



Present

THIS GOSPEL

MUST BE

PREACHED

A Training Seminar in Evangelism

Prepared by

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This Gospel Must Be Preached

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THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age".

Is this commission relevant in the 1990's ?

Does **Matthew 24:14** provide an answer: ". . . *this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come*"?

The NAS Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (1981, p.1645) gives the Greek word **ethnos** (S.C.1484) as the word for: nations (37), nation(31), Gentiles(93), pagan(1), people(1). [The number in () tells us how many times a particular translation is used.] This word literally means a race, a nation, an ethnic group, and comes from the primitive verb **etho**, to be accustomed.

Missiology today speaks of people groups (ethnos), and hundreds of such groups are yet to be reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus has told us that all the nations are to be reached with the gospel.

Testimony of the Ugyur people in Kazakhstan and NW China: a people numbering millions (18m. approx.), who are hearing the Gospel since the collapse of the Soviet Union. These people are Muslims, and anyone who converts to Christianity forfeits their rights in their society, including family. Converts may be killed by their kinsmen. There was a Bible translation done many years ago, but under Chinese Communism their language was forcibly and radically altered, to the extent that only the very old can read the script of the Bible translation. (This paragraph was written in 1994, based on information given by Australian missionaries working in Kazakhstan. Since then, the same missionaries have been working there and in April, 1997, they were with us in Australia and gave us exciting up-to-date information.)

News from Kazakhstan in April, 1997

Our friends were led to establish a drug rehabilitation centre through Teen Challenge over two years ago and they now have centres for men and women with about thirty in each. The course runs at different levels for twelve months. A person must complete each level fully before graduating to the next level. There are desperate people on waiting lists for both centres, as heroin addiction is a major problem in the nation. The majority of clients are of Muslim background and very few, if any, are teenagers. The average age of the men is mid-thirties. The program has proved enormously successful with nearly all graduating drug-free and converts to Jesus Christ. Because of the way the program is presented, the Muslims remain Muslim in that the word means, "submitted to God", but they have now accepted Christ as the Son of God and have been instructed in the Bible. The Koran instructs them to study the Christian Bible.

In October 1996, the missionaries oversaw the opening of an indigenous church led by graduates of the program which within weeks was attracting up to 200 people, many of

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them Muslims, happy to come to a place where drug addicts are cured and where locals lead the church and preach the Scriptures.

The other amazing thing that has happened in this nation is the conversion of a leading Imam (Islamic theologian) who remains a revered teacher of Islam, publishing weekly in a leading newspaper teaching on the Bible. It seems God is giving this nation grace, expounding the gospel to them in a way that is profoundly fitted to their national needs. The Word of God promises that nations will come to “*the mountain of the house of the Lord*” in the last days to hear His word proclaimed (*Isaiah 2:3*).

THE COMMAND IS TO GO

Jesus prefaced His commissioning of the early disciples with a claim to ultimate, pervasive and absolute authority (*Matthew 28:18*). He then said, “Go!” During his short ministry, the late Keith Green became convinced that Christians today are being called by Christ and commissioned to “go”. Keith challenged the many young people who came to the gatherings where he ministered in the United States. He told them that it was imperative that they go out, taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. “You need a word to stay, not to go,” he preached.

The Commission in Mark, Luke & John

Mark 16:15-20 - the commission again. Please read it.

Note key elements of the Commission from these verses:

Luke 24:45-49 - the commission is expressed another way: note the promise of power! In John, the Lord's final instructions were of a pastoral nature rather than evangelistic (*John 21:15-17*)

This refers us to the twofold work of the church:

1. evangelism, winning the lost,
- and 2. pastoral care, ie., bringing the people of God to maturity in Christ.

The Commission in Acts

In *Acts*, the risen Lord again directs his followers into evangelism and promises the power for that task:

Verse 8: “*but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*”

Notice how *Acts 1-7* is evangelism in Jerusalem;

Acts 8-12, the regions around Jerusalem;

then in *Chapter 13*, Barnabus and Saul are sent out on their first missionary journey - the regions beyond, “*the uttermost parts of the earth*”.

The Great Commission in the church today

Statistics show that there has tended to be an imbalance in the church of recent decades in the West: pastoral (church quality-building) ministries have far outweighed evangelistic ministries (church-growth, numbers being won to Christ). For some time now, the social gospel approach has been the predominant public profile of the Christian church. The Salvation Army and other social action, charitable organisations have been in the spotlight. People like Mother Theresa are known worldwide for their tremendous compassion and love but again the reputation is more of a social nature.

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EVANGELISTS

The evangelists work as part of an overall ministry (*Ephesians 4:11*), the goal of which is “*the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body ...*” (*Ephesians 4:16*). Also, the work of the evangelist in the context of church ministry is to build up the body of Christ and equip the saints for the work of ministry (*Ephesians 4:12*), in this case, the ministry of evangelism.

An evangelist is a messenger; one sent by God to share the Good News. The evangelist's ministry is to gather the people and lead them into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Billy Graham has become a legend in his own lifetime and is known as an evangelist. Through the work of his crusades, many churches and people have been touched and enthused for the work of evangelism. However, generally our churches have been majoring on pastoral ministries, and other gift ministries that cater for the needs of the church, the saved. It has been rare to find concerted efforts for evangelism. However, by the second half of the 1990's the emphasis is coming more and more on to reaching the lost.

Clark Taylor and the Christian Outreach Movement have been an exception to the norm in recent Australian history. Clark always saw himself as an evangelist. He was saved at a Billy Graham meeting and actually learnt some of Graham's sermons off by heart, from a recording. At his first preaching meetings, Clark simply preached Graham's sermons and saw numbers won to Christ. Before going for training in the Methodist ministry, Clark ministered in a small rural church, taking Sunday School with a group of young boys. In his efforts to win their trust and see them won to Christ, Clark's program included fishing trips and other opportunities for lifestyle evangelism. Clark was very effective whenever and wherever he preached. People always came to Christ.

Evangelism through missionary effort

Is there evangelism through your church? Another way that modern western churches have sought to fulfil the Great Commission has been through extensive missionary effort: literally taking the gospel to the nations, to the ends of the earth. This has been a great work in many ways and continues to be a great need and challenge.

However, many of our members have been content to support missionaries and still ignore the need for a personal and local church response to the Great Commission.

The Great Commission in the Old Testament

The idea of the gospel being preached to all nations did not originate with the New Testament. Rather, Jesus' proclamation and command was the fulfilment of prophecy.

Psalms 2:8: “Ask of Me and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Thy possession.”

Psalms 24:1: “The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and all who dwell in it.”

Isaiah 2:2: “In the last days, the mountain [kingdom] of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all nations will stream to it.” (cf. **Micah 4**)

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Some other scriptures that signal the Great Commission :

Isaiah 42:6 Isaiah 49:1-9, 12 Isaiah 60:1-7 Psalm 110

ADDRESSING THE IMBALANCE

At one stage, Rangeville Church sought to address the imbalance in its ministry team and program by appointing an evangelist. Not many churches of any persuasion in Australia have taken such a step to my knowledge. In 1994, we prayed and visioned and developed a program that focused on unchurched folk in our geographic area. We ran a series of "Saturday Night at Rangeville" programs over a period of six months, using a seeker-sensitive model of outreach. This was moderately successful and a learning experience for those of us involved. Contacts with unchurched people were made; some were converted. These programs provided a place for Christians to bring friends to as a step towards church attendance. On the final Saturday night for 1994 we invited an evangelist, "Mad Dog" Kevin Mudford, to speak and that was the opportunity for people to make commitments and they did. This form of focussed outreach was discontinued in early 1995. It seemed the Lord's hand lifted off it. The most successful nights were the two occasions on which we shared about the New Age Movement.

In November 1996, during a season of prayer in which we were seeking the Lord as to how to reach the lost, the ALPHA program was released to us. We were able to get a supply of resources and many at the church began to look into the Alpha course. In April, 1997, the first Alpha course was under way at Rangeville, both for adults and junior youth. We had a tremendous response with 35-40 regularly attending the teen course and 36-40 attending the adult course. Some of these folk began the course without a personal faith in Jesus Christ. We witnessed at least five people come to Christ powerfully on the first course and many others testify to a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. Some folk from the Catholic and Anglican churches came on Alpha courses at Rangeville and have subsequently launched Alpha in their own churches. In March 1998, the Community Baptist Church is launching Alpha and in April, Toowoomba City Church (an independent assembly) is launching Alpha. The Range Christian Fellowship has eight home-based Alpha groups functioning in Term I, 1998.

