

Spring 2005

thechurchplanter

volume 6 issue 1

the quarterly newsletter of Kurt Miller • Director of Church Planting • Grace Brethren North American Missions



Essential Evangelists

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Director of Church Planting



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Newsletter Information

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The Evangelist

The purpose of this issue is to focus our attention on the role and function of *the evangelist*.

I am particularly sensitive and concerned about this gift because God gave me to the Church as an evangelist.

From the day I was saved, I have had an incessant need and desire to preach the good news of salvation, to lead people to Christ and to revive the church. Within a week of my conversion, I invited one of best friends—Jake—to attend a revival meeting with me at our country church. The next day I was able to lead Jake to the Lord.

My passion for the lost has never died. My church-planting ministry, spanning more than two decades, has been characterized by aggressive evangelism and conversion growth. I am an evangelist.

But, as I travel around our fellowship of churches I ask myself, “Where are the other evangelists? God has given them to us, but where are they?” To identify them, we need to know what an evangelist is. We also need to recognize what problems may be blinding us from seeing them.

The Biblical Role

A number of issues need to be dealt with to understand the biblical role of an evangelist. **Three Greek words undergird the concept of evangelism:** (1) *euaggelion*—gospel, (2) *euaggelizo*—preaching the good news, (3) *euaggelistes*—evangelist. These words are derived from the word *aggelos*—angel, messenger, or one who makes an announcement.

1 *Euaggelion* is the gospel. The English word “gospel” comes from the word “godspell”—a story about a god. It means good news or a good message. With the coming of Christ the announcement is: “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (Matthew 4:17; John 1:29).

The messengers spread out to carry this message, this great news. Salvation has come to the world. The message from God is a divine act that precipitates spiritual activity. It is not just a memo that comes through the office, but it is a message that has power in it. In the very preaching act, spiritual activity takes place. People are never left neutral. The message gives them an opportunity to accept or reject, *thechurchplanter* spring 2005

to cooperate with God or rebel.

2 *Euaggelizo* simply means preaching, proclaiming, or announcing the good news.

3 *Euaggelistes* is the messenger

or the preacher, the evangelist, the one who proclaims the good news or the message.

In the New Testament there are only three references* to the evangelist (*euaggelistes*). In Acts 21:8, Philip is called an evangelist. In Ephesians 4:11, the gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher are given to the Church. It is important to note that these gifts are persons. The final reference is in 2 Timothy 4:5 where Timothy is told to do the work of an evangelist. That’s all we have in the New Testament to tell us about the work of the evangelist. We know something of the good news and the message, but we know very little about the messenger.

Let’s look at the first example of the evangelist. In chapter 8 of Acts, Philip went down to Samaria, preached to sinners and made believers. In 8:12, he preached to sinners, won converts, and baptized men and women. In 8:26, he met the Ethiopian, witnessed to him, and baptized him. From these verses a picture emerges. The evangelist preaches to sinners—either as a group or individually—presents Christ, leads people to Christ and baptizes people in water.

The second example is Timothy. Paul tells Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. But we are not given a description of the work (see 2 Timothy 4:5).

continued >>

*This is in stark contrast to *euaggelion* (gospel) which is used 76 times and *euaggelizo* (preaching the good news) which is used 54 times.



Kurt Miller

>>continued from page 3

The Apostle Paul instructed the Church in Ephesus that Jesus Christ would give five ministry gifts to the Church to help her equip the saints for ministry. It is understood that these gifts are actually individual people who are especially selected by God and gifted in unique ways to benefit the Church. Those gifted people are prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers. It has been my observation that in recent years the church has understood and celebrated the role of the last two gifts, the pastor and teacher, but has found it generally difficult to define the role and nature of the prophet, apostle and evangelist.



Failure to come to grips with the ministry gifts in Ephesians 4:11 is part of the reason we can't identify evangelists, and the reason that many of our evangelists struggle with their role and function today. Failure to harness the spiritual ministries that build the church, and looking for solutions in administrative offices instead of spiritual gifts, have put more weight on the pastoral and teaching ministry than they can bear. Shepherds and teachers cannot do it all.

I fear that this failure to understand and explain Ephesians 4:11 in its relation to other ministries has caused us to eliminate, rename, or reconfigure some of the ministry gifts. The result is that we have created offices for which

there is no clear biblical base. If these roles are appropriate, they raise significant questions about the extent to which we need biblical precedent and instruction to form our models of church government. We should get our leading from the Holy Spirit and organize in a way that can touch our world. We do not want to lose the ministries we need to have a biblically powerful and dynamic church. We have marginalized some of our gifted ministries and ministers. We may have moved them so far to the periphery that they are no longer a blessing.

