

# **HAVE YOU EVER READ THE PAPERS ?**

## **Intent of these Jottings**

- ✓ *To create awareness about the social many problems and evils obtaining in our society.*
- ✓ *To encourage the participants to take a stand on social issues*
- ✓ *To discover our duty, as Christians, to work for a more just and fair society*

## **Target Audience**

- All audiences.
- Specially, the youth and College students.

## **Requirements**

- A good stack of current newspapers, weeklies and photo magazines on world and national events.
- Writing material for all.
- Poster paper, a few scissors, gum bottles, felt pens, boards or cardboards to paste or fix the posters.

## **Step 1 Introductory Session.**

Singing hymns and/or bhajans.

Opening prayer.

## **Step 2 Input Gaining Background Knowledge**

### **Note for the moderator**

- ✓ *Do not lecture. By only appropriate questioning, - using the "Socratic method" elicit from the participants the main thoughts and ideas wanted for today's event.*
- ✓ *You will find those leading ideas hinted below.*
- ✓ *Keep writing on the board the leading thoughts as they come from the floor.*

## **Leading thoughts wanted:**

### **A) Individual and Society.** *(Mutual relationships)*

- The individual comes first, society comes in second place.
- Society is meant for the individuals, not the individuals for the society.
- No individual should be sacrificed to the good of society.
- Some times, common good demands that a few individual freedoms should be curtailed; however, no individual should be deprived of his basic human rights.
- Basic human rights are inalienable.
- Build up a list of what they deem to be basic human rights.

- The purpose of society is to safeguard the individual's basic rights, to promote his well-being and to defend him from the unjust attacks of other individuals or social groups.
- All and each member of society has to have "legally" and "actually" equality of rights and opportunities.
- No member of society has a right to exploit or take advantage of others in any situation whatsoever.

## **B) Social Problems and Social Evils.** *(Differences)*

### **What are Social Problems?**

- Are difficulties, obstacles any society has to face and solve in the course of its development for a the common good.
- For instance: Food production, Education, Population explosion, etc.
- Social problems will always be there. They are natural part and parcel of a living and growing society.
- All the members of society have to co-operate to solve them for the common good of all individuals.
- We, as Christians, have a duty to work for the wellbeing of our society.
- We have to do not only "remedial" work, like charity and beneficence, but "building" work, like human development, promotion of human rights, and political action.

### **What are Social evils ?**

- Are harmful, unjust social situations created by man, for instance; unjust political and economic structures, discriminatory laws, oppression, prejudices, caste, child labor, human trafficking, drug peddling, arms smuggling, etc.
- They need not be, and they should not be in society. By all means, they have to be eradicated
- They are born of human neglect, selfishness, wickedness and down right cruelty and injustice.
- All the individuals in society have a duty to fight against them by all means possible.
- As Christians, we have even more the duty to fight against them tooth and nail.
- Christ gave us a gospel of love, service and justice, a Gospel of liberation.

### **Step 3. Small Groups Work**

- ✓ *Divide the participants into groups of 5 or 6 members each.*
  - ✓ *The group members will choose a secretary to take some records of the proceedings and a chairperson to direct the group work.*
  - ✓ *Instruct them about the work they are expected to do*
1. Each group will sit separately. All will carefully peruse the newspapers, journals and magazines given to them.
  2. For 20 to 25 minutes they will select and cut out any news items, articles, and photos, etc. that make reference to any social problem or to any social evil.

3. Once the groups finish the work of perusing and cutting the different items, they will classify the materials and cuttings collected according to these norms
  - Separate the materials that refer to social problems from those which refer to social evils.
  - Next, within each category, they will classify their materials into separate topics : for instance:
    - Social problems**: food, energy, health, education, Etc...
    - Social evils**: War, Illiteracy, Famine, Prostitution etc.
  - The groups will discuss what they feel – within each category – are the most urgent issues to tackle. They will prepare a list of them in order of priority and state their reasons.
  - The Secretary will take note of what is done and said in his group's to be shared with the whole house at the coming general session.

#### **Step 4. General Session**

- ✓ By turns, each group's secretary will report to the house what they did, their findings, their classification, their priorities and their reasons.
- ✓ Clarifications, exchanges and discussion should be encouraged.
- ✓ The house will arrive at some sort of consensus on the top four or five priorities of social problems and evils that need urgent attention.
- ✓ Their priorities will be written on the board.

#### **Step 5. Small Groups Study and Project**

Each group will choose one of the top priorities arrived at in the previous step and written on the board, and will work on a small project as explained below. Say, for instance, "illiteracy" was the problem chosen among the socials problems.

##### **1<sup>st</sup>. Serious study of the priority chosen: "Illiteracy"**

What is it? Define the problem, describe it.

Why should it be so? Study its causes.

How, where does it happen? Circumstances? Etc.

##### **2<sup>nd</sup>. What can be done to solve this problem or to remove this problem or evil.**

What can we do about it? As students, as a group, what shall we do?

Each one should commit himself to do something concrete about it.

##### **3<sup>rd</sup>. Project. Chart or Mural.**

Using the materials collected by the entire group on that particular problem or evil, the small groups will prepare a chart or a mural, explaining and illustrating the conclusions arrived at in their study of that social problem or evil.

All the members in each small group contribute to prepare the chart or mural.

Two members of each group, deputed by their companions, will give, for about 5 minutes an expose of their chart to the house.

### **Step 6. General Session. Exposes**

- ✓ The two deputed members of each group will show their chart to the house and give a short explanation to the house..
- ✓ The topic will be open to discussion by the house.
- ✓ Any member of the small group may answer the questions or queries made on their chart and expose.

### **Step 7. Personal Reflection and Personal Prayer**

Points for reflection:

- Was Christ living today, what would he do to solve the problem we considered, or to do away with the social evil we have studied?
- Pray for strength to do likewise and to be like a modern Christ in our world today
- Write down your commitment –however small - What will you do about it?