



Principles for leading missions.



Section 1 - The History.

The work of Emmanuel Beach Mission in Saundersfoot began in 1956 through the vision of Rev. Norman Ellison (an Emmanuel Home Mission worker leading the work in Pembrokeshire), Rev. Stanley Banks (Principal of Emmanuel Bible College in Merseyside) and Mr Bill Giles (a local Christian farmer). Whilst walking together along the harbour top at Saundersfoot they heard God challenge them to begin a Beach Mission to reach the hundreds of families who holiday on the beach each summer with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

So in 1956, after much prayer and planning, the men were given permission by the Saundersfoot Community Council to begin the Beach Mission on Coppet Hall beach.

In 1957 permission was granted for them to move the meetings to the bottom of the slipway in Saundersfoot itself. The Beach Mission has enjoyed this remarkable position every year since then.

At first, the teams were made up entirely of students from Emmanuel Bible College in Merseyside. When Rev. John Welsby took on the running of the mission he opened the teams up to Christians of all backgrounds, ages and walks of life, a principle that continues to this day.

Over the years God has greatly blessed the work. Many have found Christ as their Saviour and some of these are now involved in full time Christian ministry. Many of the team members have entered into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of their experiences. Testimony is constantly being given as to how the experience of Beach Mission has equipped young people to be actively involved in serving Christ in their local churches. Some have heard the call of God to enter full-time ministry whilst on team.

During the coronavirus pandemic of 2020 we produced a nine part YouTube series. Throughout this time we sensed God redirecting us and in 2022 God gave us a new vision to partner with local churches across the country to see children reached with the good news, launching holiday clubs in Pembrokeshire, London and the Lake District, as well as heading down to the beach in Saundersfoot once again.

As you partner with us in person or by adapting or using our resources this summer, our prayer is that you may know the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through you, and that you would be fruitful and multiply as God works to grow His Kingdom in your community.



Section 2 - The Ethos.

The ethos that permeates through the work of Emmanuel Missions finds its root in the historic emphasis of the Emmanuel Movement. This has four main aspects.

1. Faith.

We emphasise that God, being our loving Father and Creator, is committed to meeting all of our needs. In Christ He has provided for our salvation and gives us everything we need, both materially and spiritually. Because of this we are committed with a sense of prayerful reliance to trust God to keep His Word and supply all our needs. *Philippians 4:19.*

2. Sacrifice.

We emphasise that Jesus, in making our restored relationship with God possible, willingly gave up His own rights and ultimately gave up His own life. In doing this Jesus' life and death models and motivates us to willingly accept the cost of fruitful ministry both in the big and the small. *Romans 12:1.*

3. Holiness.

We emphasise that the Holy Spirit, in filling the life of the Christian, makes it possible for us to be Christ-like in every part of our lives with no conflict between what we are, what we say and what we do. *2 Corinthians 3:18.*

4. Fellowship.

We emphasise that the Church, in fulfilling the Great Commission in the world, is most effective when all the members work together as parts of the body, in an attitude of servanthood. *Philippians 1:27.*

On mission we aim to celebrate what we have been set free from rather than being defined by what we 'don't do', or what we are 'against'. We aim to live unhindered by sin and guilt and embracing the Great Commission; to reach people and release them into the same joyful freedom we have received. This is best expressed by the 'freedoms' at the heart of the Free Methodist Church.

Set free by Christ; encouraging everyone, every day, everywhere to embrace the liberating truth of the Good News about Jesus.

Living free in Christ; calling everyone to grow in the freedom which comes from following Jesus.

Bringing freedom through Christ; encouraging everyone to discover ways to show the love of Jesus wherever they are.



Section 3 - The Team's Goal.

The teams have one simple goal:

'We are Christ's Ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!"
2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

Evangelism is the focus of all we do. It is the team's objective to present the message of Jesus Christ clearly, relevantly and to the most people possible. Evangelism is the filter for everything we do during our weeks of mission.

Realistically the group of people we are most effective in reaching is families with children. Recognising this we need to make reaching them our goal.

Many Christians often gather around the mission teams. The children often benefit greatly from being part of the mission. Parents are often very encouraged. Whilst our desire is to reach those outside of Christ we need to recognise that, in doing this, God may want to use us to be an encouragement to the Christians who gather around.

Section 4 - The Leader's Goal.

The Leader has one simple goal:

'Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the Church, the body of Christ...' Ephesians 4:12 (NLT).

It is the Leader's goal to equip each team member to present the message of Jesus Christ clearly and relevantly to the most people possible. In order to effectively do this the leader themselves must be clearly committed to this goal. The team must be able to see this demonstrated in the life of the leader.

In equipping each member of the team the leader must not only be willing to identify each individuals' gifts, but take responsibility for training the team in the new skills that they will need to be effective in presenting the Gospel in the meetings. This will take time, alongside a strategic use of the Workshop and periods set aside for preparation. This is especially important with younger or less experienced teams.

In order to do this the Leader will need to be disciplined themselves, and encourage a high level of discipline among the team members. It is the Leader's responsibility to guard the team from things that will be a hindrance to them achieving their goal and guide them toward the things that will be a help.