Our appreciation of the gift of the evangelist is being diluted by our appreciation for other good things. Part of the influence of the primarily pastoral and teaching orientation is that the emphasis has changed from evangelism and revivalism to church life. Church life is very important; but if you have it without evangelism, you follow traditional denominational history and lose a primary commitment to evangelism and missions.

Part of the influence of the primarily pastoral and teaching orientation is that the emphasis has changed from evangelism and revivalism to church life.

The cutting edge of ministry is preaching to the lost. The cutting edge of evangelism is winning the lost. If a movement loses that and picks up the secondary concern of training and discipleship, then it begins to slide toward denominational stagnation. We build Bible schools and produce students who will teach in the schools and pastor the churches, but evangelism falls away.

If evangelism is not a burning foundational commitment that runs through the ranks, then everything else will grow stale. But, God exists to call us unto Himself. He calls us to His program. We need to have a transcendent vision of a God in heaven meeting people on the earth. Our cry should be: "God, open our eyes to see and celebrate the evangelist!" §

rewind If evangelism is not a burning foundational commitment that runs through the ranks, then everything else will grow stale.
-Kurt Miller

Interview with Ed

cp> *Where did you get your heart for sharing Jesus?*

ed> One thing would be my dad and mom were both strong in that. My dad was from an unchurched home and at 21 he came to Jesus. Even though he went on to be a pastor, his brothers and other family never came to Christ. Mom also had her life changed by the Lord when she rededicated her life at 19. They always were concerned about evangelism. So my heart for sharing the Gospel comes legitimately from my parents.

Another thing is that I'm always trying to get around non-believers. That helps you have a heart for it. One more thing, if you really believe in a heaven and especially if you believe in hell—that sure motivates you to share Christ with others.

cp> *Do you remember some of the first people that you shared with who responded to the Gospel?*

ed> When I was in second grade, while we were living in Virginia, I remember sharing my faith with friends. Actually a couple of kids up the street asked Christ to come into their lives and then ended up at our church.

cp> *Do you remember being rejected?*

ed> Sure. I don't see "results" all the time. Just recently, I took someone to see the Passion of the Christ. I was hoping that would help him, but he didn't desire to have God in his life. I'm still praying for him and working with him, but he hasn't responded yet.

Evangelism is a process, we know that. Yet look at John 4:35, where Jesus says, "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." Jesus seems to be pointing to the fact that we must not delay. Jesus says, don't say later...don't put it off. God already has people ready for harvest. We don't know who they are, but we need to be faithful in putting forth the gospel. I believe God has prepared some to respond. Evangelism is a process, but it is not trapped in a process. We must not be so process minded that we never share.

cp> *Are you gifted at evangelism?*

ed> I don't feel like I have the gift of evangelism, because all of us are to do the work of an evangelist. Because we have made evangelism a special gift in most places, at the same time we diluted the need for every person to be active in evangelism. In our relating to people, we must be strong enough to share God's hope with people—every person, everywhere, when the opportunity presents itself.

cp> *What would you say to the larger Grace Brethren family about evangelism?*

ed> I think that we have lost the vision as a family of doing evangelism. We get caught up in doing the job at hand. The biggest job is not just running the church, the programs, the youth group, the other stuff that keeps us busy. We must raise up our eyes to the fields and see they are white for harvest.

H.B. London has said something very strong. I don't know if I'll get it exactly right, but it is something like: "The bottom line for us is how many people have come to Christ, been baptized and are following God this year. The rest is fluff. I don't care about the Christmas program and small groups. That stuff is fine, but it is peripheral to the bottom line."

One more thought: Our churches change, and get better when an individual or a family comes to Christ. We speak differently with these people, the pastor watches his words more carefully, and the spirit is livelier. The church changes...everything changes as we are reaching new people. §



Ed Lewis is one of the persons God has given the Grace Brethren movement to push us into evangelism. He is executive director of

CE
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Stories from the Fields

Teaching English & Teaching Christ

Only four people showed up for our class. It was one of those times when you wonder if small is going to be better or worse. We were teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) class to the many Hispanics who have moved to our city. It is a great way to serve the people that God is bringing near to us.

Earlier that week, I was at Casa Fiesta—a restaurant in town—and struck up a conversation with our waitress. We found out a little bit about each other. She was here in the States alone and wanting to learn English, so I invited her to the class we were having this Saturday. The invitation was out there for her, yet we didn't really know if she would come or not.

This Saturday as I looked at each person I thought to myself: two of the four people here I know are Christians. The third person I had shared the Gospel with last week. And the fourth was the waitress!

During our class we were getting to know each other, and the waitress began



to share about her life, her struggles and her needs. I sensed it was time to stop teaching English and teach about Jesus and the Good News. So right then and there, I shared the Gospel—obviously in Spanish for her benefit. Over the course of the next moments as we talked, she acknowledged her need for God and she prayed to receive Christ right then! I guess having a small class that week was just what Jesus wanted.

