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## Evangelism Update 09-07-08

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### Note from Jim:



Check out this video: [No One Can Come To Jesus Christ, Unless...](#)

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### Scripture of the Week:

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

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### Quote of the Week:

"Jesus is the God whom we can approach without pride and before whom we can humble ourselves without despair." (Blaise Pascal)

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### Recommended Resource:



The Ambassador's Alliance is now inviting you to join their online fellowship site. Previously, this site was only available to those who had attended an Ambassador's Academy, but it's now open to the rest of the Body of Christ. This fellowship site is a safe, Christian alternative to MySpace where you can ask questions of other believers, swap witnessing tips, post stories, share videos, and otherwise be encouraged on a regular basis. It looks like a great place to meet other Christians in your area as well.

[Click here](#) to register.

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If Noah's Ark really looked like that, there wouldn't be anybody alive today to make those silly arks because no one would have survived the flood.

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### Questions & Objections:

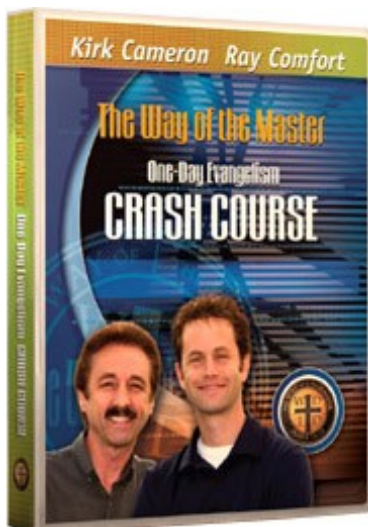
This Q&A comes from [The Evidence Bible](#).

**Q.** Why is Christianity better than other religions?

**A.** In all major religions, the followers strive to rid themselves of sin through various practices. They may pray in a prescribed way, do various good works, deny themselves legitimate sexual pleasure, follow dietary restrictions, lie on beds of nails, etc. The uniqueness of Jesus is shown in his statement, "The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." No other religious leader has ever made this claim. Jesus Christ alone can wash away every sin anyone has ever committed, because of what he did on the cross. By paying the penalty for our sin, he can release us from the torture of guilt. We cannot do anything in the way of religious works to wash away our sins. Forgiveness is a free gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

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### One-Day Way of the Master Training:



We would be glad to host a Way of the Master evangelism training for your church or small group. This one-day seminar is a proven, effective way to help people overcome their fear of witnessing and show them how to reach out to the lost. We will quickly equip those who attend to simply and effectively share their faith with family, friends, and strangers. What makes our training unique is when the classroom training is over, you have the option to hit the streets and immediately start to use the new tools you have just learned. The seminar consists of the following activities:

- Three powerful interactive messages that will equip the attendees in how to share the gospel effectively and biblically with anyone, anytime, anywhere.
- Quick Tips on how to have fun sharing your faith while overcoming your fears.
- Quick Tips on how to effectively witness one-2-one using the Way of the Master.
- Hands-on, in-the-trenches training with proven leaders.

The One-Day Way of the Master Training is **FREE** for the host and to all who attend.

\*\* The Way of the Master has been commended by Franklin Graham, Dr. D. James Kennedy, David Wilkerson, Bill Gothard, John MacArthur, Ravi Zacharias, David Jeremiah, Joni Eareckson Tada, Josh McDowell, and many other Christian leaders.

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### Weekly "Fishing" Report:

Saturday was primarily a tract sweep day. We made our usual circuit of 6th Street and Riverside Park and between [comic tracts](#) and [What If?](#) cards, we gave out 400+ tracts.

The Asian Cultural Arts Festival was being held at the park. A small band was playing some music as I passed through giving [comic tracts](#) to the merchants working the booths and the people sitting in chairs around the stage. Meanwhile, Dave busied himself showing the [Curved Illusion](#) cards to some folks standing in the back. A blond woman wearing a barely-there belly dancing outfit got up and began to shimmy and sway to the music, drawing attention to herself. It was interesting to note with Dave and Darrin afterwards that she was sitting in a chair in the front row with the music already playing, it wasn't until I'd begun to give out the gospel tracts that she got up and started to dance. Coincidence? I think not. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood..." (Ephesians 6:12)"

We got some nice encouragement as we made our way out of the park. Earlier, I'd given a tract to a man sitting over by the river. As we passed by this second time, he stood up and introduced himself as Neal. He was glad to see us out doing the work and asked what church we go to. When we told him, he said he knew the pastor there fairly well and had good things to say. We spent a few more minutes in fellowship, then thanked him for the encouragement and headed back downtown.

We had a totally different encounter on 6th Street. Let me preface this by saying at one point Dave told us he was feeling good and was looking for a one to one. (Be careful what you ask for.) A few minutes after this, I saw a guy bobbing and rapping loudly as he headed toward us. I gave him a tract as he passed and he literally stopped short, spun on his heel and asked me what it was. I told him it had a gospel message on it. I asked his name, he answered Daniel and that was about the last I got to say. He started talking and just wouldn't stop. It was like a rapid-fire talking cartoon character or something. He talked about churches, the gospel, evangelism and then a muddle that sounded like universalism and conspiracy theories. The whole time he kept shivering like someone standing in the cold, so we suspect he was high on something.

