COVENANTER CRUSADE

GOD'S GLORY OUR CHIEF END

EVERY CHURCH MEMBER ACTIVE AND EVANGELISTIC

FIVE THOUSAND AND THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOUR, 1952
The Covenanter Crusade

Presented by
Synod's Committee on Evangelism
of the
Reformed Presbyterian Church
of North America

MOTTO—GOD'S GLORY OUR CHIEF END!

AIM—EVERY CHURCH MEMBER
AN ACTIVE EVANGELIST

GOAL FOR GROWTH—FIVE THOUSAND
NEW MEMBERS BY 1952

THEME SONG
Psalm 84:4, No. 327

Advancing still from strength to strength
They forward go where saints have trod
Till every one appears at length
In Zion's courts before His God.
Jehovah, God of hosts, give ear;
O Jacob's God, in mercy hear.
THE COVENANTER CRUSADE

THE PROBLEM

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America had its largest membership in 1890 when there were 11,289 members. Since that date it has declined steadily and tragically in membership. During the years of the first world war the loss averaged 111 members per year. Only twice since 1925 has an increase been reported, and over the entire fifty-seven years the decline has been nearly 5700 members.

The Church has not been unaware of this tragic trend, for it has been called to the attention of Synod repeatedly. It has lain as a heavy burden on many hearts. The trend has been analyzed, its causes have been sought and remedies have been proposed. Full discussion of all factors leads inevitably to the conclusion that the continued decline is due to the unwillingness or inability of the full church membership to work definitely at winning others to Christ, and that the remedy lies in a total effort to bring lost souls to Christ and the Church.

How many people should a Christian win to Christ? Praying Hyde of India began his great program by asking the Lord for one soul each day. Is that too many to start with? How about one soul each month? Possibly that does not give time enough to present the Saviour fully. Do you think that one friend each year brought to Christ is too much to ask of God? How about one soul brought to Christ in five years? Surely if salvation means anything at all to us, we should aim to reach at least one soul in five years. If the five thousand five hundred members of the Covenanter church will unite in setting that goal for
themselves and strive to glorify their Lord thereby they will turn the present tragic trend into glorious growth.

The Synod of 1947 adopted a “Goal for Growth” of five thousand new members by 1952. That the Church may be directed in its thinking and planning, the Evangelistic Committee of Synod has prepared the following study and program. Much of it is suggestive. No committee in the central United States can formulate detailed plans that will meet the needs of every community. Local planning must be done locally. Therefore, this study is only directive, and its effectiveness depends upon local planning and local activity. Please read it carefully, read it prayerfully. Study each item, read all the references, and add others as the Spirit directs. Write your own constructive thoughts on the margins. Pray earnestly, humbly, for the complete guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you have suggestions for the implementing of this program, mail them to the Rev. Paul Faris, Quintile, Kansas, or to the Rev. Remo I. Robb, Beaver Falls, Penna.

Let God’s Glory be our Chief End, and let every church member be an active evangelist.

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The Lord’s great miracle of feeding the Five Thousand may guide us in our plans.

Matthew 14:15-21—And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages and buy victuals. But Jesus said, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, We have but five loaves and two fishes.

He said, Bring them hither to me. And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat and were filled; and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

Read this also in Mark 6:34-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:3-14.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

1. To feed the five thousand required a miracle—to gain five thousand new members in five years seems to require a miracle.
2. Conversion in itself is a miracle.
   a. It is called a “new birth”—John 3:3-8.
   b. It is called “a resurrection from the dead”—Rom. 6:6-13.
   c. It is called a “gift of God”—Rom. 6:23.
   d. It is called by other titles which in themselves are not possible to nature.
3. Miracles are wrought only by God’s direct power or permission, Acts 19:11; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; Gal. 3:5; Heb. 2:4.