What a joy it was a month later to baptize her to celebrate her new found walk with Jesus. Her story is why we teach ESL classes, as an opportunity to relate to people so that we can share

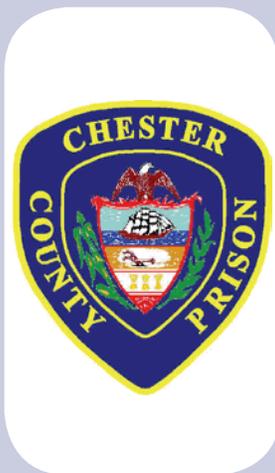
Christ with them. This past year, we have seen eighteen people come to Christ, most of whom are people we came into contact through our ESL classes. That is why we are doing it! §

Carlo Corral is a church planter starting *Peregrinos* (meaning "pilgrim" in English) a Hispanic work as a daughter church of Southwest Grace Brethren Church in Grove City, Ohio. He is probably more famous as *Pelito Chulo the Clown*—another way he uses to share the Gospel.

If a PRISON was looking for a ministry WOULD IT FIND YOURS?

That's what happened for *Encuentro Latino Ministries* lead by Carlos Peralta, Jr. The Chester County Prison in West Chester, PA was looking for a Latino ministry and after doing their research, they selected *Encuentro Latino Ministries* a daughter church of the Gateway Community Church in Coatesville, PA.

As this door of ministry swung open, a weekly service was started to share the Good News of Jesus with prisoners. At first, all the ministry was done in Spanish. As time went on, they realized a need to have services bilingually (in both English and Spanish). Carlos Peralta, Sr. (father of Carlos Jr.) leads the ministry most weeks in his role as co-pastor.



Currently, every Thursday night, they have two bilingual services with a total averaging around 55 people. They do two services because some of the different sections of the prison don't have clearance to mix.

The Chester County Prison is a transitional place for prisoners, so their constituency is normally there 1-2 months. This creates the opportunity to minister to new people all the time. In 2004, the ministry saw more than 400 prisoners come to Christ. As people come to Christ they have counseling for them and a basic discipleship track. The Good News continues to spread as prisoners move on—either out of prison or to the next place. §

Marine...Maintenance Man...Evangelist?

A true story of a man becoming bold in sharing the message and the impact it has had on many lives.

Paul Wise couldn't wait to get to church on Sunday and put a rose in the vase at the front of the auditorium.

It was Biker Sunday on January 30, 2005 at the Simi Valley Grace Brethren Church (CA). At Simi Valley, a vase is available for people to place roses in as a symbol of sharing their faith (red rose) and/or seeing someone come to Christ (white) during the week. This was the first time in years that Paul was going to put a rose in the vase.

As he arrived at the box where the roses are kept, the box was empty and the vase was already billowing with roses. It dawned on him that the Bikers had been sharing their faith and seeing people come to Christ...so they had filled the vase! Paul told himself in the moment, "If these bikers can share their faith, why can't I!"

Paul came to know Jesus about twenty years ago while in the Marines, but was leery of telling others about Jesus. The main reason was that early in his walk with God, he shared with his unbelieving parents and in Paul's words, "They squashed me." Paul was a Marine and afraid of very few things, but this experience had trapped him for years.

Paul has been the head of maintenance and facilities at the Grace Brethren Elementary School for 12 years. The week after Biker Sunday while he was at work the salesman for paper towels and supplies was there in his shop. Paul sensed that the Lord wanted to ask him a question. So Paul obeyed and asked the paper towel salesman, "What if you were to die today? What would happen to you?" The salesman replied, "I'd probably go to purgatory." Paul then shared the truth about heaven from the Scriptures. He could tell that this 60 year old salesman was being touched deeply. Paul asked, "Do you want to

make sure you will go to heaven? If so, we can pray right now." The man knelt down in his suit, right on the dirty shop floor, and prayed to receive Jesus.

After the paper towel salesman had gotten up, he remarked to Paul, "You've known me for nine years, how could you not have told me this before?" Paul managed some weak apology, but the zing of that statement stuck deep in his heart.



Paul Wise

The next morning, after sharing with the other maintenance staff the story of the paper towel salesman, they went off to repair a leak between a couple of classrooms on the campus. Paul stayed in the office and sensed that the Lord wanted him to call his uncle who was dying in Kansas. So Paul called him up. They talked for a while and Paul asked his uncle, "Do you know if you are going to heaven?" His uncle replied "No." Paul asked if he would like to know what the Bible says about it. Before the phone call was over, Paul's uncle prayed to receive Jesus.

Paul bounced with joy to meet the rest of his staff. As he got to where they were, he was overwhelmed with thankfulness to the Lord. Paul ended up face down in the grass praying

"thank you, thank you" over and over again. The rest of the staff joined him in prayer as well.