Some advice from a church growth consultant

Some years ago a church growth consultant addressed a pastors' conference in Brisbane. He shared how in his work he was often asked to advise churches about evangelism or specifically, why their church was not growing. His line of inquiry and advice was simple: look at the budget and the activities and ministries of the church and calculate what percentage of effort and finance was being directed to evangelism. In church after church, he found that the predominant reason the church was not growing numerically was because little or no effort or finance was directed to evangelism. We need to delineate between transfer growth and evangelistic growth. The Great Commission is about evangelistic growth.

Unfulfilled prophecy and evangelism

In his excellent book, "The Puritan Hope", Iain Murray relates how the divines of the eighteenth century were enthralled by the prophetic scriptures of the Old Testament. The great missionary movements of the 19th century were birthed out of believing faith and prayer. "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run; His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons wax and wane no more." So they

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sang and so they believed and men and women went forth in great faith to preach the gospel to the heathen.

Still today the challenge to fulfil the Great Commission in obedience to Jesus remains. In our study together we will look at the ways of Biblical evangelism, especially in the ministries of Jesus and Paul. We will be searching out the vital role of God the Holy Spirit and His gifts in evangelism. We have discovered that prayer is the first necessary step for us to take in evangelism.

WORKSHOP FOR SESSION I

Questions For Group Discussion

1. In your own words, what is the Great Commission?
2. How important do you think the Great Commission is today?
3. How are we individually fulfilling the Great Commission?
4. How is the church we are part of fulfilling the Great Commission?
5. What evidence is there that other churches are fulfilling the Great Commission?
6. What else can we do?
 - individually?
 - corporately?

Something to do: write your testimony!

Tell of your experiences on paper. Keep a record of God working in your life.

PREACH THE GOSPEL, CAST OUT DEVILS

HEAL THE SICK

Further teaching on the Great Commission.

For many the Great Commission is limited to an almost secular understanding and practice of “witnessing”. As a result many zealous young Christians try hard to witness and come under condemnation when it is unfruitful or simply too hard for them to do. In these days God is drawing our attention to the scriptures and the way of evangelism practised by Jesus and His disciples. In Mark's gospel, the Great Commission clearly sets preaching the gospel in the context of supernatural signs and gifts of the Spirit.

Mark 16 : 17: *“these signs [attesting miracles] shall accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;”*

18: *“they shall lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

20: *“and they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.”*

In the Power of the Spirit

Throughout the record of the New Testament the preaching of the kingdom of God is in the power of the Spirit and the Spirit gives the evidence (or manifestation) of God's presence. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the power from on high came on them (**Acts 1:8**). Only then could they be His witnesses. Even the resurrection of the Lord was not enough to embolden the disciples to witness. They chose to go fishing rather than face the controversy of the resurrection (**John 21:3**).

Witnessing

People often ask for prayer that they may be able to witness more effectively in the workplace or their neighbourhood. An answer is to encourage them to realise that if they are born again of the Spirit of God and have received His empowerment, then they are witnesses. It is the power of the risen Christ within Who witnesses. If a person is born of the Spirit the people around that person generally know that the person is a Christian. They will be watching the Christian with certain expectations. Some of those expectations may be erroneous. However, encourage Christians to simply live the life (the Christ life) and opportunities will come their way to share the love and faithfulness of God. The emphasis is on being a witness, not doing something necessarily. Remember Jesus said, *“wait until the power of the Holy Spirit comes upon you”* (**Acts 1:8**).

THE THREEFOLD COMMISSION

Jesus had trained His disciples in readiness for the outworking of the Great Commission after He had left the earth. Jesus' model is known as the threefold commission

- **Preach the gospel** - that is, repentance for the kingdom of God is at hand (**Matthew 3:17**); in **verse 23**, it is ‘the gospel of the kingdom’;
- **cast out devils** (demons) - exercise the ministry of deliverance;
- **heal the sick** - through the use of oil, or the laying on of hands.

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The sending out of the twelve: in **Matthew**

Matthew 10:1: *“And having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”*

5: *“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;”*

6: *“but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*

Notice how the instructions of where to go were very specific; sometimes Christians come under condemnation, thinking they have to witness to everyone. No! We need to hear the Holy Spirit's instructions.

Matthew 10: 7: *“And as you go, preach (1), saying, ‘The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.’*

8: *“Heal the sick (3), raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons (2); freely you received, freely give.”*

Raising the dead and cleansing lepers could be seen as extensions of the healing ministry.

Mark 6 : 7: *“And He summoned the twelve and began sending them out in pairs”*

12: *“and they went out and preached that men should repent.”*

13: *“and they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.”*

Mark 9: 17-18: the people had come to expect that Jesus' followers could cast out demons.

Are you a follower of Jesus? What would you do if someone came to you with a demon problem?

The sending out of twelve and seventy in Luke

Luke 9: 1-2: *The commissioning of the twelve: the threefold ministry!*

Luke 10: 1: *Jesus appoints seventy more to go out.*

2: *They are labourers in the Lord's harvest.*

9: *“and heal those in it [the city] who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’.”*

17: *“And the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your Name’.”*

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

In **Luke 4:18-19**, Jesus reads from **Isaiah 61:1-2** and applies this powerful prophecy to his ministry:

- to preach the good news to the poor;
- to proclaim release to the captives;
- recovery of sight to the blind;
- free those who are downtrodden;
- to proclaim the favourable year of the Lord.

He can only do this because the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him and has anointed Him.

Jesus was literally conceived in His mother's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 1:35**). Unlike us, He did not need to be born again of the Spirit. He tries to

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explain this to Nicodemus in **John 3:11-13**. However, Jesus did need to be filled and anointed by the Holy Spirit and this happened when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him at His water baptism. John says He received the Spirit “*without measure*” (**John 3:34**). For reference to His baptism, see **Matthew 3:16-17** and **Luke 3:21-23**.

It was after His baptism in Luke 4:18-19, that Jesus says He has been anointed by the Spirit of the Lord for ministry. He expects nothing less for every believer: we are to wait “*for the power from on high*” (**Acts 1:8**).

Jesus is the model

Matthew 4:17-25: In these verses Jesus Himself models the threefold commission in His own ministry. He preached, He healed, He delivered demoniacs. The result: great multitudes followed Him.

Matthew Chapter 8 verses 2-3, 5-10, 13, 16, 28-34 - Jesus exercises the threefold ministry.

Matthew 18:12-14: Here the shepherd (the pastoral ministry) goes looking for the one lost sheep; evangelism for Jesus was to recall the lost sheep of Israel (**Matthew 15:24**). However they were sinners too and needed to be called to repentance (**Luke 5:32**). In revival, both sinners and backslidden Christians come to the Lord in repentance. Note the role of healing in evangelism in **Matthew 20:29-34**: Once they met Jesus and were healed, “*they ... followed Him*”.

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There was an urgency about the Lord's work.

Luke 4:42-44: “*... and the multitudes were searching for Him, and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from going away from them. But He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose’. And He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.*”

We tend to note this urgency, agree with the commission, but often fail to do anything about it. As evangelists, or those called to the work of evangelism, may God give to us a deep sense of the urgency of our task.

In **Mark 6:34**, Jesus saw the multitude of people like sheep without a shepherd, and He felt compassion for them, and taught them many things, and fed them.

PAUL'S MINISTRY

In **Ephesians 6:19-20**, Paul asks for prayer: “*and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*”

In **Romans 15:15-21**, Paul is boasting of the great work God has achieved through him: “*... resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles (nations) by word and deed, [verse 18] in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Holy Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ [verse 19].*”

1 Cor. 9:16: “*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; FOR WOE IS ME IF I DO NOT PREACH THE GOSPEL.*”

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Paul's conversion is first recorded in **Acts 9**, and then is explained by Paul in testimony in **Acts 22 and 26**. Paul has a “born again” experience: he meets the risen Lord (**Acts 9:3-8**). He is filled with the Holy Spirit and baptised in **verses 17-18**. He receives a personal call from God to go to the Gentiles. He was not able to fulfil that call immediately but finally he gave his whole life to the service of the gospel. Paul very much ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit. His gospel was one of power!

Paul's zeal to preach

There is a movie called “Peter and Paul”. It is the story of Paul and Barnabus and Peter going on their missionary tours. This movie illustrates Paul's tremendous zeal to preach the gospel in the regions beyond, the places where none had heard. It shows Barnabus trying to reason with Paul, warning him it was too dangerous to proceed into certain cities, but Paul would have none of that. As the Book of Acts reveals, it was only when the Spirit of God told Paul not to go to certain places that he obeyed or on one occasion the opposition of Satan thwarted their travel plans.

THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY

The coming of the Holy Spirit to empower

The 120 disciples in the upper room were locked away for fear of the Jews. They had known Jesus, had witnessed His resurrection and ascension and yet were afraid and powerless. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to empower them for the threefold ministry. The previous experiences of the twelve and the seventy had been in the anointing and authority that Jesus gave to them. Now they had their own anointing and authority from God.

Revival in Argentina

R.E. Miller was a missionary pastor in Argentina for many years. He was privileged to be involved in a revival move of the Holy Spirit of God in the 1950's through to the 1970's. He tells of the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower and commission the church. He was led to establish a Bible college to train young men and women who had been gloriously saved. They experienced many powerful visitations from the Lord and His angel messengers. No doubt you have heard of the revival that is sweeping much of Argentina again in the 1990's.

WHAT DO WE PREACH?

- Luke 10:9** : “... and say to them ‘the kingdom of God has come near to you’.”
- Matthew 3:2** : “John the Baptist came preaching saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand’.”
- Matthew 4:17** : “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’.”
- Acts 8:12** : “But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, men and women alike.”
- Acts 28:31** : “Paul stayed in Rome two full years, preaching the kingdom of God”
- 1 Cor. 4:20** : “But the kingdom of God is not in word only, but in power.”

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1 Peter 4:11 : *“Whoever speaks, let him speak as it were, the utterance of God; ... so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

An understanding of repentance

Repentance means change. It comes from the Greek word, *Metanoia*, *after-thought, change of mind*. The verb form is *Metanoeo*, *to perceive afterwards, implying change based on moral reflection*, always in the New Testament, *involving a change for the better, an amendment*, and nearly always, *repentance from sin*. (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p.961-962).

When people are presented with the gospel of the kingdom of God, God expects His word to change them. So often people have been trained in Christian principles and may be regular church goers, but have never heard anointed preaching of the gospel and have never experienced the change that is preached by Jesus and all true ministers of the gospel. The Scriptures show clearly that the preaching of God's word imparts faith to the hearer (**Romans 10:13-17**). Jesus said that if the preaching of the truth of God is not enough to convince the hearer, then the miraculous works ought to be enough (**John 14:11**). He gave us a gospel that is with power (**I Cor. 4:20**); He said *“these signs will follow them who believe”* (**Mark 16:17**). Paul says, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes”* (**Romans 1:16**).

Repentance and revival

We have been blessed and challenged with news and ministry from the revival in Brownsville, Pensacola, Florida. There in a Pentecostal (AOG) church, revival has been happening since June, 1995. At the end of twenty-one months of the revival, 100,000 souls had made first time commitments to Jesus Christ, and tens of thousands of Christians have repented of their sin. 1.5 million people have attended the church in that time. Christians are returning to God with a whole heart, forsaking sin. Sins of apathy and indifference (is that what Jesus calls lukewarmness in **Revelation 3:15-16**?) are being repented of. Christians, including ministers, are literally running to the altar to repent and get right with God. There is an impartation of holiness!

Historically, repentance has been the major factor in revival: the revival in Pensacola is no different.

WORKSHOP FOR SESSION 2

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

In small groups, please answer this question personally.

What is the gospel?

What does the gospel mean to you?

How has the gospel changed you?

Keep your own notes of your answers.

WITNESSING, DISCERNMENT AND **LEADING ANOTHER TO CHRIST.**

The Master plan of Evangelism

E.H. Coleman's, "The Master Plan of Evangelism", is built around the perceived model of Jesus choosing and training the twelve, and even having an inner circle within that number of disciples. Coleman then hypothesises that nearly everybody in society wants to follow somebody, something or some cause. Hence they will either follow this person, that cause or some other ideology on the broad way to destruction, or they will be influenced by a Christian and experience the eternal realities of Christ. What the world needs is multitudinous Christians who will exercise some leadership to their kinfolk, their community, their society. Statistically, there are enough Christians in the world to fully evangelise the entire human population very quickly. Why doesn't this happen?

WITNESSING

Share what you have

What can you or I offer to those around us? We offer what we have got! Maybe that will be something more now that we have had this seminar together, being challenged and exploring the whole question of evangelism. However the bottom line is that whatever I have received of Christ is transferable, able to be given away, passed on to another, and we are enriched and grow through the process.

Share your portion of Christ

A newly born-again Christian has Christ to share; they can lead another into the reality of Christ. Someone who has experienced a release through water baptism can testify of their experience and their commitment to the Christian life. Another has just been released in the power of the Spirit and that blessing is hard to contain. Another has prayed for a sick friend and that person was healed. You can tell many about that. You have got something to share. SHARE IT!

God is calling evangelists/leaders of men & women

Christians ought to be leaders, leading out of their experience in Christ. Sometimes our commitment to church life becomes imbalanced, taking up all of our time and effort. We need to re-evaluate our priorities: where does evangelism fit? How many unsaved people do I know? How am I fostering those relationships?

How many of your friends are sinners?

We need to review the benefits of church-based sporting teams and of church-organised recreation. Jesus pointedly left us in the world, with a commission. His example cogently demonstrates how believers are to mix with non-Christians. He had a reputation of associating with sinners. He led them to the truth, He healed their sicknesses, He cast devils from them; whole cities were impacted by His ministry. For us, the only contacts we will have outside of church will be work, sporting or social, unless we are working in a street ministry or a visitation program.

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Is our lifestyle relevant?

Christianity is a lifestyle as well as a life; but that lifestyle is ineffective if it is based on the erroneous “monastery” model of the Middle Ages, i.e., withdrawal from the world. We are not to withdraw into our church citadels, becoming totally engrossed in the life of our fellowship.

The Lord said “GO!”

Let us wait on God, asking Him to direct our steps as we seek to evangelise our generation. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into situations and relationships where we can witness and share our faith. For some that witnessing will be at the 'coal face'; for example, going into hotels to witness, mixing unashamedly with the patrons, learning to relate to them. For most of us, we will need to build relationships, to earn the right to speak on the basis of having established some common ground. This can be done quickly in some instances. Some can win people's confidence very quickly, whether it be the waitress in a lunch-time restaurant or the fuel attendant at the service station. Deep conversations about their need for Christ can easily happen if we are ready to listen and share.

DISCERNMENT

Be ready in season and out of season: preach the word (*2 Timothy 4:2*). In his letter to the *Philippians*, Paul says some are preaching Christ out of selfish ambition, but he claims that as long as Christ is being preached, the gospel will prosper (*Philippians 1:15-18*). Despite this, discernment is desirable. We have examined briefly the all-encompassing role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism. Sometimes He will redirect our paths, change our decisions, but it is always easier to alter the course of a moving object than to move a stationary one. “I being in the way God led me.” Continue in the calling in which you find yourself. Pray and exercise discernment, but get on with the MISSION.

All people are on a journey in life and we generally go through a process in life which prepares us to meet God and respond to His Word. Discernment is recognising where people are up to and helping them to go a step further.

LEADING ANOTHER TO CHRIST

Freely you have received, freely give. Simply offer what you have. However there is more to coming to Christ than writing Him a letter as a person was advised to do. You must be born again, (*John 3:3*) Jesus said. “*As many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become the children of God, ... born according to His will*” (*John 1:12-13*). Being born again is what happens when a person receives the Lord Jesus Christ in to their life as Lord and Saviour. Faith is involved, coming to the cross, and receiving forgiveness is involved; there is no set formula, but it is a real experience, a faith step that will result in a changed life. (Look up *Romans 10:10*)

Sometimes in our zeal to get a “decision” we rush people into a confession of belief, then wonder when the fruit is not evident. The explanation of the parable of the sower explains this, but we need to discern the Spirit's time and the readiness of people.

How do I lead another person to Christ?

1. “Whosoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life” (*John 3:16*).

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A person can only come to Jesus Christ through faith which is a gift of God (**Ephesians 2:8**). There is a time for each one to come to Christ. A time for which God has prepared us and to which He has called us. The gift of faith is given and we are ready to believe. When the Word is shared it speaks to our hearts. God has given the gift of faith: circumstances and many months (maybe years) of preparation including some deep experiences in life have prepared us to receive the gift of faith; we are able to believe.

Romans 10:8-10 teaches that saving faith is “believing with the heart” and then “confessing with the mouth”. The word of God is only powerful to save when it is believed from the heart. Secondly, we must be convinced in our heart to the extent that we are willing to openly claim Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Ask the person, “Who is Jesus Christ?” Help them come to a clear understanding of who He is; ask them to speak this understanding out loud.

2. “This is my blood of the covenant which is to be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins” (**Matthew 26:28**).

The second significant aspect of leading another to Christ is to share with them the power of the cross, the forgiveness of their sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. After explaining this, offer to lead in prayer (ask them to repeat the prayer after you), confessing sin and asking for and receiving forgiveness from God through Jesus Christ. You can assure the person that if they confess their sin to God, He is faithful and just to forgive them and to cleanse their soul of guilt and shame (**1 John 1:9**).

