

# REACHING THE LOST

FROM THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TO YOUR COMMUNITY

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. The houses are mostly two-story structures with brown or grey roofs. There are many green trees and several swimming pools visible in the backyards. A paved road curves through the center of the neighborhood. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

**THE  
WORLD  
STARTS NEXT DOOR**



**252,279,723**

**All-time copies of  
House to House/Heart to Heart**

**572,409** copies of the August Issue  
**267** congregations  
**2,198,775** copies of the September Issue  
**954** congregations  
**52,017** copies of the Introductory Issue  
**30** congregations

**De Casa a Casa (Spanish HTH)**

**12,028** copies in July/August to  
**15** congregations  
**39,555** copies so far in 2019  
All-time Spanish copies: **177,867**

**New Movers Edition**

**8,080** copies in July and August  
for **140** congregations.  
**79,754** all-time New Movers copies

Contact us to learn how you can get involved (call 877.338.3397, email [info@housetohouse.com](mailto:info@housetohouse.com), or visit [get.housetohouse.com](http://get.housetohouse.com)).

**Free HTH Websites**

**383** congregations  
We are happy to provide a free basic website for any congregation participating in HTH. Please contact us to get your free website.

HTH has generated **168** studies that we know about in 2019 (about 5 studies per week). Send an email to [info@housetohouse.com](mailto:info@housetohouse.com) to let us know about an ongoing study.

Reaching the Lost, House to House/Heart to Heart, and Polishing the Pulpit are under the oversight of the elders of the Jacksonville church of Christ in Jacksonville, Alabama.

# Starting Next Door

As I write this, there are over 530 congregations from 41 states, 25 countries, and one US territory that are signed up to participate in the first annual door knocking day. In recent years, door knocking has been used less, but often it has not been replaced with any other evangelism tool. We have looked inward, toward edification and church programs that are engineered to encourage and build up our members. At the same time, our children and members are falling away at an alarming rate.

I suggest that part of the solution to this problem is getting every member and every family involved in evangelism. By giving members the tools they need to overcome fear and doubt, you will be building up the church, sowing the seed, and giving purpose to young and old alike. We need to fill each member with the same purpose that Jesus had on earth (Luke 19:10), and the one He entrusted to the members of His body (Matthew 28:19).

Join us as we go out into our communities to share the gospel with the world. The world starts next door.

[nextdoor.housetohouse.com](http://nextdoor.housetohouse.com)  
[nextdoor.housetohouse.com/espanol](http://nextdoor.housetohouse.com/espanol)

**Luke Griffin**  
Director of Operations  
House to House/Heart to Heart

## Editors



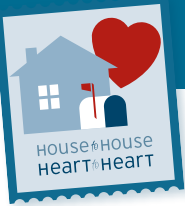
**Allen Webster**



**Rob Whitacre**



**Luke Griffin**



# 1st Annual Brotherhood-wide DOOR KNOCKING DAY OCTOBER 5



## GOAL MET

Over 500 churches of Christ are going into their communities on the same day. The world starts next door.

## COMMIT

Visit [nextdoor.housetohouse.com](http://nextdoor.housetohouse.com) to sign up and join hundreds of sister congregations and brotherhood works. You will receive door knocking tips to help you get excited, encouraged, and prepared!



**OVER 500** CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATING



The deadline to send materials for the January HTH issue is:

**November 15!**

(Send NOW if possible)

## When will I get the November issue?

The November issue is currently printing and mailing. Most churches should receive their HTH between November 15 and December 15. Dated materials will be given priority.

## What events go in the January issue?

Any event dated between January 7 – March 15 should go in the January issue.





# Good News Back from the Field!

## Send us YOUR success stories.

We hear all the time, "Oh, I was going to write you, but I never got around to it. We had a baptism from HTH. We have a study going on. A member was restored. We added a family." Be sure to share with others in the program so all can be encouraged and be praying for success. Please call or email us your results.