The teachers and children in the classrooms nearby saw Paul laying face down on the lawn and were worried. The teachers stepped out of their classrooms to check to see if everything was ok. Paul answered yes, and asked if he could come into their classrooms later in the afternoon to share why he was laying on the ground. The teachers agreed to let him come to settle the curiosity of the children.

Paul showed up in the first classroom to share his story: about the salesman, his uncle and why he was on the ground so thankful to the Lord. God firmly put on his heart to invite these fifth graders to make an "adult decision" to follow Jesus. He wanted to make sure they knew they would be going to heaven. (The Grace Brethren Elementary School does not require a Christian profession of faith from students to register.)

Paul took the opportunity and asked the fifth graders to think about it overnight. Two boys raised their hands and said, "We want to do it now!" Paul responded, "Are you sure?" They said, "Yes," and walked straight to the front of the class. They knelt down and asked Jesus into their hearts—right there, right then.

Paul left the first class to go to the other fifth grade classroom. He shared the same story. Two more boys prayed to accept the Lord in this classroom!

When he left the second classroom, he had a discussion with a group of girls who asked him more about these decisions and what to do if they were in a more high-church tradition. Paul gave some guidance. As they walked away, a boy named Allen (name changed for

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CONVERSATIONS not Conversions

by Ed Waken

My doorbell rang. As I rose from my home office to answer it, I wondered to myself, "Who is bothering me?" It was Reese. Reese had trimmed some trees for me earlier in the month. Standing there in a very sweaty ball cap, dirty clothes and a sunken face, he wanted to know if I had more work that he might be able to do.

At that moment, I really didn't care how he was doing. I was busy doing something else and I really didn't need any trees trimmed. Reese was bothering me. But a voice in my heart told me to encourage him. My lips parted. Air from my lungs raced across my vocal chords. I managed to ask, "Hey Reese, how are you doing?"

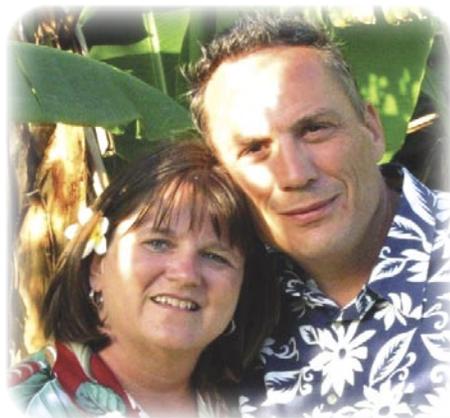
That simple question, prompted by God, began a conversation about Reese's drug addiction and desperate state of life. As we moved to my back yard and enjoyed some sandwiches and iced tea, Reese shared his life story with me. I shared the story of Life with him. Later, Reese invited the Life-Giver to be His Lord and Savior. He has since been sober for over two months and has already seen a house church with some friends who are new to Jesus and who are desperate for Jesus get started. Whatever I was working on in my office that day doesn't seem that important now!



Reese

This is a grand story of success in evangelism, but not because Reese became a follower of Christ. It is successful because I was obedient to have a conversation with him instead of blowing him off for my "stuff." How many times have I blown off conversations with people because I was so tuned into my world, my agenda and priorities? My experience with Reese reflects the Biblical principles of evangelism that are given to every believer.

Many believers have the notion that evangelism is hard, scary and reserved for those who are gifted. The results of this kind of thinking cause us to shy away from spiritual interaction with lost people. After all, we really don't know what to say, how to say it and many of us don't know our Bibles well enough to answer the hard questions people ask. This kind of thinking is not at all what the Bible teaches us.



Many people measure success in evangelism with results. That is, did the person I'm sharing with make a decision for Jesus? If he did, I was successful. If she didn't, I must have missed something and need to do better next time. This is not what the Bible teaches us.

The Biblical principle regarding success in evangelism is always to be obedient to share the truth. In short, we should be measuring *conversations* about Jesus, not *conversions*. We can choose to have conversations about the spiritual with people, but we cannot make people respond to the truth we share with them. That is God's realm.

So what is success in evangelism?

continued on next page>>

Ed and Debbie Waken serve in the Valley Life Grace Brethren Church (www.valleylifechurch.org) in Phoenix, Arizona. Ed is also a trainer with Evangelism In Depth Ministry (www.eidministry.org), a Church Multiplication Associates board member (www.cmresources.org), and a part of the Fellowship Council of the FGBC.

>>Success in evangelism must be measured by conversations. Here are *four truths that will serve to strengthen our passion to share our faith*. At the moment of salvation, these truths are equally true for every believer.

