

The JOY of Planting the Seed of God's Word... by Leon Bates

Did you ever think of God's Word as seed? I Peter 1:23 says we are "... born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which lives and abides forever." In Luke 8:11, Jesus confirmed this seed is... the Word of God. It's clear that God gives the increase and brings new life from the seed planted in the hearts of people. (I Cor. 3-6-8) **BUT THIS SEED DOES NOT PLANT ITSELF!** Someone has to spread it, plant it and water it. God didn't have to, but He CHOSE to make us believers vital in His plan in evangelism. **WHY?** He plugged us into His evangelism plan of operation... FOR OUR JOY, now and eternally. A Gospel tract given to me at age 18 was later instrumental in my salvation. Does God use tracts? **Yes, if they contain His Word.** One of my co-workers accepted Christ as his Savior. Later, we had the joy of seeing his wife also accept Christ. Then, she showed a handful of tracts that had been given to her over the years as a bank teller. The seed of God's Word had already been planted and watered in her heart with those tracts. I think those who gave her those tracts will share forever in the JOY of her salvation. (I Thes 2:19) **Every** believer, male or female, young or old, can plant (and/or water) the seed of God's Word in the hearts of **THOUSANDS** of people every year **with tracts, at little cost and little time or effort**. ***Here are some TIPS that perhaps you've never thought about...***

- 1. Seed Pods:** Think of tracts as "Seed Pods." They **MUST** contain Scriptures that communicate truths of God's Word and should explain those truths. The Holy Spirit gives the ***understanding***. (Matt. 13:23)
- 2. Attractive:** Always use attractive, high printing quality "Seed Pods" (preferably full color). These tracts represent the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't you agree He ***deserves*** the very best, top quality looking tracts?
- 3. Handy:** ***It's vital to ALWAYS have tracts HANDY***. This means ALWAYS in shirt or jacket pocket, purse, attaché case, on desk, by door, in car, etc. Seeds **MUST** be where we can think about planting them.
- 4. Bill Paying:** Put a tract in with bills when you pay them. Vary the tracts when paying to the same people over and over again. It normally requires no extra postage to include a tract. ***Now... who can't do that?***
- 5. Restaurants:** If you don't leave a tract with a restaurant tip, ***I hope you get indigestion!*** (Ha) And a reasonable (not miserly) tip, even if the server didn't deserve it. **WHY?** ***So we can leave a tract***. Who knows, they may be having a hard life and **NEED** the tip and tract. In restaurants, leave another tract behind the salt and pepper on the table for the next customer.
- 6. Cashiers:** Give a tract to cashiers in restaurants, gas stations, banks and stores when paying your bills. I like to smile and say, "Thank you and here's a ***GIFT*** for you." They often act surprised and say, "Well... Thank You!" Hardly anyone will refuse a ***GIFT*** when offered by a friendly, smiling person. ***TRY IT***.
- 7. Hotel/Motel Rooms:** Leave a paper money tip for the maid showing out of a nice tract. For future room guests, put a tract inside the Bible, partly showing and another one UNDER the Bible. Put one under the room telephone book. Plant "Seed Pods" in empty drawers and behind the room literature. Give a "***GIFT***" Seed Pod (tract) to each of the hotel clerks when checking in. When you pass by the desk later, if there are other clerks on duty, greet them and give them the "***GIFT***."
- 8. GIFTS:** Anytime, anywhere someone is of service to you, thank them for their service and compliment them (if you can honestly) and say, "***Thanks and here's a GIFT for you***" smiling and handing them the tract. They'll appreciate your compliments and gratitude for their service and may show surprise at the "***GIFT***" you are offering them. ***"GIFT" is a MAGIC word!***
- 9. FUN:** It's **FUN** to plant tracts with God's Word. You have His guarantee that He will use it for His purpose. Isaiah 55:11 says, "***So shall my Word be that goes forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.***" ***Always pray for the people getting the tracts*** that God will use the "Seed Pod" which you planted to help bring people to salvation FOR GOD'S GLORY, whether it was the initial seed in their heart or water upon previously planted seed. ***God could bring entire families to salvation from a single "Seed Pod" you planted.***

TRUE STORY: A pastor was walking along a lake one day and he heard a teen age girl yelling and drowning. He jumped in and saved her life. A few years later, that same pastor officiated at her wedding. At the end of the ceremony, she kissed her new husband, then did something unusual. She stepped forward and kissed the pastor on the side of his face. As the tears were streaming down her cheeks, she whispered in his ear, "***Thank you for helping make this great day possible for me.***"

When we saved people get to Heaven, we're may fall at the feet of Jesus like it's recorded that John did in Revelation 1:17, 18. We'll surely thank Him for dying on the cross and paying for our sins and we'll worship Him. I also think we'll look for the person or persons who were instrumental for our salvation and **THANK THEM** for their part in introducing us to Jesus. Again there may be tears of joy as we gratefully tell them, ***Thank you for helping make this great day possible for me.***"

QUESTION: Will there be people in Heaven looking for you... to thank you for helping them know Christ? There can be. We can ALL plant tracts, "Seed Pods" of God's Word and God has PROMISED to use that seed for His eternal glory and YOUR ETERNAL JOY. ***Have FUN and happy planting.*** Leon Bates Bible Believers' Evangelistic Association www.bbea.org