



HELP PLANT THE SEED



Version 1, Feb 2017

OBJECTIVE

A short article to:

- *Remind you of your general duty; and*
- *Motivate you to carry on, even if you believe you are consistently unsuccessful (confused?... read on)*

1. A WELL KNOWN STORY:

A farmer went out to sow seed. ⁴ While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed.

⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was not enough dirt. It grew very fast there, because the soil was not deep.

⁶ But when the sun rose, it burned the plants. The plants died because they did not have deep roots.

⁷ Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and stopped the good plants from growing.

⁸ But some of the seed fell on good ground. There it grew and made grain. Some plants made 100 times more grain, some 60 times more, and some 30 times more...

The above from: **Matthew 13 from verse 3**

2. INTRODUCTION

God tells us to go out and make disciples, but looking at the above and the statistics below, “*Huston, we have a Problem*”, but let us not get ahead of ourselves.



Statistics by the direct marketing association state that the successful response rate related to the distribution of fliers/pamphlets is only about **1%**. So the success rate related to the marketing/selling of products and services via this method is extremely low (a 99% “failure” rate), so failure is almost guaranteed!

Note that this article does not cover the “How”, just “What” we need to do.

3. OUR GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY

Let us briefly look at two verses from the Bible:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” [Matthew 28:16-20 ...](#)”

“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”
[Mark 16:15](#)

From the above I can think of some common questions you may have:

1. Does this really also apply to me, or was this meant for the disciples at the time?;
2. What if I am not a preacher or not good at talking or not good at public speaking or not good with people? or
3. Looking at that poor success rate, are we not wasting our time?



Let us see if I can respond to the above questions:

3.1 Does this really also apply to me?

Firstly, if you grasped the fact that Jesus gave his life (with extreme humiliation and pain) for our sins and to save our souls, then you should actually out of appreciation automatically want to tell everybody about Jesus! Also, if you follow God's key commandments that we should Love thy neighbor, then again you should automatically want to tell everybody out of love, about Jesus and also get them saved!

If the above two text were from the OLD Testament, a person could still argue that what was said in the Old Testament has been nullified with Jesus's death on the cross, but these two text messages are actually from the NEW Testament! It is therefore particularly relevant to us all.

Furthermore, if it was directed at only the disciples at the time, what about all the people after their death? So if it was only meant for the disciples, then God would probably have made them live forever to allow them to keep on spreading the Word. No, it is now our task to do so, or indirectly assist! The preachers in this world are too few and far between to do this task alone, we should (and should want to) spread the word and save Souls.

3.2 What if I am not a preacher or not good at talking to people or speaking to large crowds?

That answer is easy, it **depends on your talents and passion!** If you do not have the talent of preaching/public speaking, you will definitely still have other talents to utilize to make a difference. Yes, God has given each one of us different (unique) talents (gifts). You need to discover your talents as well as what you passions are. Just look at all the verses below that covers talents (gifts) given to us! You will quickly identify what you good at and that will probably be your talents to apply, but if you very good, you should not boast about them, and rather remind yourself constantly where these talents come from:

*"In his grace, God has given us **different gifts** for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."* **Romans 12:6-8**

*"10 Each of you should use **whatever gift you have** received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen"* **1 Peter 4:10-11**

"14 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven". **Matthew 5:14-16**

"3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form



one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have **different** gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully” **Romans 12:3-8**

“1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are **different kinds of gifts**, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he **distributes them to each one, just as he determines**”

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Since each one of us has different talents (been handed different gifts), each one has therefore different tasks/functions, whether directly or indirectly, to perform. Below is another short story to clarify this:

A family was given a challenge to see how many fish they can catch (similar to catching “fish” for Jesus - **Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17 and Luke 5:10**, but real fish). The family consisted of a 5 year old boy, a 13 year older brother, a 35 year old father and a 61 year old experienced fisherman, the grandfather. The 5 year old boy was given a small fishing net to see how many he can catch in a small pond between the rocks, the 13 year old boy was given a fishing rod to catch fish off the rocks, the father took a number of deep sea fishing rods on a boat and the grandfather rented a large boat and crew with fishing nets.

