**FRUITFUL EVANGELISM REQUIRES BUILDING RELATIONSHIP AND UNITY**

**1a. Abraham Built Relationships**

Abraham – Respected other spiritual leaders

Abraham knew the power of unity and honoring others.

Abraham honored those who were not of his own faith.

Abraham worked/worshipped/helped those who were not of his own faith.

*Gen 14:17  The king of Sodom went out to meet Abraham after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and those with him. Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most-High God. Melchizedek blessed Abraham, and he also blessed the Most-High God.*

And Abraham gave him tithes of all.

Furthermore Abraham rendered all his services at his own expense.

He said “*I will not take anything that is yours.”*

Abraham was a man of faith.

The Holy Scriptures exalt him as our most eminent example of faith.

His faith gave him influence and respect.

**1b.** **Follow Abraham’s Example**

1 Heavenly Father, your Word says that all people everywhere can only be blessed if they follow Abraham’s example.

Let us then, Heavenly Father, bless and help those of other faiths even as Abraham did.

2 Heavenly Father, make us so receptive as to thankfully imitate and practice this as a denomination.

3 Heavenly Father, lead us to focus right now on another group not of our own persuasion.

4\* **Make us both to will and to do something practical for them.**

LET US DISCUSS THE PRAYER POINT WITH THE ATTERISK; WHAT MIGHT THERE BE YOU COULD DO FOR A NON-Baptist group/church? What really is your heart’s response to this? Do you sense an urgent nudging to take action on this point?

**2a. God clearly requires us to respect those of other persuasions.**

“On the essentials *unity;*

on the non-essentials*, freedom;*

in everything*, love.”*

*(*Quote from medieval writer Rupertus Meldenius)

Jesus had a clear vision for others with different spiritual views to participate.

*(Mar 9:38) John said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in your name, and he followed not us: and we forbad him, because he followed not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.*

*Furthermore Jesus said: Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Joh 10:16*

God clearly requires us to cooperate with other denominations

God clearly requires us to help other denominations

1. A beautiful illustration is that of the Pentecostals

in Dnepro providing a large financial gift to the Baptists

when the central church burned down.

1. A Baptist pastor’s wife nursed the priest’s baby when his wife was ill.

**2b.** Lord Jesus, you so clearly had a greater vision than the disciples.

You Lord Jesus, understood the variety in the world-wide church you envisioned.

Lord Jesus, you so clearly showed that self-righteousness and pride stinks.

Lord Jesus, you demonstrated that we should lift up others and think more highly of them than of ourselves.

Lord Jesus, we have completely failed to honor our ‘enemies’; forgive us these blatant sins.

Lord Jesus, lead us to honor other denominations and help them.

Lord Jesus, we have not acted as brothers and assisted our own fellow Baptist churches as we should.

Lord Jesus, give our churches power to share their deacons and spiritual workers for evangelism and church planting in other provinces.

Lord Jesus, make us so receptive as to thankfully imitate YOU and practice this on a wider scale.

**3a. LIVING EXAMPLE – Odessa - Vladimir Shemchyshyn**

In one settlement, the Baptist church founded a new church. In this village, there was an Orthodox church from the Ukrainian Patriarchate. Priest Michael was very negative about the Baptists. People very little visited the Orthodox Church. The priest could not pay for utility costs. The government turned off the light and water. The pastor of the Baptists learned this, and the Baptists decided to pay for communal expenses for the Orthodox Church. After that, the priest and the Baptist pastor became very friendly. Priest Michael even sometimes preached at meetings in the Baptist church.

**3b.** **LIVING EXAMPLE –** Rivne Oblast - Vasily Romanuk

Built a large church of MEN of 70 in a small town Druzhba.

Witnessed almost daily to the Orthodox priest, and built good relations with Governmental structures.

Vasily Romanuk former Pastor of the Baptist church in ? Vavilova ? L’viv oblast. A village of only 2000 . He started with a church of 36 and built it up to 70 . He had a very good personal lifestyle exuding POSITIVE faith. He very frequently greeted and shared with the Orthodox priest. He built relationships with Governmental authorities and school personnel. He buried the undesirables that the priest would not bury. His church grew, MEN came and filled his sanctuary, school teachers and others. He retired with a strong church of 70 that influenced the whole community.

(Does anyone want to share and add other examples?)

**3b.** Lord Jesus, you have already led many brothers to be faithful, successful servants that won many precious souls. We thank you for each of them.

We thank you for their vision, effort and your blessed result of these churches.

Help us Lord God to inspire many other leaders to be so receptive as to thankfully imitate and practice this in their own churches.

**4a. LIVING EXAMPLES – Volin Villages**

* In one village the Orthodox priest prepared his people to listen to and pay attention when the Baptists would come to do evangelism. The hearts of the people were open.
* In the second village the priest had taken a strong opposing stand and hearts were closed to the gospel.

(Does anyone want to share and add other examples?)

**4b.** Lord Jesus, throughout history you showed that it is pleasant for brothers to dwell together.

Over and over you poured out grace where there was unity, and withheld blessing where there were quarrels and arguments.

We thank you for the vision, effort and blessed result of such inter denominational participation.

Make us open-minded enough to not only desire unity but to practice it.

Give us power Lord to initiate unity and make it happen.

**5a. LIVING EXAMPLE –** **Odessa Oblast**

Brother Sasha built good relationships with the town leaders and with the school.

He was able to change the word ‘camp’ to ‘sport event’ and got a great approval and acceptance. Over 100 came.

(Does anyone want to share and add other examples?)

**5b.** Lord Jesus, you constantly participated practically in the life of others.

You blessed and helped all kinds of unbelieving leaders, even those considered enemies.

We thank you for the vision, effort and blessed result of Sasha’s ministry and church.

Make us so open-hearted as to thankfully imitate and practice this in many places.

**6a. LIVING EXAMPLE –** **Chernigov - Sosnitsa**

Brother Anatoly led a minister of Ukraine to the Lord.

The vice mayor of the town publically hugged and kissed him for serving the community.

He led the librarian to the Lord.

(Does anyone want to share and add other examples?)

**6b.** Lord Jesus, we thank you for the many government officials and business people in Holy Scripture who came to seek your help. Who came and blessed and praised you name.

We thank you that we have brothers who set an example and show us how to love government officials just the way You did Lord Jesus.

Make us a denomination that is known for its public good deeds.

Only in that way can we harvest souls far above our expectations.

We depend on you and want to be your pipeline Jesus.

**7a. LIVING EXAMPLE –** **Kiev Oblast - Kagarlik**

Church people mowed the grass along the city’s sidewalks.

The Mayor honored them at a city event.

(Does anyone want to share and add other examples?)

**7b.** Lord Jesus, you constantly participated practically in the life of others.

We thank you for the vision, effort and blessed result of this church.

Make us so responsive as to thankfully imitate and practice these examples ourselves as leaders of our denomination before we share this with others or teach them to do it.

Give us power we pray to become practitioners of these examples.

DO WE HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS OR DISCUSSION?