

Walter Scott

The Disciples have a grand history of evangelism. At the pinnacle stands Walter Scott (1796-1861). The evangelists' gifts are (1) to focus the questions of the faith, such as "Why be Christian?" and "How do people become Christian?" (2) to clarify and simplify the answers, and (3) to communicate them with power and conviction.

Walter Scott is the Disciples' model evangelist. As a young man fresh from Scotland, he formed a friendship and partnership in ministry with Alexander Campbell. The simple truth is that the Campbell movement did not take hold firmly until the 1820s when Walter Scott began to preach in the Western Reserve of northeastern Ohio.

Focus the questions. Simplify the answers. Communicate with power and conviction. Scott held up one hand and taught his five-finger exercise of faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sin, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Children advertised his preaching. Unschooled pioneers understood his message. The Spirit worked. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47, KJV).

Peter M. Morgan



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