

Chapter 7

How to give an invitation or altar call

Only 15% of churches in America give invitations or altar calls and only 5% do it on a regular basis. To me if there is no invitation or altar call there is no need to preach the gospel. If a church is not winning souls you don't have a church but a social club. Why take a customer for a test ride in a car and not intend to have him sign on the dotted line to make the purchase ? If a church does not close the deal on preaching why preach. I give altar calls at weddings, funerals, jails, Sunday school, men's meetings, on the street, in restaurants in the middle of the race track and especially at church.

Now I was thrust in the position of Pastor, bus director, bus worker, bus driver, bus mechanic and what ever else needed to be done. I was the preacher to about 80 adults that were coming on our buses. Our son Bobby was holding junior church in the bottom floor.. This congregation was the most diverse group of Christians in Michigan. We had moms and dad of bus kids, black, white, mixed race, drug dealers, prostitutes, retarded adults and you name it we had it. We even rented a campground and had a big summer camp for retarded and handicapped people..

I had lots of experience preaching to kids for about 5 years. I have been told that if a preacher can preach to kids and hold their attention he can preach to anyone. It came naturally. At the end of the preaching I would make a comment relative to the message. Recently at a men's rally at Lakewood church I told them a true story about a boat that had lost power in a storm and was drifting on the ocean near Galveston Texas. I was fishing on a pier and saw the boat drifting towards the rocky shore headed for a crash like the apostle Paul had experienced. My wife and I prayed and from out of the black night a rescue boat appeared as the waves had pushed the boat 100 feet from the rocks. The rescue boat had heard the calls to the coast guard for help. The rescue boat tied the powerless boat to it's side and took it to the harbor and the boat docks..The rescue boat would not release the crippled fishing boat carrying a man and his wife and friend until they paid a \$200 towing fee. They had no money. I paid the \$200 fee and the fishermen were free. What a perfect picture to present to the men. I asked them if their life was like a ship drifting helplessly on the sea of life? Did they need a rescue? Well I told them that Jesus Christ was waiting to rescue them and he had already paid the towing fees. He paid the price with his life. I explained how Jesus was sent to earth by God to show the people what God was like. I then prayed for the Holy spirit to come and do his job by speaking to the men. I told them that all was need was for them to believe in their hearts and confess with their mouth. I then told

them that if they wanted to accept Jesus they could join me and the other men in a prayer to God. I asked the saved men to join in to encourage the non Christians to pray..The prayer went something like this. Dear God my life is drifting out of control and headed for crashing a end. I am afraid the end is not going to be good. I do not want to end up in hell when I die. I also do not want to live any more without a purpose and with out you. I believe you died for my sins Jesus and I invite you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. I want a new life with you and I believe you can give it to me. Thank you Jesus for hearing me and accepting me. In Jesus name amen.