3. “But as many as received Him, to them God gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (**John 1:12**).

The third step is “to receive Him”. Explain to the person that believing in Jesus is the first step but that God intends for us to be born again of the Spirit (**John 3:3 & 3:5**). This happens when we ask Jesus to come into our lives, into our spirit (spiritual heart, innermost being, the invisible part of us). **Revelation 3:20**: “Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him [her], and will dine with him and he with Me.” Offer to lead the person in a prayer of invitation!

Summary of the 3 steps:

1. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (**Matthew 16:16-17**).
 2. Confessing sin and receiving forgiveness and cleansing (**1 John 1:9**).
 3. Receiving the Lord into my life - being born of the Spirit.
- (Remember there are variations to these steps but I offer them to you as being reliable and covering the key aspects of a person coming to the Lord.)

Once the person has taken these three steps, continue in fellowship with them for as long as is appropriate. There may be further prayer that you can offer them such as a renunciation of any occult involvement, or a renunciation of Satan and all his works. Then there are many blessings you can pray over the person. It may be appropriate to share about water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

If at all possible, make arrangements to see the person again soon and lead them into a discipleship class or relationship where they will be taught the basics of Christianity.

PRAYER EVANGELISM

1. PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF ALL & OF SPECIFIC PEOPLE

1 Timothy 2:1 : *“First of all then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men.”*

1 Timothy 2: 3-4 : *“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

Some people are not clear as to whether they can pray for the salvation of loved ones and others in their community. God's will could not be more clearly expressed. His word reveals His desire: *“that all men [humankind] be saved”*.

In **Ezekiel 18**, the Lord says He will deal justly with individuals.

Ezekiel 18:4 : *“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.”*

Ezekiel 18:32 : *“For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the LORD GOD. “Therefore, repent and live.”*

The Lord is teaching here that the sin of the father does not exclude his children from being saved; nor is the sin of a son held to the account of the parent. Each person is responsible for their own sin and called to repentance.

In **Ezekiel 36:37-38**, God encourages us to ask for multiple conversions: *“Thus says the LORD GOD, ‘This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like flock. Like a flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they will know that I am the LORD’.”*

God clearly asks us to pray for the salvation of souls, for the conversion of many. Write down the names of unsaved people

2. PRAY FOR LABOURERS

Matthew 9:36-38 : *“And seeing the multitudes . . . , He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest’.”*
cf. **Luke 10:2**

We are to pray to the Lord, asking Him to raise up Christian workers specifically for the ministry of evangelism. In the context of **Luke 10**, the Lord repeats this prayer command as He sends out the seventy to preach, heal and deliver from demons. The harvest is brought in as the kingdom of God is preached with signs accompanying, and people are born again into that kingdom.

Realise as you are praying this prayer, someone somewhere else may be asking God to send someone to a relative of theirs who happens to be your neighbour. “O Lord God,” they pray, “send a labourer to minister to my relative.” And God puts it on your heart to go to your neighbour and share the good news! **He wants to send you: are you willing?**

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Isaiah 6:8 : “Then I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am. Send me’.”

We are not told to pray that God will preach to others; we are told to go ourselves, to pray for labourers to be raised up, including “me”.

Romans 10:14-15 : “How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS’.”

Where are labourers needed now. Pray to the Lord of the harvest for these labourers.

Are you willing to be a labourer?

3. USING THE KEYS

Jesus promised to “*build His church*” (**Matthew 16:18**). He said He would use ordinary people like Simon, the fishermen, whom He called Peter, which means a small rock or a boulder. Jesus gave to Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven which are outworked in using the power and authority to bind and loose.

In **Matthew 18:18**, Jesus gives this same authority to the church, wherever two or three are gathered in agreement in His name. The keys are to bind and loose, according to discernment, what has been bound and loosed in heaven, to release people into the kingdom of God. It is based on a scriptural understanding of the kingdom of God and Satan's domain of darkness; understanding the things that bind people in sin and knowing the authority Jesus has given us to command Satan to release the people held.

In **Acts 2**, we see Peter, on behalf of the eleven, preaching what God had done in Christ through His death and resurrection and glorification. As a result the kingdom of heaven is opened to three thousand souls. Thus the Jews were granted entry. It was the preaching about Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit that brought about the release of the 3,000.

In **Acts 10**, Peter is used by God to open the door to the Gentiles, as represented by the Roman household of Cornelius. In both cases it is the preaching of God's word in the power and gifting of the Holy Spirit that opens the door to the kingdom of God. Peter preaches “Christ and Him crucified, risen and glorified”. The hearts and minds of the hearers are opened by the Holy Spirit and He is received as people believe the Word. (For further illustration, see **Acts 8** and the victory of the gospel in Samaria.)

Prayer for Evangelism

The keys of the kingdom of heaven are to do with binding and loosing in terms of remitting or forgiving sin or retaining people in their sin (**John 20:23**). In **Matthew 18:15-22**, the context is that of a brother sinning. Notice the authority and power of prayer in agreement. This prayer in agreement is firstly in agreement with what is discerned to be God's will in heaven. It is not what we agree to but our agreeing with God and what He has allowed or forbidden in heaven.

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In the context of **Matthew 16:16-19**, there is specific reference to the “*gates of Hades* [hell]”. Gates speak of authority and the church is opposed by Satan and his principalities (**Eph. 6:12**). Jesus has authorised the church to bind the powers of Satan, and to command the loosing (release, lit. untying) of souls out of the darkness. This word “loose” is translated in **1 John 3:8** as “destroy”. The church is authorised to destroy Satan’s hold over the souls of people.

Hebrews 1:14 God is opening our eyes to the reality of His angelic hosts and their role in bringing salvation to the children of men.

Binding the strongman

Jesus specifically instructs us in **Matthew 12:29** to bind the strongman, and then plunder his house. In **Ephesians 6**, Paul says that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers. In **Ephesians 2:2**, he says the sons of disobedience are subject to the spirit of the prince of the power of the air. In **2 Cor. 4:4**, Paul says the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving. But then in **2 Cor. 10:3-6**, he tells of the mighty power of God available to us in prayer.

This power is available to us to:

- pull down strongholds of “unbelief, doubt, opposition”, whatever it is, and to
- cast down vain imaginings and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of the glory of God.

In **Ephesians 6**, the apostle instructs us to take the sword of the Spirit and wage warfare against the evil one. Note the important place of prayer in **verses 18-19**.

4. CALLING IN THE HEIRS OF SALVATION

Some years ago a powerful way of evangelistic prayer was taught by a church in Texas (Larry Lea). The Lord had quickened His word from **Isaiah 43:5-7**.

The word speaks of

- God bringing His offspring from the east and gathering them from the west;
- of telling the north to ‘give them up’ and the south to ‘not hold them back’.
- God is calling his people to come to Him, the Heirs of salvation.

In **Ezekiel 37:9** the prophet is told to speak to the four winds. Ezekiel prophesied as commanded and **verse 10** records the result. What was it? These Scriptures refer firstly to the regathering of Israel into a nation, but the application is also clearly to the New Testament church. Remember in Timothy (**1 Timothy 2:1-7**) God tells us it is His desire for all men to be saved.

In prayer, we corporately bind the strongman in each of the four directions from our church centre. The Word of God personifies the four directions, “north”, “south”, “east” and “west”. Who is being addressed?

There is a strong man or prince power ruling in each direction. We command these strongmen, one by one, to release the captives, that is the souls of men and women. Pray over institutions such as schools, hospitals, official offices, major businesses; pray for churches in the area.

We call the people to come to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “*If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me!*” (**John 12:32**). We proclaim the name of the Lord and His authority and power to save. Call people by name.

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We ask God to release His angels to go to these Heirs of salvation and minister to them (*Hebrews 1:14*).

We ask the Holy Spirit to draw them to Jesus, to convict them of sin, righteousness and judgment (*John 16:8-11*).

We expect them to come; we get ready to receive new people. We prepare outreaches, bible studies, new Christian classes, and we go out to bring them in.

Teaching the elementary principles of Christ

Look at *Isaiah 43:8-12* now.

See that the people who come will be very needy. They are spiritually blind and deaf. And we are His witnesses. We are the ones who must reach out to these souls and introduce them to the Saviour, and teach them the elementary principles of Christ (*Hebrews 6:1-2*) and see them built into the fellowship of believers.

