

SHINE - Share Him In Neighborhoods Everywhere!

I am encouraged by a grassroots revival movement surfacing among our youth and young adults. Yes, you read correctly – our youth and young adults! Refreshing isn't it?

Over the past few years I have been blessed to work with such enthusiastic youth both locally and overseas. Academy students, college students and young adults in our churches are on fire doing things such as sharehim evangelism and humanitarian work of all sorts.

Last year the church family in Abbotsford, BC, was blessed by the work of the Radiant Living Team. This is a group of young men and women dedicated to sharing their faith and making disciples for Jesus. They did training seminars, health expos, seed sowing activities, evangelism, follow up events and social activities. The energy and enthusiasm of these young people was contagious and the whole church was transformed by a vision that challenged them to be disciples dedicated to helping prepare a people for the soon return of Jesus.”

The joy of those sharing Jesus reminds me of a quote from Steps to Christ p. 67, 68:

“Our Savior's joy was in the uplifting and redemption of fallen men....This is the spirit that Christ's followers (disciples) will possess, the work that they will do....They will do all they can to make the world better for their stay in it.” S.C. p. 67, 68

Most recently it was my privilege to meet with some young people at the Edmonton Central Church in Alberta. These young people have a strong love for their wonderful Jesus and the Truth of God's word.

Over the past few months they have organized themselves into a group called **SHINE** which is an acronym for:

“Share Him In Neighborhoods Everywhere.

Their motto is:

“From Our Knees to Our Neighbors”

Their goal is:

“To encourage church members in every church to begin house to house ministry using gospel literature.”

And they are faithfully doing so themselves every Sabbath afternoon.

They prepare simple “gift packets” to leave at each of the approximately 300,000 households in Edmonton. Before each witnessing session they

do basic training for members who wish to be a part of their team and devote time for prayer.

Their work is mainly a sowing work that gives everyone in the city an opportunity to know more about Seventh-day Adventism and our wonderful Jesus! And in my experiences to date, I must say this tends to be the most neglected phase of the work that needs to be done in the “cycle of Disciple Making”.

That cycle includes: preparation (personal and church), sowing, reaping evangelism and preserving new believers in an ongoing yearly cycle. Ellen White explained this ideal so clearly that I am amazed how quickly we miss the concept of *“cyclical disciple making”* efforts.

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." MH 143.3

One of the surest evidences that one is truly converted and is a genuine disciple of Jesus is the fact that he/she will desire to let everyone know about Jesus! That is because this is the desire of God Himself. In Timothy, Paul put it this way:

“Who (God) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” 1 Timothy 2:4-6

Our God is indeed an awesome God as we often sing. The marvels of Creation constantly testify to this fact. However, what a beautiful message we have that tells us this awesome God is also a God of mercy who loves us so much that, ***For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:8***

People everywhere need to hear this good news that paints such a beautiful picture of God’s character. They are tired of simply hearing more about what religion is against and what we are doing wrong!

They need a clearer picture about **God’s Character demonstrated in the words and actions of His disciples.** Jesus said ***“When I am lifted up I will draw all men onto me” John 12:32.***

When we follow Jesus' method of soul winning, mingle with people, empathize with them and win their confidence by our WORDS AND ACTIONS we can expect more success from our reaping evangelism.

How refreshing it was to hear the SHINE group share their mission and plans with me. All too often I meet with those who are critical about of our church and the need to do something to deal with the sinners in our midst. Sadly, however, these self appointed critics of the church are quite often very narrow and self righteous, with little desire to reflect God's Character of love and empathy to their non-churched neighbors.

Let me end by sharing some more good news! **The SHINE team is willing and anxious to come and share with you what they are doing.** I warn you they will inspire you and challenge you in a refreshing, beautiful way to SHINE where God has placed you. And as you do so you will enter into the JOY of Jesus like never before.

Larry Hall

Ministerial/Evangelism Director
Alberta Conference