

Jonathan Gainsbrugh Ministries

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Chapter 31 : **“Implementation Introductions”**

Preparing to Become a World-Class “Lambery”

How will massive, ongoing lamb-care and improvement take place? More than any other method’s response, our heart-answer needs to be directly aligned with Zechariah 4:6 which reads: “Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit...says the Lord!”

The spiritual opposition that the Apostle Paul writes of in Ephesians 6 certainly will be marshaled against any efficient, continued improvements in lamb-care. After all, these lambs are the very future of the flock of God!

Paul writes: “For we wrestle, not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against rulers of darkness, and against spiritual wickedness in High Places.” (Ephesians 6:12 & 13).

We can NOT pray too much... Especially in this vital area!

We simply can NOT pray too much; we certainly can pray far, far too little, especially in such a vital, previously under-prioritized arena and area. Only through Prayer...Prayer and more Prayer.... will these changes take place! However, at the same time, to change our thinking as well as our spirit, we must intentionalize the implementation process.

Without a growing foundation of intercessory prayer (for each new lamb), it is doubtful that any significant change or permanent improvement will take place!

To change our *actions* we must first change our *thinking*... To change our *programs* we must first change our *values*.

Creating a Convert-Care Task Force will be resisted & attacked as nothing else!

In the next chapter, the details and rationale behind creating a Convert-Care Task Force will be spelled out. Many readers will attempt improved lamb-care in a “Ready! Fire! Aim” style without this crucial, foundational Convert-Care Task Force being formed first! **Remember:** the foundation determines the building.

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It is vital to establish this foundational Convert-Care Task Force...F-I-R-S-T

Unless the foundation is first changed: what we try to change or build upwards will NOT end up being any different! Remember: This is satan's favorite, "stocked fishing pool" you are now setting out to put up effective fencing & protection around. You can and WILL succeed...but not without a battle & great effort!

Chapter 32: "A Convert Care Task Force (& Team) at Your Church

Any Church Will Benefit From A Convert-Care Task Force Idea: Every church needs a Task Force (as a separate committee) focused on Convert-Care!

Committees focus on every other thing... except...Lamb-care!

A-L-L churches have church boards, deacon boards, building committees, special & annual event groups, and a myriad of other committees. Strangely, almost A-L-L churches do N-O-T have a "Convert-Care Committee" or Task Force. Called by any name, it's far too conspicuous by its absence, across our nation's church landscape.

Jesus so clearly said: "If you love ME, feed MY lambs" (Jn.21:15), *before* you "Feed My sheep"! Too many assumptions are made regarding the nurture & care supposedly "being given" to New Converts. No wonder more converts don't survive and our new believer mortality rate (in USA churches) is so high.

Immediate Benefits of Having a "Convert-Care Task Force":

- A1) It creates a continuing presence (& focusing) of church leadership (& church-wide) resources on the vital needs of New Convert Care, nurture & their survival.
- A2) It creates a separate "team" to work on Convert Care issues & lamb-care (to then report to pastor & board)
- A3) This entirely new, separate group can cross-pollinate church-wide across all departments on Lamb-Care.
- A4) The Convert Task Force is a "landing place" / funnel for Jesus' special loving concern to Feed His lambs. It makes sure that what we want to see done actually gets done! The reality of human nature is that: people don't always do what's expected, but they're more prone to get done what is going to b-e... I-n-s-p-e-c-t-e-d !

A Few Benefits of the "Feed My Lambs" Implementation Workbook:

- B1) 6 immediate Tasks your Convert-Care Task Force should begin & complete.

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- B2) Why have both a Convert Care *Task Force* ... A-N-D... a Convert Care *Team*?
- B3) 5 common mistakes in launching a Convert Care Team (and how to avoid them)
- B4) Who to select (& not select) to be on your Convert Task Force (and why)
- B5) Why (& how to find & process) last year's Convert Care numbers and losses.

It will be very profitable to create a New Convert Task Force at your home church. It takes humility and honesty to truly evaluate one's own church's Convert-Care and to humbly pray as to what extent there is room for either little, or vast improvement in Lamb-Care at y-o-u-r church!

This is especially true when figuring out and looking at the church's one-year retention rates. Who is it (at most churches) or more specifically at y-o-u-r church, that focuses the church's attention onto newborn lambs? A New-Convert Task Force and a New-Convert Care-Team will get this d-o-n-e and get it done right!

