

Health Evangelism

Learning Experiences from South Bay
and Mt Shasta

Tale of Two Churches

SOUTHBAY

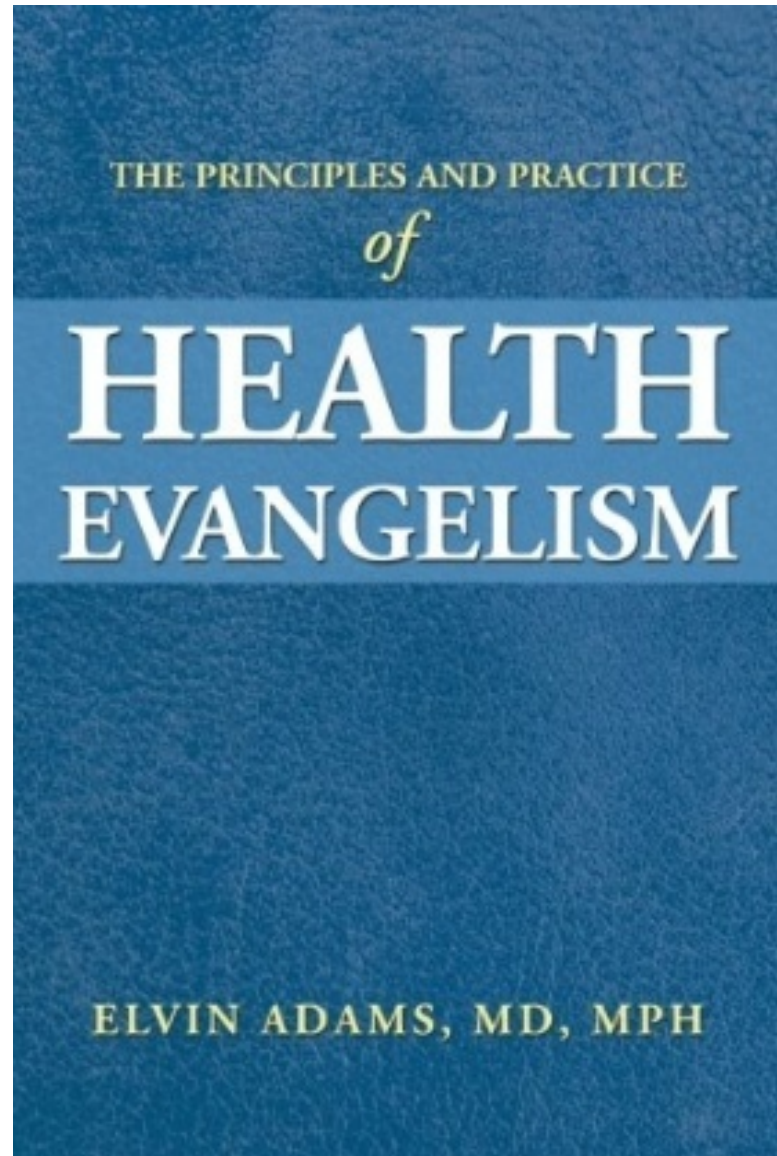
- New church plant
- Near SDA center (SAU)
- Medium (att: ±200)
- Bible Belt
- Stroke/DM Belt...
- Anxious to do evangelism, Bible studies, etc
- Fairly unified
- Many families with small children

MOUNT SHASTA

- Established church
- Rural
- Small (att: ±40)
- Secular/New Age
- Health Conscious
- Reluctant to do public evangelism but open to health programs
- Diverse perspectives
- Few families with young children

In common...

- Read a book...



