

points again. Please note that the Word does not always “sprout” right now,... It may take years for results to be known” as brother Benderman said. Articles and words of encouragement like these help keep us motivated – I hope it does you also.

One sister said to us, “No one is coming yet.” We had been door knocking for about a week. We must not let people like that discourage us, but keep on and set the proper example before them. We should do as brother Farley says: “but I absolutely refuse to be discouraged,” and keep pressing on in whatever good sound work we are doing and add even more good works.

**In my opinion door knocking is the hardest church work I** have ever done, but I also believe it is one of the best ways of getting the truth before the people. As I have written before, the material can stay in people’s homes for many years. We trust it will bring forth fruit in time in some hearts. Though we may not please some brethren, we do trust we are pleasing God.

**How long shall we preach, teach, and go out and evangelize?** What did Jesus say? See Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15. Isaiah asked in the long ago “how long?” (Isa. 6:11). God had said, “Go, and tell this people ...” (v.9). God knew the people were rebellious and would not respond favorably, yet His will was that Isaiah should keep going and preaching as long as there is a human. Has God ever given a command that we should keep going and preaching as long as the people are receptive to His Word? Of course not (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; **2 Tim. 4:2-5**). Yet many do stop evangelizing because “It won’t work here!” Brethren, if we are doing God’s will it is working! We are working! – sowing the seed of the kingdom. What do you mean it is not working (cp. **Isa. 55:11**)???

**Which is it:** “It won’t work here!” or “I won’t work here,” or anywhere else for that matter??? Plans must be worked, they cannot work themselves. Many plan the work, but that is about as far as it gets. Some oppose good plans to sow the seed and declare “It won’t work here.” Brethren, we had better be careful, God said it will work (again **Isa. 55:11**). Are we willing to oppose God?

Remember the formula: Rom. 1:16 + Luke 8:15 = 1 Cor. 3:7. God wants you to be a part of reaching the lost (Mark 16:15) by sowing or watering. Will you? Inviting people is very important.

Is God still not asking, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isa. 6:8). Will we answer as did Isaiah: “Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.” Or do we just sing the song without meaning? ♥



## “Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

SW



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### PLANT, WATER, AND GOD GIVES THE INCREASE

James E. Farley

God cannot lie. He will do what He says He will do. (Compare Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). If God says that He will give the increase when we plant the seed and water it, He will give the increase. In Isaiah 55:11, He says, “*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*” In 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, the Bible says, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”

If I did not truly believe 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 and Isaiah 55:11, I would have gotten out of preaching a long time ago. I know, because God is who He is, and because His Word is RIGHT, that my labor in the Lord is not vain. Therefore, though often shaken and disheartened in this work of gospel preaching, I resolve to be “*steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 15:58). I say I have been shaken, disappointed, and often disheartened, but I absolutely refuse to be discouraged!

An old gospel preacher once told me how a man came to him and revealed that it was through his preaching the gospel in about 1940 that he was led to obey the gospel in the mid-1950’s. He said that he had been sitting under a hickory tree, on a ridge above a small coal town in eastern Kentucky, hunting squirrels. He could see the town below and saw a car pull up in front of the Union Hall. A man got out and put speakers on the top of the car and set up a microphone on the porch of the building and began preaching. Soon a crowd gathered and the preacher taught the people the Truth from God’s Word. He

said that, even upon that mountain side, he could hear every word as plain as if he were down in the valley, and he was convinced of the Truth. However, **it took him nearly fifteen years to respond** as he should to the gospel. He wanted the old preacher to know that he was responsible for introducing him to the Truth. Think of that! Indeed, God's Word will not return unto Him void. It will accomplish that for which it is sent out! God cannot lie!

Another preacher told me about preaching a gospel meeting in Alabama, and, on about the third night, a man came forward with a piece of paper in his hand. He handed this preacher the paper and requested to be baptized for the remission of his sins. The preacher told me that he looked at the paper and it was a **Certificate of Completion for a Bible Correspondence Course** the man had taken several years earlier. He was convinced of the Truth by taking the course, but it **took him years to respond** properly to the invitation of Christ. The Word will convict folks, but it may take years to do so.

When we were in Germany, a missionary told of a gospel preacher who had grown up as a Catholic but had become dissatisfied with Catholicism. He really did not know where to turn religiously after leaving the Catholic Church. One day he was walking down the street. There were trash cans out, for it was "trash day." For some reason his eye was drawn to an old newspaper that someone had wrapped fish entrails in, and he saw the words, "Free Bible Course." He stopped and read about it and carefully tore the ad from that filthy newspaper. **He took the course and obeyed the gospel.**

No, we must not become discouraged with the work of preaching and teaching the gospel to a lost world. The gospel is still the power of God unto salvation and must be preached and taught. (Romans 1:16-17; Mark 16:15-16). **Plant the seed** (Luke 8:11), **water it**, and **God will give the increase**. He said so, didn't He? Surely we do not doubt God. There are honest and good people who will respond.

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## Evangelism: Converting The Congregation (Part 7)

(It Won't Work Here)

by Perry Sexton

I very much appreciate the above article by brother Farley. I have written similar things but it is good to hear it from others and brother Farley did an excellent job.

As people learn of our work invariably they will ask, "Is it working?" I answer, "**Yes, it is working**; we are spreading the Word of God to many people as God tells us to do." Many understand as brother Larry Benderman of Stiversville, TN wrote: "... however you have planted the seed, and I have no doubt that God will give the increase. Sometimes, we want to see the Word 'sprout' right now,... It may take years for results to be known. So, Hang in there, you are doing a GREAT work and we are behind you 100%." I used this in our 10-2010 Support Letter. You will see great similarities between what he said and brother Farley's article.

We further tell the inquirer, "We believe Romans 1:16 and Luke 8:15 and know that when God's powerful Word comes in contact with an honest heart searching for truth it will bring increase (1 Cor. 3:7)." We further encourage the congregation to follow up on what we have done with more door knocking, and especially with every member inviting their friends, families and strangers alike. Is it not a shame when the only invitation some people get is from strangers from another state when they have known church members for 20 or 30 years?

Some have a very shallow understanding. I have heard, "It won't work here!" "We tried that [evidently once] and it didn't work." This is why I answer people, "Yes it is working," because we are sowing the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11). Brethren, we must get into the mindset that it is working if we are doing the works God wants us to do. We cannot make people have honest hearts, but we can plant in their minds the Word of God which is the power of God unto salvation. We can obey God in sowing the seed. Before we started this work we were resolved to do it knowing that we would not know of all the good it may bring forth until perhaps in eternity. I have to remind myself of that from time to time. Maybe we all should.

I took the liberty of emphasizing certain points in brother Farley's article so you could refer back to it quickly and find those points. Take a look now on the left side and read the bolded / underlined