### Long Drive to get HTH in Cambodia

We mailed the April issue of House to House to a church in Cambodia. This was the first time anyone in that country has received *House to House/Heart to Heart*. I recently asked their preacher if he had received the copies. He said no. I thought that would be the end of it and it was a waste of the copies and a missed opportunity.

Instead, he went to his local post office to look into it. They told him the copies had been held up in customs in the capital . . . 6 hours away.

We have so many resources at our fingertips that we might say, "That's too far. Forget it."

You know what he did? He drove 6 HOURS to get the copies! He was so excited when he got back that he made this post on Facebook:

From Phanat Ouch with the Battambang church of Christ in Cambodia: "The church in Battambang have our very own HTH publication now! I had to drive 6 hrs to the capital in PP to sign off some paperwork with customs at the Post office to bring it back to BTB, but so worth it! Thanks to Tim McElroy for introducing me to Matt Wallin and the HTH team and for making this possible



in Cambodia. Let's see what God does with this in Battambang."

### Door Knocking, Sullivan Village

"Here is our door knocking crew today. Handed out over 500 House to House publications! Thank you all for braving the heat to sow the seed! To God be the glory!"



### Letter to the Hoover Church of Christ in Hoover, Alabama

The Hoover Church of Christ received a letter complimenting the "wonderful, faith-provoking instrument which I found in my mailbox yesterday."

This came from a member at the Presbyterian church who said that they were also sharing it with their "pastor."

HTH often opens doors that would normally be closed to the gospel, making a good impression of the church in the community.





## World-Wide Outreach

In addition to the English and Spanish versions of HTH, we produce a French version with churches using it in seven countries so far. We direct-mailed three issues into French-speaking households in Nashville, Tennessee. We have also printed several issues in Chinese. The tract, "What Must I Do to Be Saved," has been printed in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Chinese.



### Baptist Preacher Fired for Using HTH in His Bulletin, Eastern Kentucky

Jamie reports, "Thought I would share something you would find interesting! I was back home visiting family in Eastern Kentucky. The small congregation is struggling with only about 30 folks attending, but they had used HTH. A Freewill Baptist preacher in the county used HTH in some church bulletins and for preaching. He was fired for teaching ideas he got from HTH. Undaunted, he has called and mentioned to members that he wanted some more issues."

### Responses in Beech Bluff, Tennessee

Be ready to connect with people as they contact you or visit services because of what they have read in HTH.

Al Price from the Diamond Grove Church of Christ in Beech Bluff, Tennessee reports, "One recipient in the community is completing a BCC. Another is visiting services and in the process of learning the gospel."

### Bible Class Idea from Lake City, Florida

Lake City Church of Christ is starting a program called 'On the Right Tract' in which they train members to use resources provided for them.

We order HTH tracts for the class, and each week we read the tracts and associated verses. We then discuss how to approach someone or how to begin a conversation with someone to discuss the tract. Our intention is to help our congregation feel more comfortable with personal evangelism, and the best way to do that is to educate them. —Kase Britton

### Five Responses on the First Day!

From our friend Jody Apple: "The Dahlonega congregation mailed nearly 11,000 copies of House To House in Lumpkin County . . . with an ad for World Bible School on the back page. We had five new WBS students sign up the first day."

### Conversions in Washington, D.C.

Sometimes we do not hear about conversions until we run into someone at a lectureship or gospel meeting.

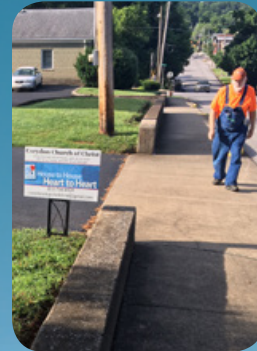
The Georgia Avenue church in Washington, D.C. closed their doors a couple of years ago, but not before they used HTH to have a wonderful conversion that is still growing and affecting others today.

