

36. HOW TO START AN INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

1. **Select a pastor** who is Biblically qualified and who agrees with the Statement of Faith (chapter 32). He must also know what an Independent Baptist church stands for.
2. **Select a meeting hall** available on a Sunday 9:30am to 11:00am, and 6.00pm to 8.00pm.
3. **Start with outreach by:**
 - a) inviting Christians you know who are not going to church.
 - b) Door knocking to lead people to Christ and inviting them to attend your church.
 - c) Having a home Bible study with people individually for one hour a week in their home.
4. **Keep a list of all contacts.** Telephone them regularly and visit them weekly or when possible, especially if they have ill health. Love them and meet their needs.
5. **Print** or get “STOP” tracts for soul winning outreach and visitation for your people to use.
6. **Make an order** of service as follows:
 - a) Opening song
 - b) Opening prayer
 - c) Song service - 4 songs
 - d) Bible reading
 - e) Announcements
 - f) Offering
 - g) Special item in song or a testimony
 - h) Sermon/message/preaching and challenge
 - i) Invitation/Closing song
 - j) Closing prayer.
7. Have a **fellowship lunch** and **Lord’s Supper** on the first Sunday morning of each month.
8. Hold a **soul-winning seminar**, using the information in chapters 17-19,22,23,29,30.
9. Hold a **Discipleship Seminar** using chapters in this book you consider needful.
10. Have a home, **mid-week Bible study** and **prayer meeting** on Wednesday at 7.30 pm.
11. Allocate different areas for pairs or groups of people to doorknock.
 - a) Give them an **exercise book** to record names, addresses and phone numbers of contacts.
 - b) Then **say** at the door: “I’m dropping by to leave this pamphlet with you”. (Give ‘Stop’ tract.) “This tells you how you can know God, be sure of going to heaven and have eternal life.” “Have you ever thought much about God?” “One question if I may ask please: If you died tonight, do you know 100% for sure that you’d go to heaven?” “Would you like to be sure?” (Yes). “Well, this pamphlet summarises four ideas in the Bible showing how to be sure of going to heaven.” “If you look on the inside, the first truth is that ‘All have sinned’.. as in Chapter 17.
12. When people get saved, **baptise them** after church on Sunday. Hand them a baptism certificate.
13. Those who wish to become a **member** of your church with voting rights, may do so by being saved, baptised and by signing the Liberty Baptist Church Statement of Faith.
14. **Support the Pastor financially** though the weekly offerings. “The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruit.” II Tim. 2:6. Pastor must be able to spend all his time working to build this church. If he is not full-time, he will not be able to help the church grow.
15. Get a **Youth Pastor** to start Bible study groups for teens during the week & take them soul winning.
16. Have a **church dinner** every six months.
17. Support a **church-planting pastor** who fits the missionary strategy and the duty statement of Chapter 20. Send him out to start an Independent Baptist church where God calls him, supporting him initially so that, as his church grows, it can soon support him full time.
18. Pastor, write all your sermons in **exercise books**. Keep records of them for later use.
19. Pastor and people **MUST go soul winning every week**.
20. Appoint a **treasurer** and have two or more signatories to the bank account.
21. From your offerings, **purchase quantities of ANSWERS books** for your people. Make Answers books available free to your people to help disciple new people to spread sound Bible doctrine. Buy KJV Bibles to give away to new converts and Old Schofield KJV Bibles for people to buy.
22. Purchase **songbooks**, eg “Soul Stirring Songs and Hymns” by John Rice from ELE, PO Box 5010. BRENDALE, QLD, 4500, Australia (Phone 073-205-7100).
23. Start a **Sunday School** for pre-schoolers and primary children, starting mid-way through the morning service when the preaching starts.
24. **Teach Scripture classes** in government schools.
25. Use **Mail Box Club** as a follow-up tool for children aged 8-14. Use **King of Kings** comics for teens.
26. Useful **Commentaries:** Willmington’s Guide to the Bible, Barnes NT Commentary, The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord & Zuck, The Bible Exposition Commentary–NT, Vol I, II by W Weirsbe, Answers.
27. Pastor’s **sermon outline:** Title, Bible Reading, Aim of Message, Introduction (pose problem), Body of Sermon (several main points), Conclusion and Challenge.