

The Journey Part III

Personal evangelism

Over the next few weeks will be continuing “The Journey” we will be discussing the following topics: personal evangelism, community evangelism, and worldwide evangelism.

This week we will be sharing on Personal Evangelism.

What is personal evangelism? And who are the people we must reach out to when doing personal evangelism? These are the people in your circle of influence.

Your circle of influence is those people you see every day or know on a personal base. Like co-workers, family, friends.

These are the people you will have the most trouble with witnessing to because that see you on a regular bases and see not only what you say but what you do. When you're stressed how you react, when you mad about something what you do. How to treat others around you, do you give and show respect. Are you a person they can confide in? These are all things that you have to be conches of.

When Christ stated his ministry people in his town could not believe he was the messiah because they had seen him on a daily bases, he grow up playing in the neighborhood with the other kids. He helped his father in his wood shop. They had seen Him grow from a child to the man he was. How could this be the messiah?

Matthew 13: 54-58 (KJV)

54. And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? **55.** Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? **56.** And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? **57.** And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. **58.** And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Matthew 13:54-58 (Message)

54 returned to his hometown, and gave a lecture in the meetinghouse. He made a real hit, impressing everyone. "We had no idea he was this good!" they said. "How did he get so wise, get such ability?" **55** But in the next breath they were cutting him down: "We've known him since he was a kid; he's the carpenter's son. We know his mother, Mary. We know his brothers James and Joseph, Simon and Judas. **56** All his sisters live here. Who does he think he is?" **57** They got their noses all out of joint. **58** But Jesus said, "A prophet is taken for granted in his hometown and his family." He didn't do many miracles there because of their hostile indifference.

There are many ways to go about evangelizing and I have used most of them.

Evangelism Explosion

Soul Witnessing Made Easy

Workplace Evangelism

Along with many other approaches and methods for witnessing.

We have to remember we are here to be a witness to what God has done in our lives. In doing this others can see Christ in you.

The greatest thing I have learned over the years is that it is not what I tell people about Christ but how I live for Christ. I like what Francis of Assisi stated "Preach the Gospel, but use little words"

When evangelizing the Holy Spirit gives us opportunity to share that Gospel with others. It may be by giving a kind word to someone, to lend a hand to someone, just having a smile on your face for others to see and then there may be times say "I will pray for you".

Over the past few years we have shared Jesus with our neighbors without saying a word. God had given me things to do and give to our neighbors that have made an impact on our neighborhood.

When doing holiday seasons we would leave items at our neighbor's door with a touch card. First it was a glass cross with gold tipped ends in a box made from old Christmas cards. On the touch card it stated "God's Perfect Gift His Son" over the following years we have done other things. But the results of it was that people in our neighborhood started come to us asking us to pray for them or one of their relatives, all without saying a word.

What better way of spreading the Gospel without saying a word. In this they have seen the light of Jesus in and through us.

Doing random acts of kindness is another way of sharing the Gospel. People will see Jesus in you.

Sam a friend of ours shared the Gospel by bringing bread and other food items to his work and putting it in the kitchen and told everyone to take what they needed for FREE. This opened the door for him to share Jesus with his co-workers. Through this there came a time when a hurricane came through Florida and they came to Sam and said when we were in need you helped us and now we want to do something for others and they gave.

I came across this article online and I want to share it with you. I think it speaks to all of us about how we can share the Gospel and do it in a way that is not offensive but yet caring. I just want to read the starting intro to Workplace Evangelism: Fishing out seekers.

Workplace Evangelism: Fishing out seekers

Evangelism gives me joy! But I recall how I used to struggle to start a conversation. By the time I had planned my approach, my little sermon and my plea for a decision, I was so uptight that my surprised victim became embarrassed, too. But in a couple of weeks I would try again because a few of my victims did find God. Very few.

My problem—I was a hunter. A hunter with a reaping mentality. But I became free to enjoy evangelism when I shifted from hunting to fishing. Most Christians dislike hunting, so they rarely evangelize. I rewrote these pages after reading in two publications that even most Christian workers do not evangelize! They do other ministries. It confirmed my own observation. Most do not share their faith—because they do not know how!

A major hurdle is initiating conversations. We feel uncomfortable invading the privacy of unsuspecting targets and surprising them with unwanted religious information. So if hunting is the only approach we know, we will not do it often.

But fishing evangelism is different. It is selective. It draws out the seekers from a mixed group of people and focuses on them instead of giving the gospel to non-believers indiscriminately. Seekers are people who have become hungry for God through their own deep need and through observing the character and conduct of Christians and hearing their casual references to God. Seekers nibble at this bait. They ask questions. So you begin your evangelistic conversations by answering the questions of people who want to know about God!

Fishing is ideal for Christians who see the same non-believers daily—in the workplace or on campus. It is ideal for tentmakers who witness discreetly as they support themselves in hostile countries, and for all of us who try to win our own compatriots and the internationals around us.

By Ruth E. Siemens

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Whatever method you use to spread the Gospel, keep in mind that actions speak louder than words. People see your life and through that they determine if they want what you have. Through your testimony they hear what God has done for you and through you. People are seeking to fill a void in their life and through our life and testimony they can find the one Jesus Christ who can fill that void for them as he has done for us.