

Training For The Church – Jay Orvis

We serve Him in many ways and settings, wherever invited. Training imparts details about the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the Christian Life.

In Sikkim, a northeast India Himalayan state between Nepal, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh, nearly 1,000 leaders have been trained in 3-4 day seminars since 1998. We serve Him in many ways and settings, wherever invited. Training imparts details about who, what, where, when, why, and the how of the Christian Life.

In one Asian country where nearly 1,000 leaders have been trained in 3-4 day seminars since 1998, it costs about \$20 to train one leader in one seminar. Friends here pray, and may help with food, lodging, participants' transportation, and local language resources to include Bibles, tracts and message, sermon or training notes. Although some are illiterate and all are poor, faith there is pure, transparent and dynamic. Many follow Christ because He heals illness, addictions, broken families, and frees from demonic oppression. But, how to train? Following the seminar, children or grandchildren are tasked to read to illiterates, and, thereby many learn from the printed page.

To teach problem-solving, here is a hypothetical case study: "A church elder's wife was in the bazaar. While talking with a shop owner, they saw a woman nearby. The shop owner asked, "Is that woman your new pastor's wife?" When she replied: "No," the shop owner smiled and said, "Well, he was looking at her the last time he was in the market!"

Disturbed, the wife mentioned the conversation to her husband at supper. Later, he asked other elders at their usual meeting: "Is something going on between pastor and one of our women?"

What should the elders do? Following are discussion questions asked during this real presentation:

1. Is there a problem? If yes, what is it?
2. Read Matthew 18:15-17 and I Timothy 5:19-20. Should the elder have done anything differently, considering these verses?
3. What problems can be caused by such a question at the elders' meeting?
4. If this had concerned regular members of the congregation, might this type of issue be handled differently? (i.e., is special consideration given because of the leader's position?)
5. If YOU had been the elder, what would YOU have done?
6. Upon resolving this, what should the elders do next?

7. Could this become a witnessing opportunity to the bazaar shop owner?

The hypothetical problem was met with gales of laughter, raised eyebrows, knowing looks, and MANY suggested ideas about "the problem" and solutions. Later, in seminar evaluations, these leaders soberly praised the Lord for such a simple, helpful, problem solving tool to solve