

GO.STAND.SPEAK. Acts 5:20

KEY COMPONENTS OF
THE CHURCH PRESENTATION
SAMPLE ATTENTION-GETTERS & TESTIMONIES

SPEAKUP

2.13.2010



The Gideons
International



KEY COMPONENTS OF THE CHURCH PRESENTATION SAMPLE ATTENTION-GETTERS & TESTIMONIES

Testimonies are the heart of your Gideon presentation. Sharing a variety of short testimonies has proven to be more effective than emphasizing one or two longer ones. The following *Suggested Testimonies* can each be presented in 60 to 90 seconds. Or, choose your own testimonies from sources such as *The Gideon* magazine, the *International Update* or your personal experiences.

NOTE: The bold-faced statement at the beginning of each testimony below can be used as an Attention-Getter to begin your presentation. If you plan to use one or more of these testimonies later in your presentation, you may want to adjust the boldfaced attention-getter statement to fit the flow of your testimonies.

IMPORTANT: Inspiring video testimonies are now available through your camp president for church presenters who wish to qualify using video.

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PRISON DISTRIBUTIONS (U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY)

EXAMPLE 1

“I liked to make fun of the Bible!”

That was the objective of Bill. He was a prison inmate, and indeed, he delighted in making fun of God’s Word...at every opportunity.

Robert, another prisoner, and several inmates, regularly gathered to read God’s Word and pray. In fact, Robert kept a Bible handy near his work post. It was a Scripture local Gideons had placed in that prison.

One day, Bill came by and picked up Robert’s Bible and began to read it. He occasionally would stop to criticize it, too. After a while, Bill left...but later, he returned and asked Robert to pray for him. Bill was under conviction and wanted to be saved.

Bill and Robert knelt together in prayer, and Bill prayed the sinner’s prayer in the back of that Bible. God forgave him, and Bill accepted Christ as his Savior.



FOR THEM

EXAMPLE 2**“I was on the FBI’s most wanted list.”**

That is the testimony of Mary Kay Beard, a notorious safecracker and bank robber.

She and her husband were hardened criminals. Finally, she was arrested and locked up in an Alabama jail. There, she found a Bible, placed by Gideons, and shoved it under her mattress.

One day, Mary Kay took out that Bible and began reading. She was drawn to a verse in Ezekiel, chapter 36, *“a new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh...”*

Quietly, on the floor in her cell that night, Mary Kay Beard surrendered her life to the Lord. God had saved her.

Mary Kay felt the problems of other prisoners, particularly their loneliness. And now, she is blessed that God has used her as His instrument to begin the Angel Tree ministry—helping prisoners and their families draw closer together.

EXAMPLE 3**“Don’t bother us...don’t call...don’t write us anymore!”**

That’s what Bobby Horne’s mother told him after he violated his probation and went back to jail a second time. His mother said that if this was the kind of life he was going to live, he could live it without her and his family.

At a very young age, Bobby began using drugs and alcohol. He later stole a car, ran from the police, was caught and taken to jail. A Gideon visited Bobby in his cell and gave him a copy of God’s Word...but Bobby really didn’t take him seriously. After being released from jail, Bobby went right back into drugs and alcohol. He had only six months left on his probation when he violated it and went back to jail. That’s when his mother visited him and said: “Don’t bother us...don’t call...don’t write us anymore.”

Her words broke Bobby’s heart. He went back to his cell and made a decision to read his copy of God’s Word...In just a few days, Bobby realized he did not know Jesus. He prayed and asked the Lord to help him, and God began to do a work in his life.

Bobby wrote letters to people asking for forgiveness for all the things he had done. The same Gideon he had met earlier in jail came back and helped him.

Bobby was released from prison, and found his wife had waited for him. He started over, and now he is a Gideon, helping other men in prison.

EXAMPLE 4

“I used to tear out the pages of God’s Word, roll up periwinkles in them, and smoke them to get high.”

