preparations were made. The bags were packed. The car was loaded. Anxious to leave a tiny bit early they reasoned, “The sitter is due here any time. Our baby is strapped in her high chair eating her cereal. What prevents us from leaving?” So, they did.

The sitter did arrive within minutes of their departure, but when she got there and rang the doorbell, no one answered. And she observed the car was gone. She reasoned, “They changed their minds. They left, taking the baby with them.” So, she turned, went back to her car and drove home.

Two weeks later when the parents returned and walked into their house, the stench of death overwhelmed them. They found to their shock their baby was still in the high chair totally dehydrated, and, near death, her fingers and toes were eaten off and her mind, for all practical reasons, was totally gone. (We double-checked this story from our source.)

The eyes have it. We see it clearly ... when we see it clearly.

But what is it too many older Christians in God’s family do with a “toddler” of their own, a new babe in Christ? Is it too often, “Welcome to the family. Sit here. We’re turning you over to another. See you next week.” And they’re gone.

Is the guilt any less?

In one of our We Care Ministries (WCM) Campaigns we baptized about 80 people in the 12-day period. The elders of the hosting church selected a sister and her husband to mentor one of their new couples. One of our WCM soul winners in our “Cadre” of workers was later talking to the assigned sister, asking how her assignments were doing. And the older Christian commented, “No, they haven’t been back to church. I tried to call them a couple of times but could never find them home. I guess they just quit!”

Again, is the guilt any less?

“Aftercare” is the beginning of evangelism! If older members of the family are not willing to work to adopt the new babes, they are not ready to help give birth to them in the first place.

The first 24 hours is critical! That new babe must be taken in, accepted, loved, nurtured, aided, fed. What must the older Christian do? It’s a “whole-istic” approach! Take him home. Meet his family. See his needs. **Meet** those needs! Often that means food. It might be to pay an electrical bill. It may be to explain to her husband what she has just done in becoming a Christian (and in the process that husband might, he just might obey the Gospel himself!)

Within the first week the mentoring family (or person) is to continue such “intensive care” and introduce him to other brothers and sisters! If a new Christian does not become close friends with six or eight older Christians within the first six months, we will lose him! The mentor is to see to it (not just “invite”) that the new adopted brother or sister is in the assembly that first Sunday morning! And the seceding ones! He is a new babe. That new addition may need gentle but strong and always positive and joyful attention on this matter! Then, the older sibling needs to “take him to lunch” afterwards, in his own home or in some nice restaurant! And pay for it himself! And he must pray with him, expressing joy that God has saved them both! It is mandatory that he reassures the newly reborn again and again he is now a part of God’s family! **HE IS ACCEPTED!** That is, it is absolutely compulsory to **ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP!** For “you will not teach anyone anything outside relationship!”

Within one month the new member should have begun growth studies. (We Care Ministries has available 52 of them available to be used either in a small group or “one on one” during the week). This study is to be a home Bible study conducted by the mentor. In the group are to be the new families becoming hopefully the six or eight older Christians the mentoring family or person is trying to bond with him within the first six months. The mentor(s) should have the new member making out his “Most Wanted” of friends, neighbors and family he wants to see in Heaven. The mentor should be going with him to those people, confronting them with salvation. In the process, the mentor should have the new Christian begin the process of learning how to win souls himself! (Good training is available, such as that from We Care Ministries.)

Within two to three months talent and interest inventory should be filled out and a place of work should be found. He is to be involved in a small group. Often that small group consists of other new Christians.

Within six months the new member should be involved in the assembly,

Bible Study, fellowship, and small groups or Care Teams. He should be involved by this time in even mentoring to a small degree other new Christians! Assimilation is a must!

And what we have said here is just the beginning!

Again, “Aftercare” is the beginning of evangelism. If older members are not willing to work, to really work, to sacrifice to adopt the new babes, they are not ready to give birth to them in the first place.

We Care Ministries
3201 N. 7th Street
West Monroe, LA 71291
318.397.2000
www.WeCareMinistries.com