"When my family attended Georgia Avenue church of Christ a conversion through the mailings happened. One of our dear sisters was reached through those mailings. She visited our congregation and was taught and baptized; she continues to serve God today and is a blessing to my family. We also got a chance to study with her aunt . . . her adopted son at the time was taught and obeyed too."

### Banners and Signs

Charles Weillbaker sent a picture of a sign they posted in Corydon, Indiana.

If you need our logo or masthead to make a sign, or would like us to help you get a banner, please contact us.





# The Campaign Trail

The campaign trail is designed to share news about our travel experiences. We learn a lot from our sister congregations as we meet with their elders, eat in their homes, and talk with the members before and after each lesson. It is one of the greatest blessings of our work and one we like to share with our readers. You may read about your congregation or about something we learned during our visit together.

House to House School of Evangelism is not just a one-shot stop; it is a comprehensive effort to turn a congregation into an evangelistic body.

Those who enroll in the HTH school may be featured in "Reaching the Lost" from that time forward. We want to know what works, and share congregational successes.

The hope in the eyes of elders when they are given a method, strategy, and a congregational plan is incredible. The excitement from the local members is contagious. Something amazing is happening, and the results we hear weeks and months later provide the proof. The following reports are given to encourage, train, and focus all Christians on the importance of personal evangelism.

## Memphis School of Preaching—Advanced Personal Evangelism Seminar (June 24).

"I am a student at MSOP. I began in the summer school on June 24. I was greatly encouraged by your evangelism seminar, brother!

Last Wednesday, July 31, we baptized Isaiah Cummings into the Lord's Church using *Back to the Bible*. I'm so overjoyed we could do this! There were times in the study when I didn't think he would be baptized, but I could literally see the word working in him during the last study. He started speaking slower . . . I knew he was

thinking about it, and we baptized him shortly after 5:30 p.m.

We will be studying Book 3 with another man named Eric Evan on Saturday, and I have a family of six I am trying to get into a study as well! Be praying!" —Cole Bennett and Evan Manning

## Southwest Church of Christ Austin, Texas (April 15–17).

"Brother Rob's seminar was wonderful and exactly what our congregation needed. We immediately went to work implementing many of the things he suggested. We now have evangelism areas set up in our building where members can find copies of *Back to the Bible* and other evangelism tools. We studied through *Back to the Bible* in our Sunday Bible class, and we have several other items we are currently working to implement. We have also had several Bible studies and two baptisms in the three months that have passed since the seminar. One baptism was a sister who came into contact with us through a combination of WVBS and GBN. She stumbled onto some videos online and contacted Mark Teske at GBN who pointed her in our direction. We are very thankful for Brother Whitacre and his efforts to fan the flames of evangelism in the Lord's Church, and we are faithfully looking forward to the future."



Isaiah Cummings, Memphis, TN



Southwest Church of Christ building



Paige Baldwin, Morganton, Georgia



Aaron Taylor, Morganton, Georgia



Ashley Green, Morganton, Georgia



Tammy Morgan, Morganton, Georgia

### Eastside Church of Christ, Morganton, Georgia

"Since the seminar with Rob a little over eleven weeks ago we have experienced nine conversions. We also have a handful of studies in the process and many more contacts yet to approach.

"Chris Griffin obeyed the Gospel just hours after the seminar ended. Leslie Patterson had been looking for the truth for a while when she obeyed. Tammy Kinman had been a Baptist attending a community church. Paige Baldwin was an Episcopalian before *Back to the Bible*. Aaron Taylor and his wife Brandi both belonged to the denominational world before the study. Tammy Morgan had all but given up on religion when we studied with her. Robb Brantley had been attending here for a long time, but he also submitted to the gospel call. Ashley Green grew up in Baptist church but was familiar with the Lord's church; before lesson three was over, we were heading to the building!"

### Midway Church of Christ, Jasper, Alabama

Mark Howell reports, "Just wanted to let you know there was a baptism after you left! Praise

God! Who was it? Erin Addison, a young mother of two. Her husband is the baseball coach at Jasper. He's already a Christian. She had been baptized in the Baptist Church. She didn't realize until tonight she was not a Christian."