Those are the words of Terry Hawkins. As a young man, Terry became a drug dealer in South Florida. He was finally arrested and placed in the federal penitentiary. A Gideon visited Terry in prison and gave him a New Testament. That’s when Terry began to roll joints from the pages.

But something happened to Terry. He started to read God’s Word as he tore out the pages. He changed his ways, and began telling others about Jesus. Soon, he was singing hymns while working in prison.

Some of the guards thought Terry was crazy and confined him for a while...but Terry was truly saved. One of the guards told the local mayor about Terry during their Sunday school class. The mayor was a friend of the town judge and spoke to him. Terry was released to live with this judge.

Terry went on to join a church, and the Gideon who gave him his New Testament in prison, supported and helped him grow as a Christian.

Today, Terry Hawkins is a pastor...and he has served the Lord in a number of churches, particularly helping others who have been to prison.

EXAMPLE 5

“I was in prison, dying from tuberculosis...”

This is the testimony of Nicolai, a former prisoner in Russia. Nicolai was also a chronic smoker, alcoholic and a drug addict. But one day, in the prison library, Nicolai found a blue New Testament, like this one (hold up example) placed by The Gideons. He began reading it and became aware of his many sins.

The Holy Spirit moved in his heart, and Nicolai confessed his sins and received Jesus as Savior. He quit smoking, regained his health, and was miraculously healed of his tuberculosis. In fact, the doctors could find no indication that Nicholai had ever had the disease.

Upon his release from prison, Nicolai found a church to attend, and today he is an active leader in his congregation—and a Gideon taking Scriptures to the prisons in Russia.

EXAMPLE 6

“When I was in high school, I began to steal car parts and gasoline... soon, I started to rob people.”

That is the testimony of Mahlon, who had a life-changing experience through the Word of God.

Although he did not rob anyone again as an adult, the crimes Mahlon committed as a teenager finally caught up with him. Eventually the young man was arrested and tried on three counts of armed robbery. He was convicted on one count and received a sentence of ten years at hard labor in the state penitentiary.

While Mahlon was in prison, a man who had a life sentence witnessed to him after Mahlon got into a fight one day. This prisoner, facing life in prison, then gave Mahlon a little Gideon New Testament, like this one (hold one up). The young man began to read God’s Word, and soon he was attending the chapel services in that prison. It was not long afterward that Mahlon accepted the Lord as his personal Savior.

The longer he stayed in prison, the more he saw the needs of the other inmates. About eighteen months before his release, Mahlon accepted the call to preach. This young man felt that God wanted him to carry His message to lost and dying men. He started witnessing in prison, and he has continued to do so since he was paroled.

HOTEL DISTRIBUTIONS (U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY)**EXAMPLE 1**

“If anyone had told me that I would be a Christian one day, I would have been very amused—and congratulated them for having such a vivid imagination.”

Those are the words of Flora, in Malaysia. He had never felt the need to align himself to any particular religion...until one night.

As he sat on his bed in a hotel room, Flora felt lost, and he wondered how he was going to continue. His reserves were depleted, and he was feeling very discouraged. Somehow, he opened up the Bible that had been placed there by the Gideons. One verse seemed to leap out of the pages...“*For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee*” (Isaiah 41:13). The sudden realization that he was not alone—that there was Someone out there looking out for him—filled Flora with great comfort.

Flora soon accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior, and he experienced an inner calm and peace, which he had never known before.”

EXAMPLE 2**“I stole a hotel Bible!”**

That’s what Lorraine wrote in a letter to The Gideons...In fact, she said that when you steal a hotel Bible, you must really need it.

In Lorraine’s case, she most certainly needed it. She was staying at a hotel in Las Vegas. Lorraine was tired of gambling, and she had just lost all of her money. Lorraine was disgusted with herself.

She started to read that Gideon-placed Bible in her hotel room and decided to take it home with her. As she continued reading God’s precious Word, her whole life changed. God forgave her of her sins—and cleaned her up.

