

“Witnesses”

Luke 24:44-53

7th Sunday of Easter – Ascension of the Lord

May 8, 2005

the Rev. Todd R. Goddard, pastor

Zion West Walworth United Methodist Church

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Prayer.

Hello; my name is pastor Todd. It is so nice to greet you! Thank you for coming in for this interview. And thank you for dressing professionally; it says a lot about the character of a person. As you probably know, there are an unlimited number of positions that we are looking to fill.

One thing I forgot to ask when we talked on the phone to set up this interview is this: have you been baptized? If you haven't, that's OK. I can make all the arrangements. What baptism does is to join us all together in a common relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other. If you have been baptized; great, we are good to go.

Lets review the job description.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Witness. Also known as Disciple, Apostle, Brother, or Sister.

This is considered a Full-Time, Exempt position

(Exempt means your a salaried professional, and the Boss can work you as much as they want). This job never ends.

Hours of duty: The appropriate candidate will need to be prepared to work every conscious moment, regardless of location. There is work to be done 24/7/365.

Location: Some travel is required; for example, to and from weekly worship. Most often the work goes where you go.

Educational requirements:

- A history of Sunday school, choir, or worship attendance is helpful, but not necessary.
- A general awareness of the scriptures are also helpful.
- Ongoing continuing education is expected of every witness.

We will train the right candidates, free of charge. God provides all necessary credentialing and empowerment.

Accountable supervisor: God; though, often times God will allow His Spirit to provide guidance through the words and actions of other Witnesses.

Pay Scale: 0 experience – God will provide for your every need.

Laity – God will provide for your every need.

Pastors – God will provide for your every need.

The duty of the Witness is to testify to the fact that:

- Jesus is the Messiah - the one sent by God to save all God's people. This witness will be passed on to you during your initial training. It comes from a 2,000 year history of being passed from one generation to the next. Witnesses will only receive certified witnesses from previous generations. Deviations from, or additions to, these essentials will render the witness null and void.
- Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead on the third day. Hundreds of people witnessed both his execution and his resurrection. The initial event, and the events recording the subsequent explosion of Christianity and the Church throughout the world, will be taught to you over the course of your

life. This witness is certified and substantiated.

- Jesus seeks repentance from sin from all people, on a cyclical schedule. The methods of asking for people to repent from their sin will be taught to you over the course of a three year lectionary cycle.

The Witness will also proclaim the forgiveness of sins, in the name of Jesus, to all who repent from their sinning.

The Witness will not start work until empowered by God's Holy Spirit. The entrance of the Holy Spirit into your life will be self evident. Return here next Sunday, May 15, 2005 and gather with other Witnesses in this sanctuary at 9:30 am.

Important notes:

- All Witnesses are encouraged to work in pairs or small groups.
- A righteous lifestyle, with regular attention to repentance and attendance in worship, is expected of all Witnesses.
- All Witnesses are not to be judgmental. The position of "Judge" has already been filled. Repress the urge to force others to adapt to your personal values and culture.
- All Witnesses are expected to be image conscious. How we dress, act, and teach reflects upon God. Therefore, a positive, warm, gracious attitude is expected of all Witnesses.
- All Witnesses are directed to start locally, then, with time and experience, to work globally.
- This is known as a "High Risk" position. Many Witnesses have been persecuted, kidnapped, tortured, and killed – called "martyrdom." Though rare in today's world, the possibility still exists. Such persecutions today are often limited to harassment and derision (people making fun of you).

Benefits:

- All Witnesses will be unconditionally forgiven of their sins, upon sincere repentance, when ever and what ever the circumstances.
- All Witnesses will be included in Club-Salvation. Benefits of Club-Salvation include: eternal life, the restoration of broken relationships, freedom from

disease, sickness, or injury, a reserved table at the heavenly banquet, and Gold Card acceptance into the community of Saints.

Does anybody have any questions? (field questions as best as possible) After worship, feel free to ask me any questions. Or, take your questions to a Sunday school class – we have them for every age.

Thank you. There is no need for a second interview. Every one of you are to consider yourself hired. You may start immediately. Welcome to the company!

Amen.