

Sowing in Our Garden

Today's Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

One obstacle for Christians who want to be intentional about sowing is this: Where do I sow? Christians spend most of their time during the week in the company of other believers. How in the world will we win the world if we are not even showing up where the world is?

Ask yourself this question: How many times in your lifetime as a Christian has anyone tried to share Christ with you? The answer may surprise you!

Paul says in this passage: "... you are God's field, God's building." The word translated "field" also means "garden." God has given each one of us a garden for us to cultivate. The garden represents you and unbelieving people God has planted in your life. Your garden may have 100 people or 5 people, but to be on mission for God you must have a garden you are cultivating, one with people who have yet to come to the Savior.

I cultivate my garden by keeping a "contact book." This

little book has the names of people I meet in whom I have detected some receptivity to my God. I list names, phone numbers, e-mails and prayer requests. I pray for them on a regular basis, using the 5 blessings (B=body; L=labor; E=emotional health; S-social health; S-spiritual health).

But I go one step further – I intentionally seek to be where these people are (at gas stations, the local Starbucks, supermarkets, etc.) or invite them to my home. I seek to find ways I can encourage them and instead of only "scheduling people" I am always looking for opportunities to "people my schedule."

I am not saying that this is the only way to be intentional about sowing but I can certainly say that by the grace of God this practice has worked well for me. All of this, however, must be undergirded with prayer. Otherwise our efforts will be in vain.

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