When she closed her letter to The Gideons, Lorraine wrote: *“You are not losing anything when your Bibles are stolen. You are gaining souls for His kingdom—and that is what really counts. You will never know how many lives you have saved.”*

EXAMPLE 3**“This was the first time I ever heard anyone praying in his own words.”**

A young lady made this statement after Gideons visited with her at work one day.

She was serving as a maid in a motel when the two Gideons came to see if they could put a Bible in each motel room—free of charge. She said yes, and then these Gideons asked if they could pray with her. That’s when she remarked that this was the first time she ever heard anyone praying in his own words.

Each day, as the young lady would go and clean every motel unit, she found herself drawn to the Bibles left by those Gideons. She didn’t know God, but now she wanted to learn more about Him. She began to read the Bible and to study it.

Then, she began going to church with her boyfriend. The Lord was really pleading with her—that she was a sinner, and lost, and needed to know Him. Finally, she confessed her sins and was saved.

Later, the young lady’s boyfriend told her that he would never have continued to go with her—or marry her—until she had become a Christian. That fall they were engaged, and the next summer, they married. The Lord has blessed the couple with three lovely children whom they have also led to Christ.

EXAMPLE 4

“On Christmas morning, my wife told me she was leaving me for another man...took her Christmas presents and drove away.”

Those are the words of Lowell “Bud” Paxson, the man who began the Home Shopping Network. Bud had tremendous success, but at what appeared to be the height of his career, his wife left him—on Christmas day.

A few days later, Bud was traveling to Las Vegas for New Year’s. He was unable to sleep in his hotel room, so he got up about 4:00 a.m. and started reading the Bible, placed by The Gideons, that he found in a drawer. Bud opened the Bible randomly and read how God rescued Job from hardships and troubles. He then turned to the front of the Bible and found directions to verses that showed him how to have peace with God.

Bud put his faith in Jesus Christ, and he knew that God loved him... and that God was with him.

The strong desire to serve God with his life and business led him to many changes. Bud created PAX TV, a family-centered network with the aim of providing spiritually based positive programming for families to watch together.

Bud said he regretted that he had to hit rock bottom before he was willing to listen to God, but he’s thankful God was there waiting for him.

EXAMPLE 5

“It would take an act of God to change you.”

That’s what one fellow’s brother told him after seeing the changes in his life.

This young man was reared overseas, where drugs were plentiful—as were a lot of other evils of the world. By the time he was 24 years old, he had done most of the things he had ever really wanted to do in life.

But somewhere in Germany, the young man stole a New Testament from a youth hostel. It was a New Testament placed by The Gideons. He read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And while reading John, he decided to find out if God was really alive and real, so he said, “God, I don’t even know if you exist, but if you do, and you can change me, then I want Jesus Christ to come into my life...and I want Him to change me.”

The young man returned to the U.S., and he noticed his life gradually beginning to change. He started to become a student of God’s Word.

Things changed so radically in his life that his younger brother, who was living with him, became very suspicious. Then, one day his brother said, "Something has changed in your life." The young man told him that he had invited Jesus Christ into his life, and that Jesus was changing him. His brother answered, "You know, I've never believed in God, but there must be a God...It would take an act of God to change you."

Today, along with his wife, this man is serving God in a ministry that works on college campuses, directly with students.

EXAMPLE 6

"I am dying and will not be able to see my sisters again!"

Those were the words of a salesman who was traveling to visit his sisters in Baltimore.

In Chicago, he had read a Bible, placed by The Gideons, in his hotel room. This brought him under strong conviction—just before he left for Baltimore. His two sisters had been praying for his conversion for years. However, during his trip to see them, he became very ill along the way and was admitted to a hospital in Philadelphia.

In the hospital, there was another Bible, placed by The Gideons. As he read the Bible, he asked for a minister to join him. This salesman held the Bible in his hand and said to the minister, "I am dying and will not be able to see my sisters. I want you to tell them that I have found the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior, and I will see them in Heaven."

The man died in a short while, and the minister said there was no possible doubt of his being saved. Evidently the two Bibles had been used of the Holy Spirit—without the help of man—in first convicting him of his sins...and then converting him to Christ.

