

# SOWING SPIRITUAL SEED

## The Ministry of Tracts

One of the best and most far-reaching mediums for doing good is the distribution of tracts. Thousands of instances can be given where souls have been aroused from their stupor of sin, and brought into active Christian life through the instrumentality of a little tract.

Every Christian should spend time, money and consecrated energy in this wonderful field of labor, and, although no apparent results follow, keep right on sowing the seed every day, and when the judgment day dawns, if not before, you will see results that will bring added lustre to your crown in eternity. Some noble examples:

John Wycliffe not only translated the Bible, but wrote tracts and distributed them.

A certain nobleman carried one of these tracts to Bohemia and loaned it to

John Huss, who was converted and afterward burned at the stake, a martyr for Christ.

Martin Luther wrote a preface to his comments upon the Epistle to the Galatians, which afterward reached a poor man, a Bedfordshire tinker, named

John Bunyan, and Bunyan not only won a place in millions of hearts through his imperishable "Pilgrim's Progress," but he also wrote a preface to his comments upon the Epistle to the Romans, upon reading which

John Wesley was convicted of sin. He became a mighty worker in the Reformation, and thousands were turned from the service of Satan to the service of the living God through his instrumentality. He, too, wrote and distributed many powerful tracts fifty years before a tract society was organized.

Richard Gibbs, an old Puritan doctor, wrote "The Bruised Reed," and one of them, it is said, came to the hands of a boy named

Richard Baxter, which led to his conversion, and he afterward wrote many tracts and books. His "Saints' Rest," and "Call to the Unconverted" were translated into many languages, and still live. Multitudes of sinners have by this means been led to Jesus. One of Baxter's books fell into the hands of

Philip Doddridge, who became a famous preacher, hymn writer, and president of a theological academy. He it was who wrote the famous book, "The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul," a book that was translated into several languages, and was blessed to the salvation of many souls. One of these books fell into the hands of

William Wilberforce, which led him to Christ. He is not only known as the great emancipator of the slaves in the British colonies, but he wrote "A Practical View of Christianity," which was read by

Leigh Richmond, one of the most famous tract writers the world has ever known. One of his tracts, "The Dairyman's Daughter," was translated into over fifty languages, and before 1849 more than four million copies had been circulated. A copy of it was presented to the Czar of Russia, who handed it to his daughter, and she, as a result of reading it, was converted to Christ. She then had it translated into the Russian language, and scattered it over the Russian empire.

J. Hudson Taylor, the well-known founder of the great China Inland Mission work, was

converted through a little tract he found in his father's library. This Mission has carried the gospel into eleven immense provinces in the interior of China, and sustains over six hundred missionaries. What great results from a small beginning—a little tract!

Dr. Chickering wrote a tract, "What is it to Believe on Christ," and before he died he had the names of over 17,000 people who attributed their conversion to this tract.

A Lady gave some leaflets years ago to two actors. One of them was led by this tract to attend church—was converted, and was afterward known as

Dr. George Lorimer, for years pastor of Tremont Temple, Boston. Through his influence another noted man was led to the ministry—viz:

Russell H. Conwell. Thus the great Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, with its 52 societies and Temple College with its 6,000 students, together with the work of Tremont Temple, and the personal influence of these two notable public speakers, is traceable to one little leaflet in the hands of an earnest woman.

Sow the seed. God will do his part—Give the increase. And how great is the increase? Eternity alone can measure it.

Let us be up and doing, beloved. God can, in this way, use the feeblest instrument. With every letter enclose a tract. And distribute elsewhere as God opens the way.

—Abridged from "GOOD NEWS," Worcester, Mass.

## TRACTS

### WHY THEY SHOULD BE USED

Because a tract is **dynamic**. It is as powerful as the Word of God which it carries. History is replete with proof that tracts have served as the power of God.

Because a tract is **versatile**. Its message may fall with shattering blow on the stony heart. It may come to broken hearts with tender touch. It may throw light on problems of doctrine and life, give strength to the tempted, warn the back-sliding, or light the way at eventide to the Father's home above.

Because a tract is **timeless**. It never loses its vitality. It never dies. Like the seeds buried for thousands of years in an Egyptian tomb, its message may take root and grow when given light and soil.

Because a tract is **safe**. It will never confuse or garble its message. It will speak without fear or favour. It will patiently deliver its message over and over again without discouragement.

Because a tract is **universal**. There is no language in which it cannot bring its message. It takes no account of race, colour or condition of life, being as much at home in wretched hovels as in gilded palace.

Because a tract is **convenient**. It is easily procured and easily passed on to others.

Every child of God, young or old, rich or poor, well or ill, learned or unlearned, may enter into the task.

But with all its inherent power the tract is still dependent on willing hands to bring it into contact with human souls.

—from This Dynamic Power.

### HOW TO USE TRACTS

1. Master the message of the tract thoroughly before you give it unto others.
2. Study the individual. A tract that will prove helpful to one person may be offensive to another.
3. Continue instant in prayer for guidance of the Holy Spirit and His blessing upon each tract.
4. Give out each tract with a suggestion to read. It is advisable to stamp each tract with your name and address so that a soul that is touched may have some one to go to.
5. Tracts go anywhere. Put them in letters and packages that you mail at home, at your work. Have a mailing list of Christian friends, shut-ins, invalids, unbelievers, and send them suitable tracts now and again. Use them in opening conversations. . . . Pass them out at open air meetings. Have on hand for distribution in trams, trains, buses and wherever opportunity may be offered. Put tract racks in public places such as hotels, depots, and shops, and keep them filled with good tracts.
6. As you use these messages, remember the word of the Lord when He said, "The word of the Lord is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12), and "so shall my word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto me void" (Isa. 55:11). "Be urgent in season, out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2), for "he that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30).—A Believer's Mission.

### MOTTOES THAT HAVE MOVED MEN

- "A church must send or end."
- "God's plan depends upon man."
- "The mission of the Church is missions."
- The Church must go to the lost or go to oblivion.
- Our only concern is to win the victory regardless of cost.—S. M. Zwemer.
- Anywhere provided it be forward.—David Livingstone.
- Prayer and pains through Jesus Christ will do anything.—John Eliot.
- The prospects are as bright as the promises of God.—Adoniram Judson.
- "Love never asks how much must I do, but how much can I do?"
- "A man may give without loving, but he cannot love without giving."
- Unless a man is ready to work for the salvation of others, it may be questioned whether he himself is saved. He who wants only enough religion to save himself is not likely to have even that much.—Henry Clay Trumbull.

You Can Be A Tract Evangelist