Erin Addison, Jasper, AL

### Adamsville Church of Christ, Adamsville, Alabama

"Just thought you would want to hear that Adamsville has six Bible studies going or about to start.

We also had four restorations during a meeting and three to place membership. We had at least two families from the community visiting every night. Now that is God working flames of evangelism in the Lord's Church, and we are faithfully looking forward to the future."



## Helpful Resources

Check out these websites for study materials!



[housetohouse.com](http://housetohouse.com)



[evangelism.tohouse.com](http://evangelism.tohouse.com)



[365.polishingthepulpit.com](http://365.polishingthepulpit.com)





## Upcoming Appointments

### September 22–25

Curry church of Christ,  
Jasper, Alabama,  
Evangelistic Meeting  
(Rob Whitacre)

### October 4–5

Gonzales, Louisiana,  
Personal Evangelism  
Seminar (Rob  
Whitacre)

### October 6–9

Leonard Street,  
Jacksonville, Florida,  
Gospel Meeting  
(Allen Webster)

### October 13–16

Fayetteville, Georgia,  
Evangelistic Meeting  
(Rob Whitacre)

### October 13–17

Dacula, Georgia,  
Gospel Meeting  
(Allen Webster)

### October 17–18

Forest Park, Atlanta,  
Georgia, 49th Annual  
World Missions Forum  
(Rob Whitacre)

### October 27–30

Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
PTP Spark

### November 8–10

West Palm Beach,  
Florida, Lectureship  
(Allen Webster)

Keep up to date at  
evangelism.  
[housetohouse.com](http://housetohouse.com)

# Soul Saving Strategies



## IDEAS TO EXPAND GROWTH

[GET.HOUSEDHOUSE.COM](http://GET.HOUSEDHOUSE.COM)

## We Should Be Insulated but NOT Isolated

I must admit, at times there is a great temptation to pack up my bags and move my family to a deserted island or a remote mountain. Wars, disease, rampant immorality, economic hardships, and religious error abound.

A recent poll of the American people found 58 percent of voters feel things in the world are “going to hell in a handbasket.” Since the church of Christ came into existence, sin has dominated this world, but we have never let it defeat our spirit and stop our work. John wrote, “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (1 John 5:19).

Several years ago I heard Billy Bland (MSOP instructor) say, “We should not isolate ourselves from the world but we must insulate ourselves with the Word of God.” Religious isolation can be found in monasteries and nunneries. This philosophy was the foundation of the former Quaker movement that is now dead and gone. Modern day examples are seen in the Amish and Mennonite communities. It is important to note that such isolation cannot be found in the Word. In fact, the Lord and His disciples were very involved with the people. They ate, drank, walked, talked, and taught among the masses.

Consider the following reasons why we should not practice isolation:

First, those who isolate themselves cannot teach the lost. “He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). We cannot teach those we cannot reach. The command to “go” cannot be fulfilled in isolation. Jesus spent his life going and teaching. The self-righteous isolationists accused Him of receiving sinners, and eating with them (Luke 15:2). How sad they could not see that Jesus came to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

Second, those who isolate themselves from the world cannot let their light shine. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father

which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). What good is a light if you are not in the darkness?

Third, those who isolate themselves from the world cannot do good unto all men. Paul penned, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Caring for and helping our fellow man is one way we can prepare the soil to plant the seed of the Kingdom.

Insulation acts as a buffer or barrier that keeps an outside influence from affecting the inside or individual. Consider how the insulation in your home works as a barrier from extreme heat and cold. The Christian insulation is the Word of God. The Psalmist wrote, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (119:11). When Satan tempted Jesus, He insulated Himself by saying, “It is written . . .” (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). The word protects us from sin because it is the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). Keeping our mind on the Word of God is our insulation for sin and suffering (Philippians 4:8).