SPECIAL STUDY

A. The Supreme Lord

1. The people, the disciples, the food—all were under His supreme control. The entire incident was His work. Compare Matt. 14:19 with Luke 9:14.
2. All mankind is His by right of creation, and He exercises control over every person.
"The earth and the fullness with which it is stored, The world and its dwellers belong to the Lord." Ps. 24:1, No. 59

Read also Psalms 145, 146, 147; Ezek. 18:4, 22, 31; Col. 1:16, 17; 2 Pet. 3:9.

S. C. question 11—"What are God's works of providence?"
Answer—"God's works of providence?re His most holy, wise, and powerful, preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions."

At every point the Covenanter Crusade must be subject to the Supreme Lord and for His glory alone.

The world still is made up of God's people who are reborn, and those who are still dead in sin. Isaiah 43:7; Matt. 25:31-46.

C. God's People Commissioned to Deal with the World

The Commission to give spiritual food is found in Ezek. 3:18-21; Jonah 4:10; 11; Matt. 10:5-6; 28:19, 20; John 21:16-17; Acts 18:5, 10, and many other places.

2. The Response of God's people is found in Psalm 107.

With God's people now it is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent after Christ had finished His work. Read these references carefully: Zech. 4:8; Luke 11:13-15; John 3:5; 14:14-17, 26; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 3:20.


The Committee on Prayer Meeting Topics for 1947 incorporated into its report to Synod the following statement from the American Seminary of the Bible: "The American Seminary of the Bible holds that widespread powerlessness in Christian service originates in failure to recognize the function of prayer. . . Many churches grow empty, few souls are won, Christians remain weak and indifferent—all because failure to contact God through prayer blocks His power. . . Praying pastors, praying teachers, praying missionaries are the crying need in a world where Christian witness has lost much of its supernatural force."—Mts. of Synod, p. 46.

Two Tracts:

"Prayer and Revival"
1c each, any quantity

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
156 5th Ave.
New York 10, N. Y.

"How Prayer Brings Revival"
10c each, $1 per dozen

CHRIST FOR AMERICA, LAND TITLE BLDG.
Philadelphia 10, Pa.

D. God's Requirements of His People
1. A Willing Discipleship
"A willing people in Thy day of power shall come to Thee;"
Thy youth arrayed in holiness, like morning dew shall be.”

Ps. 110:3, No. 305

The disciples at first were unwilling. Matt. 14: 15, Mark 6:35, 36; Luke 9:12, 13; John 8:5, 7.

a. Hindrances to Willingness. What hinders evangelistic effort?

“T don’t know how,” “I’m afraid to start,” “I don’t have time,” “There’s too much else to do,” “I’m not inclined that way,” or “Others are better fitted.” Something always seems to be wrong, so it may be summed up in one word, SIN.

(1) Sin in Ourselves.

Rom. 7:19-21, 24, 25; Gal. 5:7; Heb. 12:1; 1 John 1:8.

Read or sing these Psalms—25:6, No. 61; 25:9, 10, No. 62; 31:3, 6, No., 145; 66:13, No. 174.

Any others that are prayers for forgiveness.

Sin in ourselves must be taken care of, and first of all by each member for himself. The Covenant Crusade must begin in completely forgiven sinners.

Dr. Torrey once gave a plan on “How to Have a Revival.” It was published on the COVENANTER WITNESS cover for June 5, 1946. The plan is:

“First, let a few Christians (they need not be many) get thoroughly right with God themselves. This is the prime essential; if this is not done, the rest I am to say will come to nothing.

“Second, let them bind themselves together in a prayer group to pray for a revival until God opens the heavens and comes down.

“Third, let them put themselves at the disposal of God for Him to use them as He sees fit in winning others to Christ.

“THAT IS ALL!”