HOSPITAL/MEDICAL DISTRIBUTIONS (U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY)

EXAMPLE 1

“I am eighty-five year old and I live in a convalescent hospital.”

Those are the words of Wilma, an elderly lady who wrote to The Gideons from California. She reads regularly from the Bible placed in her convalescent home by local Gideons. Wilma said that the Bible left there by the Gideons was so easy to read and had many beneficial things. In particular, she told us that the page featuring the “Help in Times of Need” Scripture verses to comfort a person was very special. This page gave her courage, peace and strength. She also added that the “Suggested Readings” page of Scriptures provided her with many happy hours.

Wilma became a born-again Christian through reading that Bible... something she said she would never forget. Her Gideon-placed Bible has become her prize possession. Each time she opens it, she said she thanks the Gideons for it—and each night she prays for those who helped provide it.”

EXAMPLE 2

“I would never place my only son in a Christian hospital!”

That was the initial feeling expressed by a strict Buddhist couple in Taiwan whose boy was very sick.

For more than two years, this boy’s parents had spent a small fortune taking their only son to herb doctors as well as western doctors. They tried every kind of homemade prescription. Buddhist and Taoist temples were frequented as the family, in desperation, sought supernatural aid for their son. All of this was of no avail, and the boy was still as sick as ever.

Finally, the parents learned of the Changhua Christian Hospital in Taiwan. At first, they balked at the name, “Christian,” as they were devout Buddhists. But, the concern for their son’s health won out.

They brought the young boy to this Christian Hospital for treatment. A thorough diagnosis revealed infection in his bone marrow. The operations proved a great success and the boy recovered rapidly.

During his stay at the hospital, this young lad found a New Testament placed by local Gideons at his bedside. The boy began avidly reading the Word of God, and he came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At first, his grandfather was furious upon learning that the boy had embraced Christianity. But his grandson’s transformed life spoke for itself. And now, through God’s grace, the entire family is trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

EXAMPLE 3

“Oh no, I can’t stand that!”

Those were the words of a female drug addict, who was placed in a psychiatric ward—when she found a Bible in her room.

She had fallen victim to drugs...first starting with marijuana, then moving on to pills, and heroin. Needless to say, her body broke down—many, many times.

So, she found herself in a psychiatric ward. And, when she was committed to her room, they locked the steel door behind her. She looked around. The room had one window with a steel screen on it. Next, she spotted a black book...a Bible. That’s when she said to herself, “Oh no, I can’t stand that!” But as she looked at it, she also knew she couldn’t throw it out. Why? There was no way to get it out of the room.

She was scared of this Bible, and when she walked over and took it, she said it was like life in her hands. Just where it fell open was where she read. It opened to Psalm 40, verses 1, 2, and 3. As she began to read, it began to tell her life story.

She looked at the front of the Bible and saw that The Gideons placed it. Her mother could not be in the room with her, nor could a minister. No Sunday school teacher she had ever listened to could be in that room, but a Bible, placed by The Gideons, could be there.

She continued to read it, and about five or six days later, she was released from the institution. She went out with the Word of God—especially Psalm 40—firmly in her heart.

One week later, this former drug addict found Jesus Christ as her personal Savior.

Later, with her husband, she went on to operate the Arctic Cache Rehabilitation Center in North Pole, Alaska.

EXAMPLE 4

“I had five sets of shock treatments and ended up in a psychiatric ward.”

That was the early life of Martha Hawkins. Martha got married at sixteen, had four sons, and was divorced by age twenty-three.

Trying to raise four children on her own became too much for her, and Martha attempted suicide. Afterwards, she saw one psychiatrist after another...and endured shock treatments for her depression.

Then she found the Word of God, right beside her bed in that psychiatric ward. Martha started reading it and continued to read until it became a reality in her life.

God gave Martha a new mind and a new attitude. She knew God had a purpose for her. Martha Hawkins started her own popular restaurant, and all four of her sons are grown and successful, too.