The next time you are tempted to isolate yourself, or run away and hide, remember, “We should be insulated but NOT isolated.” Let us wrap ourselves with God’s Word as we walk through this wicked world. Don’t let Satan deceive us into hiding our influence; instead, use it for the Glory of God.





## Contact us

to help spread the Word to your neighbors.

People say they do not have time to get addresses together to mail HTH. Well, there is great news. You do not have to! We do all that for you. We design and proof your piece, order addresses for your routes, and mail them directly into your community. You never even have to visit the post office.

The active part for you is praying for the gospel as it goes out, following up on contacts, being ready when visitors walk through the door, and being willing to teach Bible studies.

Let us show you how easy it is. Contact us today for a free consultation and instant mailing information that is specific to your area. Let's work together to reach your neighbors with the gospel. —**Luke Griffin**



# PTP SPARK

[SPARK.POLISHINGTHEPULPIT.COM](http://SPARK.POLISHINGTHEPULPIT.COM)

The fire of PTP is scattering sparks across the country. PTP Sparks are smaller versions of PTP held at churches that are free for attendees. Lodging/restaurant options on the website. Register at [spark.polishingthepulpit.com](http://spark.polishingthepulpit.com).

### COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

OCTOBER 27–30, 2019 | Hot Springs, AR

JUNE 6–10, 2020 | San Francisco, CA

SEPTEMBER 18–23, 2020 | St. Louis, MO

JANUARY 17–21, 2021 | Valdosta, GA

MARCH 7–11, 2021 | Jacksonville, AL

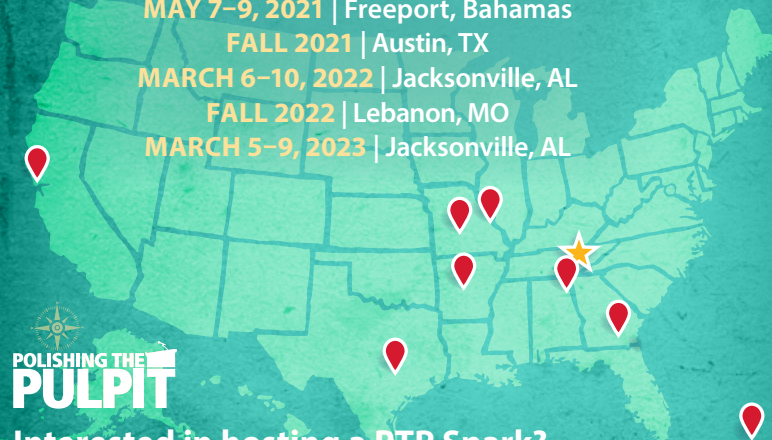
MAY 7–9, 2021 | Freeport, Bahamas

FALL 2021 | Austin, TX

MARCH 6–10, 2022 | Jacksonville, AL

FALL 2022 | Lebanon, MO

MARCH 5–9, 2023 | Jacksonville, AL



**POLISHING THE PULPIT**

Interested in hosting a PTP Spark?

Contact Allen Webster ([allen@housetohouse.com](mailto:allen@housetohouse.com)). Spark meetings are subject to PTP guidelines and Jacksonville elders' approval. PTP arranges schedule and speakers.

## ANSWERS TO HTH BIBLE QUIZZES

### August

*Starts with the Letter Z:*

1. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:2–4)
2. Zacharias (Luke 1:13)
3. Zadok (2 Samuel 8:15–17)
4. Zamzummim (Deuteronomy 2:20)
5. Zarephath (1 Kings 17:9)
6. Zaretan (Joshua 3:16)
7. "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up" (John 2:17)
8. Zealot (Luke 6:15)
9. Zebedee (Matthew 4:21)
10. Zebulun (Numbers 2:7)

### September

11. Zechariah (Ezra 5:1)
12. Zedekiah (1 Kings 22:11)
13. Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1–11)
14. Zeresh (Esther 5:10–14)
15. Zerubbabel (Ezra 3:8)
16. Zion (2 Samuel 5:7)
17. Ziba (2 Samuel 16:1)

