



**Sharing  
the Good  
News**

# SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

by Robert and Evelyn Bolton

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*AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK*

*Developed In Cooperation With  
the ICI Staff*

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## THE ICI CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the ICI Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *Sharing the Good News* is Course 5 in Unit III. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

### ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your ICI instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page of this study guide.

# Course Introduction

## Too Good to Keep!

In your Christian walk you are no doubt learning the meaning of faith and trust. You are happy in your new relationship as God's child and a part of His great family. But perhaps you are also realizing a hunger and a desire for something more—something that you can do for the Lord.

Because your salvation is “too good to keep,” you have already shared your testimony with others. This you should do, but you also need to be able to give them the message of salvation clearly and simply. You need at your fingertips, and in instant recall through memorization, the Scriptures that will enable you to answer those who ask questions, or who have allowed difficulties to keep them from accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

This study will help you put what you know into words easy for others to understand. The stories of how the Lord helped other believers from many walks of life to lead friends, neighbors, and even chance acquaintances to accept Christ will inspire you to believe Him to use you too! It is more than a course to study. It is a book you will refer to again when you encourage those you have won to win others in ongoing evangelism.

## Course Description

Sharing the Good News is a practical course on the important ministry of soulwinning. Written primarily for workers in the local church, it is a how-to-do-it study of the work of sharing the Good News with the object of teaching the student how to lead people to put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. It is also designed to help the student learn how to teach personal soulwinning to others. Special emphasis is given to the dynamic ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in effecting conversions.

## Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Understand evangelism as the normal outcome of the conversion experience.
2. Select specific types of evangelism to be involved in.
3. Use the Bible as a tool in evangelistic activity.
4. Appreciate the work of the Holy Spirit in evangelism.

## Textbooks

You will use this independent-study textbook, *Sharing the Good News* by Robert and Evelyn Bolton, as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Bible is the only other textbook required (quotations in this course are from Today's English Version, 1976 edition). Reference is also made to the *King James Version* (KJV) of the Bible.

## Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

## Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

*Do not look ahead at the answers* until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

### **How to Answer Questions**

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

#### *Example*

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
  - b) 66 books.
  - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of a
- a) 100 books.
  - b) 66 books.
  - c) 27 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

*Example*

**2** Which statements below are TRUE?

- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- b** The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- d** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

*Example*

**3** Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- |                      |   |           |
|----------------------|---|-----------|
| ... <sup>1</sup> ... | <b>a</b> Received the Law at Mt. Sinai    | 1) Moses  |
| ... <sup>2</sup> ... | <b>b</b> Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ... <sup>2</sup> ... | <b>c</b> Marched around Jericho           |           |
| ... <sup>1</sup> ... | <b>d</b> Lived in Pharaoh's court         |           |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

### Ways to Study this Course

If you study this ICI course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although ICI has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

### **Unit Student Reports**

At the end of the book you will find the Unit Student Report and Answer Sheets. Follow the directions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for his correction and suggestions regarding your work. If you are not studying with an ICI office you will still benefit by answering the questions in the Student Report.

### **Certificate**

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the answer sheets by your ICI instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

### **About the Authors**

The authors of this course are Robert and Evelyn Bolton, both the children of missionary parents. The Boltons are the parents of two daughters. Robert was born in mainland China, the son of Ada and Leonard Bolton, who ministered for over 37 years, pioneering churches in China, Burma, Bangladesh, and Jamaica. Evelyn is the daughter of Lydia and Frederic Burke. Mr. Burke is the founder of the All Africa School of Theology, a leading correspondence school for African leaders.

Robert and Evelyn Bolton are graduates of Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. Robert received his M.A. in missions from the School of World Mission and Institute of Church Growth at Fuller Theological Seminary, in Pasadena, California. Beginning in 1955, they engaged in evangelization, church planting, and Bible training among the Minnan-speaking Chinese in the large cities of Taiwan, and also among the tribespeople in the mountains.

After 39 years serving under the Division of Foreign Missions, the Boltons retired from missionary ministry overseas. In 1994 they were appointed by the Division of Home Missions to serve in Intercultural Ministries, specifically, Chinese ministries. Currently, they are pioneering a Chinese assembly in Philadelphia. In 1996 Robert received his Doctorate in Missiology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Trinity International University), Deerfield, IL.

### **Your ICI Instructor**

Your ICI instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *Sharing the Good News*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.

### **Additional Helps**

Other materials are available for use with this Individual Study Textbook, including supplemental audio cassettes, video cassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.



# Unit 1

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**A WORLD TO WIN—  
SEE THE NEED**