WORKSHOP FOR SESSION 4

1. Pray for the **salvation of people** already on your heart; you may like to list their names.
2. **Pray for labourers** to be raised up: be specific! Where can you identify a need for labourers right now?
3. Use the keys of **binding and loosing** as the Holy Spirit indicates. Remember, we bind what has already been bound in heaven and we loose what the Father has already loosed in heaven. All of these things will be clearly confirmed in His word.
4. As a **whole group**, enter into prayer at the strategic level, using the prayer guide in point 4 (Calling in the heirs of salvation). **This level of prayer against the strongmen of Satan in the region should not be entered into lightly nor on one's own.** We need to come in corporate prayer, fully covered and commissioned by the Lord.

EVANGELISM ON THE GROUND

This study is based on experiences of a preaching trip to Myanmar (Burma) by Paul Galligan. The study is written in the first person to some extent as it is relating real life situations in which the Gospel was outworked.

In January, 1997, I accompanied Pastor Steve Nichol of Coolum Christian Family (AOG) to Bangkok and Myanmar for two weeks. We spent eight days ministering in Myanmar but it seemed like an eternity as so much was happening.

BANGKOK, THAILAND

Steve had previously served as a missionary in Thailand for seven years, returning to Australia in 1993. He is fluent in the Thai language. Being in his company for a few days in Bangkok was very enlightening as he shared many insights and experiences with me, giving me a crash orientation course in understanding something of Thailand, the church in that nation, the role of the missionary, the culture and customs of the people, and many other aspects of life and work.

Thailand is ruled by Buddhism

We attended a Sunday service in a Pentecostal church that was indigenously led but had grown out of a Canadian mission. There were headphones for us to wear to hear an English translation of the service. A few hundred people attended. However less than two per cent of Thais are Christians despite the presence of missionaries for over 100 years. The population of fifty-eight million is predominantly Buddhist and has been for centuries. There is some Hinduism; a small percentage of people are Muslim, and the Buddhism is very mixed with animism (worship of spirits) in the country areas. People openly worship at idol altars in public places, in the main street, in shopping malls, and nearly every shop and stall has its own altar at which daily oblations are made.

The slum people

We visited a family who live in a slum. They are Christian but not currently attending a church. Steve and his wife had established very practical outreaches into slums while working in Thailand, both in Bangkok and in Songkhla in the south. However on both occasions when they had to move on, the indigenous church discontinued the outreaches into the slums. There is a strong prejudice against “slum” people. The church generally prefers to ignore their existence. This is a serious flaw in the ministry of the Thai church.

YANGON, MYANMAR An introduction

Our two day stopover in Bangkok was an effective introduction to Asia. Yangon (formerly Rangoon) was quite different and Myanmar as a nation is quite different to Thailand. Buddhism is very strong in Myanmar but unlike Thailand which has never been colonised by anyone, Myanmar was a British colony. It was occupied by the Japanese during the war, and became independent in 1948. Historical missionary outreach in Myanmar has been very fruitful and the church is currently becoming quite active again. Eight per cent of the population is believed to be Christian.

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Our host in Myanmar

Our host was Captain Howard Sao, a home missionary accredited with the Assembly of God Church of Myanmar. Howard was a sea captain for twenty-five years, with military training prior to that. He became a Christian towards the end of his sea career and received training in Manila, going on to work with YWAM. He also became involved with the Christian Seamen's Union in Singapore and Indonesia and worked alongside of Steve Nichol as a missionary in southern Thailand for two years. Howard and Louisa and their son Raymond returned to Myanmar in October, 1995. Since then Howard has worked hard encouraging pastors and churches, and establishing contacts across the denominations and among Independents. He had arranged our itinerary, though there were a few surprises even for him as unexpected opportunities for the Gospel opened up.

Evangelism On The Ground

In *Luke 10*, Jesus gives very succinct instructions to the seventy that He appointed for a preaching tour. Steve and I felt the Lord laid these Scriptures on our hearts and we were to follow His instructions. It was marvellous experiencing the Lord's fulfilment of the Word He had given us.

Luke 10:1 *"After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go."*

It so happened that there were two of us. We had been sent by our home churches in confirmation of the Lord's calling to go. When I first received the invitation to go, I sought the Lord as to His will. In the natural I did not have the \$2200 required; I was employed by my church and the Freedom Life Centre. It seemed that there were two options: go privately in obedience to the Lord, believing Him for the finance, and taking annual leave; or be sent by my church as part of our mission vision and receiving some financial support from the church. The Lord made it very clear that I was only to go if my church confirmed the vision and specific mission and sent me.

The church readily supported the vision and considerable financial provision was made. It was exciting to see this unfold. I was sent! and my church not only helped me financially: they sent a love offering for the churches in Myanmar.

Luke 10:2: *"He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field'."*

The Lord opened this trip up and an exciting fruit was that in December, 1997, a team of four people went from Rangeville to Myanmar. No sooner had I returned, sharing the good things God is doing in Myanmar, than others said, "We are called to go also!"

Luke 10:3: *"Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."*

We had heard many bad things about Myanmar through the Western press; a friend of mine scanned the Internet and gave me a whole lot more information. None of it was good news. Family members were concerned that I was going into a dangerous situation. Yes! There were armed soldiers on the streets and guarding certain buildings; there were tanks and armoured cars parked in front of the city hall in Yangon; the universities were indefinitely closed because of previous demonstrations held. Our travel was restricted and we were required to lodge in the capital only. Many of the people do feel oppressed, but there really was no danger. We went

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trusting the Lord, with a law-abiding attitude and we kept close to our hosts who also were law-abiding.

Luke 10:4: *“Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.”*

In Myanmar we had no local currency. Our host paid for everything. If we wanted an icecream, he paid for it; if we wanted to give something to a beggar, we had to ask our host for money. We did reimburse him generously. However this strategy worked powerfully. It helped us be humble servants of the local people. We were not the wealthy westerners; we were not the “big” men; our host was. He hired the taxis and the cars; he arranged the accommodation etc.

Because of the political and religious situation in Myanmar we also were careful as to whom we spoke to. We were focussed and went where the doors opened. We did no street preaching or door-to-door visitation.

Luke 10:5-6: *“When you enter a house, first say, peace to this house. If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.”*

In most places, either homes or churches and even public eating places, we prayed the peace of God. We prayed other blessings too. (The Hebrew greeting or blessing of peace is very powerful and encompasses many of God's blessings.) The Lord sends us to bless in His name. In most cases, the blessing was received. In one church we felt some resistance to the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the Lord's work was being controlled by the leadership.

One day we were invited to share a meal with a wedding party and bless the newly wed couple. This was a great honour for us and we received wonderful hospitality from a highly placed public servant and his extended family. There was a servant woman in this family whose grandfather was English. She and her family had felt called to remain in Burma. Such mixed race people are shunned and forced to the lowest place in society. She was a beautiful Christian. She asked if we would come to a block of land she had recently bought in a nearby slum and bless it. She and her Burmese husband lived in a single room shack on the land and eight slum children lived with them. As well this lady taught twenty slum children every day in her shack. An Australian couple who had visited were so touched by this lady's ministry in the slum that they had sent the money for her to buy the land.

Luke 10:7: *“Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give to you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.”*

Asian hospitality is powerful. The poorest people make one feel so rich as you know they are giving you the very best they can afford and even more. They seem to be so honoured to receive guests and they received us as Christian preachers. Each home that received us also received the Gospel in a real way. They received the blessing of God that He allowed us to bestow.

The first home we went to was our host's home. Howard's wife had been very sick, including hospitalisation. We prayed for her and much to everyone's delight, she recovered and two days later was able to join the team and travel with us, keeping up with an arduous schedule.

A group of seamen had gathered in Howard's house for a lesson in navigation. They all knelt to receive a blessing from us, even though all were not Christian yet.

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Luke 10:8: *“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.”*

On the second day in Myanmar we travelled by ferry and by car taxi to another city, Tuan Tay. More like an overgrown village, Tuan Tay is home to about 30 000 people, no one was sure. We were welcomed by some local pastors, shared a fellowship meal in a public eating-house and then did a prayer walk of a number of churches. Some of the church pastors had no prior notice of our coming but all welcomed us and joined us to pray a blessing on their worship centre and their church. The pastors then allowed us to pray for them personally.

One pastor whose worship centre was across the river begged us to come to pray in her church. This meant crowding into a canoe that was manned by a single oarsman and crossing an expansive river, trusting that the wake of passing big boats would not capsize us. Mission endeavour is filled with new experiences!

Luke 10:9: *“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘the kingdom of God is near you’.”*

Everywhere we went we offered to pray for the sick in obedience to this Word. God was faithful because people testified to powerful healings. We constantly taught on the kingdom of God, making invitations to people to receive the Lord, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be healed, to receive power from Him. People responded willingly, some being saved in every meeting, some receiving gifts of the Spirit for the first time including speaking in tongues, and many received the power of the Holy Spirit. It appeared that all the people and ministers we met, except for the leadership of the AOG, had not experienced the power of the Holy Spirit. We were privileged to minister to many pastors and leaders.

