

The Lesson—Encounter 3 of 3

by Christine Wentzel

This is the last installment on the theme of taking Church to the unchurched (*Go to Church, The Training and The Rescue.*) The Lord opened several doors to bring Church to people at a craft event I was vending. With each encounter, the lessons were mounting...



After my Gospel encounters with some pretty incredible women, I was relaxing on clouds of spiritual contentment when all of a sudden I found myself on a battleground of wounded pride. Another well-dressed, attractive older woman approached my tent to look over a row of bracelets. She struggled to put one on so I offered to help her. My neck almost snapped off by the quick dodge from her poisoned-arrow tongue. I was floored by how quickly I jumped into a snarling defensive stance. Instead of a humble and empathic "Are you okay?" I found myself locked and loaded with one of my own poisoned arrows.

I watched her taking my measure while a voice inside said this one needs Church too. "Uh-uh, no way. She's acting like a feral cat, and I'm deathly afraid of cats. Lord, where's a whale when you need one? Alright, I'm going in but I don't want to." I offered again to help her for by this time my stringent quality control was reaching its maximum limits with all her pulling and twisting. Zing-zing-zing! She unleashed her whole arsenal. Everyone within 10 feet of her walked away, including me. Without an audience and without fuel for her fire, she quickly gave up. She put the bracelet down and calmly said, "You have beautiful jewelry." Um, thank you?

Did I take Church to her? I think the answer to that comes from Proverbs 15:18, "A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel." Perhaps several of us did.

That was an exceptional day of taking Church to people. Most days are not that obvious, but perhaps they should be. Every day we are challenged to show our willingness to open our personal doors, put out the welcome mat and turn on the porch Light of Christ. It takes time and effort. It's exhausting, exhilarating, frightening and fun. It's an investment with a high value rate of return. It's a matter of life or death.

Lastly, there was one more woman who needed Church and it didn't even dawn on me until I came home. She was right under my nose all day helping and keeping me company, a quiet observer of the day's events-my unchurched family member. What did she think? I'll take Church to her and ask. All I know is that cynical little lady was hyped up for the next show. She told me as we parted, "I had a great time!"

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58



Season: Pentecost

Video: 18. Planting the Seeds

Devotions: 35. The Training—Encounter 1 of 3

36. The Rescue—Encounter 2 of 3

Prayer: 52. My God of perfect orderly design, during your time of incredible creativity...

Super Girl: 61. “There’s no such thing as a free lunch.” Somebody pays...

Scripture References: Proverbs 21:21; 1 Corinthians 16:10; Galatians 6:9; 2 Peter 3:14

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