

# USING THE *BOOK OF HOPE* FOR YOUTH EVANGELISM

## A way to plant the seed of the gospel to every student

*Book of Hope* distribution is an excellent way to plant the seed of the gospel. Jesus told the story about a farmer who sowed seed on different types of ground. Interestingly, Jesus never condemned the farmer for sowing seed on hard ground or rocky ground.

The responsibility of the Christian is to sow the seed. God is the one who makes it grow. The ideas and strategies present below are designed to help students sow the seed of the gospel at one of the most strategic mission fields in American, the public school campus.

### ***How can this be done?***

1. Adopt a school(s).
2. Pray strategically for that school(s).
3. Distribute the *Book of Hope* on campus.
4. Partner with other ministries and churches.

### ***Why should Christian leaders encourage students to distribute the Book of Hope on campus?***

1. The *Book of Hope* is an excellent tool to help students share their faith.
2. The *Book of Hope* gives a clear presentation of the gospel.
3. God's Word is powerful and can speak to the needs of every person.
4. It communicates the importance God's Word plays in presenting the gospel message.

## SIX ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESSFUL SEED SOWING ON CAMPUS

### **1. Build a Team:**

- Give all of your students their own personal copy of the *Book of Hope*.
- Encourage them to read the *Book of Hope*.
- Use scripture from the *Book of Hope* for your lesson or sermon.

### **2. Equip the Team with the *Book of Hope***

#### ***What is the Book of Hope***

- The *Book of Hope* is the message of Jesus as presented in the four gospels. There are special editions for each age group and presents Christ to people at a point of need.

### **Effective usage of the Book of Hope.**

- Observe all the students that sit near you in each class.
- Target some of those students each semester for your ministry focus.
- Pray for those students on a regular basis.
- Endeavor to be their friend.
- Pray for wisdom to know the right time to give each of them a copy of the *Book of Hope*. You may want to write a personal note inside the book.
- Take advantage of the privileges given by the Equal Access Act and the Department of Education guidelines concerning the expression of religious views in school.
- Do not attempt to distribute the book to students in any way that could be perceived as disruptive by administrators or teachers in your school.
- Show Christ's love in your actions and words.
- Don't force a student to take a book if he/she doesn't want it or embarrass him/her in any way.
- Follow up after you give out a book by asking the student questions over the next few days such as, "Have you read some of the book?" or "How do you like the book?"
- Expect God to open the door to reach these friends for Christ.

### **What do students say when they give someone the Book of Hope?**

#### **Here are a few examples:**

- "Hi, I know that you been having a tough time lately, and I would like to give you this book. If you're ever in trouble or need a friend, check out this book; it helped me."
- "I want you to have this book about my best friend."
- "Here's a book that helped me when I was having problems in my life."
- "This book will help you understand more about my friend Jesus."
- "Here's a book that helps you understand how you feel; check it out and see what you think."

### **How can students lead a person to Christ with the Book of Hope?**

The *Book of Hope* contains material that will be helpful in leading a person to Christ. Christian students should be familiar with this material in order to help their unsaved friends come to Christ.

### **How does the church stress the importance of The Book of Hope outreach to our students?**

- Conduct a Sunday morning "commissioning service" for those students who have committed to be part of the outreach.
- Have the church leaders lay hands on the students and pray for them.
- Announce that the students will be the mission representatives from the church to the campus.

### 3. Enlist A Support Team:

- Share with the congregation what the students are going to do on the campus.
- Secure commitments from adults to join prayer teams.
- Secure commitments from adults to assist in financing the cost of the *Book of Hope* and receive an offering for the outreach.
- Remind the congregation to periodically encourage the students who are involved in the outreach.

### 4. Develop a Game Plan:

The ideas below have all been used successfully in other communities.

#### ***Day of Hope Distribution:***

- Once a month at the regular Youth service, give each student a *Book of Hope*.
- During the sermon or lesson, use scripture from the *Book of Hope* for your message.
- During prayer time have students write the name of someone whom they will witness to on the inside front cover of the *Book of Hope*.
- Encourage the students to give the *Book of Hope* to that person the next school day.
- Allow students to share what's happening with their *Book of Hope* distribution and follow-up conversations.

***Campus Ministry Group Distribution***--Members of a Christian group on campus endeavor to give a *Book of Hope* to each student on campus.