(2) Sin in our Congregations

It is easy in our congregations to forget the Supreme Christ, to drop from the high plane of Spiritual power to the level of things. How often money matters take over emphasis; they even came into the Feeding of the Five Thousand (John 6:7). Many congregations have lost their outward look, and have become organizations that must be operated rather than organisms that grow through transforming the lives around them. There is the tendency, too, to insist on personal rights and personal opinions being accepted by others, to forget that no two individuals are alike, and that every one must subject his personality to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

(3) Sin in our Church

The church has forgotten much of its covenant with God and is guilty of covenant breaking. Rom. 1:31 lists “covenant breakers” among those “worthy of death.” The Church has largely lost its vision. The idea is commonly expressed that we are not intended to be a large church. Consequently, the Church sin through lack of faith, and says of many worthy projects, “They cannot be done”, because it looks to its own power and forgets that the whole work is the Lord’s. The Church sins in its concept of a program divided into Foreign Missions and Home Missions, into missions and congregations, into education and evangelism, etc. And surely in the failure to emphasize the winning of souls to Christ as its primary aim the Church daily fails the Captain of our salvation. The Rev. H. B. McMillan in a report on Evangelism to the Colorado Presbyterian
in 1936 wrote, "Let us get away from the idea that we do not grow because our principles are unpopular. Other groups are growing which are demanding greater sacrifices than we do. Let us become obsessed with the conviction that our church's greatest sin to be repented of is the sin of refusing to grow."

b. Essential Remedies for ourselves, our congregations, and our Church.


(2) Sacrifice.


The Lord Jesus Christ. Phil. 2:5-8.

Paul. Phil. 3:7-14.


(4) Surrender to Christ. John 14:15, 16; 30:27, 28; Eph. 4:30; I Thess. 5:19—We must not put any limit on the Holy Spirit as to the field or form of His working.


It is said "I do not know my Bible well enough." or "I would not know what to say to an unconverted person." Read John 3:16.

a. Allow Christ to have complete control of what you do have. as in the miracle. Matt. 14:18; Mark 6:41a; Luke 9:10; John 6:11.

b. Enlarge your supply. The Evangelistic Committee suggests the following sources for Scripture Memorizing:

"Scripture Memorizing for Successful Soul Winning"—cost $5.50; Moody Bible Institute, 153 Institute Place, Chicago, 10, Ill.

"Topical Memory System"—cost $2.00—The

Navigators, P. O. Box 70, Los Angeles, 53, Calif.

These are correspondence courses in Bible memory work, sent out in lessons as each part is complete. The stimulus to continued effort is an advantage.

For an inexpensive source of Soul Winning passages that may be used in a class, the committee suggests:

"Suggested Bible Statements for Personal Workers"

A tract, 1¢ per copy, 75¢ per 100

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156 Fifth Ave. New York 10, N. Y.

E. The Multitude

The people to be reached enter the study here. Surely every community has "multitudes" of unconverted men and women. Communities vary so greatly that it is next to impossible to lay out a detailed plan on how to locate them. In any case, a Prospect List is a definite starting point. This may be built by voluntary suggestions, by a community canvas, or by some general invitation. Information should be carefully tabulated and made strictly confidential. Suitable card forms may be obtained from almost any religious publishing company. The following are suggested:

"Information for Prospect List" and "Survey" 25¢ per 100

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156 Fifth Ave. New York 10, N. Y.

"Information Card" 30¢ per 100

SCRIPTURE PRESS

800 North Clark St. Chicago 10, Ill.
F. The Distribution

"He gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude."—Matt. 14:19.

1. Fields.
   a. Congregations. They need to be revitalized and enlarged.
   b. Presbyterial Movements.

   A plan suggested for some of the larger presbyteries follows:
   (1) Arrange for two weeks of simultaneous evangelistic meetings over the entire presbytery to culminate in the Lord's Supper.
   (2) The members of each congregation will be responsible for the conduct of the meetings and for bringing in those in need of salvation.
   (3) The pastor of each congregation moves from one congregation to another over a prepared route until all the congregations in the presbytery are covered in two weeks.
   (4) The pastor returns to conduct his own Communion.
   (5) The plan should be altered to meet local conditions.

   c. Synodical Organizations.

      The Women's Synodical Missionary Society through its Home Mission superintendent.

      The Synodical C. Y. P. U. through Synod's Young People's Secretary.

      The plan of work adopted at the recent Grinnell Convention calls for each society to "undertake a fuller program for the broader interest, fuller consecration, and wider activity of its members in the work of Christ by putting special emphasis on the evangelistic nature of the church, that each C. Y. P. U. member will honestly strive to bring at least one person a year to Christ."