Off they went, each on their own mission. The 5 year old was trying hard, but was not successful, as the fish kept on evading him, but managed to catch a crab before his net broke. The older brother initially battled, but once he changed his bait, managed to catch 2 fish, a “Black-tail” and a “Cod” off the rocks. The father took out the fishing boat, threw in 5 fishing rods at the same time and at the end of the day managed to catch 7 fish (2 “Red herrings”, 2 “Barracudas”, 1 “Ray”, 1 “Eel” and 1 “Grunter”). The grandfather took out the large boat and dropped the nets, caught nothing on a few occasions, but managed to pull out 27 (various species) fish after a day’s work!

How did they manage to catch all the fish? What went into the process of catching the fish? Let us analyze this:

- The child fishing net:
 - Someone had to cut and prepare the bamboo stick (he/she was not directly involved in catching the fish)
 - Someone had to extract the raw material to make the plastic for the net
 - Someone got the colouring for the plastic net
 - A number of factory workers had to create the plastic and mould the net and bind it to the stick



- A transport company had to transport the small nets to various shops; and
- Shop owners were needed to sell the nets
- Fishing rods. To make the fishing rods, a number of people were also involved such as to create:
 - The nylon line
 - Steel, plastic and wood for the fishing reel
 - Fibre for the fishing rod and eyes
 - Mine workers for extracting steel and lead which goes to a factory to make the hooks, steel traces and weights
 - Other material for the rest of the fishing tackle
 - Transport company to transport the fishing rods and other fishing tackle to shops
 - Shop owners were needed to sell the fishing rods and fishing tackle; and
 - People to catch/find bait and then to sell it at shops
- Large Nets. The factory and material to make the nets, transport and sell the nets.
- Bait. Different bait was needed and used, each with different success rates and each bait type had to be obtained by different methods and different people. Each bait type was for different fish, as not all fish like the same bait.

So what does the above “fishing story” have to do with this article?

It means that to be able to catch fish, you need many different people and material and most people are only indirectly involved in the “catching process”, but each person is critically needed!

Just in life, for us to “catch” people for Jesus, many different people (and material) are involved, each with a unique function/assignment and unique talent. You may feel that what you doing is a waste of time, but it may have an indirect and important role (example: you may be responsible for buying material for the church and believe you not leading people to Jesus, but your indirect role enables other to do so!). By the way, from the above story you will also notice that the family members had different tasks, different success rates, used different bait and caught different types of fish.

So whether you are the grandfather or the fishing reel, you have a distinct task to contribute to catching fish, so do not underestimate your role. If you at least involved to some extent, even indirectly, you have an important task! The grandfather would be unsuccessful without the net, the father would be unsuccessful without the fishing reel or bait and so on.

From the above it is clear that we have different talents and tasks and each are important to directly or indirectly bring people to Jesus. Here is another “problem”! There are different “fish” to catch! Yes, each “fish” (people) have different personalities, so each person you would like to approach for Jesus may need to be approached differently. This article is not really aimed at the “How” to approach people (I am not a specialist in this field), but the article aims to send the message that you need to do something (just keep on planting the seed). Limited guidance on the “How”, considering the fact that people have different personalities, is provided in [Annexure A](#) below.

3.3 Looking at that poor success rate, are we not wasting our time?

Now God said we should go out and tell others about the Word and about Jesus, but from the above statistics, we see that the (our) success rate will be very very low! This would probably discourage anybody.