Section 5 - The Message.

If we are to be effective in presenting the message of Jesus Christ we must first be clear what this message is. Our understanding of the Gospel will necessarily dictate how we present that message. We believe that there are five core aspects to the Gospel.

1. It begins with God.

It is God who made us and therefore He knows us best. As He loves us, He also wants what is best for us...a humble, loving, growing friendship with Him. God reveals to us who He is and what He desires so that we can know Him. This is completely contained in Scripture - God's Word. The Gospel originates not with man but with God.

2. It exposes Man's sin.

Each one of us has been born into Adam's suffering world and we share in his selfish ways. We have all personally turned away from our loving Father God through ignorance, weakness or our own deliberate fault. The result of our sin is that we cannot know a friendship with God in our lives. The consequence of our sin is separation from God. God holds us personally accountable for our sin.

3. It focuses on Jesus Christ.

Jesus lived the life we should live and died the death we should die. On the cross He took on himself the consequences for the sins that we have committed. In doing this Jesus did the only thing that it was possible to do for our sins to be forgiven. He paid the price and set us free from the power of sin because He loves us and wants a relationship with us.

4. It demands a response.

The only way for our relationship with God to be restored is by responding to what Jesus has done for us by turning to Him in repentance and faith. In turning to Him we are set free from our sinful nature and become one with Jesus. We must recognise that to know and grow in our friendship with God we need to allow Him to be in charge of our lives.

5. It results in Eternal Life.

When we are united to Christ our sin is completely forgiven and God no longer holds it against us. We have a completely new start in our relationship with God. When we are one with Jesus we receive His Father as our Father and His Spirit as our Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills every part of our lives assuring us of His love and commitment to us, directing the change that is needed and empowering us to live in freedom. The New Heaven and the New Earth become the Christian's ultimate destination.



Questions to ask of every presentation.

In view of this we must ask the following five questions of every presentation that we do on the beach:

- Have we made it clear that this is God's Word not ours?
- Have we explained to people the problem of sin?
- Have we focused on the salvation that Jesus alone can bring?
- Have we invited people to respond to the Gospel?
- Have we shown the difference that being a follower of Jesus makes?

It will not be possible in every meeting to cover each of these aspects in depth. However, our material should enable us to cover at least one of these core aspects of the Gospel in depth and to make a clear mention of each of the other four.

Section 6 - The Method.

All of us have been placed in a unique setting, with unique challenges and opportunities to reach out with the Good News of Jesus. We want to maximise our God given opportunities to share the Good News. Over the week we will reach out to many different people. Many will only listen for a moment, others will join us on select days, whilst some will be with us each day. This will effect the style of both our presentations and personal work.

Presentations

These are foundational to all that we do and so it is vitally important that our presentations are the best that they can be. In order to do this these presentations need to be:

- Up-front - Enthusiastically & clearly led from the front at all times
- Big impact - Lots of energy, colour, music, big visuals, and lively actions.
- Involving the whole team - ensure everyone has a job and knows how to do it.
- Punchy - Attention grabbing and pacy.
- Prepared - Your responsibility to prepare programme and all team members.
- Practiced - Confidence is crucial, comes through practice. Workshop = vital.
- Pointed - Clearly present gospel and make a call for response. We never know when people will have a second opportunity to hear about their need of Christ.



Personal work.

Those joining us over the week will have heard at least something of the Gospel and realise who we are and what we believe. The focus of our personal work is therefore to 'make the most of every opportunity' to talk to people about their own need of Jesus. We need to be mindful of:

- Fear - Many team members find it difficult start conversations. It's often easier to ask people what they thought of something they have already heard than introduce message cold. Partner younger folk with older folk if possible.
- Inexperience - Having started a conversation we need to seek to introduce Christ into it. We need to be careful not just to chat but to point to Jesus.
- Literature - Offering a good piece of literature can be better than a thousand words of explanation and can help introduce Christ into a conversation.
- Complexity - Some people have very difficult questions or can be in great need. All team members need to know who they can ask for help on team if they start to feel out of depth. We also need to be careful not to get into arguments about what we are 'against' and instead focus on the love and freedoms that Jesus offers.
- Sensitivity - We need to be bold in starting conversations but wise to know when to stop. Jesus calls us to knock on every door, but if the door is not opened he does not ask us to break it down!
- Integrity - We must guard against the danger of speaking the words of Christ and not being willing to do the works of Christ. In the way we care for the people we have with us and around us we need to demonstrate that Jesus was not only a preacher but also a servant.

Below are some suggestions that may be of help in one on one conversations.

- What did you think of what we've been saying today/tonight?
- Do you have a faith yourself?
- Have you ever thought about these kind of things before?
- What do you think about Jesus?
- What questions do you have about God?
- That's a really good question that the Bible is clear on, but the answer can only really be understood when you know just how much God loves you.
- The most amazing claim of the Bible is not where it stands on such a divisive issue but on the promise of a new and better world. That's something we all desire, and it can only be found in relationship with Jesus.