Items the Convert Care TASK FORCE can work on right away:

1. Assign a Task Force member to round up convert # totals for this year (& past years.)
2. Track the total # of converts for the last entire year (and # of those still "in" the church)
3. Track the total # of converts this current year (by month), & the # still "in" the church (or "not").
4. Assign one Task Force member to create a one-page Local-Area New Convert Christian Resource Info sheet (ph. #'s & contact inf. of local Christian radio & TV stations, Christian bookstores, Christian singles newspapers, magazines, papers, events etc. (For a sample send a S.A.S.E. to JG ministries)
5. Assign one member to help head up (or oversee) filling out the one-page per New Convert follow-up lamb-Care sheet.
6. Assign a Task Force Member to oversee recruiting (& coordinating) New Convert meals: joining new converts with Church members: aiming at similar age, life-stage, etc.) to have a meal (or several) with the New Convert (invite them over to their home, or out with them,.. as well as to church meals and special events, etc.; to "family" them!
7. Assign a Task Force member to order Jesus Videos & make sure every new (& past year's convert) receives one.
8. Assign one Task Force member to be in charge of "Snack Packs": (ordering materials, assembling & mailing weekly "snack-packs". I encourage churches to send a-l-l new converts for their first six weeks!

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9. As you, (or other as the Sr. Pastor), see things that need “done” or “begun” (researched, etc) in Convert Care, your Convert Task Force is already right there to serve you (the church, their Lord, and the wonderful, vulnerable new lambs.

Short Term: “Convert -Care Task Force” Goals

- A) Research what other churches in your area are doing that is commendable & reproducible in Convert Care. Identify resources (videos, books, audio tape series, etc.) to purchase for your New Convert Lending Library.
- B) Research the converts themselves. Which ones “stuck” with the church. Ask and discover the reasons why.
- C) Research those converts who didn’t stick with the church. Ask & find out “Why not” (if they’re willing to share that information either by phone (or perhaps by an anonymous postage-prepaid mail-back survey)

Who should (and shouldn’t) be on the church “Convert- Care Task Force? :

1. At least one should be a staff member.
2. At least one should be a Board Member with a passion & heart for Convert Care Improvement. They should have a heart, mind and time for the details that involvement will bring with it.
3. At least one should be a lady, whether Women’s Ministry head &/or lady chosen with a heart for the “lambs.”
4. One Task Force member should be given the responsibilities of writing up the minutes for each meeting.

Further Thoughts on the Convert-Care Task Force:

- 1) Serve how long? It does not need to be a “life sentence” for multiple years. Perhaps ask for a 1 year “renewable” (and decline-able) commitment.
- 2) Meet how often? Meet monthly for at least the start-up first 3 or 4 months, to get “launch-momentum” going! “Who is it that’s responsible for the care of a newborn? The baby itself, or the parents? The initial meetings will help break “inertia”, get start up momentum going, to help focus the energy, heart, love and resources of the e-n-t-i-r-e church.... specifically on converts!
- 3) Please write down & share with me your process & discoveries in forming your church’s Convert-Care Task Force...and Convert-Care Team.

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What's the difference between your Convert Care "T-E-A-M" and the primary, 'pastor-appointed Convert Care "T-A-S-K F-O-R-C-E"?

The Convert Care **T-A-S-K F-O-R-C-E** is 'Pastor-chosen' and appointed, especially for leadership, influence, administrative skills, spiritual & relational maturity levels as well as proven team-building ability and track-record.

The Convert Care **T-E-A-M** is different! Unlike the Convert Care "Task Force", anyone can be on the Convert Care Team. The Care Team is a place that anyone walking with the Lord in a godly, loving way, can be placed where their talents (as well as inabilities or limitations), do not negatively limit or influence the entire operation.

Example: The pastor-chosen "Task Force" person in charge of the "New-Convert Sponsor" Training Program.... would be on the Task Force. Many, many others (the actual Convert Sponsors themselves) would be on the Care T-e-a-m as members of the Convert-Care Sponsor team.

A crucial difference that must be respected...and treated accordingly:

The differences between the Task Force choices, and the Team Member opportunities, are small but crucial! They must be respected, recognized and rewarded, as well as treated with different levels of confidentiality and responsibility! It's better to be slower appointing someone to the Task Force, than regretting it down the line. Anyone immature enough to take offense at not being chosen for the Task Force isn't Task Force material

More materials on this are available to all Lamb-care Network, JGM monthly-missions partners in the Implementation Workbook and partners only online materials at our FeedmyLambsNetwork.org website.

