

ONE BY ONE

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Did you know that if each year every Christian were to win one person to Christ, then the whole world would be won to Christ within six years? Just think of what a difference it would make to our churches – let alone to the world – if every church member were to win one person to Christ. Of if winning one person to Christ every year sounds ridiculous, what about winning one person to Christ every other year, or indeed, every third year? The difference would still be phenomenal.

This emphasis on winning just one person to Christ reminds me of how my father came to Christ. It was as a teenager that he first came into contact with a church. At the time he had a friend who was crazy on football, and a Baptist church not far from him had a team. But to play in the team one had to attend Bible class. His friend not wanting to attend the Bible class by himself, persuaded my father go to the Bible class with him. My father was so impressed with the Bible class leader, that he began to attend church. He had never heard a sermon before and was spell-bound by the preaching of the young minister, Warwick Bailey. It was just at this stage that the church held a mission led by two students from Spurgeon's College. My father, still fifteen at the time, was absolutely fascinated by the meetings:

“One evening the preacher took the theme of the meaning of Christ's death. For the first time in my life I, who had seen crucifixes since I was a child, learned that the cross was for my sake' that the love of Christ shown on it embraced me as truly as it did anyone, and that I personally could know forgiveness for ever and eternal life. When that dawned on me it was like the coming of day. I could not hold back from Christ. I went forward to express my desire to receive Him – and went home walking on air”.

When the students went back to Spurgeon's, however, they reported that the mission had been a failure. Only one person had become a Christian, and he was a teenager at that. But how wrong they were. For the one person who came to Christ later brought many others to Christ – and was to play a key role in training others to win yet others for Christ. The fact is that winning just one person to Christ can make all the difference!

All this comes to mind, since this autumn I am preaching at the 75th church anniversary of North Evington Free Church, where my father was converted. So let me encourage you to ask God to help us win the 'ones' for Christ. The fact is that although the animals may have gone two by two into the ark, when it comes to the Kingdom of God today many enter it one by one!

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