That Bible, placed by Martha’s bed, planted a seed in her life that has spread throughout her family and to others she meets.

EXAMPLE 5

“I never once heard my father’s voice.”

Those are the words of Rabi Maharaj, and his testimony is incredible. Rabi was born into the Hindu religion, and he came from the Brahman Caste. Brahmans believe that they are divine.

His father’s one desire was to reach the highest goal of Hinduism—to become as a god. One day, Rabi’s father vowed not to speak to anyone. He also vowed not to cut his hair or his beard. Rabi would go to his bedside and try to talk with him, but he never once heard his father’s voice because of his vow of silence.

A doctor ordered his father’s very long hair to be cut for medical reasons, and the moment they cut it off, he fell backward and died on the spot. Rabi had never once heard his father’s voice, and now his father was dead.

Then, Rabi took his father’s place. By the time he was a teenager, people were bowing at Rabi’s feet, bringing to him their gifts and offerings, and seeking his blessings. But, deep in his heart, Rabi was empty. More than anything else in this world, he wanted to come to know the true and living God...But he didn’t know how.

Then Rabi’s grandmother became sick and was in the hospital. There, she came across a copy of the Word of God, placed by The Gideons. She came home and read it. Next, Rabi’s cousin brought home from high school a New Testament he received from The Gideons. He opened it up to John 3:3, and he said, “Do you know that you need to be born again to get to heaven?”

The Holy Spirit convicted Rabi's heart, and he got down on his knees. Right then, he asked Jesus Christ to forgive all of his sins.

Rabi gave his life totally to God, and the Lord led him into the ministry. Now, God has opened many doors for Rabi to preach the Gospel all over this world."

EXAMPLE 6

"How can we know what to read?"

These are the words that two men asked of a Gideon who had been distributing New Testaments in Ecuador at a local hospital.

The Gideon members had just completed a well-received hospital Scripture distribution. Then, as these Gideons left that hospital, Carlos and Manuel were waiting for them outside the hospital...holding the Scriptures they had just received during the distribution.

Both men had one important question: "How can we know what to read?" The Gideons reviewed with them the verses that say who God is, what Jesus did for us...plus the need to repent and accept the gift of life through Jesus.

These two men gladly accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior. "It was worthwhile to make this long trip to come to see our friend in the hospital," they said.

SCHOOL/COLLEGE DISTRIBUTIONS (U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY)

EXAMPLE 1

"My father threatened to kick me out of our home if I go to church any more."

Those are the words of a young boy in Kentucky. After The Gideons distributed New Testaments at his school, some of the kids started a Scripture memory contest in their church. This one boy didn't go to Sunday school, but he hung around with these same kids, so he joined in the contest.

Later, the young boy accepted Christ, and he told the pastor that he wanted to become a Christian because of reading his New Testament from The Gideons—and memorizing Bible verses.

Then, the boy's father threatened to kick him out of their home...if he went to church any more. He even bought his son a motorbike under the condition that he would give up his new religion. The boy refused to accept the bike, and he told his dad, *"As much as I'd like to have the bike, I'd never give up Jesus for it."*

EXAMPLE 2**“Everything I’m doing is meaningless!”**

This was the realization of Oronzo, a physics professor at a university in Albania.

Oronzo always thought about God, but he did not know what “belonging to God” meant. He seemed satisfied with teaching his physics classes—in spite of the political situation in his country.

One day, Oronzo heard a Gideon speaking in front of his university building about Jesus Christ and His plan for salvation. This Gideon was also distributing New Testaments.

The Gideon asked Oronzo what would become of him after death. Suddenly, Oronzo realized that everything he was doing was indeed meaningless in comparison to this one question. He began reading his New Testament, and Oronzo wrote his name in the back as he accepted Christ as his Savior.

Oronzo also wrote his name in the Book of Life that same day.

EXAMPLE 3**“I rejected everything I had been taught in church.”**

That’s the testimony of one young lady whose life was a real roller coaster ride.