Let us consider the above statistics in an example below and assume that the last 1% eventually responds positively:

- Just imagine telling 40 people about Jesus and none respond positively, would you feel like giving up!?
- If you gathered enough courage and told another 40, you may still have been unsuccessful. Would you now give up? You may feel like a failure?
- What if you tried just once more and approached 19 other people, but you were once again unsuccessful? Just imagine, you put yourself out there by talking to 99 people and they all “laughed” at you! If you however carried on and targeted just **one** more person and the above statistics were true, you would have eventually been successful (if you gave up just before reaching that one % person, that one person (soul) would have been lost!).

So NO, we will never waste our time! Even if you have apparent failures upon failures, do not give up. Furthermore, just imagine that say person number 46 heard your message, did not respond initially, but at least the “seed” had been planted...? Something might happen later on in that person’s life that causes him/her to remember the “seed you planted” and they might just then turn to God. Your actions may therefore seem unsuccessful, but may heal results much later on. Do therefore not give up!

Just a note on the “last” person you may have been successful with: Do not do it to show off in front of other people and/or to find favor with God, do it because you really want to:

1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you
[Matthew 6:1-4](#)

You will NEVER waste your time! Even if it feels as if you wasted that valuable time you have. **Annexure B** is just one of possibly thousands of similar inspiring stories.

4. WHAT GOD WANTS

I will just show one verse from the Bible which clearly states what God wants -

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **who desires all people to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ... **1 Timothy 2:1-15***

5. ANALYSING THE ABOVE WELL KNOWN STORY

Analyzing the above story of the farmer sowing the seed, one can see that a lot of seed actually gets lost (the message never got through), but let us look at the explanation from the bible regarding this story from [Matthew 13 verse 19 onwards](#):

19 “What about the seed that fell by the path? That is like the people who hear the teaching about God’s kingdom but do not understand it. The Evil One comes and takes away what was planted in their hearts (perhaps the message was not explained to them well enough).

20 “And what about the seed that fell on rocky ground? That is like the people who hear the teaching and quickly and gladly accept it. **21** But they do not let the teaching go deep into their lives. They keep it only a short time. As soon as trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching they accepted, they give up.

22 “And what about the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the people who hear the teaching but let worries about this life and love for money stop it from growing. So it does not produce a crop in their lives.

23 “But what about the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like the people who hear the teaching and understand it. They take it further and grow and produce a good crop, sometimes 100 times more, sometimes 60 times more, and sometimes 30 times more.” (these are the ones that go out and plant the seed and keep on no matter what and do NOT give up).

So considering the above while attempting to spread the Word, you will be unsuccessful with most people (maybe initially with all you approach), but do not give up, you should carry on “**sowing the seed**” (distribute the Work/Message) and just keep on doing it, no matter the results, some seed will fall on good ground **and God will then do the rest.**

Now God could probably have intervened and forced all who received the message to fully accept the Word, but that would clash with “**free will**” he gave us all...

God gave us “free will” to decide what we want to do after hearing the Word, actually God gave us “free will” in life in general.

God does not want to force or manipulate people to Love Him, he wants people to decide (via free will) to Love him.

Remember the story of poor Lazarus and the rich man (discussed in more detail below)? It again refers to Free Will:

Do not stress, God WILL intervene and help people, but only if they WANT to receive the message (your prayers would also play a large role here).

6. YOU CAN ALSO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

*When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. **Ezekiel 3:18***

You may therefore need to get your hands dirty in planting the seed (do some work, put some effort in it):



Although I say below “**God will do the rest**”, God may in some cases expect you to actually nurture and water the seed until the seed takes hold and starts growing... You will feel and be guided by God in terms of this.

7. GOD WILL DO THE REST

The “rain” is coming, you must plant the seed, God will “water” and “nurture” the seed or **use you** (again) or others to do it.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it”. [Isaiah 55:10-11](#)

However, man still has Free will to decide, even if he is told and warned by others (even influential people like Moses and Prophets) like in the story below from Luke 16, verse 20 to 31 and especially verse 31:

20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

25 “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

30 “No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’



31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

“But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead’ ”.