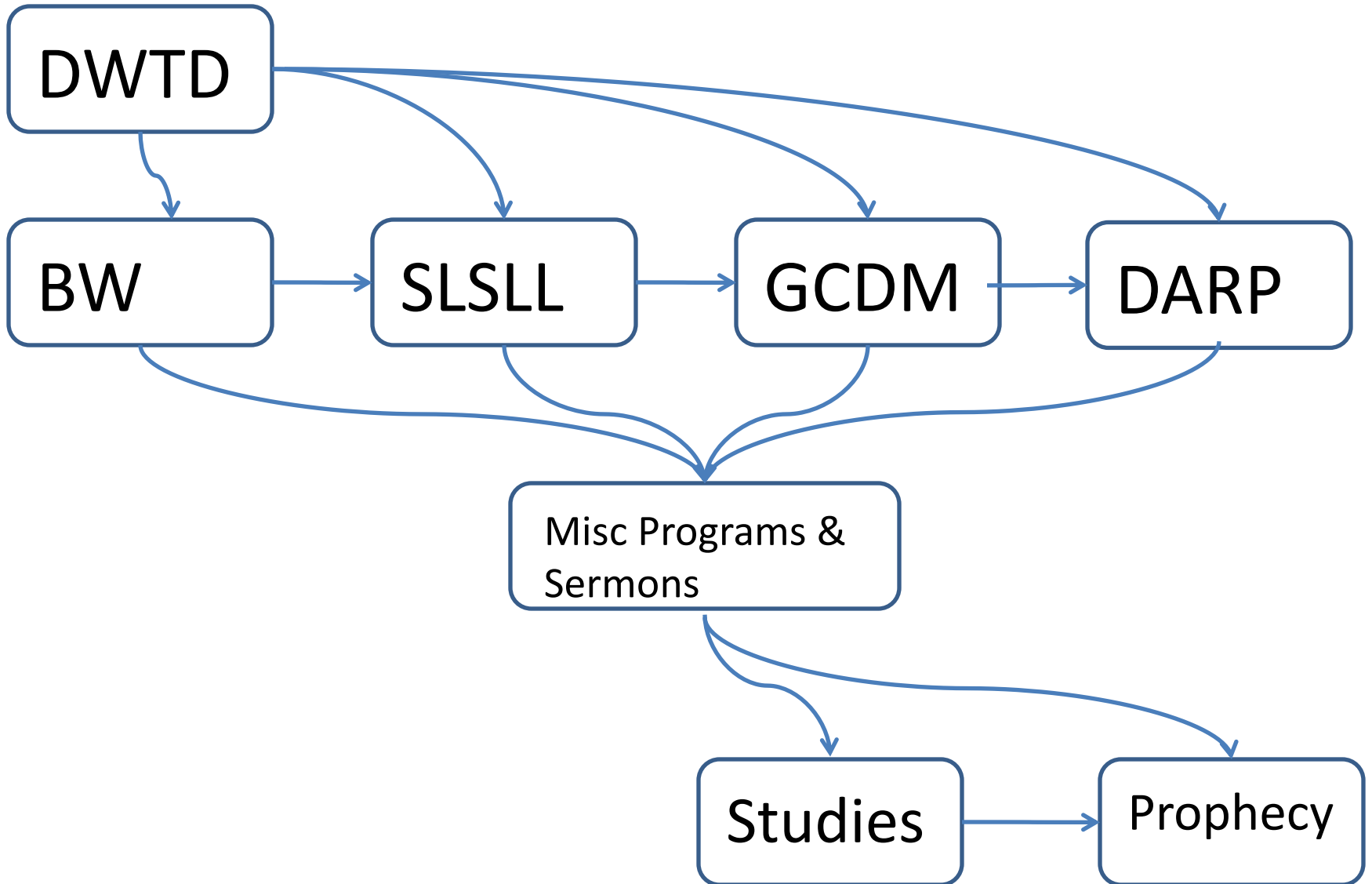
Learning Objectives

- 1) Discuss the importance of the following variables in implementing effective health evangelism: venue, group size, spiritual emphasis, pastoral involvement.
- 2) Understand and implement various outcome measures in health evangelism.
- 3) Describe the role of health evangelism in conversion.

SouthBay SDA!