She went to church as a child, but she was not a Christian. After reaching her teens, she made the statement that she rejected everything she had been taught in church. The lady then married at 19, but this marriage ended in divorce 5 years later.

During her first marriage, she went to church, but still the Gospel escaped her.

After that marriage ended, she started on a downhill slide that almost took her life. She drank, took drugs, and went through a series of very bad, sinful relationships.

She remarried at 25 and tried to straighten up, but that old sinful nature kept nagging at her. She worked at Duke University. One day, walking across the campus, there were some Gideons, and she was handed a little green New Testament, like this one (hold it up). At that time, she had not been in church for seven years.

The young lady began reading the New Testament by looking up references in the front. Pretty soon, she couldn’t put it down. She devoured the Word of God for about a week or two. But, the word, “sin,” kept coming to her mind.

She went to work one morning knowing it was the day that she would repent, and accept Christ as her Savior and Lord. She did so on her lunch hour. Then, she started attending a Bible-believing church with her family.

EXAMPLE 4

“Are you giving away something free?”

That was the question a construction worker in Ecuador asked a Gideon team, visiting there to distribute God’s Word. These Gideons was waiting for clearance to conduct a distribution of New Testaments at a local high school, when the construction worker approached. He was on his way to deliver some construction materials and had stopped to get directions. When the man saw their boxes of New Testaments, he asked if the Gideons were giving away something.

Seizing this opportunity, these Gideons offered him a copy of Scripture, and he gave them permission to explain the gift of God’s grace. After carefully studying the Plan of Salvation from the back of the New Testament, he immediately accepted the Lord Jesus as his personal Savior.

EXAMPLE 5

“May I have a ‘Little Book of God?’”

That’s what one teacher asked a Gideon near the conclusion of a major sidewalk distribution of New Testaments outside a middle school in Ecuador.

The team of Gideons visiting this school was not allowed on the school grounds, so they stood on the sidewalk outside the school gates—handing out God’s Word. This teacher was curious, so she left her class and came over to the chain-link fence separating the school from the Gideon team distributing New Testaments. She then asked for one of the “little books of God,” just like this one (hold up a Spanish Testament).

The teacher then gave her permission to have a Gideon summarize what was in the Testament for her. After the Gideon reviewed with her the verses from the Plan of Salvation, all of her barriers came down. This teacher accepted the Lord as her Savior on the spot.

She took her new copy of God’s Word and thanked the Gideon team for bringing God’s Word to the young students at her school.

EXAMPLE 6**“I’ve decided to give my life to Jesus.”**

Those were the words that Keith Massey-Gillespie shared with his twin brother, Kevin, one day at college. But the circumstances that led up to Kevin’s statement show how God works wonders through His Word.

Kevin and Keith grew up going to church, but the twins drifted away from their faith while together in college.

One spring day, Kevin was walking to class when he saw ahead that there were men standing about every fifty yards with boxes, offering small green books to the students as they walked by. Reluctantly, Kevin took a New Testament from one of these Gideons and began to read it as he headed on to class.

After class, Kevin went to his room and continued reading until midnight. That’s when he finished the entire New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. In the back was a page that described how he could give his life to Jesus Christ. Kevin decided then and there to kneel down and offer himself to Christ.

His next thought was to go tell his brother, Keith—but he was worried how Keith might react. He knocked on Keith’s door, and when he opened it, Keith was holding his own green New Testament, and said, “Kevin, I’ve decided to give my life to Jesus.”

Now both brothers are serving the Lord.

**POLICE, MILITARY, PERSONAL WITNESSING
(U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY)****EXAMPLE 1****“Please forgive me for the threats I’ve made against you.”**

Those were the words of a policeman in Kenya as he spoke to his superior officer. What led up to his apology?

This policeman was going to be dismissed for grossly improper behavior. About to lose his job, he had then made some serious threats against the police inspector for filing charges. The inspector—and others—thought this policeman was actually capable of murder.

But just a few weeks prior to this event, Kenyan Gideons had visited the police post and had given New Testaments to all the staff—also explaining the plan of salvation.