The above means that man may still use his/her Free Will to decide

And what about this one:

“As the Lord’s servant, you must not quarrel. You must be kind toward all, a good and patient **teacher**, who is gentle as you **correct your** opponents, for it **may be that God will give them the opportunity to repent** and come to know the truth. (2 Timothy 2:24-25)

8. WHAT IS MEANT BY “PLANTING THE SEED”?

Did you notice my reference to “directly and indirectly”? You do not need to be directly involved in planting the seed of faith if you do not have the passion or talent for this! You can indirectly contribute.

What goes into planting vegetable seeds as an example? To do so, the following is needed:

- Soil
- Compost
- Spade/fork
- Seeds
- Water
- Possible shade

In the above regard, you might be the person manufacturing the spades or selling the spades and thus not directly involved in “planting the seeds”.

Bottom line: To spread God’s Word and Kingdom, you need not be directly involved in speaking to people! You could be someone identifying people in need and telling a preacher about them or you could be someone preparing or cleaning a venue for where a public event is to take place or you could even set such a good example that someone start noticing that you different and wanting to chat to you, whereby you might find an opportunity to discuss religion with them.

9. COLD, LUKE WARM AND HOT

Above we saw that we have a duty to spread God’s word, so there is NO place for being “Cold”.

Next up is Luke Warm, namely attempting to spread God’s word in a half-hearted approach and attempt. Actually, God despises this one! Just read the shocking verses in Revelation 3:15 and 16.

You have to be Hot!

10. THE BOTTOM LINE

God has asked us all to spread the Word and tell others about the Trinity and how we were saved.

If we however do this and seem to be unsuccessful, do not get discouraged, as the Bible and Statistics show us that success does not come automatically, in fact the success rate is very low, but just keep on distributing God's Word (or help facilitate this) and those who allow God in their lives via their Free Will, will get the message.

Better that you try and save a Soul (read [James 5:20](#)) and better that you save a Soul NOW, than leave it for later and that person dies in the meantime and is lost to Heaven.

In one of my articles a refer to "DIP" and without saying too much (go read that article): Saving a Soul gives you "DIP" (Deep Inner Peace).

Note:

- Each of us have different tasks and talents
- Some will contribute directly in saving a soul, some may do so indirectly
- Use your talents given to you
- We must at least get our hands dirty
- In some cases we will be successful and in other cases not
- After planting the seed, it is up to the person receiving the message to decide, as he/she has free will
- Go for it and good luck



Seen on Facebook:





RECAP QUESTIONS:

NO	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
1	What does statistics say is the success rate regarding pamphlets?	%
2	Even if the statistics are low, you must never give (up or in?)	
3	What is your main job or the best option? 1. Ignore others and live your life as good as possible, or 2. Live a good life, plant the seed and pray or 3. Live a good life, plant the seed and hope for the best?	
4	Find a verse (Google?) in the Bible that states your obligation to tell others about the Lord!	
5	Find and write out Luke 8:39 here:	

RELATED ARTICLES:

NO	RELATED ARTICLES	COMMENTS

ANNEXURE A

Each person is unique, so each person you approach directly or indirectly will respond differently, that is a fact. To help you narrow down how to approach each person, we identify 16 different common personality types and these, as well as their common traits, are covered below:

NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
1	<p>The Inspector</p> <p>At first glance, <u>they are intimidating</u>. They appear serious, formal, and proper. They also <u>love traditions and old-school values</u> that uphold patience, hard work, honor, and social and cultural responsibility. They are reserved, calm, quiet, and upright.</p>	<p>They Intimidating! Well that may be a challenge for you! Such a person is also “old-school”, so noting wild and new will work for them! You need to “stand your man”, but follow a conservative approach with them.</p>
2	<p>The Counsellor</p> <p>They are visionaries and idealists who ooze creative imagination and brilliant ideas. They have a different, and usually more <u>profound, way of looking at the world</u>. They have a substance and depth in the way they think, <u>never taking anything at surface level</u> or accepting things the way they are. Others may sometimes perceive them as weird or amusing because of their different outlook on life.</p>	<p>They visionaries with creative imagination, so you can try a new and unique way, but because they take nothing on surface level, means you need to give them information and evidence.</p>



NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
3	<p>The Mastermind</p> <p>These are introverts and quiet, reserved, and <u>comfortable being alone</u>. They are usually self-sufficient and would rather work alone than in a group. Socializing drains an introvert’s energy, causing them to need to recharge. They are interested <u>in ideas and theories</u>. When observing the world they are <u>always questioning why things happen</u> the way they do. They excel at <u>developing plans and strategies</u>, and <u>don’t like uncertainty</u>.</p>	<p>Introverts, but luckily they are interested in ideas and theories, but they do not like uncertainty, so share facts and information with them and keep it interesting.</p>
4	<p>The Giver</p> <p>They are <u>people-focused</u> individuals. They are extroverted, idealistic, charismatic, <u>outspoken</u>, highly principled and ethical, and usually <u>know how to connect with others</u> no matter their background or personality. Mainly <u>relying on intuition and feelings</u>, they tend to live in their imagination rather than in the real world. Instead of focusing on living in the “now” and what is currently happening, They tend to <u>concentrate on the abstract</u> and what could possibly happen in the future.</p>	<p>Good, they like people, so it will be easier to connect with them. Since they outspoken, you will have to give them many opportunities to also speak. Your good example will help with their high principles and ethics. Since they imaginative, that will also help discussing the abstract.</p>
5	<p>The Craftsman</p>	<p>A bit of a challenge! How will they re-act? Because they logical, you need facts and information to share with them. It will be difficult to identify whether you successful or not.</p>



NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
	<p>They are mysterious people who are usually <u>very rational and logical</u>, but also quite spontaneous and enthusiastic. Their <u>personality traits are less easily recognizable</u> than those of other types, and even people who know them well <u>can't always anticipate their reactions</u>. Deep down, they are spontaneous, unpredictable individuals, but they hide those traits from the outside world, often very successfully.</p>	
6	<p>The Provider</p> <p>They are the stereotypical extroverts. They are social butterflies, and their <u>need to interact</u> with others and make people happy usually ends up making them popular. They usually tend to be the cheerleader or sports hero in high school and college. Later on in life, they continue to <u>revel in the spotlight</u>, and are primarily focused on organizing social events for their families, friends and communities.</p>	<p>Make them the central point. Let them feel important and do not approach them via email, they want to interact with you.</p>
7	<p>The Idealist</p> <p>They, like most introverts, are <u>quiet and reserved</u>. They prefer not to talk about themselves, especially in the first encounter with a new person. They</p>	<p>This person should not be approached in a group, but one-on-one. Do not just share facts, but take it further, covering the deeper meaning of life and then give them time to reflect.</p>



NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
	<p>like spending time alone in quiet places where they can make sense of what is happening around them. They love analyzing signs and symbols, and consider them to be metaphors that have <u>deeper meanings related to life</u>. They are lost in their imagination and daydreams, always drowned in the depth of their thoughts, fantasies, and ideas</p>	
8	<p>The Performer They have an <u>Extraverted</u>, Observant, Feeling and Perceiving personality, and are commonly seen as Entertainers. Born to be in front of others and to capture the stage, they love the spotlight. They are <u>thoughtful explorers</u> who <u>love learning</u> and sharing what they learn with others. They are “people people” with strong interpersonal skills. They are lively and fun, and enjoy being the center of attention. They are warm, generous, and friendly, sympathetic and concerned for other people’s well-being.</p>	<p>Luckily they “thoughtful explorers”, so they actually looking for new ideals and facts and you should make them feel important.</p>
9	<p>The Champion They have an <u>Extraverted</u>, Intuitive, Feeling and Perceiving personality. This personality type is highly individualistic and Champions strive toward <u>creating their own</u> methods, looks, actions, habits, and <u>ideas</u> — they <u>do not like cookie cutter people and hate when they are forced to live</u></p>	<p>A challenge! Give them info, but allow them to make their own decisions, based on the facts you provided to them</p>



NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
	<p><u>inside a box</u>. They like to be around other people and have a strong intuitive nature when it comes to themselves and others. They operate from their feelings most of the time, and they are <u>highly perceptive and thoughtful</u>.</p>	
10	<p>The Doer</p> <p>They have an Extraverted, Sensing, Thinking, and Perceptive personality. They are governed by the <u>need for social interaction</u>, feelings and emotions, <u>logical processes and reasoning</u>, along with a <u>need for freedom</u>. Theory and <u>abstracts don't keep them interested</u> for long. They leap before they look, fixing their mistakes as they go, rather than sitting idle or preparing contingency plans.</p>	<p>Give them facts, keep it going, but in short bursts on different days. Interact regularly with them.</p>
11	<p>The Supervisor</p> <p>They are <u>organized</u>, honest, dedicated, dignified, <u>traditional</u>, and are great believers of <u>doing what they believe is right</u> and socially acceptable. Though the paths towards “good” and “right” are difficult, they are glad to take their place as the <u>leaders of the pack</u>. They are the epitome of good</p>	<p>Follow a planned methodical approach. Show them what is right and wrong. Make them feel that they are actually helping you as well.</p>



NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
	<p>citizenry. People look to them for guidance and counsel, and they are always happy that they are approached for help.</p>	
12	<p>The Commander Their primary mode of living focuses on external aspects and all things are <u>dealt with rationally and logically</u>. Their secondary mode of operation is internal, where intuition and reasoning take effect. They are natural born leaders among the 16 personality types and <u>like being in charge</u>. They live in a world of possibilities and they often see <u>challenges and obstacles as great opportunities</u> to push themselves. They seem to have a natural gift for leadership, making decisions, and considering options and ideas quickly yet carefully. They are “take charge” people who do not like to sit still.</p>	<p>Keep them interested, but follow a logical approach and let them be free to decide the next step. Try and keep to facts that make logical sense. You may have to debate with them.</p>
13	<p>The Thinker They are well known for their <u>brilliant theories and unrelenting logic</u>, which makes sense since they are arguably the <u>most logical minded</u> of all the personality types. They <u>love patterns</u>, have a keen eye for picking up on discrepancies, and a good ability to read people, making it a <u>bad idea to</u></p>	<p>Keep it factual, but it is a must to follow a carefully planned and logical approach. A step by step approach may be beneficial.</p>



NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
	<p><u>lie to them</u>. People of this personality type aren't interested in practical, day-to-day activities and maintenance, but when they find an environment where their creative genius and potential can be expressed, there is no limit to the time and energy they will expend in developing an insightful and unbiased solution.</p>	
14	<p>The Nurturer <u>They are philanthropists</u> and they are always ready to give back and return generosity with even more generosity. The people and <u>things they believe in</u> will be upheld and supported with enthusiasm and unselfishness. They are warm and kind-hearted. They value harmony and cooperation, and are likely to be very sensitive to other people's feelings. People value them for their consideration and awareness, and their ability to bring out the best in others.</p>	<p>Get them to believe and get them on your side and they will be a great "pay it forward" resource, as they will want to discuss and help others</p>
15	<p>The Visionary They are some of the rarest in the world, which is completely understandable. Although they are extroverts, they don't enjoy small talk and may not thrive in many social situations, especially those that involve</p>	<p>Approach them directly, but keep it planned and logical to the point. You will however need to have extensive discussions and debates, so hope you up to it. Prepare and have facts available, as a debate may take place.</p>



