

Which of these suggestions appeals to you?

Which of them is most appropriate to your situation? Do any of them challenge you to take action?

Read through them carefully. Discuss them with your other church leaders. Ensure that the whole church makes up its mind.

If these ideas aren't enough then:

- Using National Events for mission e.g. *International family day UN* – 15th May
- And if you are still struggling try *HOPE* – p102-3

Remember to review how things have gone after Pentecost. Some of these ideas have long term potential. Watch out for further ideas in the future.

Your first port of call should be your local Association eg: SEBA
www.seba-baptist.org.uk

www.cwr.org.uk/training/courses
www.acornchristian.org/listening/listening-courses
www.outreachuk.com
www.skepticsinthepub.org
www.hopeuk.org
[www.htb.org/media/subject/The Elderly](http://www.htb.org/media/subject/The%20Elderly)
www.facebook.com/MoMedenbridge
www.scriptureunion.org.uk
www.nofrontiers.org

www.urbansaints.org
www.boys-brigade.org.uk
www.girlsb.org.uk
www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk
www.parishnursing.org.uk
www.u3a.org.uk
www.mustardseedgames.com



From the Resurrection to the Church's birthday

Let's Celebrate...

...50 ways of being Good News for others!



50 days of mission; 50 days of hope; 50 days of intentional outreach. Easter to Pentecost 2017 is a time for Baptists to commit to outreach.

Last year the teams of the Associations committed themselves to engaging in front-line mission. We sometimes get too tied-up with 'keeping the show on the road', taking meetings and seeking to resolve problems in local churches. We decided we needed to commit ourselves to taking a lead in making Jesus known personally.

Things happened; conversations were had; Jesus was spoken about and sung about in pubs and folk-clubs; some went on the streets engaging with people with offers of prayer or testimony, sometimes sparked by the giving of flowers or chocolates.

This year we want to build on this and invite you to join us. The 50 days culminates in a week of prayer with thousands of other Christians in 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Pentecost offers opportunity for street parties or hold-

ing a 'Party in the Park'.

When we are confronted by the challenge of mission and evangelism the first question we must ask is where we shall start.

This leaflet is designed to answer that very question. It is an ideas leaflet. It gives suggestions about getting the process underway. It is meant to provide thought and action. Read it with an open mind. Ask whether any of the ideas suggested are appropriate for your church as you consider what you should be doing during your church's involvement in 50 days. Remember that your Association Team are committed to preaching the Gospel and assisting you in these days and expect to see God at work! We also offer training in many areas of evangelism.

We need to demonstrate the Good News and be prepared to explain why we live as we do today. Preparation for these days of Good News could include prayer-walking the area.

Identify the evangelists in your church. Release them from other responsibilities and give them the opportunity to use their gifts. The Association Team may be able to help identify those who come into this category.

To aid you in your planning the ideas are presented in 6 different categories.

1 A Every member to bless a not-yet-Christian every week with something practical and a prayer (e.g. blessing prayer from *Ffald y Brenin*: Body, Labour, Emotion, Social, Spiritual)

2 D Invite an Evangelist to be the main speaker at a Mission event. This might last from a day to a fortnight. Possibly invite one of the Baptist colleges to help.

3 A Organise a door to door team to visit the neighbourhood around the church. Be prepared to make this long term if you want to see lasting results. "OutreachUK" will offer help and advice.

A = preparation of pre evangelism
B = friendship and bridge building events

C = social action

D = direct evangelism (possibly with other churches)

E = evangelism with other churches

F = evangelism among young people

Visit local homes with a gift e.g. a plant and explain it is a free gift from the church (contact Maeve Whitchurch about how this has gone with the Make A Difference Missions).

4 D&E Take over the Town Hall, coffee shop or some other suitable building and organise a series of talks or lectures on *What Christians Believe*. Invite the best speakers available to give reasoned defence of the Christian faith. Publicise it widely.

5 B&E If your town or village has an annual fete or carnival, make sure that your church has a good stall or a float in the procession. Run a refreshment tent. Give out good Christian literature to the bystanders.

6 D&E If your area attracts tourists, organise a Tell a Tourist campaign. Open the church, provide coffee, hand out literature. "No Frontiers" will be able to help with material in the major European languages.

7 B Use the existing craft gifts in the church by setting up a craft evening, 'knit and natter group' or banner-making group.

8 D&E Join together with other churches in your area to put on a musical or dramatic presentation of the Gospel. There is plenty of material available but if you can't find anything suitable, write your own.

9 D For the whole period of 50 days give your regular services and meetings a distinctly evangelistic flavour. Interview local Christian personalities about their faith. Politicians and sportsmen and women usually come across well. Make the services more user friendly. Talk with a local church that has experience with Seeker Services and are willing to put a service together with you.

10 C Form a care core group in the church to respond to the increasing social needs in the community and society. Write to CARE for more details. Also the 'Acorn Listening Course'.

11 B&D Ladies Pamper evenings. These can include things like prayer stations and card readings of the Jesus Deck.

12 B&D Hire a sports centre for an evening of fun and games. Provide a meal, 'Juice Bar' or light refreshments and interview a sportsman or woman about their faith.

13 B&D Hire a restaurant for a meal with a message. Christians invite their non-Christian friends, and pay for them of course, and the evening ends with music and an appropriate presentation of the Gospel by a suitable speaker. The Association team can help.

14 B&D Use the homes of members as 'Frontier Posts' in the neighbourhood. Organise an Agnostic Anonymous group or 'Good News down your Street' to reach the warm contacts your church already has. Alpha and Christianity Explored can be home based – or on church premises or in a neutral venue. 'Question Time' or 'Sceptics in the pub' are style events to look at.