Flowsheet of Programs



DWTD

- Monthly health program
- Hospital sponsorship
 - Finances
 - PR
 - Population health nurses
- 2017 outcomes
 - SBP down 15mmHg, wt loss 2lbs



DWTD Transformed

- Started measuring Data (NAPV = 1462)
- Implemented small groups/discussion
- Intentional about invitations to subsequent events
- Intentional about spiritual references
- Future: move to church home

DARP

- Fall (currently in session)
- Growing
 - 2017 (15 attendees w/ 4 on waiting list)
 - 2018 (26 attendees)
 - Also run “inpt” program about 60mi away
- NAPV: 310
- Bible Studies

DARP Outcomes

- Add pics here

Best Weigh

- Spring
- Lecture, spiritual talk, food demo, table time
- Total NonSDA attendees: 31
- NAPV: 160
 - 2 attended church sporadically since then!
- Stats
 - Total wt loss for 27 completing program: 195.5lbs
 - Greatest wt loss: 21.6lbs

SLSLL

- Dan 1-6 “EQ” study
 - Propheciesofhealth.com
- Half health talk, half small group study of Dan
- Few cooking demos to transition
- Final summary “whiteboard animation”

Grundy County Reversing Diabetes Seminar & Diabetes Undone

- Video lectures, facilitated by MD
- Light meal, minimal cooking demo
- Table hosts / discussions
- NAPV: 181
- Stats for those completing at least 5 sessions
 - SBP down by 5, wt down by 2.5lbs