NO	PERSONALITY TYPE (some key traits underlined)	TAKE NOTE WHEN APPROACHING THIS TYPE OF PERSON
	<p>people who are too different from them. They are intelligent and knowledgeable need to be constantly mentally stimulated. They have the ability to <u>discuss theories and facts in extensive detail</u>. They are <u>logical, rational, and objective</u> in their approach to information and arguments.</p>	
16	<p>The Composer</p> <p>They are <u>introverts</u> that do not seem to like introverts. It is because even if they have <u>difficulties connecting to other people</u> at first, they become warm, approachable, and <u>friendly eventually</u>. They are fun to be with and very spontaneous, which makes them the perfect friend to tag along in whatever activity, regardless if planned or unplanned. They want to live their life to the fullest and embrace the present, so they make sure they are <u>always out to explore new things</u> and discover new experiences. It is in experience that they find wisdom, so they do see more value in meeting new people than other introverts</p>	<p>Keep on trying to approach them and until successful, they will want to know and hear more and once hooked, they will be a good resource to work with you going forward.</p>





ANNEXURE B:

HOLDING GOD’S PROMISES, AN AMAISING STORY RELATED TO “SEED PLANTING”:

Back in 1921, a missionary couple named David and Svea Flood went from Sweden to the heart of Africa to what was then called the Belgian Congo. They met up with another young Scandinavian couple, the Ericksons, and the four of them sought God for direction. In those days of much tenderness and devotion and sacrifice, they felt led of the Lord to set out from the main mission station and take the gospel to a remote area.

This was a huge step of faith. At the village they were rebuffed by the chief, who would not let them enter his town for fear of alienating the local gods. The two couples opted to go half a mile up the slope and build their own mud huts'. They prayed for a spiritual breakthrough, but there was none. The only contact with the villagers was a young boy, who was allowed to sell them chickens and eggs twice a week. Svea Flood-a tiny woman only four feet, eight inches tall-decided that if this was the only African she could talk to, she would try to lead the boy to Jesus. And in fact, she succeeded. But there were no other encouragements. Meanwhile, malaria continued to strike one member of the little band after another. In time the Ericksons decided they had had enough suffering and left to return to the central mission station. David and Svea Flood remained near the village alone.

Then, of all things, Svea found herself pregnant in the middle of the primitive wilderness. When the time came for her to give birth, the village chief softened enough to allow a midwife to help her. A little girl was born, whom they named Aina. The delivery, however, was exhausting, and Svea Flood was already weak from bouts of malaria. The birth process was a heavy blow to her stamina. She lasted only another seventeen days. Inside David Flood, something snapped in that moment. He dug a crude grave, buried his twenty-seven-year-old wife, and then took his daughter back down the mountain to the mission station. Giving his newborn daughter to the Ericksons, he snarled, "I'm going back to Sweden. I've lost my wife, and I obviously can't take care of this baby. God has ruined my life." With that, he headed for the port, rejecting not only his calling, but God himself. Within eight months both the Ericksons were stricken with a mysterious malady and died within days of each other.

This couple wanted to serve God and yet it seemed that everything they worked for was in vain. Have you ever felt like that? Perhaps you have asked the question about the situation you are currently in: How can anything good come from this death? How can anything good come from my sickness? How can anything good come from rape or abuse?