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Chapter 33: **“Local-Area New-Convert Resource Sheet”**

A “New-Convert Resource Sheet” (An 8.5 x 11 sheet & laminated wallet-size card) is a simple, practical and universally applicable idea e-v-e-r-y church can immediately benefit and bless its New Converts with!

Ask any Senior Pastor, Associate, church staff member, or church leader to identify the local Christian radio stations. They usually, immediately know a few... and a good part of the local Christian Media resource picture.

Ask a brand New Convert the same question...

You will receive a blank stare and silent answer!

In my frequent cross-country travels, I'm often unable to find a Christian radio station on the hotel rooms' AM/FM radio. Theoretically, I know there are probably several on both AM & FM! When I ask my local Christian hosts, they tell me there are 4 or 5 at least and rattle off the call letters & radio-dial frequencies! (**as if everyone knew them all by heart!). A wallet-size version of this, if also laminated, will last a long while & really help “feed your new lambs”

What Christian Resources, such as Christian Radio, are instantly available in your local Christian community to minister to all new believers?

Every believer reading this can instantly see, that a-n-y church can easily write down on a sheet of paper the local Christian radio stations, local Christian TV stations, standard and cable, plus assorted other information of interest to a new believer.

Also, keep copies of the local resource sheets (& twin wallet-size cards) in (& with) your New Convert packets at the altar. We should give them this information at the moment of the “new birth”. Let them benefit from tuning in their home and car radio, right away, Day One...on their way home from church! (These cards are also useful as evangelism handouts.)

How much better this is, rather than expecting them to stumble upon these “refueling” stations by chance.

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What toll-free national ministry 1-800 #s are there to benefit a New Believer?

How about the established, national number for new believers or seekers: 1-800 NEEDHIM, or Focus on the Family at 1-800-A-FAMILY; Dennis Rainey (Family Life Today Ministry's) at 1-800-FL-TODAY; Cloud, Townsend & Steve Arterburn's (Minerth-Meyer) at 1-800-NEW-LIFE; Billy Graham Evangelistic Association @ 1-800-2GRAHAM. What others can you add to this list, especially of quality, established national radio & media ministries?

What web sites could be listed?

Start with your church's own web-site. What if there were a special page of resources and daily hope (interactive Bible study, place for questions, chat-box) for converts? Your Convert-Care Task Force folks (who are "web-footed" & proficient) can do this easily. How about www.Christianbook.com, the Christian Book Distributors 24-hour web site listing more Christian items for sale than any other site (or 1-800-Christian). Or Christian Research Institute's: www.equip.org. There are countless, specialized web sites dealing with micro-"targeted" interest, gender, life-stage areas, or life-controlling problems, etc. This section is a mere crayon sketch of what you & your church can provide and "feed" your "lambs" with...on (& off) the World Wide Web!

Portions from a sample Placerville (Sacramento) area "New Christian Resource/Contact sheet:

Dearest new believer:

We are so excited FOR YOU (as your friends & new church family) about your recent decision to become a follower of our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ. This will become your life's richest relationship! Walking with and growing spiritually in Jesus daily (in your Christian experience) is life's highest privilege & joy!

Your Salvation is now y-o-u-r personal relationship with God through ... and with... His Son Jesus Christ!

As you learn to love, know & trust Jesus, this loving, vital relationship will deepen & grow! You will also begin to see Jesus more & more in His people.

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Jesus loves y-o-u just as you are, so very, very much!

For you, the greatest & most satisfying adventure in life has only just begun. God has many wonderful surprises for you: many miracles just up ahead with your name on them!

In I Corinthians 2:9 God promises y-o-u: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has ANY HEART imagined the w-o-n-d-e-r-f-u-l things God has prepared for those who love Him!”

Below are a few resources to help feed & build-up your spirit & your faith!

**Reader: What else would you add to a local Resource sheet for New Converts in Your Area?*

- 1) **Local Area Christian radio stations** (with their contact inf., favorite shows & days & times you recommend. (Enclose a copy of the station’s weekly programming sheet, plus web-site info in your New Convert “Welcome to The Family” packets!)
- 2) **Local area (& cable accessible) Christian TV**: contact Info. for local & available national media.
- 3) **Local Christian Bookstores** carry local area/region Christian publications Christian Yellow Pages, etc
- 4) **Local area meetings** specific to gender, life-stage or life-controlling problems, hobby.
- 5) **Web sites and contact inf. for proven, strong national Christian media ministries**: such as Christian Research Institute, Women’s Ministries, like Christian Women for America, national Women’s Aglow, Christian Business Men’s Committee, Gideons & others.