1 **The Authority of God** (Matthew 28:16-20). Every believer has Jesus residing in them and therefore has His authority according to the Great Commission. Jesus said, "All authority is given me...", and I am sending you to share the truth about me with others, make disciples, baptize them and teach them. He ended with "... behold, I am with you always..." Every believer has the authority to share the good news of Christ.

2 **The Power of God** (Acts 1:8). Acts 1:8 specifically teaches us that the power of the Holy Spirit is given to every believer for the precise purpose of sharing Christ with the world. This powerful witness is not reserved or limited to a few, but is given to all (see Acts 2:38-39).

3 **The Mind of God** (1 Corinthians 2:16). Paul truly builds confidence in our ability in evangelism when he writes of the believer's reliance upon the Spirit as the real confidence builder regarding evangelism. The principle is that the Spirit of God knows everything. We have the Spirit of God living in us. The Spirit of God freely gives us thoughts that we are to voice. Therefore, Paul concludes that we have the mind of Christ! The context is all about evangelism (see 1 Cor. 2:1-5).

4 **The Words of God** (Matthew 10:16-20, Mark 13:9-11, Luke 21:12-15). These are parallel passages that give us some tremendous promises regarding evangelism. Jesus instructs us to *not worry* about what we are to share or how we are to share it. In Mark 13, Jesus tells us *not to worry beforehand* about what to say or how to say it. In Luke 21 He instructs us to *make up our minds not to worry*. In the Matthew and Mark passages, we learn that the Spirit will give us the words and method, but in the Luke passage the Word teaches us that Jesus Himself will give us the words and methods to use.

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Evangelists... for the Church or the Lost?

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,
Ephesians 4:11

At the mention of the word, Evangelist, our minds immediately picture large crowds in packed stadiums where people are streaming forward to receive Jesus Christ. People like Billy Graham, Luis Palau and Greg Laurie come to mind as some of today's best evangelists in our land. With these ideas flowing through our minds, we would naturally think that the Evangelist is given by God to reach the lost, right? Wrong!

If we continue on to Ephesians 4:12 we find these words, "...and some as evangelists...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ..." *The Evangelist is given to the church, not the lost!* The Evangelist is given to the church to equip believers to carry out the work of evangelism.

In other words, the Evangelist's job is to teach believers how God has equipped them to be successful evangelizers for His kingdom. He is to encourage and guide the church in the ministry of sharing the truths of Christ with the world.

The Evangelist is most effective when helping the church to multiply communicators of the gospel, not multiplying listeners to hear their messages. He or she should be mobilizing all Christians to do uncommon things in expanding the Kingdom of God.

Evangelism crusades are wonderful tools that have been used by God for generations to see people ushered in to the Kingdom. I applaud their role. However, I also believe that if we are going to see a tsunami of souls coming to Christ, multiplying listeners will ever be enough. We must have more communicators of the Gospel. We must have more evangelizers. The Evangelist's role is to teach and release the church for this purpose.

As we rethink the role of the evangelist, as we empower all believers to engage in conversations, we will finally be able to see just how white the fields are. §

by Ed Waken

conversations not conversions

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The Godhead takes an active role in teaching us that we have no reason to worry; they will instruct us and give us the confidence, words and methods at just the right time. Jesus promises that if you simply speak what is given to you to say, that none of your adversaries will be able to contradict or refute you.

Conversations, not conversions are what we should be looking at as we think about success in evangelism. Imagine if every believer understood and acted upon the Biblical truth that they have the authority, power, mind and words of God every time they choose to share their faith? Imagine a field that has been sown extravagantly with seeds of the kingdom. What kind of harvest would take root?

Begin many conversations with people not yet connected to Jesus. Be assured that at the moment of sharing, you are successful because Jesus is giving you His words and His methods while doing His work in the heart of the hearer. That is success—100% of the time! All we have to do is open our mouths and speak what is given us in that moment. Simple conversations will produce eternal results. §

I want to share Jesus with others because of what Jesus has done for me.

I remember my conversion in November of 2001 and how Jesus really began to change me over the next months.

I knew I should share this with others. Laying on my bed one night, I asked Jesus to give me the boldness to share the story of what He had done for me. At our school I had a bad reputation. It was a Christian School and I wasn't a believer until a few weeks prior. After asking God the night before, I remember that He put it on my heart right there in the bathroom to open my mouth. I just said, "Fellas, this is what Jesus has done for me," and I told my story. Doing this struck a cord deep within me.

In another month or so, I was given the chance to share my testimony with my school—about 175 people. I didn't think I did that very well, yet a few students responded by rededicating their life to Jesus, and a spirit of repentance really came over the school. That really freed me to share my story with anyone, anywhere.

As I moved on to college, there was an older freshman who carried a prison record and a lot of baggage. He wanted to hang out with me, and at first I pushed him away. Then God changed my heart. I realized that this person is either going to heaven or hell and God put him in my life.