Ninety pastors and leaders gathered in Yangon for one and a half days for a seminar. Some had travelled up to 400 miles to be there. There were Baptists, Methodists, Independents, Catholic, and Pentecostal. One lady was introduced to me as having been healed of aids and now was pastoring a church. A young man was introduced as an evangelist who had just spent two years in jail for insulting Buddhism. A retired man and his wife told of travelling to a village fifty miles from the capital. When they arrived the demon power over the village tried to keep the villagers from these preachers, crying out through a villager, “Have nothing to do with these people! They come from a higher power!” As you can imagine, this actually backfired on the devil and the people were very interested in the people who came from a higher power. Sixty people are now saved in the village and this brother and his wife travel there regularly to preach and encourage the new church.

On the second day of our mission, a man who knew Howard's wife came to the house to ask if Howard would bring the foreign preachers to a Karen village where he had been witnessing. We agreed to go. Eleven of us set out in an eight-seater van. The village was a poor farming village and there was one believer there in a population of about 200. Two Christians had been visiting for a few weeks teaching the people to read and write in their own language (Karen), as they were illiterate. The head man of the village welcomed us. We were the first foreigners to visit ever. We were guests at a welcoming meal; we were given a tour of the village, with some asking us to bless their homes and families. We then gathered to preach to forty people. Eighteen, including the head man responded to receive Christ. What a wonderful day! The

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Christian workers will continue to regularly visit and seek to establish a church. After all this excitement we were expected to eat another huge meal - sometimes the instructions in verses 7-8 are hard to obey!

Luke 10:10-11: *“But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is near’.”*

We did not have such an experience as this. In many ways our trip was private and we went everywhere by invitation. We did not front up to a town without being welcomed and received into a home and into the church if one existed there. One particular church limited what God wanted to do in their midst, but even there He showed a way around the control that existed.

Conclusion

Many other wonderful things happened in only eight days. No wonder John says that all the books in the world would not be enough to tell of all the wonderful things Jesus said and did in His ministry (**John 21:25**).

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER,

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- John 14:12:** *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do also; because I go to the Father.”*
- 16:** *“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.”*
- 26:** *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*
- Acts 1:8:** *“but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and Samaria,” and even in Australia.*

WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT WE CAN DO NOTHING

In **John 15**, Jesus explains some principles of evangelism and Christian growth. The believer abides in Christ (in the anointed), and His word abides in us. We grow with a growth that comes from God (**1 Corinthians 3:7**). As we abide and grow, we will bear much fruit and the fruit will remain. We have already looked at the parable of the sower and the seed. The Holy Spirit gives us more instruction about sowing and reaping in **Isaiah 28:23-29; Verse 26:** *“His God instructs and teaches him properly”*.

The Holy Spirit directs

Paul was very conscious of the direction and intimate working of the Holy Spirit in evangelism. In **Acts 16**, Paul was directed to Macedonia through a vision (**verse 9-10**). The Holy Spirit (in **verse 6**) had forbidden Paul and his company from going into Asia. In **verse 14**, it was the Lord (compare with **2 Corinthians 3:17**) who opened Lydia's heart to the gospel, and thus the Gospel got a foothold in the city. A church began to meet in her house.

An example of the Holy Spirit leading (testimony from Paul Galligan)

At the end of 1987, I resigned from a church ministry I had been working in for seven and one half years. The Lord impressed on me that I was to remain a minister of the Gospel. The only ongoing duties I had was a part-time chaplaincy at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (now USQ). For three months I sought God and various offers were made to me to join different church ministries but the Lord said, “No!” Then I was invited to attend a pastors' conference in Brisbane. There I received a personal prophecy from a minister who knew nothing of my personal situation. The Lord told me to get moving again in ministry, the waiting time was over.

The following week I decided to lead a ten week healing seminar at my home based on John Wimber's book, Power Healing. I sent a number of invitations out and began to prepare the material. During that week a Christian friend from another church came to my home and left a cheque for one thousand dollars on the table, saying the Lord had sent him to do that. In the same week, my wife met another friend in the street who gave her an envelope with cash in, saying she and her husband wanted to support our ministry. In that week we received a month's income. The Lord confirmed that He

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was employing us. The seminar proceeded very successfully, with an average attendance of over twenty. Out of that seminar, a church began to meet in our home.

The Holy Spirit and Jesus

John 3:34 tells us that Jesus received the Holy Spirit without measure. Hence all the gifts and graces, effects and ministries of the Blessed Holy Spirit were at work in Jesus and freely expressed through His life and ministry.

Jesus taught God's word, He worked God's works.

Acts 10:38: *“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.”*

As **John** says in **Chapter 21 Verse 25**, *“all the books in the world could not contain all the things that Jesus said and did”*.

Let us look at His relationship with the woman from Samaria and the fruit it bore – John 4: 3-42

- Gifts of the Spirit in operation;
- Jesus' attitude and approach to the woman (v.8-10);
- What cultural and religious factors are assumed? .
- Attitude to women & detail the results of this encounter: in the woman's life; in the lives of others!
- What new understanding of God does Jesus share?
- What is the significance of water? Can you think of other references to water that are similar and help our understanding of water?
- What other incidents in the New Testament reflect the work of the Spirit and the use of His gifts in evangelism.
- Share personal experiences of God working with you in evangelism.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Remember, the Bible says to earnestly desire spiritual gifts (**1 Corinthians 12:31 & 14:1**). All that Jesus did was through the anointing and power of the Spirit (**Luke 4:18**).

Look at the effect of prophecy on Nathanael in **John 1:45-51**. The Holy Spirit had a dramatic effect on the newly converted Saul in **Acts 9:17-20**. Luke wrote his gospel account about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day He was taken up, after He had by (through) the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had *chosen* (**Acts 1:1-2**). God's word to us is spirit and life (**John 6:63**).

In Paul's teaching on the gifts of the Spirit in **1 Corinthians, 12-14**, he is clearly teaching that the gifts are given to edify the church, that is, to build up the church in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts also are given to attract the attention of the lost; they are signs that make people wonder and question: “How did you know that about me?” or “What power are you exercising for that impossibility to occur?” and such like.

Tongues are for a sign

“So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers” (**1 Corinthians 14:22**). Jesus affirms this in **Mark 16:17** and this sign was very powerfully used by God on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**).

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A personal experience of tongues as a sign

At the very first prayer meeting I attended as a non-Christian the Lord used this sign to arrest my attention. During the prayer meeting, which included chorus singing, an elderly gentleman prayed in the most beautiful Latin. I had a Roman Catholic background and the Catholic liturgy was all in Latin until I was fifteen. As well, I had studied the Latin language to first year university level. I recognised the language and thought it was the most beautiful rendition of the language I had ever heard.

Over afternoon tea I asked this gentleman if he was a Catholic. He seemed a little insulted and assured me he had been a Pentecostal all his life. I then asked where he had learnt Latin. He said he never had! I was intrigued! I then asked how come he prayed in Latin in the meeting. His turn to be intrigued! “Oh, that is my unknown tongue; I had no idea it was in Latin!”

Prophecy can lead to conversion

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 clearly teaches the power of prophecy to convict, to disclose the secrets of the heart and to lead to a worshipful relationship with God.

Words of knowledge and words of wisdom are powerful in evangelism. If within a counselling situation, you are able to share what the Lord has shown you for the other person, they will be amazed and deeply touched to realise God cares for them so much that He reveals things to other people to help them. Words of knowledge can be the revelation of a healing need in the person as well that God is going to heal. In this situation two gifts are given together to touch someone powerfully.

Gifts of healings

Jesus gave healing as one of the signs in *Mark 16* and certainly God has used this gift throughout the testimony of the church to bring people into the kingdom. The divine healing of a person's sickness or disease often leads to their conversion.

Miracles

Miracles are literally “works of power”, that is, God's supernatural power doing something extraordinary that attracts people's attention and prepares them to hear the gospel. The protection of believers (evangelists) from being harmed by poisonous drinks or by snake bites (two of the signs given by Jesus in *Mark 16*) may be examples of miraculous power.

Faith

The charismatic gift of faith refers to a special infusion of faith at a particular moment for a particular mighty work that the Lord requires. Maybe the raising of a dead person requires this gift to be given.

The Holy Spirit is Central

We are born of the Spirit; we live and walk in the Spirit.

There is no evangelism without the Holy Spirit.

He is the giver of gifts: of wisdom, of direction, of conviction,

Of new birth, of power, of being able to say Jesus is Lord.

