

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

God's plan is that the living preacher and the printed page work together.

Why is this? Most preachers in our Union work on a purely oral basis. Reflect on the following settings and the typical methods used:

- Sabbath School
- Sermon
- Evangelistic meeting
- Chaplain at a hospital or school
- Bible study
- Prayer meeting

Wherever possible, our ministry should incorporate the publishing ministry.

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

“The press is a powerful means to move the minds and hearts of the people.... The press is a powerful instrumentality which God has ordained to be combined with the energies of the living preacher to bring the truth before all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples. Many minds can be reached in no other way.” CM 148.2

Who has ordained this work? God!

Publications allow us to reach “many minds” who “can be reached in no other way.” Then we could also conclude that without publications, many minds are not being reached.

No other way!

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

If a preacher would distribute a written form of his sermon, he would be far more effective.

Listeners easily forget what is being said. They are distracted during the sermon. They are distracted after the sermon by conversations with their friends. The sermon is often short-lived in the minds of the listeners.

But if it was written down, they can come back to it and review it and let the truth sink deeper into the heart.

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

“Those who distribute tracts gratuitously should take other publications to sell to all who will purchase them. Persevering efforts will result in great good. Very many souls have been converted to the truth by reading papers and tracts alone, who would not have been reached without them. God has committed to his people great light. This is not for them to selfishly enjoy alone, but to let its rays shine forth to others who are in the darkness of error.” RH November 4, 1875, par. 6

- Very many souls cannot be reached by the living preacher alone.

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

1/20th

“You are not as a people doing one twentieth part of what might be done in spreading the knowledge of the truth. Very much more can be accomplished by the living preacher with the circulation of papers and tracts than by the preaching of the word alone without the publications.”

PM 44.5

- If “very much more” can be accomplished by combining the living preacher with publications, we could also state that “very much less” is being accomplished by the living preacher who attempts to work without publications.

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

“The truth must be published far more extensively than it yet has been. It must be defined in clear, sharp lines before the people. It must be presented in short but conclusive arguments, and plans must be laid that at every meeting where the truth has been set before the people, it may be followed by the distribution of tracts and pamphlets. At the present time it may be found necessary to give these away, but they will be a power for good, and nothing will be lost.” PM 45.1

- Where are our limits, and how may we expand “far more extensively”?
- What plans are we laying?

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

“The discourses given in the desk would be far more effective if reading matter were circulated, educating the hearers in the doctrines of the Bible. God will make many willing to read, but there will also be many who will refuse to see or hear anything upon the present truth. But we should not even think these cases beyond hope, for Christ is drawing many to Himself.... You should go forth with your hands filled with proper reading matter, and your heart filled with the love of God.” PM 45.2

- Without literature, discourses given are far less effective.

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

“You have called the attention of the people to important subjects, which, to a large number, are strange and new. To some they are intensely interesting. The laborers in word and doctrine have done what they could in presenting the truth. But unless there is a more thorough effort made to fasten these impressions upon minds, your efforts will prove nearly fruitless. Satan has many attractions ready to divert the mind; and the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches all combine to choke the seed of truth sown in the heart.” PM 45.4

“In every effort such as you are now making, much more good would result from your labors if you had appropriate reading matter ready for circulation. Tracts upon the important points of truth for the present time should be handed out freely to all who will accept them. You are to sow beside all waters...” PM 45.5

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

“The truth as spoken by the living preacher will have greater influence than the same matter will have when published in the papers. But both methods combined will have still greater force.”

6T 36.1

- Truth published has less influence than when also spoken by the living preacher.

Preacher-Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

"I have been instructed that even where the people hear the message from the living preacher, the canvasser should carry on his work in co-operation with the minister; for though the minister may faithfully present the message, the people are not able to retain it all. The printed page is therefore essential, not only in awakening them to the importance of the truth for this time, but in rooting and grounding them in the truth and establishing them against deceptive error. Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone. The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the word. The same ministry of angels attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister. CM 100.2

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

“When a discourse is given, the people may listen with interest, but it is all strange and new to them, and Satan is ready to suggest to their minds many things that are not true. He will seek to pervert and misrepresent the speaker's words. What shall we do?” Ev 159.3

What shall we do?

Preacher–Paper Duo

God's Plan is Far More Effective

What shall we do?

“The discourses presenting the reasons of our faith should be published in little leaflets, and circulated as widely as possible. Thus the falsehoods and misrepresentations which the enemy of truth constantly tries to keep in circulation would be revealed in their true character, and the people would have an opportunity of knowing just what the minister said.” Ev 160.1

“Let a synopsis of the discourses be printed and widely circulated.” Ev 160.2

“If a press can be secured to be worked during the meeting, printing leaflets, notices and papers for distribution, it will have a telling influence.” Ev 160.3

“Here is true missionary work in which labor and means can be invested with the best results.” Ev 160.4