

THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK

Text: Nehemiah 4:6; 6:15

INTRO: "Rome wasn't built in a day." But it was built. The walls of Jerusalem weren't built in a day, but they were built. They were built because the people had a mind to work. Much can be accomplished by the church at Shiloh, if we have a mind to work.

I. ATTENDANCE. READ LUKE 4:14-16.

- A. Bible classes. Thru the Bible in a little over 3 years. Have you studied the whole Bible in the past 3 years?
- B. Worship services. Once each Sunday is a bare minimum. You know you never get the best of anything by seeking a bare minimum. No wonder many people do not get as much as they should out of church membership.
- C. Sunday night sermons are usually as good as, if not better than the ones on Sunday morning.

II. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Give & it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together & running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you. (Luke 6:38). Acts 20:35

- A. Giving to the church.
Last time you got a raise did you give the Lord a raise?
- B. Personal funds. Buy a few tracts, a box of get-well cards, etc.

III. TIME. 168 hours a week. READ JOHN 9:4-5. How much time do you spend:

- A. Going to church services?
- B. Preparing for your Bible classes?
- C. In personal Bible study, prayer?
- D. Associating with, encouraging other Christians?
- E. Teaching others, talking with them about Christ, His

church?

F. Family responsibilities, spiritual & otherwise?

IV. INFLUENCE. There are those who love you & respect you. Do you maximize your influence? Family, co-workers, friends, neighbors, business associates, etc.

V. ABILITIES. Have you reassessed your abilities lately? Have you developed new skills or found new opportunities to use your old skills?

A. Teach a class at church?

B. Teach a home study, visit prospective members?

C. Baby sit so others can teach or visit?

D. Skills you could use preparing class materials? Work on the building? Prepare communion? Organize library?

VI. "WHAT CAN I DO?"

1. Secure a few scriptural tracts. Carry them in your pocket or purse. Put them in with bills. Hand them to friends, co-workers, strangers. Leave them in public places.

2. Send get well, sympathy cards, other greetings on proper occasions. Add a personal note if you can.

3. Take a covered dish to someone who is sick. Help them with housework, run errands for them, etc.

4. Visit folks who have visited services, or call or write them. If you learn of someone new moving into the area, contact & invite them.

5. Take a night a week to visit some other family from the church or invite them to visit in your home.

6. Set up a neighborhood study in your area, or encourage someone else to do so, then attend it.

7. Buy a classified ad in the newspaper or in a local area freeby. offer a Bible correspondence course. Grade the lessons,

send them back. Contact those who finish the course.

8. Mail a tract to friends, acquaintances, etc.
9. Visit or contact those who have missed services lately. Offer to be of help to them if you can.
10. Make use of your telephone to check on the sick, invite acquaintances to services, etc.
11. Visit folks in the hospitals.
12. Write letters to editors, congressmen, etc., regarding moral & spiritual issues, etc.

CONCLUSION: There are many things that each of us can do, if we have a mind to work. We can begin to grow spiritually, personally, immediately. This church can grow noticeably, spiritually & numerically, when we have a mind to work.

Exton, PA, January 7, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 14, 1996

Alief, TX, February 28, 1999 (meeting)