### September

*Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection:* 1. Golgotha (Matthew 27:33–35) 2. Sour wine mingled with

gall (Matthew 27:34) 3. David (Psalm 22:18) 4. Greek, Latin, and Hebrew (Luke 23:38) 5. Two (Matthew 27:38) 6. down, believe (Matthew 27:42) 7. 3 (Matthew 27:45) 8. Veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, the rocks were split, the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints were raised (Matthew 27:51–52) 9. "Truly this was the son

of God" (Matthew 27:54)

10. 22 (Psalm 22:7–22)
11. Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57)
12. The chief priests and Pharisees (Matthew 27:62–66)
13. To anoint Jesus with spices (Mark 16:1)
14. An angel (Matthew 28:5–6)
15. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9)
16. Jesus (Matthew 28:9)
17. The eleven went to Galilee and worshipped Him; but some doubted (Matthew 28:16–17)

### October

*Who Said It?* 1. Abram (Genesis 13:8) 2. Cain (Genesis 4:9) 3. Jesus (Matthew 22:21) 4. The Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well (John 4:7–29) 5. Paul (Philippians 1:21) 6. Thomas (John 20:25) 7. Mordecai (Esther 4:13) 8. Ruth (Ruth 1:16) 9. Peter (Acts 2:38) 10. Jesus (John 3:16)



# Why a Door Knocking Campaign?

ROB L. WHITACRE

## Things to remember

in all written communication with contacts:



1. A friendly greeting is the equivalent of a smile in print.



2. Give a sincere message of thanks for their willingness to study the Bible.



3. Include contact information, including email, phone, and mailing address.



4. Invite to services; include physical address and service times.

"I don't believe in door knocking."

"Door knocking offends people."

"Door knocking does not work anymore."

"Door knocking is a waste of time."

Have you ever heard these before? I have heard elders and preachers say such things. I concede that door knocking does not always produce great numbers. I also concede that it is one of the more difficult evangelistic methodologies available to congregations, but it always works. Every time we "go" and preach the Gospel, it works!

There is nothing wrong with honest questions for honest readers. So, why do we door knock?



**Door knocking is designed to reach the "unchurched."**

We do not know them. We do not know where they live, and we do not know their friends and family. They are the "unchurched." They exist on every continent, reside in every country, and live in every community. Perhaps they have moved into the area looking for a job, are running from a problem, or looking for a new beginning. They have no religious affiliations and perhaps no religious backgrounds. They are lost souls who are in desperate need of someone who cares to bring them the Good News of the Gospel.

**Door knocking is designed to reach the "unreachable."**

"Let's skip that house as they were not receptive last time." Seasons change, things change, and most importantly, people change. Paul said, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ" (Colossians 4:2-3). God may use you to reach a person who is deeply troubled by disease, disaster, and death.

It is amazing what time can do to the hardest of hearts. These "doors of utterance" open and shut during different phases of life. They normally only open for short periods of time. You never know what you will find on the other side of a door. I have found sobbing souls, meditating men, and weary women ready and willing to receive someone who cares. A door knocking campaign is one way God fulfills His promise of Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall



find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

**Door knocking is designed to reach the "unmovable."**

"They will never change." God moved Saul from persecutor to preacher with the power of the gospel. Everyone can change, but perhaps it is not those outside the building who need to be moved first. WE have sat in the pews for years but never moved beyond the doors with the saving message. Perhaps the greatest need for movement is with ME. Door knocking moves a church to do the work God intended: to make known to the world the "manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:10). The great commission is about going, not coming—if we do not go, they will never come.

Door knocking is not going to convert the masses, but neither is any other strategy. Did not God tell Phillip to go and preach the gospel to one man (Acts 8:26)? Perhaps some of you were introduced to the gospel by a knock on the door. Organizing churches of Christ to reach out to their community by a simple, tried-and-true method like door knocking is one step towards church growth.



