

## **BRING A FRIEND: *Suggestions for Implementation***

As a simple plan to reach out to those who need Christ, Bring A Friend, a ministry of friendship, has been the key to effective evangelism with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association for over 60 years. It is based on the biblical account of Andrew in John 1:40, 42 (NIV): “Andrew then went to find his brother...and he brought him to meet Jesus.”

Bring A Friend is a simple plan by which Christians pray for individuals they know who need Christ, cultivate friendships with them and ultimately invite them to the Celebration meetings. Pastors and Church Leaders are urged to secure quantities of the Bring A Friend brochures and plan a Bring A Friend Sunday (during the worship hour) as soon as possible. The following Bring A Friend Sunday procedure is recommended:

1. Schedule your Bring A Friend Sunday when you have the largest attendance.
2. Distribute a Bring A Friend brochure to each adult. (Brochures for Students are also available.)
3. Show the Bring A Friend video. (if available)
4. Emphasize the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian, in the Church and for the Celebration outreach. Explain the simple, practical and biblical Bring A Friend plan.
5. Challenge every Christian to make a commitment now to Bring A Friend evangelism.
6. Allow time for each person to begin a list by prayerfully recording the names of at least two people.

In addition to the Sunday morning distribution of the Bring A Friend brochure, it is recommended that a similar challenge be presented to groups within the church, such as Sunday School classes, fellowship groups and youth groups. Bring A Friend evangelism should begin now, be promoted through the Celebration and continue as a lifestyle.

Suggestions for Continued Emphasis—shared by Pastors involved in previous Celebrations...

- Encourage your congregation to share testimonies during church services about the impact of Bring A Friend evangelism.
- Fill out the names on two cards and put the names you are praying for on one card in a fishbowl, wall or other prominent place in your church to serve as a reminder that we are “fishers of men, women, students and children.”
- Place lists of those being prayed for on a bulletin board specially designed to encourage outreach opportunities.
- Encourage Bring a Friend evangelism participation in home Bible studies, growth groups, pulpit announcements and Sunday School classes.
- Send mailings, emails, texts, Facebook announcements, etc. to encourage the efforts of those who signed up to participate in Bring A Friend.

## **BRING A FRIEND: *Message***

Text: John 1:35-42; 6:1-12; 12:20-22

Objective: To motivate the congregation to REACH OUT to others by being involved in Bring A Friend.

What Does It Take to Bring People to Jesus? Andrew was a person who specialized in bringing people to Jesus.

### **1. Andrew's Characteristic – John 1:40**

Andrew was never known as a great teacher, preacher or scholar.

- a. His Name: Andrew means "man." He was an ordinary disciple. Peter Marshall called him the "Saint of the rank and file."
- b. His Notoriety: Andrew was a rather obscure disciple. He was referred to as "Simon Peter's brother," but we must remember it was Andrew who brought Peter to Jesus.

### **2. Andrew's Conversion – John 1:35-39**

Andrew met Jesus through the witness of his friend John the Baptist.

- a. God Used A Respected Associate: Andrew believed John's witness concerning Jesus because he was a respected friend.
- b. God Used A Redemptive Analogy: John used an analogy every Jewish person understood by referring to 'the Lamb of God.' The difference was this "Lamb" would "take away" sin and not just cover it.
- c. God Used A Relational Approach: John to Andrew to Jesus. 80% of those who come forward at a Will Graham Celebration are brought by a friend. God uses relationships to bring people into a relationship with Jesus.

### **3. Andrew's Concern – John 1:40-42; 6:8; 12:20-22**

After Andrew met Jesus his great concern was to bring others to Jesus.

- a. He brought Simon Peter to Jesus – John 1:40-42
  - His priority: the first thing
  - His procedure: find, tell, bring
- b. He brought a boy to Jesus – John 6:8
- c. He brought some Greek people to Jesus – John 12:20-22

Conclusion: Lessons from Andrew

- God uses ordinary people in extraordinary ways.
- Truth has impact in the context of friendship.
- Everyone can minister as Andrew did.

Explain the steps involved in Bring A Friend evangelism:

1. Have your congregation take time to list on their Bring A Friend brochure the names of at least two people for whom they are willing to pray for and invite to the Celebration.
2. Encourage each person to begin developing friendships with those for whom they are praying.
3. Have a time of prayer asking God to move in people's lives in the days and months leading up to the Celebration.

To further reinforce the impact of Bring A Friend evangelism, take a poll during the message:

- How many of you came to Christ because a pastor came to your home and shared the Gospel with you?
- How many came to Christ watching a gospel broadcast?
- How many came to Christ through Christian radio?
- How many came to Christ through the influence of a friend or relative?