***School Assembly Distribution*** –Copies of the *Book of Hope* are given out at conclusion of school assembly programs that deal with Abstinence, Anti-Drug, or Motivational in nature. Students either hand them out or place them on tables for students to take.

***After School Distribution*** –Copies of the *Book of Hope* are given out along with a cold soft drink after school in the parking lot.

***Special Days*** – Take advantage of special days to distribute the *Book of Hope*.

- **FLIP THE SCRIPT:** This is a national scripture distribution day that takes place on the third Wednesday in April each year. Students are encouraged to give their friend's a scripture portion such as the *Book of Hope*. **This event is sponsored by His Story.**
- **See You At The Pole:** National day of prayer for students on junior and senior high campuses. This event takes place in September every year.
- **Valentine's Day:** Share the greatest example of love ever shown by presenting a copy of the *Book of Hope* as God's valentine to man.
- **Easter:** Pass out the *Book of Hope* the week before Easter with a special note explaining Jesus' Passion and how it relates to Easter.

- **Graduation:** Give a copy of the *Book of Hope* to all graduating seniors as a gift from the church or campus club.
- **Thanksgiving:** Share the most sacrificial act of giving by presenting a copy of the *Book of Hope* to each student on campus.
- **Christmas:** Gift wrap the *Book of Hope* and present it to every student at school a few days before Christmas break.
- **Five Friend Focus Prayer List** – Target specific students each semester: pray for them, give them a copy of the *Book of Hope*, and share a personal testimony.
- **Crisis Distribution** – Be sensitive to special times of need for students: parent’s getting divorced, serious illness or death of a family member, etc. Give them a copy of the *Book of Hope*.

## 5. Play the Entire Season:

- Help the students understand that passing out the *Book of Hope* to another student is a powerful way to share their personal faith in Christ.
- Encourage and pray for the *Book of Hope* outreach in the regular youth service.
- Periodically mention the *Book of Hope* outreach to the church congregation for prayer and encouragement.
- Provide opportunity for students to share some of their “war stories” about the *Book of Hope* outreach.
- Honor all students who are involved in the *Book of Hope* outreach.
- Remind students that their role is to pass out the *Book of Hope* and pray for those who receive it. They are not responsible for how a person may respond.
- Have a campus evangelism bulletin board in the youth room.

## 6. Use the Holy Huddle Offense:

The success of the *Book of Hope* outreach will be directly related to the prayer involved. The church body should pray for those who will do the outreach, in addition pray for those targeted by the teens to receive the *Book of Hope*.

Encourage adults to take “prayer walks” around the school campus after school hours. Prayer teams should do prayer walks around the school property on a regular basis.

Encourage church members to sign up as prayer partners for schools in their community. Individuals can sign up online at [www.prayerzonepartners.com](http://www.prayerzonepartners.com). Forms and prayer guides are available in bulk by contacting His Story.

## 1. Develop A Campus Prayer Team:

- Each church should solicit individuals from the congregation who will pray for the evangelism efforts.

- This prayer focus should be a continual part of the outreach.
- These people may want to pray individually or meet together periodically at their respective churches to pray.
- During the beginning stages of the outreach, prayer team members should pray daily for the outreach. Some team members may want to meet together each day for prayer.
- Prayer should continue on a regular basis since students will be distributing the *Book of Hope* throughout the school year.
- For community wide outreach, consider having a citywide prayer rally prior to the outreach rally. Prayer team members should attend this rally.

## 2. Provide a Campus Prayer List:

Pray for/that:

- Youth Leaders to train and motivate their students to be involved in the outreach.
- Wisdom and favor in raising funds for the outreach.
- Favor with school officials, teachers, and the community.
- Christian students to respond to the challenge to use the *Book of Hope*.
- Students to have boldness and power when distributing the *Book of Hope*.
- God would prepare the hearts of students who will receive the *Book of Hope*.
- God would direct Christian students to those that are most receptive to the gospel.
- The Holy Spirit would use God's Word to convince students of the reality of their need for Jesus.
- Any special rallies that might be held.
- Churches would be united and be involved in the follow-up process.

The most important part of a *Book of Hope* outreach is prayer. Regardless of which methods are used, prayer is the priority and should continue throughout the year. Both adults and students can be involved in the prayer efforts.

