

## “WHAT’S MISSING?”

This week I received two visits that disturbed me. The first was from the mailman delivering a letter that contained information indicating that something is missing in some churches. The letter was from T-Net, an organization based in Aurora, CO that conducts church surveys and discipleship clinics. Their research reveals that, “The average Evangelical church wins less than 2 new converts a year per 100 attenders.” Note: they’re talking about “converts” and not “church members”.

What’s missing? Call it outreach, visitation, witnessing, canvassing, evangelism, networking, seed sowing etc., there is less and less of it being done by the average evangelical church (that’s “evangelical” as in “evangel: a message of Good News” and “evangelism: the act of spreading the Good News” ).

It seems that many present day churches are saying, “Come and get it!” when Jesus said, “Go and give it!” Consequently, the gulf between the reached and the unreached, the church and the unchurched, the gospel and the un-gospel is ever widening.

Why is something missing? Jesus said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17) Either the “following” is missing or the “fishing” is missing or both, in the churches cited in the above statistic. If either, it is the result of disobedience. As for the absence of “fishing”, so far as the church of Jesus Christ fails to share the Gospel with the unsaved she disobeys the last assignment of her Lord: “You will be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8).

“Less than 2 new converts a year per 100 attenders” – my, my, I wonder what the Head of the church will do about that! But we must remember that churches are comprised of Christians who individually are accountable to the Lord. What’s missing? Obedience to Jesus’ assignment to communicate the Good News message. Only you, as a Christian, can supply what’s missing.

Oh, yes, the second visit I had this week was by two Mormon missionaries going door to door with their false message!

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