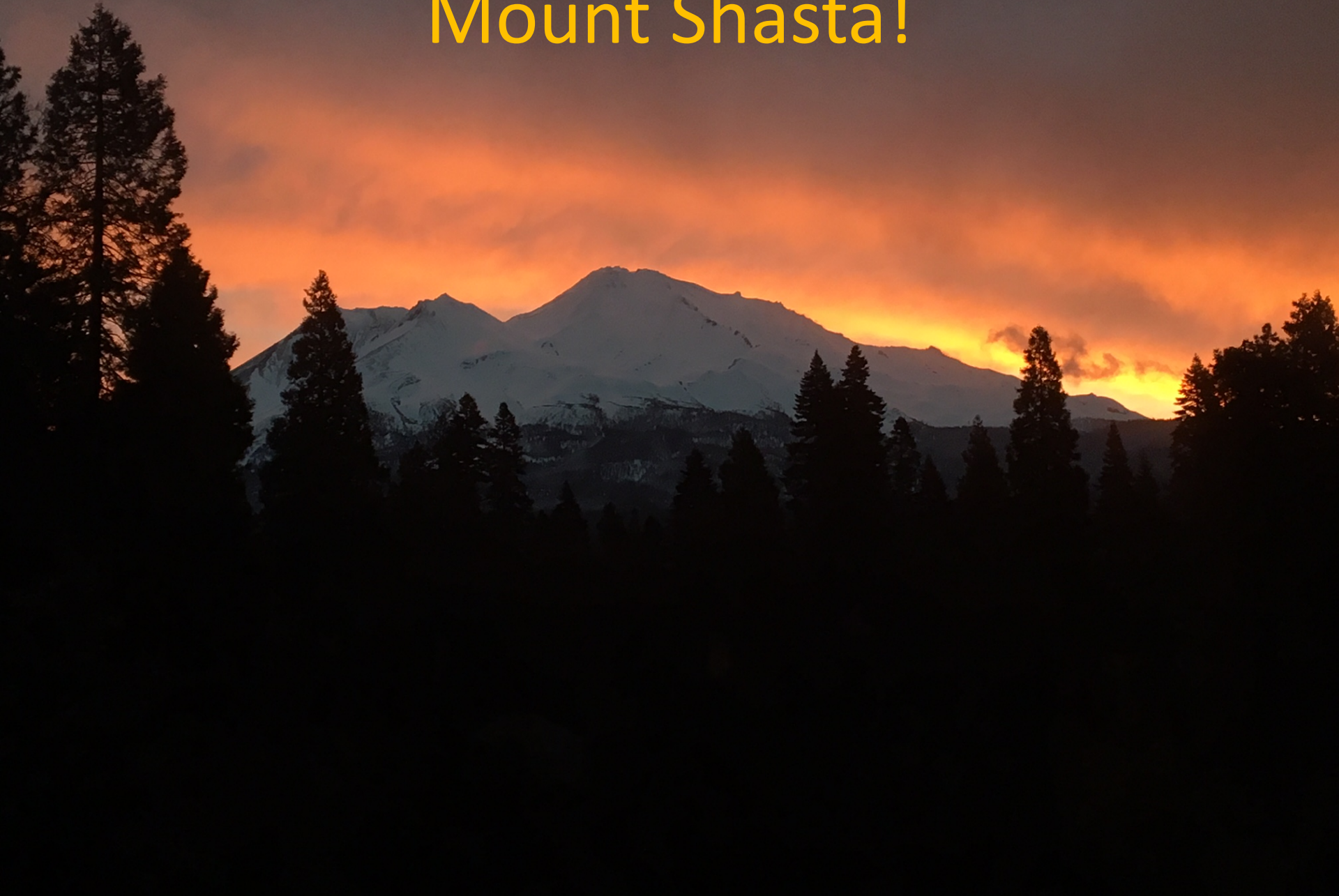
Misc Programs

- Cooking schools in home
- Shopping Tours
- Gardening Seminar
- Cookie Exchange

Overtly Spiritual Programs

- Targeted sermons (Thanksgiving)
- Bible studies
 - Continue Daniel
- Special programs (Christmas service)
- Evangelistic meeting
 - Continue Daniel

Mount Shasta!



What's unique about our community?

- Rural
- Secular/New Age
- Health Conscious
- Beautiful scenery



What's unique about our church?

- Reluctance to do public evangelism
- Diverse perspectives
- Few families with young children
- Open to health programs
- Small



- First reaction: frustration
- Conviction: do what we can
- Outcome: Baptisms following Bible studies gleaned from health contacts



What We've Tried

- Diabetes Undone
- Weight Loss Support Group
- Optimize Your Brain
- Cooking Classes
- Overcoming Addictions
- Depression and Anxiety Recovery
- Smoking Cessation
- In-home cooking events and potlucks

Guest Speakers

- Randy and Tami Bivens
- Neil Nedley
- David DeRose
- Eddie Ramirez
- George Guthrie
- Local SDA doctors Richard Shearer and Todd Guthrie
- Chad and Fadia Kreuzer, Michelle Irwin

How We Invite People to Come

- Reaching out to neighbors, friends
- Article in the newspaper
- Email to community health mailing list
- Church bulletin
- Distribute flyers, especially Adventist doctors
- Door to door

Goal

- To bring Christ into every program
- Develop and cultivate friendships
- Cultivate Bible study interests
- Victory over addictions/experience lifestyle change
- Conversion and baptism
 - Ex: Five Day Plan to Stop Smoking

Five Day Plus Smoking Cessation Program

- Remake of the original 5day program
- Changes:
 - Interactive discussions
 - Utilizes short youtube videos on smoking plus 8 laws of health
 - Spiritual support including prayer and scripture promises
 - Ongoing spiritual and weekly support

Five Day Plus Smoking Cessation Program

- Review Handouts

Inspired Counsel

- "Medical missionary work and the gospel ministry are the channels through which God seeks to pour a constant supply of His goodness. They are to be as the river of live for the irrigation of His church." -- Bible Echo, Aug. 12, 1901.
- Conclusion: When medical missionary work is done utilizing this combined approach, there is little need for a "bridge" program to transition to Bible study because the Bible has been a part of the program from the beginning.

Pastoral Perspectives

- Progress?
- Member training/involvement
- Youth involvement
- Observations on specific programs
- Breaking down prejudice



Much of the prejudice that prevents the truth of the third angel's message from reaching the hearts of the people might be removed if more attention were given to health reform. When people become interested in this subject, the way is often prepared for the entrance of other truths. If they see that we are intelligent with regard to health, they will be more ready to believe that we are sound in Bible doctrines. (CH 452.2)

Health Evangelism and Conversion

- Salvation...
- One step closer...
- “We are coming to your church because...”

Practical Pearls

- Create church calendar
- Training Table hosts
- Consider coordination w local hospital
- Preregistration helpful for intensive programs
- “Countdown” to programs

Plans for 2019

