

**How Shall They Hear?**  
**(Part 2)**

The grave responsibility of overseeing the children of God was not given to just one man nor just to one eldership. Each individual eldership, doing its part, “maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16). This is the reason there is no need for a man-made organization to serve as a board of directors or “super overseer” of the church. It is the reason there is no need for a man-made service organization, like the so-called Churches of Christ Disaster Relief, Incorporated, to do the work of benevolence and disaster relief on behalf of the church. It is the reason there is no need for a humanly devised earthly headquarters – each eldership oversees its own locality and answers to only one Head, Jesus Christ. This parallel being made, one can understand that spreading God’s word to the whole world is not the responsibility of one man nor one congregation, rather a responsibility of all Christians working together in their local communities. If each congregation will do its part in spreading the word of God, the word of God will be spread. Those who claim that the local congregations of the Church of Christ are not capable, are inadequate, and are unsatisfactorily equipped to do the works commanded by God blaspheme the holy bride of Christ – the Church for which He died!

Some, like the Gospel Broadcast Network (GBN), have taken this question, “how shall they hear?,” placed it on their website, and have implied that without them, the goal of preaching the Gospel to every creature cannot happen. This, simply, is misleading and seems to be an attempt to prick the emotions of men rather than to prick the hearts of men. Preachers need to convince Christians to go into their own neighborhoods to teach the Gospel to others rather than encourage Christians to send money to an organization so that the organization can do the job for them. It is also unfortunately the case that many false teachers spread their poison over the airwaves and through electronic technology and beg people to send them donations. This plea seems to work because these televangelists are still on the air. Why? They have successfully convinced many that without their program, the word of God (as they pervert it) will not get shared to the rest of the world. With that stated, it is important that the Church of Christ also take advantage of modern technology to defend the truth and to counteract the damage being done by denominations who are using these same mass media. However, the Church must always be careful only to do such things as are authorized by the Bible. I spent nearly seven years working in local television news as a photographer. I had the opportunity to meet and work with individuals who truly wanted to inform the public of the day’s news, fairly and accurately. Unfortunately, I also met and worked with individuals who simply loved seeing their face on television. Their only purpose was to be seen by others, to become known, to be famous. Sadly, I fear that some in our brotherhood today fall in that latter category. They are using television and radio for their own glory and not for the glory of God. On the other hand, many faithful preachers and congregations have had great influence and results in their local areas by using television and radio. Electronic mail and telephones have made it easier to contact those who are sick or erring in an extremely expedient way. Modern technology, therefore, is a very valuable tool to be used for the cause of Christ. Nevertheless, it is not, never has been, and never will be the best way to convert the lost, restore the erring, nor to edify the saints (see Romans 10:14-15).

*Green*