*After the death of the Ericksons the little baby was then turned over to some American missionaries, who adjusted her Swedish name from Aina to "Aggie" and eventually brought her back to the United States at age three. This family loved the little girl and were afraid that if they tried to return to Africa, some legal obstacle might separate her from them. So they decided to stay in their home country and switch from missionary work to pastoral ministry. And that is how Aggie grew up in South Dakota. As a young woman, she attended North Central Bible College in Minneapolis. There she met and married a young man named Dewey Hurst. Years passed. The Hursts enjoyed a fruitful Ministry. Aggie gave birth first to a daughter, then a son. In time her husband became president of a Christian college in the Seattle area, and Aggie was intrigued to find so much Scandinavian heritage there. One day a Swedish religious magazine appeared in her mailbox. She had no idea who had sent it, and of course she couldn't read the words. But as she turned the pages, all of a sudden a photo stopped her cold. There in a primitive setting was a grave with a white cross-and on the cross were the words SVEA FLOOD. Aggie jumped in her car and went straight for a college faculty member who, she knew, could translate the article. "What does this say?" she demanded. The instructor summarized the story: It was about missionaries who had come to a village long ago ... the birth of a white baby ... the death of the young mother ... the one little African boy who had been led to Christ ... and how, after the whites had all left, the boy had grown up and finally persuaded the chief to let him build a school in the village. The article said that gradually he won all his students to Christ... the children led their parents to Christ... even the chief had become a Christian. Today there were **six hundred** Christian believers in that one village.... All because of the sacrifice of David and Svea Flood. For the Hursts' twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, the college presented them with the gift of a vacation to Sweden. There Aggie sought to find her real father. An old man now, David Flood had remarried, fathered four more children, and generally dissipated his life with alcohol. He had recently suffered a stroke. Still bitter, he had one rule in his family: —Never mention the name of God - because God took everything from me.¶ After an emotional reunion with her half brothers and half sister, Aggie brought up the subject of seeing her father. The others hesitated. "You can talk to him," they replied, "even though he's very ill now. But you need to know that whenever he hears the name of God, he flies into a rage. Aggie was not to be deterred. She walked into the squalid apartment, with liquor bottles everywhere, and approached the seventy-three-year-old man lying in a rumpled bed. "Papa~" she said tentatively. He turned and began to cry. "Aina," he said. "I never meant to give you away." "It's all right, Papa," she replied, taking him gently in her arms. "God took care of me." The man instantly stiffened. The tears stopped. "God forgot all of us. Our lives have been like this because of Him." He turned his face back to the wall. Aggie stroked his face and then continued, undaunted. "Papa, I've got a little story to tell you, and it's a true one. You didn't go to Africa in vain. Mama didn't die in vain. The little boy you won to the Lord grew up to win that whole village to Jesus Christ. The one seed you planted just kept growing and growing. Today there are six hundred African people serving the Lord because you were faithful to the call of God in your life. ... Papa, Jesus loves you. He has never hated you." The old*



man turned back to look into his daughter's eyes. His body relaxed. He began to talk. And by the end of the afternoon, he had come back to the God he had resented for so many decades. Over the next few days, father and daughter enjoyed warm moments together. Aggie and her husband soon had to return to America-and within a few weeks, David Flood had gone into eternity.

A few years later, the Hursts were attending an evangelism conference in London, England, when a report was given from the nation of Zaire (the former Belgian Congo). The superintendent of the national church, representing some **110,000** baptized believers, spoke eloquently of the gospel's spread in his nation. Aggie could not help going to ask him afterward if he had ever heard of David and Svea Flood. "Yes, madam," the man replied in French, his words then being translated into English. "It was Svea Flood who led me to Jesus Christ. I was the boy who brought food to your parents before you were born. In fact, to this day your mother's grave and her memory are honored by all of us." He embraced her in a long, sobbing hug. Then he continued, "You must come to Africa to see, because your mother is the most famous person in our history." In time that is exactly what Aggie Hurst and her husband did. They were welcomed by cheering throngs of villagers. She even met the man who had been hired by her father many years before to carry her back down the mountain in a hammockcradle.

The most dramatic moment, of course, was when the pastor escorted Aggie to see her mother's white cross for herself. She knelt in the soil to pray and give thanks. Later that day, in the church, the pastor read from **John 12:24**: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." He then followed with **Psalms 126:5**: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy."

All things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. This is God's promise to each one of us. Maybe you are here today and you still do not understand how God can bring good out of pain. I pray that God will reveal His will to you in time. Until then, grab this promise and hold on tight. Put your hand in God's and trust in Him

Source: <http://storage.cloversites.com/lemmc/documents/Holding%20Gods%20Promises.pdf>