

**EVERY-MEMBER  
EVANGELISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649331949

Every-member evangelism by J. E. Conant

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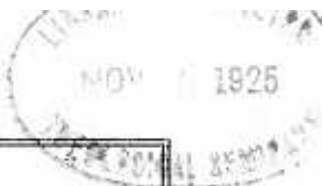
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**J. E. CONANT**

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# EVERY-MEMBER EVANGELISM

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INTRODUCTION  
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PHILADELPHIA  
**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES COMPANY**  
1922

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## INTRODUCTION

THE first great passion of the Lord Jesus Christ was, and is, for the souls of men. "The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost." In his intercessory prayer, recorded in John 17, he prays not alone for those who are with him, but for all those who, through their word, should believe on his Name, that they might be sanctified as he was sanctified, in order that the world might know that the Father had sent him into the world.

The Great Commission was not given to the Christian ministry, but to the Christian Church. It seems quite clear that when the Master met his disciples on the mountain in Galilee, "above five hundred brethren" (1 Cor. 15:6) were together in obedience to his summons. It was to this group, probably containing all the avowed disciples of the Master at the time of his crucifixion—at least all who stood the shock of that crucifixion and maintained the integrity of their faith beyond it—that he gave the Great Commission. The evangelization of men is therefore the task of the whole Church.

Judged in the light of Acts 1:8, the duty of the Church in bearing witness to Christ for the purpose of persuading men to believe on Christ was to be continuous and simultaneous; that is, it was to go on continuously and everywhere at once. The Com-

mission certainly contemplates a continuous Church activity until the consummation of the Age. The very genius of the Gospel Christ gave his disciples to proclaim necessitates the dominance of the Christian passion for souls. Wherever the Holy Spirit resides in the life of a believer, he is constantly taking the things of Christ and showing them unto men.

The author of this volume will point out the fact that it is not the task of the ministry to do the soul-winning work of the Christian body. The Holy Spirit has given some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, *for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ.* Surely no right conception of the Christian ministry can degenerate into an itching ear for entertainment. An evangelical ministry without an evangelistic passion is a moral impossibility. To declare a church evangelical and to confess it non-evangelistic is to proclaim a living lie. A loving passion for Christ inevitably eventuates in a living passion for men.

In a very vital sense all the problems which attend our organizations within the local church and within the larger grouping of churches easily find their solution in an intense evangelistic activity, and an intense evangelistic atmosphere. Pettiness, selfishness, estrangements, prejudices, bitternesses, seem impossible in the presence of the miracle-working God whose power and presence are fre-