

# A CONTINUING MINISTRY

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## **Title:** A Continuing Ministry

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

#### INTRODUCTION

## **Preliminary Understandings**

- 1. The Church Will Continue
- 2. There Are Some Things We Should Never Discontinue
- 3. There Are Some Things We Should Discontinue
- 4. We Must Continue Intentionally

1.	Committed to Biblical		
	A	Commitment	

#### A COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." (Matthew 9:36)

**QUOTE:** "We must pray, preach, and model a soulwinner's compassion."

#### A COMPASSIONATE PRIORITY

**QUOTE:** "The bringing of one soul to Christ is the highest achievement possible to human life."—**George Truett** 

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

### B. Commitment

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house," (Acts 20:20)

#### **Outreach Methods**

- 1. Event Evangelism
- 2. Witnessing as the Holy Spirit Leads
- 3. Preaching the Gospel Every Sunday
- 4. Community Service with a Gospel Emphasis
- 5. Mailing Community Newsletters
- 6. Building Effective Websites
- 7. Jewish Evangelism
- 8. Missions Evangelism

**DEFINITION:** "ministry"—to serve or aid as a Christian teacher

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)

**QUOTE:** "The only alternative to soulwinning is disobedience."—**Curtis Hutson** 

SCHEDULE SOULWINNING MEETINGS

ENLIST SOULWINNERS

TRAIN SOULWINNERS

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2) "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"(1 Peter 3:15)

#### PROVIDE A VARIETY OF CALLS

#### PROVIDE A VARIETY OF MEETING PLACES

#### ENCOURAGE SOULWINNERS

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)

## Commitment

"And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. 4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." (Mark 2:3-5)

## 2. Committed to

Bi	Biblical				
A.	The				
	"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Romans 5:1)				
В.	The				
	"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you," (Galatians 4:19)				

**QUOTE:** "The church needs people who, in listening to their pastor, listen for the message of Christ, and pastors who, in laboring among the people, look for the image of Christ."

#### -John Stott

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the

likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:5-8)

C.	The	

#### PREACHING

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. <sup>4:1</sup> I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Timothy 3:16–4:2)

#### MODELING

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." (Philippians 4:9)

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. <sup>2</sup> Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."

(2 Corinthians 11:1-2)

**QUOTE:** "A man's life is always more forcible than his speech. When men take stock of him they reckon his deeds as dollars and his words as pennies. If his life and doctrine disagree, the mass of onlookers accept his practice and reject his preaching."—**Charles Spurgeon** 

#### DISCIPLESHIP

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." (2 Timothy 1:13-14)

**QUOTE:** "When we mentor, we see church members as our ministry. When we manage, we see them as our machine, and we will be accused of manipulation."

D.	The					
	DEFI	NITION: "	formed"—to	make into	the same	likeness

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

3.		Committed to Biblical  QUOTE: "It is only as we develop others around us that we permanently succeed."				
	A.	Emerging Leaders				
		IDENTIFY				
		<b>QUOTE:</b> "The systems we use are not as important as the people we choose."				
		"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." (Acts 6:3)				
	MENTOR					
		"But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. <sup>20</sup> For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state." Philippians 2:19–20)				
		INVOLVE				
		<b>QUOTE:</b> "If the dominant theme of your church is controlling others rather than serving others, the likeliness of developing strong leaders around you will diminish."				
		EVALUATE				
	В.	a Godly Staff				
		<b>QUOTE:</b> "The only thing worse than training a staff member that leaves for another church is to not train him and have him stay."				
		CULTIVATE A SPIRIT OF FAITH				
		<b>QUOTE:</b> "Help people reach their full potential—catch them doing something right."				
		CULTIVATE A BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING				

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: <sup>6</sup> If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. <sup>7</sup> For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; <sup>8</sup> But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; <sup>9</sup> Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. <sup>10</sup> For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:" (Titus 1:5–10)

## Four Ways to Help Your Leaders

- 1. Strategy
- 2. Structure

**QUOTE:** "Mediocrity breeds indifference; quality attracts."

- 3. Alignment
- 4. Clarity

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Corinthians 14:8)

4.	Committ	ed to
	Biblical _	

**QUOTE:** "We must mentor from a platform of respect. This platform is built by character, not credentials."

"And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. <sup>14</sup> Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die." (2 Samuel 12:13–14)

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (1 Timothy 4:16)

"If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly." (Titus 1:6)

INSIST ON TIME WITH GOD DAILY

INVOLVE YOUR SELF WITH SHARPENING RELATIONSHIPS

LISTEN TO YOUR SPOUSE AND CHILDREN

B.	Integrity

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:" (Titus 2:1)

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Corinthians 14:8)

**QUOTE:** "A soft, shapeless Christianity ready to adapt to any worldview may enjoy initial success, but it will soon be overtaken and lose its interest. The problem with all such adaptations is that those outside the faith soon see that they can reap Christian benefits on purely secular grounds without paying whatever small price is being asked for the adapted version of this faith."-David Wells

C	Integrity
C	mileginy

"Let not then your good be evil spoken of:" (Romans 14:16)

## 5. Committed to Biblical

**QUOTE:** "Continuing churches are churches that keep sacrificing after the start-up period."

**QUOTE:** "Death comes when memories of the past supersede the visions of the future."

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"And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"(1 Samuel 17:29)

## PRIDE **QUOTE:** "Today's churches are either risk taking, care taking, or undertaking." B. Sacrifice the of this World "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." (2 Timothy 2:4) C. Sacrifice the of this World QUOTE: "The early church was countercultural, not conforming to culture." "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Colossians 2:8) D. Sacrifice the of this World SCRIPTURAL GIVING UNITES OUR HEARTS TO THE LORD "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34) SCRIPTURAL GIVING IS AN EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE AT WORK "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also." (2 Corinthians 8:7) SCRIPTURAL GIVING FACILITATES MINISTRY "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8) CONCLUSION



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