2. Necessary Steps in Every Field
   a. Prayer—a prayer circle or prayer circles meeting regularly besides the mid-week meeting.
      A very fine prayer group card may be secured from Revival Prayer Plan, Room 1302, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, 2, Penna. Cost, 3c each; 25c per 12; $1 per 50; $1.75 per 100.

      The first step in prayer is to make ourselves right with God. 1 Sam. 10:26.

      There must be definitiveness in petition about particular problems, particular people and unsaved souls.
      b. Frequent preaching on the subject and duty of soul winning.
      c. A prospect list. See paragraph E above.
      d. The proper type of program. See paragraph 3 below.
      e. A class or circle on plans and methods.

      f. A clinic of progress and results.

      The Evangelistic Committee proposes to publish a self-test at least twice a year in THE COVENANTER WITNESS.
      g. A proper follow-up program to bring members into the Church. For new-born Christians,
a helpful study book is "Young Believers' Bible Work", Keith L. Brooks—price 25c each; American Prophetic League, Inc., Box BB, Eagle Rock Station, Los Angeles, 41, Calif. 

Other helps, especially for prospective members, may be found in the works of our own ministers: "Young People's Handbook"—W. J. Mc-Knight; "Handbook for Young Christians"—D. H. Elliott; "Bible Truths for Young Christians"—J. G. Vos.

h. A study on how to find one's place in the church. Needed both by present members, and new members.

c. New commissions for new soul winners.

3. Methods

a. Evangelistic Meetings.
(1) A voluntary prayer group to prepare the way by confession, consecration and committal.
(2) A prospect list.
(3) Well selected and well trained local workers.
(4) Congregational prayer meetings before the preaching begins.
(5) Carefully selected speaker or leader.
(6) Preparation for glorious praise.
(7) Attractive and dignified advertising.
(8) Meetings supported by faithful congregational cooperation.
(9) A carefully planned follow-up program.

b. Visitation Evangelism.
(1) A carefully framed prospect list.
(2) A well trained group of callers.
(3) A strict program of hours of meeting, calling and reporting.

Although this is a very popular form of evangelistic program, it must be followed very cautiously, lest our church rolls grow rapidly in numbers but not in souls actually won. Because of the instruction necessary for membership in the Covenantanter Church, it is not recommended as a special program, except with caution. Evangelistic visitation, however, is always in order.

c. Personal Work

This is the most satisfying of all methods.
(1) The worker must be right with God.
(2) He must have a working knowledge of the Bible. See Item D, 2b. Another helpful book is "Fishers of Men"—Handbook for Personal Worker by Lester Sumrall—price 60c, Zondervan Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan.
(3) He must contact a soul in need of salvation.
(4) He must create and use opportunities for personal work.

Many helps such as pins, tracts, etc., are offered by various religious book stores.
(5) He must pray for and with those whom he would lead to Christ.

d. Tract Evangelism.

(1) READ THE TRACT BEFORE ORDERING IT in quantity or distributing it.
(2) Sources of Material.
The American Tract Society, Inc., 21 W. 46th St., New York 19, N. Y.
Bible House of Los Angeles, 237 South Westmoreland Ave. Los Angeles 6, Calif.
Board of Missions, 156 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

In ordering tracts from any of these sources, be sure to observe rule 1 above.

(3) Stamp the tracts with your name and address or that of your pastor. If possible, enclose a return card.

(4) Distribute

Directly, by mail or by personal contact; indirectly by tract boxes in public buildings and in our church buildings; Gospel Bombs are a novel form of tract distribution; for information write to Good News Publishers, 322 W. Washington, Chicago 6, Ill.

Finally, let us remember our promise to God.

"Profoundly conscious of past remissness and neglect, we will henceforth, by our prayers, pecuniary contributions and personal exertions, seek the revival of pure and undefiled religion, the conversion of Jews and Gentiles to Christ, that all men may be blessed in Him, and that all nations may call Him blessed."

Amen!