**He is the One who searches hearts, who witnesses to truth,
who exposes falsity and deception, who leads to Jesus Christ.**

He is the anointing, He is the Lord, the giver of Life.

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

EVANGELISM AND THE POWER OF GOD.

WHAT METHODS OF EVANGELISM HAVE YOU BEEN TAUGHT?

Many of us, in being trained for witnessing and leading others to Christ, have been taught the “Four Spiritual Laws” or given other intellectually sound prescriptions to convince people to come to faith in Jesus Christ. So often the means of evangelism taught do not take into account the actual experience of those who have become Christians.

Even the very contemporary “seeker-sensitive” approach tends to draw more on sociological factors rather than spiritual and biblical models of evangelism.

Many associate evangelism as confrontational street preaching or forced door-knocking, two by two, for which they have not been equipped to heal and cast out demons as the ones Jesus sent out were. It is noteworthy that Jesus did not send His disciples house-to-house. This is a modern cultish practice.

How did Jesus evangelise?

(remember, to evangelise means: to get the message out)

When Peter was preaching to the Gentiles gathered together with Cornelius in *Acts 10*, he describes Jesus and His ministry, *verse 38*, “*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him*”. Earlier, on the day of Pentecost, Peter referred to Jesus in *Acts 2:22*, “*Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst*”.

Note the many references to supernatural phenomena, and there is no reference to mentally satisfying concepts. Note words such as : **anointed, Holy Spirit, power, healing, oppressed by the devil, God was with Him, miracles, signs, wonders.** Are these words meaningful to you? Have you experienced the reality of the anointing, the power of the Holy Spirit? Signs, wonders, miracles, healings, deliverance? Jesus gave to the church the threefold ministry (Lesson 2). This is the way of biblical evangelism!

How did Paul evangelise?

Paul was a great evangelist: he was sent by the Holy Spirit (*Acts 13:1-5*) to the regions beyond. He was the messenger of the Gospel; he was empowered by the Holy Spirit. In *Acts 17*, when Paul visited Athens, he spoke to the philosophers of the day on Mars hill. His preaching which is recorded reaches tremendous heights of intellectual conceptualisation, but there is no record of the power of the Holy Spirit bearing witness with signs and wonders. “*Some began to sneer*” (*verse 32*), but “*some men joined him and believed*” (*verse 34*). Paul went from Athens to Corinth. He had changed his approach by the time he came to Corinth.

In *1 Cor. 2:1-5*, Paul describes the way of evangelism that was very effective in Corinth.

Comments on these verses:

Verse 1: not with excellence of speech or of wisdom

Verse 2: Jesus Christ and Him crucified *cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16*

Verse 3: in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling;

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(sounds like many of us when it comes to witnessing! He may have been talking about the manifestations of God's power on him)

Verse 4: not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in DEMONSTRATION of the SPIRIT and of POWER;

Verse 5: THAT YOUR FAITH SHOULD NOT REST ON THE WISDOM OF MEN BUT IN THE POWER OF GOD.

This is one of the apostle Paul's definitions of evangelism. The emphasis is on the Holy Spirit and God's power. There were obviously powerful, life-changing manifestations of the Holy Spirit. That's how the people were saved. Paul is clear: *"faith rests in the power of God"* and confident that this is the right foundation.

Jesus' prescription for preaching the gospel, in **Mark 16**.

Verse 15: go, preach the gospel,

Verse 16: whoever believes (has faith) plus baptism

Verse 17: these signs will follow them: they will cast out demons, speak with new tongues,

Verse 18: lay hands on the sick

Verse 20: they went out everywhere preaching and the LORD WORKED WITH THEM, confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

What are the signs?

1. Signs of His presence **Mark 16:20, 2 Corinthians 3:17**
2. Tools for evangelism **Acts 19:11-15,20.**
3. Works of power **Acts 8:5-7,13.**
4. To convict of sin **1 Corinthians 14:24-25.**
5. Signs of a true apostle **Romans 15:19.**
6. The release of gifts and anointings **1 Corinthians 12:4-7.**

HOW DOES IT WORK?

A healing wins many to Christ.

In the healing of the lame man in **Acts 3:1- Acts 4:4**, we see a powerful illustration of the biblical method of evangelism through the power of God. Through the healing of a man from life-long lameness, 5,000 believed the message of the gospel!

Note some of the key aspects of this passage

Verses 6-7: a power encounter!

Verses 8-10: the effect on the people around;

Verse 11: all the people ran together to them

Verses 12-26: Peter declares the word of God

4:4: 5,000 believed. This happened because *"a notable miracle had taken place -*

all who dwelt in Jerusalem knew about it".

This power worked through the ministries of the first deacons

People were given responsibility in the early church on the basis that they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Therefore it followed that the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit were evident in their ministries.

On what basis do we promote people into positions of responsibility in the church?

Acts 6:3: men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

5: Stephen chosen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

8: Stephen's work ... *"performing great wonders and attesting miracles among*

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the people”

Stephen's martyrdom leads to the conversion of Saul/ Paul.

A city rejoiced when the Gospel came in power

Philip was one of those appointed in *Acts 6*. A while later we find him out of Jerusalem, down in Samaria, preaching the Gospel with great power.

Acts 8:8: there was great joy in that city. Why? *v.5* Philip preached Christ to them

6: they heard the message and saw the attesting miracles which he was performing.

7: What did they see? unclean spirits coming out of people; the paralysed and lame were healed!

9-13: the occult power in the city was overcome by the power of the gospel!

14-17: they received the Holy Spirit.

It works through obedience to the Spirit's leading

In *Acts 8:26-40* Philip is clearly led by the voice of the Holy Spirit.

It works through hearing God speak in prayer

Acts 9:10-19 Ananias, a man of prayer is used mightily of the Lord.

Note the ability to hear God in prayer: to receive very specific instructions!

Have you ever had such an experience? Maybe one or two may like to share now!

It works when people met God in power

Saul is slain by the Spirit: *Acts 9:3-9* Paul's experience of meeting the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit is one of the clearest accounts in the Scripture of what happens when a human being encounters the real presence of God. This power experience changed Paul forever. He often testifies of it. His faith rested on the power of God!

The Lord works in power to confirm His word

Acts 10:44-46 Jesus promised in *Mark 16:17-20* to confirm the preaching of His word; “*while Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message*”. They were speaking with new tongues and exalting God!

The power of God is released through prayer *Acts 12:4-11* the angel takes Peter out of jail; meanwhile “*many were gathered together and were praying*” (*verse 12*). It could be said that this prayer group had under-estimated the power of God released through Spirit-directed prayer.

The Spirit at work during preaching

Acts 16:14: “*and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.*”

The power of prayer and praise *Acts 16:25-34*: Paul and Silas in prison. The power of the Holy Spirit caused an earthquake: a sign and a wonder which led to the conversion of the jailer and his family.

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No progress for the gospel without the Holy Spirit Acts 19:1-7

Paul remained in Ephesus for at least two years (*Verse 10*) teaching and preaching, and the power of the Lord was with him, “*And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul*”.

Verse 10: “*all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.*”

Verse 11: What signs were there? The threefold ministry in operation.

Verse 19: Again the occult power in the city was broken!

Verse 20: “*So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.*” The testimony of the New Testament is clear: there is no real evangelism without the power of God.

THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM AND EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF EVANGELISM.

- Ephesians 4:11:** *“and He gave some as evangelists ...”*
 7: *“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.”*
 8: *“... and He gave gifts to men.”*
 12: *“for the equipping of the saints for the work of service [ministry]”, i.e., the work of evangelism to the building up of the body of Christ and **verses 13-16.***

The gift of evangelism is a major gift from Jesus Christ to His church. The five gift ministries in **Ephesians 4:11** are called by some the Ascension Gift Ministries.

Ephesians 4:7: gift, S.C.1431: dorea a gift, from 1325.

Ephesians 4:8: S.C. 1390: doma a present; translated : gift(1), gifts(3). From 1325: to give.

Like all of God's gifts, this gift is a grace gift, a present from God, that does not need batteries to make it work as it comes innately empowered by the Holy Spirit. However like all of God's gifts, the gift of evangelism can be relegated to the shelf and not be used.

USING THE GIFT

We have already quoted Peter's exhortation: “to speak as if it were the utterance of God”. We have examined the word with power.

What is the anointing?

In **1 John 2:20,27**, the apostle speaks of the anointing we have received from the Holy One. This is the Greek chrisma, S.C.5545, an anointing, an unction; from 5548, chrio, to anoint (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance).

We have this anointing from God, this chrisma.

2 Corinthians 1:21: *“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God.”*

According to **1 John**: this anointing teaches us all we need to know,
 the anointing never leaves us (*cf. Mat.28:20, Heb.13:5, Mk.16:20*),
 the anointing of the Holy Spirit abides in us and we abide in Him.