**God's Plan for Saving Man**

**Divine Love**  
John 3:16

**God's Grace**  
Ephesians 2:8

**Christ's Blood**  
Romans 5:9

**Holy Spirit's Word**  
Romans 1:16

**Sinner's Faith**  
Acts 16:31

**Sinner's Repentance**  
Luke 13:3

**Sinner's Confession**  
Romans 10:10

**Sinner's Baptism**  
Acts 22:16

**Christian's Love**  
Matthew 22:37

**Christian's Work**  
James 2:24

**Christian's Hope**  
Romans 8:24

**Christian's Endurance**  
Revelation 2:10





# Effective Door Knocking

ROB L. WHITACRE

For some, door knocking is the answer to all our problems. For others, door knocking is the problem. The truth is somewhere in between these views. There is no doubt, heaven's roster is full of those who were taught the Gospel because of a knock on the door. My family has been part of a few of these blessed occasions and have learned a few practical tips that we would like to pass along.

The aim of this article is to go beyond the standard training of be respectful, stand back from door, and never leave a bad impression.

First, having something in your hand to form a bridge between you and the cold contact is essential. Why not hand deliver one route of House to House/Heart to Heart? After mailing it for awhile, the recipients will recognize it and even look forward to it. We have personally been involved in several conversions by using HTH in this way. Here are a few responses we have received.

- 1) "You're not Jehovah Witnesses! You are from House to House. Come in!"
- 2) "Oh, we love HTH. In fact, I am the church secretary for the Methodist church, and we place it in our church bulletin."

- 3) "Are you from the church of Christ? I grew up going but have not been in over 30 years."
- 4) "I am so glad you came as I have been praying this morning for God to send someone to help me."

## You never know who you will find behind a door!

Another bridge building tool is utilizing the New Movers program. Many congregations are unaware that HTH has access to a list everyone who moves into your area. For \$5 a month and a \$1 per address, we send two special invitations from you to them to worship with you. If you add to these mailings a personal visit, it greatly increases the likelihood of a visit. Put a "New Movers" basket together full of cleaning supplies and other practical items needed during a move. When you knock on the door, you have a bridge builder. This welcome basket may be just what they needed to bring them for their first visit. Remember, people are most receptive to changing churches when they move.

Furthermore, delivering tracts, DVDs, and other "free offers" to the door instead of through





the mail is much more effective. Recently, we received a request for free literature. Nicole and I hand-delivered the material. It took several attempts to find someone home. This one door knock has led to four baptisms, and additional prospects are still resulting at Jacksonville.

Second, being prepared with a response (strategy) can turn a cold contact into a Bible study prospect. One of the biggest mistakes we make at the door is pushing too hard and having unrealistic expectations. Cold door religious conversions are very rare. The knock on the door and the bridge building device are designed to cultivate the soil, not plant the seed. Here are a few things you can say at the door:

“May we come back and give you additional information?”

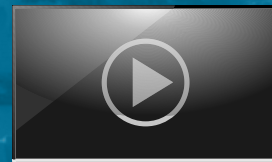
“May we come back to see how you liked this free material?”

Third, cultivate the relationship with an invitation for lunch or supper in your home. Meals provide a comfortable and friendly environment to ready the soil for the seed. This is a time when personal information is freely exchanged and gathered. Marriage, children,

religious background, and other details will begin to emerge. Invite them to worship or Bible study. A simple visit allows you to add them to the compassion card list. The church can now overwhelm them with love and help to soften the heart.

Fourth, ask a simple question: “Could we spend some time talking about the (insert your congregation) church of Christ?” This is called the Bible study. By now, you have earned the right to ask, and the answer should be yes! Be ready with a method like *Back to the Bible* and patiently lead them to the cross. Remember, the Bible study is the key for conversion and not the friendly conversation or the literature you leave.

Perhaps you have had a bad experience at the door. Please do not become discouraged. Jesus said the fields are white unto harvest (John 4:35). Door knocking will not find all, but it will find some. Making door knocking your only evangelistic strategy is unwise. Making door knocking one of many evangelistic outreaches is wise and will win souls to Christ (Proverbs 11:30).