## 3. Conduct A Campus Prayer Walk:

- Set a time and invite other believers to join you.
- Provide information for the participants such as names of school administrators, number of students, number of teachers, and names of Christian teachers on this campus.
- Provide participants with the His Story prayer guide.
- Encourage participants to pray out loud.
- Instruct participants to focus their prayers on:
  - a. asking God to bless the school, workers, and students.
  - b. asking God to open hearts to the Gospel.
  - c. asking God to raise up students to distribute the *Book of Hope*.
  - d. asking God to give students boldness to talk about Jesus.
- Remind participants that their purpose is to pray, not call attention to themselves or what they are doing.

- Participants may want to select a prayer partner to pray a prayer of agreement.

More detailed information on conducting a prayer walk is available at [www.hisstory.org](http://www.hisstory.org)

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CAMPUS OUTREACH**

### ***Involving the Community in Book of Hope Campus Evangelism.***

*Book of Hope* campus evangelism can be a cooperative effort of many ministries within the community. If you are interested in involving the whole community, contact the leadership of local churches and the ministerial alliance, local network of youth ministries, or campus ministries, (such as Youth Alive, First Priority, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Youth For Christ, Student Venture, etc.). Meet with these leaders concerning a *Book of Hope* outreach. If no local organization exists, an informal organization could be put together to facilitate the *Book of Hope* outreach.

For additional information on community wide distribution, contact the His Story office.

### ***Implementing an Effective “Adopt a School” Program.***

- Adopt a school your students attend or one near your church. In smaller communities, churches could adopt all the schools.
- Get the names of the principal and teachers to put on the church prayer list. Also add the names of the students from the local church.
- Secure commitments from church members to pray for the school, workers and students on a regular basis.
- Schedule prayer walks around the school on a regular basis. The prayer walks should be done after school hours when students are not present.
- Raise funds to purchase the *Book of Hope* for the students.
- Organize the Christian students on the campus to distribute the *Book of Hope*.
- Send a “thank-you note” to the principal and teachers each semester. The note should express gratitude for the work they do in education.
- Sponsor an appreciation banquet for the principal and teachers.
- Keep pictures of school personnel posted on a special bulletin board at the church.
- Have volunteers from the church assist the school with any special projects the school may have such as fund-raisers, special trips, ball games, etc.
- Recruit qualified personnel from the church to volunteer to serve as tutors for students who need academic help.
- Check with the school principal to see if there is some project such as painting, landscaping, etc. that your church could do for the school.
- Sponsor a Christian teacher’s attendance to the annual meeting of the CEAI. CEAI is an organization for Christians who are involved in education. Visit their web site [www.ceai.org](http://www.ceai.org) or call 626.798.1124 for more information.
- Go to [www.everyschool.com](http://www.everyschool.com) and register to adopt a school(s) in your community.

### ***Motivating students:***

Have an area where students can list what happens to them when they share their faith. Build a Slam, Home Run and a Grand Slam board to record those events.

List on the Slam board the excuses teenagers give when presented with the *Book of Hope*.

List on the Home Run board each time one of the teens gets to share the gospel with a friend for at least 5 minutes. List your student's name and date.

List on the Grand Slam board every time a student shares the gospel and another student gets saved. List the date of salvation only. At the end of the school year allow the students to see what they've done, take pictures and then set goals for next year.

If you need additional information or have any ideas about motivating teenagers for Campus Evangelism, please call our national office @ 888.845.4673.

## **The Student's Bill of Rights:**

- The Right to carry and distribute religious literature. You have the right to carry religious literature including the Bible. You also have the right to distribute religious literature and Bibles to fellow students. (School officials can prohibit students from distributing any type of literature on campus; however, they can not prohibit it simply because it is religious.)
- The Right to pray and have religious discussion. You have the right to engage in individual or group prayer and religious discussion during the school day. You may read your Bible or other Scriptures, say grace before meals, and pray before tests.
- The Right to express your religious beliefs in school assignments. You may express your beliefs about religion in the form of homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free of discrimination based on the religious content.
- The Right to display religious messages on items of clothing. You may wear Christian T-shirts, buttons, etc. Religious messages may not be singled out for suppression.
- The Right to have prayer and worship services on campus. If the school permits non-curriculum related student clubs to meet on campus, they may not refuse access to your student religious groups.
- The Right to publicize religious meetings. You have the right to announce your

religious club meetings - including use of public address system, the school newspaper, and the school bulletin boards - just like other student groups.

- The Right to persuade your peers about religious topics. You can discuss religious topics the same way you talk about political topics.