15 E&D Rediscover the delights and disciplines of working in the open air. Use the church music group and drama group, if you have one, to make a vivid presentation of the Gospel in the local shopping precinct. Make sure you have permission first. If your own resources are limited combine with other churches in the area to make a united witness. Street evangelism can

also mean puppets or sketch-boarding. NB not preaching – empties the streets!

16 B Does your local pub have a music room? Is the landlord looking for local talent to fill the vacant slots in the programme? Take the plunge and offer to do an evening for him. A good pianist and several reasonable singers can present a mixture of old hymns and contemporary Christian songs. Well worth investigating. Open mike nights?

17 A Take a fresh look at your notice board. If it is small and inconspicuous replace it with a larger one. Get the artists in your congregation to design a series of posters to communicate the Christian message. Explore electronic screens for continual updating information of who you are and what you do. This is another project that has long term benefits.

18 A Set up a series of prayer triplets. Encourage members to pray regularly for people on their lists.

19 B Invite friends and neighbours to an Open Air Songs of Praise Service on a Sunday. Have a medley of favourite old and new. This can prove to be surprisingly popular and can be organised ecumenically.

20 B Investigate the opportunities provided by the local media. Does your local paper have a Christian comment column or something similar? If it does offer to contribute to it. If not, write to the editor and suggest they start one. Are there openings in local radio?

21 B&C If your church doesn't already run a parent and toddler group or playgroup, ask social services if there is need for one in your area. If you have the resources and support from the whole church, consider setting one up.

22 A&C&F Fewer children come to Sunday school these days, but have you thought of a mid-week activity or club night for them? Use the time between the end of school and parents returning from work, if you have the workers available, otherwise early evening is best. Consider Urban Saints or Brigades.

23 B&D&F Hold a Funday or holiday club. Be prepared to follow it up afterwards. John Hattan's book 'Family Evangelism' is packed full of ideas about how to do this successfully. Obtainable from SU.

24 B&C&D&F If you do not do anything for older young people, consider starting something for the 12-16 age group. Things like 'Ministry of Movies'; anything connected with food like Pizza night or 'Test the local chippies'

25 D&F To reach older teens and those in their 20s more

sophisticated methods are necessary. Opportunities for exploring the "Questions of Life" are welcomed. Millennials are the most open age group today to discuss Jesus. Release any 18-30's to engage with their peers, including young marrieds using their homes.

26 B&D&F Organise a cringe free, non naff, street cred event for local families. The only requirements are that there has to be plenty of food and it has to be entertaining. Use your imaginations for this one. 15th May is International Family Day.

27 D Treasure hunting. This involved listening to the Holy Spirit for insights about the lives of people you meet in the street. Chris Duffet at chrisduffett.com will explain more, along with: Free hugs; I will listen; Need a moan; the Red carpet

28 B Set up an aerobics or Zumba class for the women (or possibly men) of the fellowship and encourage them to bring their friends along. Use this as a bridge building exercise to form friendships and as a step towards faith. NB you will need a qualified instructor. Fitness and weight-watching classes are very popular. The Cinnamon Network will help with 'MegaFitness' and 'Parish nursing'.

29 D Food again! If the way to a man's heart is through his stomach hold a series of monthly breakfast meetings for the men of the church and their non-Christian friends and colleagues. Provide a full English breakfast and round off the gathering with a good speaker. Afternoon tea may be an alternative for some groups.

30 B&D Make contact with the nearest Retirement Home, Sheltered Housing scheme, or Hospice, to see if it is possible to visit once a month to hold a service for the residents. 'Alpha for the Elderly' has worked well in many places. 'Mustard seed Games' have teaching material and flash cards that are good for children and the elderly (recommended for ages 3-93).

31 B&D Take a music group into local care homes for dementia clients. Use of music, particularly of their younger days, really connects.

32 A&D Body, Mind and Spirit. Christian Meditation, wholeness and exploring prayer events. Labyrinths are a useful tool.

33 D&E If you have contacts abroad, sponsor a visit by an evangelist from these lands to our own country. See what you can learn about evangelism from the visit.

34 B&D Use of homes for BBQs or dinner parties. Invite friends, family or neighbours and have

someone give a short testimony as part of the evening.

35 B&C&E Organise retirement preparation classes to help folk prepare. Bring in Christians from the medical, social, caring and financial professions to help run the course.

36 A&D Take a fresh look at the things the church already does – Parents and Toddlers; lunch-clubs; youth clubs; women's meeting. How can they be used more evangelistically?

37 B&C Investigate ways to reach senior citizens in the neighbourhood. This may mean afternoon tea (with proper china cups), a luncheon club or a tea dance. Add a little spice to the proceeding by providing community singing and a good after lunch speaker.

38 B Put on a barn-dance with grace and a short testimony before the food.

39 B&C&D Start a Community Gospel Choir, Pop-up-Choir or other community choir.

40 C&D Set up a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre or other financial help for those struggling

41 C Start a CHOMP group or other support for those who have free school meals but are then home alone in the holidays.

42 B&D Get involved in a local folk-club and introduce some Christian folk songs into the evening.

43 B Have an 'Art-Attack' project involving local schools

44 B Get involved in local U3A (University of the Third Age). Whilst they are non-religious and non-political there are many opportunities to host this and provide courses of interest to participants.

45 A&B&C Local clear-up, litter-picking or park-railing painting all make the locality better and provide opportunities to explain why you care

46 D Take a group from the church to help in evangelism in another church

47 Take a group from the church to assist another church or project in another country

48 E Participate in 'Thy Kingdom Come' in the week leading up to Pentecost

49 B&D&E Party in the Park to celebrate Pentecost.

50 A&B&C&D&F PLANT A NEW CHURCH!!