## Videos

Go to [www.youtube.com/user/HousetoHouseHTH](http://www.youtube.com/user/HousetoHouseHTH)



**David Shannon**, president of Freed-Hardeman University, believes in door knocking because some of his best friends came to Christ through a knock on their door. Door knocking still works because it puts Christians face-to-face with non-Christians. Share these videos with your congregation and get them excited for the world-wide, brotherhood door knocking day on October 5.



**Jonny Royal** talks about how door knocking helped lead him and his family to Christ.



**Rob Whitacre** discusses door knocking to spread the Gospel.



# GREAT NEWS HEARD AT

**POLISHING THE PULPIT 2019**



**656 SESSIONS**



**251 SPEAKERS**



**5,329 ATTENDEES**

Polishing the Pulpit (PTP) was a huge success this year. With 250 speakers delivering 650 lessons to 5,300 attendees from 46 states and 14 foreign countries, it was a wonderful time of edification, education, and fellowship.

One of the great benefits of meeting so many brethren from so many locations is the stories we hear about conversions. Here are a few of those.



**Hico Church of Christ, Hico, Texas**

James Nash said, "We have eight baptisms using *Back to the Bible* at Hicco this year!" James attends PTP ever year and has attended many of Rob's evangelism classes.



**Roy Conner from Morganton, Georgia**

Eleven weeks ago we conducted a Personal Evangelism Seminar at Morganton and they have had eleven baptisms since! This congregation is on fire.



**Meet Kayne**

He is one of hundreds of new Christians we have learned about as a result of HTHSOE just in a few days at PTP.



# POLISHING THE PULPIT

## Don Blackwell at PTP

One of the most moving moments at PTP this year was when Don Blackwell got back into the pulpit to preach on lessons he has learned since he was injured in a 4-wheeler accident and lost the use of his legs.

With over 3,000 in the room and over 7,000 viewing in English and Spanish online, this was the largest live audience in PTP history, and Don did not disappoint. He delivered an important message about pain and suffering, but also about the frailty of life and how suddenly it can all be over.

It makes sense that some would be pricked in their hearts to obey the gospel. The next day we heard about three young men who watched the sermon and were baptized into Christ. Don also studied with the men who are working to make his house wheelchair accessible and they also obeyed the gospel.

God can provide opportunity for great things to happen even when tragedy strikes. Don's evangelistic spirit is a great encouragement to us all.



## Tony Palazzolo , Baptized at PTP

What a great way to cap our week at PTP! Tony Palazzolo is loved by so many of us. For the past five years he has been part of the crew that comes to help run sound, video, and more behind the scenes. Tony checks on the child care area, and makes sure all the projectors and computers are running for all teachers.

Over the years many have encouraged Tony to study. There were so many people involved in giving him resources, teaching him, and answering his questions. After PTP was over and we were breaking down sound equipment and cameras, Tony decided that he did not need to wait any longer. He was ready to commit his life to Christ. All work stopped and the crew made their way to the Sevierville church building, where his brother Roger baptized Tony into Christ.

He was so happy after his baptism. He kept hugging people and telling them that they had helped him to decide to obey the gospel. It was a beautiful moment and an answer to the prayers of many.



## JACKSONVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

329 Nisbet St NW (HWY 204), PO Box 520, Jacksonville, AL 36265

Email: [info@housetohouse.com](mailto:info@housetohouse.com) | Fax: 256.435.9546

Phone: 256.435.9356 | 1.877.338.3397 (toll free)

Web: [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com)

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Jacksonville, AL  
Permit #9

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN

# Marriage Retreat

**God's Dream  
for Your Marriage**

**FEBRUARY 5-9, 2020**

LeConte Convention Center

Pigeon Forge

[smokymountainmarriage.com](http://smokymountainmarriage.com)

**SPEAKERS:**

Keith Parker

Clark Sims