

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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"...[O]n that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ...Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

—Acts 8:1,4

**Servants during August:**

Songleader: Stanley (4), Larry (11),
 Dwight (18), Stanley (25)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike M, Larry, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (7), Kris (14),

Larry (21), Stanley (28)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (4),
 Marty (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

Area Meetings:

Vinemont, 4-7, Stephen Russell;

Needmore (Haleyville), 11-13, Terry

Benton; **Gardendale,** 11-14, Lowell

Sallee

Hays Mill church of Christ

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Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Practical Tips for Conducting a Bible Study

Part one of two

by Ken McDaniel

It was May of 2010. I was on my second evangelistic trip to Fiji working to establish a faithful congregation on the main island of Viti Levu. My youngest son, Colton, had just graduated high school and was accompanying me on the trip. We were riding in an old rickety bus to the village of Viseisei where a recent contact had gathered a few people in her home for a Bible study I was to lead. As the warm wind whistled through the old bus and the loose metal rattled over every pothole and crack in the road, Colton leaned over and asked, "What do you plan to teach?" I will never forget the look on his face when I replied, "I don't know." His expression of astonishment and disbelief said all he needed to say

without speaking a word. "Dad! I can't believe you're not prepared. I've never known you to do something like this before. How could you not know what you are going to teach?" After a brief moment of savoring his reaction, I assured him that all would be OK. This situation was a little different than most. This time we had to visit the group first, find out where they were in their knowledge and understanding, and determine from there where would be the best place to start and at what level we would need to teach. The study went very well, and after a few more, we converted the lady of the house and her husband.

Teaching "on the fly" is not how

most studies are done and is not recommended for those just beginning to teach. But the story above illustrates some very important aspects that we must consider each time we prepare for and conduct a Bible study. Who are we studying with? What type of knowledge base do they have? Are they hungering for truth, or are they apprehensive or even antagonistic? All these things and more will determine what and how we will teach or if we will even teach at all—sometimes, an initial, casual visit with a “spiritual discussion” is helpful to set someone at ease.

So, how do we decide what to teach? How do we prepare for it, and how do we go about teaching it? These questions can be very intimidating, especially to someone who has never taught a personal, evangelistic study. I know because that was the case for me.

I didn't become a Christian till I was twenty years old. Before that, I led a very worldly life which left me empty and longing for something better. When my wife, Penny, and I became engaged, I decided to leave my old ways, seek God, and become a Christian. Though I knew it would change my life, I had no idea in how many ways and to what degree. I found myself not only turning from sin to righteousness and from indifference to reverence but experiencing tremendous feelings

of peace, comfort, and hope, which I had never known. I had no right to these feelings before, that is, as far as they related to my relationship with God. But now I was converted. I knew with certainty that my sins were washed away, and, as Peter described it, this created a joy inexpressible, 1 Pet 1:8. I was genuinely happy, and what followed was as natural and right as love and appreciation was for what God had done.


I wanted everyone to find what I had found, learn what I had learned, experience what I had experienced, and have what I had been given. As the days and weeks went by, this desire grew stronger and stronger, but with it, a dilemma arose: I had no clear idea what to do or to say, and honestly, I was scared. Still, the desire was there, and it was strong. How could I share with others what God had done for me?

After so many years, I do not recall the exact time frame involved, but it seems like it was only a few months until the congregation we were part of hosted a three-month training course in evangelism. Penny and I enrolled without hesitation. Each night we had homework which deepened our knowledge of the Bible and helped prepare us for questions that could arise in an evangelistic study (I have fond memories of Penny and me doing our nightly homework together). In

the classes, we were taught the material we would be using to convert people and how to teach it. And as the class advanced, we were required to set up studies and conduct them on our own

Now we were equipped to talk to people about what we had found and lead them through studies that would bring them to salvation. And that is what we did. We started with relatives, old beer-drinking buddies, people I had grown up with in the old neighborhood, new people we met, and visitors to the congregation. We were excited about what we had found, and now we could share it and watch it change people's lives in the same way it changed ours. Within the first year of our training, we had several Bible studies, and some of our friends and relatives were converted. What made the difference? What moved us from being scared and intimidated to

conducting studies and leading people to salvation? The answer is simple and obvious, training and preparation. If we long to share our faith with others and help them to be saved, we cannot hope to do so without preparation. But before we address this idea further, let me back up to something just as crucial yet even more foundational. If our own salvation has not impacted our lives and our hearts to the point that we yearn to share what we have found with others, then we probably need to revisit our conversion and reevaluate our relationship with the Lord. There is no greater treasure on earth than salvation, and how can we help but be excited and share it with others?

Cindy and I have known Ken and his family for some time; he is well qualified to discuss this subject! In next week's bulletin, Ken discusses questions about what to teach, how to prepare, and how to teach it... 

Remember in Prayer

Mike B is considering heart surgery, and will shortly be starting a new round of chemotherapy; in addition, he has a very painful infected lymph node.

Although there is a very good prognosis, Tuesday **Stanley** will begin a round of radiation for skin cancer.

Hazel remains at Goldton for rehab, and is doing well; and **Carolyn** is recovering at home from extensive foot surgery.

Please continue to pray for those other brethren we know and love, including **Betty**; **Kathy Mitchell**; and **the Pollard Family**. 