
Time Required for Community Evangelism

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Our general conclusion from our investments indicate that we don't think it takes much time to do community evangelism. This paper equips you to try to quantify how much time it takes and gives an answer from a Brazilian missionary team as a comparison.

KEY WORDS:

Evangelism
Community

GLOSSARY:

Community Evangelism: Converting someone out of your community rather than baptizing your family members.

Community Evangelism Time (**CET**): The time you spend in the process of bringing someone from the community up to the point of assimilation in your congregation.

Personal Religion Time (**PRT**): Time you spend in your personal worship and your fellowship with other Christians.

Maintenance Time (**MT**): Infrastructure upkeep and support work.

REPORT:

The conclusion on needed community evangelism time we would draw from our efforts when compared to our goals would indicate we don't think it takes much time.

We can look at the Day of Pentecost, what happens when a prospect is baptized and brings his friends, or what happens in 3rd world nations and take comfort in this point of view. Then again, what we are doing is not working at home so those may not be good measures of what we need to do. They may be "low hanging fruit" situations and not representative of what happens most of the time.

To a large extent our members today feel that if they come and listen to a worship service or 2 in the week, they have done their service for Jesus. Most of those more engaged are involved in PRT and MT, with little time to devote to CET.

If the church is to grow and accomplish the Great Commission in our area, our practices must change.

To get a realistic feel for the time required to achieve effective personal evangelism time we need to find a situation in which community evangelism is a primary focus. This situation exists when one or more missionaries begin an effort in a new area. After the missionaries land in the new area, secure a meeting place, and are comfortable with the language, they are likely to be focused on PRT and CET. There is likely little time invested in MT. Our situation immediately after our conversion and talking to close friends is

likely similar to this in that a new member is not yet bogged down in maintenance type activities.

The object of this study is to collect the PET commitment for the first year after reaching a comfort level in a missionary field and compare it to the community evangelism success during that period.

The other side to this is that if you have 300 members in your pews each Sunday not doing evangelism or evangelism support activities, consider motivating them to dedicate 3 hours each week.

That would give you a resource of 900 hours to do evangelism. Compare that to

the number of hours you conclude it takes to do effective evangelism and see how your congregation would grow.

At this point you need to recognize that you are running a large organization of 300 members. For them to collectively do 900 hours of evangelism, they need to be organized and coordinated. This does not happen by chance. You need a plan.

Overseeing the plan is shepherding work. Making the plan is deacon work. Put your deacons to work putting your congregation to work. Everyone wins.

YOUR MISSIONARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Fill out the hours for each missionary at the location along with the time commitment of their spouses after their reaching a comfort level. Then multiply by 50 for a year and divide by the number of community conversions made during that first year.

	CET/WK	PRT/WK.	MT/WK
Missionary 1	_____	_____	_____
Missionary Spouse 1	_____	_____	_____
Missionary 2	_____	_____	_____
Missionary Spouse 2	_____	_____	_____
Missionary 3	_____	_____	_____
Missionary Spouse 3	_____	_____	_____
Missionary 4	_____	_____	_____
Missionary Spouse 4	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	_____		
	X 50		
TOTAL HOURS FOR YEAR	_____		
NO. OF COMMUNITY CONVERSIONS	_____		
HOURS PER COMMUNITY CONVERSION	_____		

This should give you a realistic number for how many hours you are likely to need to invest per community conversion in your area. As always, there are a lot of variables but this should be a guide.

A BRAZILIAN MISSIONARY TEAM:

This looks at the dedicated efforts of four couples between 1992 and 1999 in Vitoria, Brazil. Team members were David and Barbara Duncan, Terry and Kelly Fischer, Taylor and Connie Cave, and Rick and Monica Sandoval.

Hours estimated are for year 2 as year 1 was largely consumed in assimilation and learning the language. The basic situation was a primarily Catholic background and therefore everyone already believed in Christ.

	CET/WK	PRT/WK.	MT/WK
Missionary 1	___60___	___20___	_____
Missionary Spouse 1	___30___	___20___	_____
Missionary 2	___65___	___20___	_____
Missionary Spouse 2	___25___	___20___	_____
Missionary 3	___60___	___20___	_____
Missionary Spouse 3	___20___	___20___	_____
Missionary 4	___55___	___20___	_____
Missionary Spouse 4	___25___	___20___	_____
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	___340___		
	X 50		
TOTAL HOURS FOR YEAR	__17,000__		
NO. OF COMMUNITY CONVERSIONS	___12___		
HOURS PER COMMUNITY CONVERSION	__1416__		