So it is with the gift of evangelism. There is an anointing to draw on through prayer, out of which God directs us and empowers us. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. God's power is endowed on us as an anointing of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, three special offices were entered through being anointed:

- ❖ kings **2 Samuel 12:7, 1 Kings 19:15;**
- ❖ high Priests **Exodus 29:7, Numbers 35:25, and other priests, Exodus 30:30;**
- ❖ prophets **1 Kings 19:16, Isaiah 61:1.**

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- To anoint an individual or an object indicated an authorised separation for God's service (*1Chronicles 29:22*).
- The anointed ones are spoken of as those whom the Lord anointed (*1Samuel 10:1, 2 Samuel 12:6*).
- God is the authorising agent and the anointed one is not to be violated (*1Samuel 24:10*).
- The anointed one is to be held in high regard (*1 Samuel 26:9*).
- A divine enablement accompanied the anointing (*1 Samuel 10:6, 1 Samuel 16:13*).
- The anointed one in the Old Testament is associated with the coming promised deliverer, Jesus. The Hebrew word for the anointed is mashiah, the meshiah. Jesus is the Christ (anointed), the Meshiah, who is prophet (*Deuteronomy 18:18*), priest (*Psalms 110:4 & Hebrews 3:1*) and king (*Psalms 2:6 and Matthew 21:5*).

[For much of this material, see Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol.1, eds. R. Harris, G. Archer & B. Waltke. Moody Press: Chicago, 1980, pps. 530-531]

To be anointed is to be Spirit-endowed, to bring spiritual victory over the enemy and deliverance to God's people. To be anointed is to enjoy a special relationship with God. It is the extension of the saving grace and delivering power of the Lord Jesus Christ in the life and ministry of the believer. Anointing is associated with oil in both Testaments and with ointment in the New Testament. In *Luke 7:38*, Jesus' feet were anointed with perfume. The disciples anointed people with oil for healing (*Mark 6:13*) and in *James 5:14*, the elders of the church are to do likewise.

The anointing can be passed on from one believer to another, usually by the laying on of hands, but sometimes when the anointing of the Holy Spirit is strongly manifest in a believer's life, others are affected just by being near that person. The anointing is the manifest presence of the Lord, as in *2 Corinthians 3:17-18* and in *1 Corinthians 2:4*.

A Testimony [by Paul Galligan]

Once, my wife and I visited a relative and his family. One of their young sons had been sick with chronic tonsillitis. The doctor kept prescribing anti-biotics but the boy got no better. Our visit was for an hour or so. All the time we were there, the Holy Spirit kept telling me to pray for this boy. I was uncomfortable with this so I prolonged our visit. This family were not born again believers. Finally in much trepidation, I asked if I could pray for the boy. Yes, his father readily agreed. I placed my hand on him in his father's arms and asked for healing. Then we left. My wife's first comment to me was, "I am sure glad you prayed; the Holy Spirit kept saying to me, Paul has to pray for the boy". We heard subsequently that he had been healed.

The gift of evangelism

You believe God has given to you the gift of evangelism! How do you know? Well you just want to reach people with the gospel. You are, or have been, motivated to share the gospel, and when you have stepped out to do this, you have experienced God with you. God is in your witness: *Acts 1:8, Isaiah 43:10-12*.

How do we get an increase or a greater release of this gift?

Through practice: *Hebrews 5:14*;

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Through prayer: *Isaiah 40:28-31*; those who wait for the Lord, who bind themselves to the Lord like Jacob wrestling with the Angel (*Genesis 32:24-32*); who exchange their strength for His.

Through obedience and commitment: those who have crucified the flesh with its evil passions and desires and live by the Spirit. (*Galations 5:24-25*);

Through being joined in a team and working with others, praying and fasting together;

By receiving an increase of the anointing from God. God is pouring out His Spirit in a new and powerful way in these days.

THE ROLE OF THE EVANGELIST IN THE CHURCH

Every church needs one. Not only is the ministry of evangelism the taking of the message of the gospel to the “ends of the earth”, but it is also enthusing the local church to do the same. Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry: encouraging the gift in others and providing the means through which many can do the work of evangelism. Timothy probably was not an evangelist by gifting but Paul exhorts him to do the work of an evangelist (*2 Timothy 4:5*). We will examine more thoroughly this work later.

In our churches we need the gift(s) of evangelism. We need to recognise the gift and release the operation of this gift in people. Room must be made for the gift to work. Referring to an earlier lesson, resources and church activities must be devoted to evangelism. While the gift will always find expression through those members who have the gift and people will be won to the Lord, when a church actively promotes the gift there should be significant fruit.

George Whitefield

Earlier, we briefly profiled two evangelists of recent times, Billy Graham and Clark Taylor. The Wesleyan movement in England in the 18th century was very evangelistic, led by powerful preachers and accompanied with notable signs and wonders. John Wesley was probably an apostle, performing a mighty work of church planting, establishing a type of home church all over England. One of Wesley's contemporaries, George Whitefield, found himself working in opposition to Wesley, and a largish congregation grew up around Whitefield in London. However, Whitefield was an evangelist, not a church-builder. In a few short years, he more than any other, set England and the American colonies alight with his preaching of Christ and the new birth. After some years of tussling with his calling, Whitefield realised his calling and gifting as an evangelist. He asked to be relieved of his pastoral responsibilities at the church that had formed around him and offered his services to the Wesleys, to preach for them: to do the work of an evangelist, which was where his heart really lay.

(further anecdotes from the life of Whitefield- source:

“George Whitefield” a two-volume biography by Arnold Dallimore; an excellent book.)

EVANGELISTS IN THE SCRIPTURES

Paul In the scriptures, Paul was an apostle; but Paul seems to have had all the 'ascension' gifts working through him. He was certainly a great evangelist (*Romans 15:15-21*).

Philip in *Acts 8* was an evangelist (*Acts 21:8*). *Verse 5: “And Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ. (verse 6) And the multitudes with one*

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accord were giving attention to what Philip said, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing."

Philip was sent to proclaim the message: **Verse 26:** an angel redirects him, sending him to another place to contact another person. **Verse 40:** "... and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities ..."

We are exhorted to do the work of an evangelist (**2 Timothy 4:5**), and need to be equipped for that work. This includes being trained to lead others to Christ.

The gifts restored

The principle of restoration is clearly enunciated in **Acts 3:19-21**. God is restoring His church, as He promised through the mouth of His holy prophets. He is restoring gifts and ministries, amongst other things. He has promised that the latter glory of this house will be greater than the former (**Haggai 2:9**). God is releasing gifts of evangelism, along with all His other gifts in these days so that the building of His glorious house, the last days church, can proceed.

DOING THE WORK OF THE EVANGELIST

Paul exhorted Timothy to do the work of the evangelist (**2 Timothy 4:5**). Jesus said we would all be His witnesses after we had received the power of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**). Peter asserts that we all ought to be able to give a good account for the hope that lies within us. (**1 Peter 3:15**) Jude tells us to save others, snatching them out of the fire. (**Jude 23**) And he who wins souls is wise (**Proverbs 11:30**).

Must we have a gift of evangelism to win souls? Whose responsibility is it to be His witnesses? We are undoubtedly all His witnesses. Not all have the gift of evangelism (**1 Corinthians 12:28-31**). Maybe we can desire it and ask for its release. We all need to be able to share our faith. Let us apply this to our own lives and to our churches.

Doing the work of an evangelist

- i. telling others about Christ:
Romans 10:8: the word of God is near you, in your mouth and in your heart that is, the word of faith which we are preaching; and understanding how they are saved (**Romans 10:9-11**).
- ii. Meeting and associating with unsaved people; do not restrict your people contacts to church folk. Go out of your way to associate with unsaved, at work, in sporting pursuits, socially. Jesus had a reputation for mixing with sinners.
- iii. through prayer, seek God's direction and leading: I being in the way (of obedience) God led me (**Genesis 24:27 AV**).
- iv. understanding scripture: the great commission, the vision of the harvest (**John 4:34-38**), unfulfilled prophecy;
- v. strategies: household evangelism- family relationships; home-based social relations, invite people over; focused activities such as coffee shop outreach, seeker service, door-knocking etc.;
- vi. praying, believing, agreeing.
- vii. preaching the good news: **Romans 10:13-17**. People need to hear; God wants us to tell; faith comes by hearing.

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Sowing the seed

Matthew 13:1-23: The parable of the sower and the seed. This parable explains much about evangelism.

Sharing what God has done for you

Mark 5:19: Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done.

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"Walking in Our Inheritance" a book by Paul Galligan