After several long minutes, I tried to break it off by telling Daniel that my friends were down the street waiting for me and we had to go. He said he'd come with us ... that he really didn't have any friends and he wanted to evangelize. My phone rang about that time, so I excused myself to take the call. I thought maybe this would give us a break and he'd lose interest or leave but he just latched onto Dave and kept talking. After the call, we headed back to the park. Dave tried to get a hold of the conversation with Daniel but couldn't get more than two or three words in when Daniel took a breath. Dave tried to clarify points on the gospel, sin or repentance but Daniel kept going. Dave tried to swing into [The Good Person Test](#), but Daniel would avoid it and go off on a tangent. It was wild. Daniel knew scripture. He quoted more from the Bible than most anyone we've met on the streets, but there was something odd about how did it. It reminded me of how Satan used scripture to tempt Jesus. He also got louder and more animated as we went along. It was like he was open air preaching in in that same odd way as we crossed the 6th Street bridge. Darrin said he was like the woman with the spirit of divination in the book of Acts that followed Paul and Silas proclaiming "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." I was growing concerned that his scriptural ranting was really going to hinder us and send mixed signals to people that took tracts or passed us. As we walked, I was praying and asking for God to intervene or send him away. Finally, when we headed into the park, Daniel decided to leave. At least he still had the tract and a Gospel of John I'd been able to give him at the start of things. Let's pray he reads one or both of them when he comes down and is in a right mind. Anyways, the encounter was yet another good reminder of the battle we're in and the forces that stand against the gospel. As I referred to with the belly dancer above...

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)*

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I was going to put this in the next newsletter, but since it happened prior to getting this one sent out I thought I'd include it here.

R.C. - the youth pastor at our new church - invited our team to do the gospel presentation at the youth's big end of summer event on Tuesday night. He wanted to do something that would really grab the kids' attention and as he put it (1) show them what we do (2) encourage the Christian youth to share their faith and (3) make sure the unsaved kids that were there heard the gospel. After talking it over with him, he gave us the go ahead to basically do an open air right in the middle of things (without letting the youth know what would be going on).

Things started with the kids hanging out, playing games, grabbing snacks and generally socializing. Then Ryan lead us all in some worship songs. They got a short period of free time after that so we could create an impromptu "open air" atmosphere. At a good time I went out into the middle of the yard, got up on a stool and began to draw a crowd. They were going to wrap up the evening with a "silly string" war, so I was asking trivia questions and right answers got them caps with which they could later claim cans for that. It got their attention and we had all of them gathered in a short time (though the pictures don't show it very well there was a good crowd).

I treated it just like a regular open air, and after the crowd was gathered I shifted over to preaching. Dave, Darrin and a couple of others were in the crowd to offer some heckling. We wanted the youth to see how some questions or objections are handled, but weren't sure if they would really heckle on their own since their youth pastor was right there. The guys threw some of the basics at me: "There's no proof God even exists!" "How do you know the Bible is true?" "Who are you to push your religion on me?" "You can't call people sinners! - Judge not lest ye be judged!" One of the kids (Nick ... in the pic below with both hands raised) came forward for [The Good Person Test](#) and it swung into the straight line gospel preaching sin, judgment, repentance and grace.



Afterwards, I stepped off the stool and spent a few minutes challenging the Christians there to share their faith. I used Mark Cahill's line by asking (1) Do you really believe? (2) If so, do you care? (3) Do you care enough to do something about it? Each of them got a sample bag of tracts we'd put together. There were seven different tracts and I challenged them to give out one each day over the next week. My card was also in the bags so they had our website for more resources.

It was quiet and somber when I finished. The message had gone out, the exhortation had been given. Now it was in God's hands. Apparently, he chose to use it. My daughter (Willow) confirmed the conviction I thought I'd seen on Nick's face as we went through things. As the silly string war raged around us, two different guys came to say they wanted join us street fishing this Saturday. One is familiar with Way of the Master but hasn't yet put legs to it on the streets. The other had never seen anything like this before and was really excited. He'd grabbed Dave and asked "Is this a show? Do you do this for real? I have got to come out with you guys!" One of the kids stopped me to ask for some extra bags of tracts so he could give them out at school. Finally, a youth leader we tapped as a rent-a-heckler for the OA wanted to let me know he's been reading the Way of the Master book I'd given him last week. God is good!

[Click here](#) to check out the MP3 audio.

Pray for the seed that was sown. May Jesus receive the glory he is due.

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**Prayer Points:**

- Pray for the salvation of Hindus this week.
  - "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38, ESV)
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#### Calendar:

- **Downtown Fishing Hole** (Recurring)  
*Saturdays*  
Street witnessing (3pm to 6pm) downtown along 6th Street. Meet in the Budget Internet parking lot (4th St & F St).

If you would like to join us, [email us](#) your contact info.

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'til the nets are full...