We covered lots of ground in our relationship. I'll never forget when he knelt down, right there in my dorm room, and asked Jesus to come into his heart. The next week, his grades went up, his language changed, and he grew in being a servant. The excitement of changed lives continues to propel me to share Jesus.

by Brent Saba- student at Grace College

Marine...Maintenance Man... Evangelist?

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privacy) approached him and wanted to pray to receive Christ right there. So they prayed together. Then he asked Paul to share these things with his dad. Paul didn't figure he would see the dad for a while, but agreed to talk with him as he had opportunity.

After this amazing day, Paul wandered into the now empty first classroom and wrote on the whiteboard: "Born again today, in the Lamb's Book of Life." Then he wrote the names of the two boys from the class and Allen's name. Paul thanked God again. As he walked out of the classroom Allen's dad was standing right in front of him!

Shocked, Paul explained what had happened with Allen that day. At the start, his dad was antagonistic, yet when Paul asked him, "Do you know for sure that you would go to heaven if you were to die," Allen's dad's heart softened and he showed interest. Within moments, he also prayed to receive Christ!

The next morning, while Paul was in the shop to get the day going, a fifth grade student knocked on the door. "Mr. Wise, can you come up to our class right now. A few more kids want to pray to accept Jesus," the student said. Paul excitedly walked to the first classroom. He was stunned as he entered and saw 16 kids at the front of the classroom waiting to pray. He prayed with them. Soon he was beckoned over to the second classroom. Waiting in the front of that class were 15 more fifth graders.

The ripple effect of this apparent movement of God is still spreading. At least 50 of the fifth graders made a commitment to Jesus. People started calling it the "Fifth Grade Revival." Students in other grades and parents have come to Christ as well. 17 junior high students made a commitment at a chapel service when Paul spoke. Reports of students leading other students to accept Jesus are still coming in.

We know that this story hasn't ended. Paul said, "As best as I can count there are at least 120 people connected to the school—that is students or their parents—who have come to Christ in the three weeks since Biker Sunday. Because this thing is going so fast, there maybe as many as 175, but I really don't know." §

Dentist & Evangelist - Dr. Duke Heller

Duke Heller is a dentist who shares Christ at every opportunity. He has developed a tool, a training seminar, a website, and new book to get the Gospel out.

www.mayishare.com
www.midwestimplantinstitute.org

cp>> Duke, where did you get your heart for sharing Jesus?

duke>> When I accepted Christ the week before Easter 1972, I knew that it was the truth. Within two weeks, I took my three best friends out for a meal and told them they needed Christ in their life. I told them they were sinners, I knew that to be because as I had done things with them. None of them accepted Christ at that time but later two of them have made commitments to Christ.

cp>> How do you deal with being rejected?

duke>> I have been rejected at least 50% of the time if you mean that they did not accept Christ as their Savior. I do not have two out of a hundred people that will not allow me to share my faith with them because I use a third party non-threatening approach. I simply share the spiritual groceries and realize if the Holy Spirit is calling them, they will make a commitment. If the Holy Spirit is not calling them, they will not make a commitment but my responsibility is over as I shared with them. It never bothers me if they reject Christ. Why should I take it personal when the results are up to God?

cp>> Are you gifted at evangelism?

duke>> There is not a gift of evangelism. There is only the gift of the person found in Ephesians 4:11. We are all instructed to share our faith. I am a persistent pursuer of people who don't know Christ. I ask questions that let me know quickly if they can point to the exact time they accepted Christ. If they stumble with that question, I suspect they are not born-again.

cp>> How has your passion for evangelism shaped the things that you and your ministries do?

duke>> My ministry is sharing my faith. I lead three men's bible studies with the main thread being to teach men to be accountable to each other and to hold each other accountable for sharing their faith on a weekly basis. I teach dental implantology because it gives me more opportunities to share Christ with more people

cp>> What would you say to the larger Grace Brethren family about evangelism?

duke>> Barna statistics tells us that 37-40% of the people in evangelical churches do not know Christ personally. Billy Graham says it is 50%.

I feel people in every body of believers want to share their faith, but lack a method to do it. When given a method, they need to be held accountable by someone for sharing their faith. If they share results that are positive with others, they share their faith more frequently.

