

Pastoral Evangelists¹

Colin Marshall

There is a need for lay workers who can effectively connect with people in our communities, provide all sorts of pastoral care and bring the gospel to them with love and skill.

They connect the caring ministries and evangelism, and so are 'pastoral evangelists'. They are true pastors in the biblical sense of shepherding the flock through the gospel for eternal life.

The goal of each pastoral evangelist is to reach 10 people with love and the gospel, nurture them as disciples and bring them into fellowship with other believers.

Each church could initially identify, train and deploy say, 10 couples or singles.

We are looking for those with pastoral and evangelistic gifts of connecting and communicating with people. Often these are people converted as adults or those with jobs requiring people skills.

They could work in both local church ministry and as chaplains to various institutions.

Church – based pastoral evangelists

- School Community Evangelism²
- Hospitality Evangelism
- Visitation Evangelism
- Evangelistic Home Groups
- Neighbourhood Chaplains³
- Home Care Chaplains to aged
- Local Sports Chaplains

¹ Adapted from a report, 'Lay Ministry Training Study' by Colin Marshall on behalf of The Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney'. May 9, 2007

² This ministry is especially suited to women who get to know other mums at the school gate and through playgroups etc. Fathers need to be included so that friendships are built with families. Involvement in school councils and other formal roles will help. One of the problems with women's evangelism is that husbands are not taught to follow up 'couples' with their wives – women are only reaching women.

³ Neighbourhood Chaplains should be equipped with resources to minister to people requiring help with parenting including raising teenagers, marriage, divorce, singleness, widowhood, grief, aging, addiction, long-term illness etc.

Institutional Chaplains

- Prison Chaplains
- Hospital Chaplains
- Chaplains to detention centres
- Workers in retirement villages and nursing homes

Examples of missionary fields:

- School community
- Church contacts
- Neighbourhoods
- Ethnic communities
- Workplace
- Sporting clubs
- Shut-ins
- Aged and sick in the community
- Prisons
- Detention centres
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Retirement villages

The majority of pastoral evangelism workers will be unpaid volunteers. For example:

- people in secular employment who can give Sundays and, say, one evening per week
- mothers with children at school
- singles who can work can reduce working hours
- married couples working as a team⁴
- financially independent people who can work at least part-time in ministry, self-funded
- early retirees and retirees

⁴ We tend to think too individualistically about lay ministry. Couples caring and evangelising together is good for their marriage and their evangelism.