

GO.STAND.SPEAK. Acts 5:20

SAMPLE PRESENTATION
SCRIPT (10 Minutes)

SPEAKUP

2.13.2010



The Gideons
International



SAMPLE PRESENTATION SCRIPT

“I WAS ON THE FBI’S MOST WANTED LIST.”

That is the testimony of Mary Kay Beard, a notorious safecracker and bank robber.

She and her husband were both hardened criminals. Finally, Mary Kay was arrested and locked up in an Alabama jail. There, she found a Bible placed by the Gideons...and shoved it under her mattress.

One day, Mary Kay took out that Bible and began reading. She was drawn to a verse in Ezekiel, chapter 36, “a new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh...”

Quietly, on the floor in her cell that night, Mary Kay Beard surrendered her life to the Lord. God had saved her.

Mary Kay felt the problems of other prisoners, particularly their loneliness. And now, she is blessed that God has used her to begin the Angel Tree ministry—helping prisoners and their families draw closer together.

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The Gideons International receives incredible and inspiring testimonies like Mary Kay Beard's on a regular basis. That is why we Gideons serve in this unique ministry...to see a life turn to Christ after being given a Bible or New Testament.

For many of you, when you hear the name, "Gideons," you probably think about the Bibles—bearing the Gideon name—that you regularly see in hotels and motels. And these are certainly an important, and highly recognizable, part of our ministry. We place Bibles in hotel and motel rooms all around the world...and we have done so for more than one hundred years. But, The Gideons International is so much more.

Through your ongoing contributions, we also distribute Bibles and New Testaments at schools and colleges, in prisons and hospitals—and many other important traffic lanes of life. We provide Scriptures for police, fire and medical personnel...as well as for those in our military...serving at home and abroad.



FOR THEM

The Gideons are indeed an extended missionary arm of your church. In fact, the Gideons International is organized in more than 189 countries, and we provide the Gospel message in over 90 languages. Last year alone, Gideons distributed more than 77 million copies of God's Word all around the globe. What a true blessing: millions of people received Bibles and New Testaments in just a single year... through your prayers and donations. We're constantly at work, as the Lord leads, to share God's Word in new countries, too.

To give you a more precise picture of how The Gideons represent your church around the world, consider this; Gideons distribute at least two copies of God's Word every second of every day! Whenever you snap your fingers (snap fingers), the Gideons have just given two Bibles or New Testaments to people who need to know the Lord.

Our single purpose is to see lost people—men, women and children—all around the world come to Christ. And we seek to serve our Lord in accomplishing this goal through personal witnessing and by distributing copies of God's Word...copies you help provide.

Time and time again we find that once people read the Word of God, their lives are changed...eternally. The testimonies they share with us confirm that.

Like the young lady two Gideons visited at her work one day. She was serving as a maid in a motel when they came by to see if they could put a free Bible in each unit. The young lady gave her approval for the Bibles, and then the two Gideons asked if they could pray with her. After one of them prayed, she remarked that it was the "first time she ever heard anyone praying in his own words."

Each day, as the young lady would go and clean every motel unit, she found herself drawn to the Bibles left by those Gideons. She didn't know God, but now she wanted to learn more about Him. She began to read the Bible and study it.

Then, she began going to church with her boyfriend. The Lord was really pleading with her—that she was a sinner, and lost, and needed to know Him. Finally, she confessed her sins and was saved.

Later, the young lady's boyfriend told her that he would never have continued to go with her, or marry her, until she had become a Christian. That fall they were engaged, and the next summer, they married. The Lord has since blessed the couple with three lovely children whom they have also led to Christ.

Speaking of children coming to Christ, another testimony we received began with the words from a young couple, saying they would "never place their young son in a Christian hospital."

That was the initial feeling expressed by these Buddhist parents in Taiwan whose boy was very sick.