I would say to the Grace Brethren family that many and probably most DO NOT SHARE THEIR FAITH ON A REGULAR BASIS. Why? They do not know how to start a conversation to begin sharing their faith and since nobody holds them accountable, they slide along in life until the opportunity hits them, not that they initiated the opportunity. §

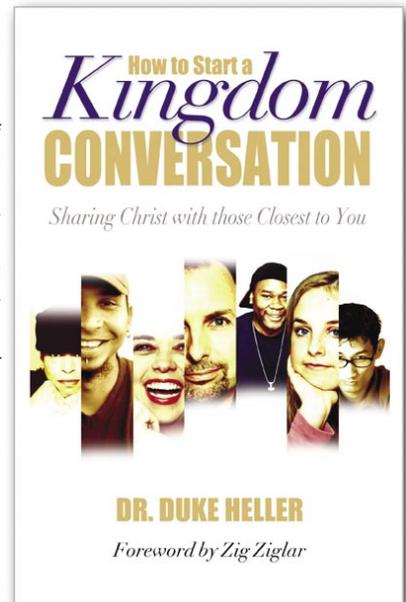
I have had the opportunity to lead hundreds of people to Christ and I have taught hundreds of people this method of reaching people for Christ. It's really simple: it follows the FORM method (but I won't give it all away here).

It is so easy for me to share the Gospel with people this way. Even though the method was simple, I had people repeatedly asking me, "How do I get started? I stumble around and don't get to the Gospel."

I was talking about this issue on the golf course one day with Zig Ziglar and he said, "You should write a book about it." I replied, "I think I will." So this book is that work. It addresses how I can get into the subject of Kingdom things quickly. It has some really helpful tools and inserts.

I'm really excited that some great men have endorsed it as well: Zig Ziglar, Erwin Lutzer, Richard Mayhue, and Jim Custer. I just can't wait until it's printed and gets out to help people spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

-Duke

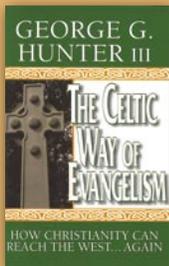


Spring 2005 release by BMH Books

recommended resources

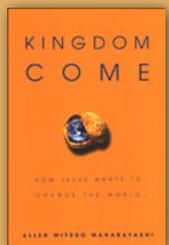
The books, tracts, and websites listed here were the suggestions of the contributors

theological/philosophical foundations



<<<<< *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West...Again*
by George G. Hunter (Abingdon Press: 2000)

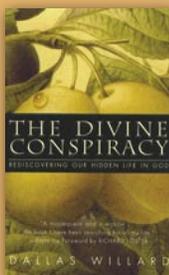
The Logic of Evangelism
by William Abraham (Eerdmans Publishing: 1989)



<<<< *Kingdom Come: How Jesus Wants to Change the World*
by Allen Mitsu Wakabayashi (InterVarsity Press: 2003)

Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus
by Mortimer Arias (Academic Renewal Press: 2001)

The School Of Biblical Evangelism
by Ray Comfort, Kirk Cameron (Bridge-Logos Publishers: 2004)



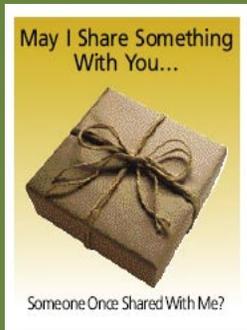
<<<< *The Divine Conspiracy : Rediscovering Our Hidden Life In God*
by Dallas Willard (HarperSanFrancisco: 1998)

Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living
by Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: 2002)



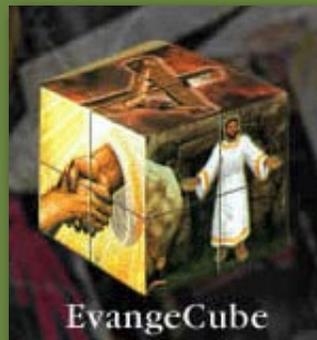
<<<< *Hell's Best Kept Secret*
by Ray Comfort (Whitaker House: 1989)

books



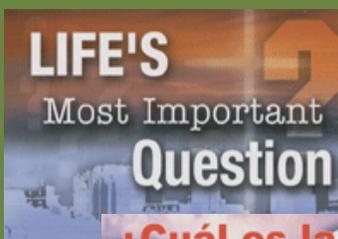
May I Share Something With You--

a tract that you can print for free along with a training explanation by Duke Hellar check it out at www.mayishare.com



EvangeCube

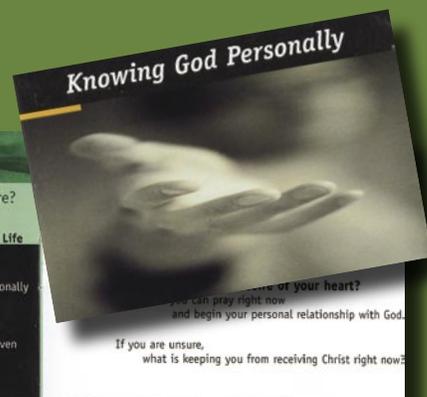
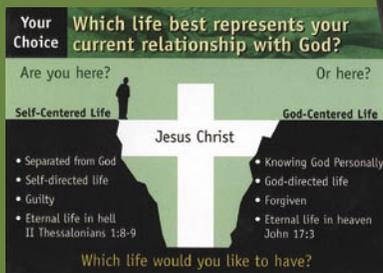
a 3-D tool to share the Gospel a training and purchase info at www.evangecube.org