After threatening the inspector, this policeman finally began reading his New Testament. A comfort and peace came over him. He began to change.

Finally, the policeman went to the inspector and told him that he had read the little book left by the Gideons. In his own words, he said: "I found it good to be a Christian. I have repented of my many sins and taken Jesus as my savior. I will now be a responsible policeman...and I ask you to forgive me for the threats made against you."

This policeman did indeed change his life, and many testified to this at his dismissal hearing. The charges were dropped, and the policeman served his Lord and community in an honorable way.

EXAMPLE 2

"I just threw that New Testament in my bag!"

Those are the words of Al from North Carolina. Al joined the Marines, and somewhere along the line, a Gideon gave all the fellows in his outfit a New Testament. Al didn't really care about it, so he just threw that New Testament into his sea bag.

Later, Al was assigned to an outfit that was so bad—it was almost intolerable. A lot of guys turned to alcohol and other worldly things to take their minds off the difficult war situation they were in.

One dark night when Al was alone, he reached into his sea bag and pulled out that little Gideon New Testament. He read Scriptures and asked the Lord to save him. Instantly, he felt different. Al no longer felt the fear or anxiety of war. He gave his life to the Lord.

EXAMPLE 3

"When I was young, I lived next door to a church. I would go there to find Bibles and then take them out and burn them."

Those are the words of Orlando. He burned more than 300 Bibles. But then one day, Orlando found a Bible from the Gideons and began to read it. There was something different about this Bible; it led him to surrender to Christ and to pray the prayer of salvation.

Today, Orlando is a minister...but, he says his ministry truly started when he became a pastor in the very same building where he had once stolen those Bibles to burn."

EXAMPLE 4**“I want one of those...I need it!”**

That is what Ken, a construction worker digging a ditch in Ghana said to one Gideon who was approaching him. That Gideon was there as part of a team of Gideons from many countries. They were all distributing New Testaments across Ghana.

The Gideon had just handed out New Testaments and shared a word of witness with three other workers across the road, and now he was walking towards Ken. Eager to receive a New Testament, Ken couldn't wait and came over to the Gideon.

Over the next several minutes they went through the Scriptures together, and Ken understood the message—and prayed to receive Christ. He asked if he could pray in his native language, and the Gideon encouraged him to do so. Ken then wrote his name in the back of the New Testament, acknowledging his commitment to the Lord.”

EXAMPLE 5**“Like most Chinese, I grew up in a Buddhist environment.”**

Those are the words of a Chinese lady who could not find happiness and contentment. Deep in her heart, she was always left with an empty feeling.

She wanted to search for a genuine, almighty God—one Who would deliver her and be the master and savior of her life. But, where was He? How could she find Him?

One day a Gideon came to the bank where this lady worked, talked to her about God and handed her a New Testament. Out of curiosity, she started reading it every day. Then, a lady who sat next to her on the bus invited her to a Christian fellowship. As she studied with the group, she received Christ as her personal Savior. She was so happy and exuberant. Because of that Gideon Testament, she found the only true God and He changed her life.

God produced additional fruit through that New Testament given to her. This lady married a Gideon, and together, they began a Chinese Bible study group. Two months later, a Chinese Christian fellowship was born with sixty in attendance at the end of just two months.

EXAMPLE 6

“My life was miserable.”

That is the testimony of James from Alabama. As far back as he could remember, he had been involved in church activities. This included being a member of the board of deacons, chairman of the grounds committee, Sunday school teacher, and serving on a pulpit committee. During this period of his life—amazingly—James did not know Jesus as his personal Savior. Because of the void, James became an alcoholic, and his life was indeed very miserable.

A Gideon and his wife shared with James how he could accept Christ as his Savior. Using a New Testament—which James still reads and cherishes to this day—they led him to accept Jesus as his Savior. And through their follow-up, this couple has shown James how to make Christ the Lord of his life.

Now James has seen his house become a home. All four of his children have accepted Christ as their Savior, and there is now a new and complete life for him and his family.