For more than two years, this child's mother and father had spent a small fortune taking him to herb doctors as well as western doctors. They tried every kind of homemade prescription. Buddhist and Taoist temples were frequented as the family, in desperation, sought supernatural aid for their son. All of this was of no avail, and the boy was still as sick as ever.

Finally, the parents learned of the Changhua Christian Hospital in Taiwan. At first, they balked at the name, "Christian," as they were devout Buddhists. But, the concern for their son's health won out.

They brought the young boy to this Christian Hospital for treatment. A thorough diagnosis revealed infection in his bone marrow. Timely operations proved a great success, and the boy recovered rapidly.

During his stay at the hospital, this young boy found, at his bedside, a New Testament placed by local Gideons. The boy began avidly reading the Word of God, and he came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At first, his grandfather was furious upon learning that the boy had embraced Christianity. But his grandson's transformed life spoke for itself. And now, through God's grace, the entire family is trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

We are in awe of what a single Bible or New Testament you donate can do through God's power and direction—whether it is placed in a hospital—or even a remote police station.

In Kenya, a corrupt policeman was going to be dismissed for grossly improper behavior. About to lose his job, he then made some serious threats against the police inspector. The inspector, and others, thought this policeman was actually capable of murder.

But just a few weeks prior to the threats this policeman made, Kenyan Gideons had visited the police post and had given New Testaments to all the staff—explaining the plan of salvation.

After threatening the inspector, this policeman actually began reading his New Testament. A comfort and peace came over him. He began to change.

Finally, the policeman went to the inspector and told him that he had read the little book left by local Gideons. In his own words, he said: "I found it good to be a Christian. I have repented of my many sins and taken Jesus as my Savior. I will now be a responsible policeman...and I ask you to forgive me for the threats made against you."

The Lord did indeed change his life. The charges were dropped, and he serves God and community in an honorable way.

Right now, more than four billion lost people are in need of God's Word...200 million of them right here in the United States. Let me say that again: 200 million people in our own country don't know the Lord as their Savior! We need your help to reach them.

Please pray for the Gideon ministry. Pray for three specific needs. First, pray that we will have a steady flow of funds to purchase Bibles and New Testaments to meet the ever-increasing demands we receive for God's Word. Second, pray that we will have more men join The Gideons to meet the growing need for distributing God's Word in over 189 countries. And finally, pray that those adults and children who receive God's Word will not only open the Scriptures...but also open their hearts to Christ.

And, if God has opened your heart to this ministry today, consider making a financial gift to The Gideons International. When you give to The Gideons International, you help impact lives for Christ. For less than \$1.30, God's Word can be placed in the hands of individuals anywhere in the world. That's correct: for as little as \$1.30, you can send God's Word to someone who desperately needs it.

Or, your donation of one hundred and thirty dollars can result in a box of 100 New Testaments reaching men, women, and children in a country where many people struggle to survive...and they can't afford God's Word.

Of course, Gideon-placed hotel and motel Bibles cost just \$5, and each of these Bibles has the potential to reach more than twenty-three hundred people during its average life in a hotel room. Just imagine...a single hotel Bible can easily impact more than two thousand lives.

For your convenience, you can make your check payable to "The Gideons"...or use the credit card form that is available in your bulletin insert today.

You can also donate Scriptures anytime through Gideon Expressions greeting cards. Our "Tribute" cards are free (hold up one card), and you may use them to recognize an important event, to let someone know you're thinking of them, or to place Scriptures in memory of a loved one. This is a unique and memorable way to touch lives with God's Word—and at the same time—to honor someone close to your heart.

We also offer cards for special occasions, plus Christmas and Easter cards. Look for the Gideon Expressions card display in your lobby. You'll find more details on Gideon Expressions cards in your Gideon bulletin insert, too.

Pastor, thank you for the opportunity to share about the ministry of The Gideons International—as we represent your church in distributing God's Word all around the world. Congregation, thank you for your attention. It's been a privilege to participate in your worship service today. God bless you.