Life's Most Important Question

a Grace Brethren classic in NIV and in Spanish purchase from www.bmhbooks.com

Knowing God Personally
purchase from www.sonlife.com



Create your OWN personal tract-with YOUR story

Then print it, fold it and share with others

Go to www.thekristo.com/tools/tract.asp



>>>>>there are also ecards(aka tracts via email) you can send... check out the "website" recommended resources on page 15

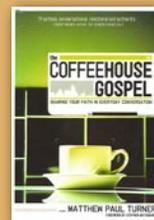
more recommended resources

practical helps

Irresistible Evangelism: Natural Ways to Open Others to Jesus
by Steve Sjogren, Dave Ping, Doug Pollock (Group Publishing: 2003)

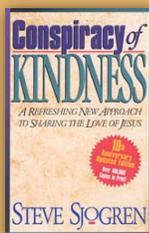
Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult: How to Interest People Who Aren't Interested
by Nick Pollard (InterVarsity Press: 1997)

The CoffeeHouse Gospel: Sharing Your Faith in Everyday Conversation >>>>
by Matthew Paul Turner (Relevant Books: 2004)



How to Give Away Your Faith: Updated & Expanded
by Paul E. Little (InterVarsity Press: 1989)

Lifestyle Evangelism: Learning to Open Your Life to Those Around You
by Dr. Joe Aldrich (Multnomah: 1999)



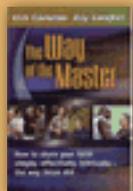
<<<< *Conspiracy of Kindness: A Refreshing Approach to Sharing the Love of Jesus With Others 10th Anniversary Edition*
by Steve Sjogren (Vine Books; 10th Annv edition, 2003)

One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven
by Mark Cahill (Faithworks Publications: 2004)



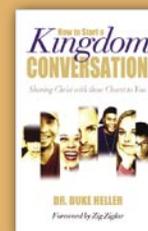
<<<< *101 Ways to Reach Your Community*
by Steve Sjogren (NavPress: 2001)

Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News
by Rick Richardson (InterVarsity Press: 2000)



<<<< *The Way of the Master*
by Kirk Cameron & Ray Comfort (Tyndale House: 2004)

How to Start a Kingdom Conversation >>>>
by Duke Hellar (BMH Books: to be released in Spring 2005)



books

websites

information & help sites

May I Share Something With You- Duke Hellar's ministry website
www.mayishare.com

Finish Line Ministries- An interdenominational revival ministry lead by Dave Bogue
www.finishlineministries.org

Way Of The Master- Kirk Cameron (yep the guy from Growing Pains)
& Ray Comfort's website
www.wayofthemaster.com

gospel presentation sites



www.thegoodnews.org

Here's Hope

www.thegoodnews.org/CD/heres_hope/heres_hope.html

Split Time

www.thegoodnews.org/CD/split_time/split_time.html



DIGITRACTS
Online Evangelism Presentations & Resources

ATS
In partnership with The American Tract Society

www.digitracts.com



www.thekristo.com

The Kristo www.thekristo.com/thekristo.swf

I Am www.thekristo.com/iam.swf

Yo www.thekristo.com/yo.swf



send these presentations as ecards/emails from this site:

www.thekristo.com/tools/cards.asp



in Spanish too

www.thekristo.com/spanish/default.htm

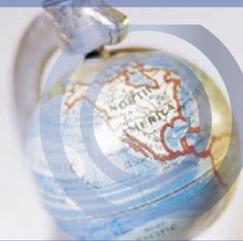
www.theseeksite.com



How do WE do **EVANGELISM** TODAY & TOMORROW?



www.gbnam.org for more info



columbus, ohio
oct 7-9, 2005
@ the grace brethren church
in worthington

The Evangelists Gathering

*a gathering of evangelists from the Grace Brethren family
for conversation, encouragement, and movement*

I believe so much in the need to honor and network the Evangelists in the Grace Brethren Movement, that not only did I dedicate this issue of my newsletter to them, but GBNAM is sponsoring The Evangelists Gathering—a gathering for conversation, encouragement, and movement.

These important people need to gather to encourage one another and share what God is doing. This isn't for those who want to learn about evangelism, it is for those who believe God has called and given as Evangelists to the Body. I also believe that most Evangelists are not in full-time ministry, so we are doing it on a weekend to better serve them. If this gathering interests you, it is scheduled for October 7-9 (Friday evening - Sunday afternoon).

Please contact me if you would like more information on this gathering. More details will also be available on the GBNAM website (www.gbnam.org) soon.



- Kurt

thechurchplanter

the quarterly newsletter of Kurt Miller
Director of Church Planting



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