

Evangelism Update 06-04-06

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Note from Jim:

Registration deadline for our first mini-EBC is June 30th.

Click below for details.



Scripture of the Week:

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12, NASB)

Quote of the Week:

"I preach to my congregation week after week. And I pray that I may be able to preach with such convicting power that my people will sweat! I do not want them to leave my services feeling good. The last thing I want to do is to give them some kind of religious tranquilizer -- and let them go to hell in their relaxation." (A.W. Tozer)

Evangelism Resource:

[Evangelism Booklet](#)

Print it off and keep it in your Bible for reference.

Questions & Objections:

Q. What do you say to someone who insists on "lifestyle evangelism" and merely living our lives before others

so they might "see Jesus in us"?

A. I heard an excellent true story that cuts to the core of this excuse.

A mechanic ended up coming to Christ and being born again. When he returned to the auto shop on Monday he was excited to share his new found faith with the other men he worked with. One friend caught him at break and said, "This is great! I'm a Christian too." The man gave this friend a puzzled look and said, "Really? I have to tell you, you were my biggest stumbling block." His friend was taken aback and asked what he meant. The man then told him, "I've been watching you for a while and how you live a good life. I figured I could do it on my own too, so for a long time I struggled with my sin. I'd fighting against it, only to lose the battle over and over again. I kept from coming to the cross and Christ all that time, because it looked like you didn't need Him."

Our lifestyle should support our message, but not replace it. Without any words, how clearly can we expect our actions to speak?

*How can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?
(Romans 10:14, NLT)*

Weekly "Fishing" Update:

Some of you may remember my post two weeks ago from my last DMV open air with the Jehovah's Witness in line. Apparently I'm working my way through the religions and cults. This time I had a Jew in line, complete with long beard and skull cap. (Mind you, for a small city of 25,000 that's unusual.)

He tried to object and heckle me over keeping the 4th commandment. I simply acknowledged that breaking even one commandment leaves us guilty of breaking them all. I told him I was guilty of breaking them all in spirit if not in letter and that seemed to quiet him. I don't have alot of time between when a line starts to form and the doors open (maybe 7 to 8 minutes), so I can't banter with hecklers. I try to respond to them as I can and keep moving (some I just have to ignore). Another man objected to me being there with a "captive audience". I pointed out the contact info I had for the city attorney and Officer Blaich verifying it was public property. He wasn't happy, but he backed off. The doors opened and they started walking in as I was finishing the "selling your eyes" analogy. I didn't get to pass out tracts, but the seed was sown.

The main difference I wanted to point out is, following up on last week's Fishing Report I really just sought to lean on God for the open air today. I told Him I wanted it to be His Spirit, His truth and His heart that was shared. After listening to the audio, I noticed my tone was a little different than it sometimes is. It was softer, more conversational and pleading. As I spoke, one woman really listened. The jewish man also kept eye contact with me and paid attention after I responded to his initial heckling.

Praise God for including us in the foolishness of preaching.

I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

Randy and Terri were caught in a family emergency and Greg was still out with a bad cold, so I was running solo for street fishing yesterday. After the lesson from last week, I decided to lean on the Lord and what He had in store. After a simple and honest prayer, I headed out. I felt drawn to just kind of plant camp at Riverside Park, and that's what I did. I preached the gospel open air at two different locations. I'd do a little trivia challenge, giving away small stuffed animals and some CDs as people gathered. Then I'd use the tombstone I had with me to springboard into the topic of death and why we die, which lead into the full count of the gospel: sin, righteousness, judgment and grace.

After the first open air, I learned that a couple in the crowd was from out of town. Apparently, they'd just stopped off for a break at the park. They were interested in what I was doing there and asked for my website info. Along with the [Million Dollar Bill](#) tracts I'd given out after the open air, I gave them a [Hell's Best Kept Secret](#) CD with my

website address on it.

After the second open air, I got to talk with a woman that had sat and listened the whole time. I broke the ice with a [Million Dollar Bill](#) and learned her name is Suzie. She was diagnosed with liver cancer three years ago and had been given three to five years to live. She said that she agreed with everything I'd shared. I asked if she was sure about where she'd spend eternity and she said yes, she was at peace with that. I also asked if she was born again and she said yes. I gave her a [How To Live Forever Without Being Religious](#) book (which contains the Gospel of John, commentary from the [Evidence Bible](#), and [Save Yourself Some Pain](#)). I was about to ask if I could pray with her when her phone rang with a call she'd been waiting for. Please pray for Suzie.

I had a couple of one-2-ones as well. One was with a couple of homeless guys (Tim & Shawn) that were unfortunately too under the influence to cover much ground. I left them and several of their friends with [Million Dollar Bills](#). The other one-2-one was with William, a gentleman that had been reading his Bible. He had a number of packs on his bike that he said he rode from city to city on a pilgrimage as he preached the gospel. We got to talking and I started to share the WDJJ witnessing steps with him from [The Way of the Master](#). The more we talked about the mirror of the Ten Commandments and how the Law is a schoolmaster to lead us to Christ (Galatians 3:24), the more unusual he began to act. When I asked him why he thought Jesus died on the cross, he flatly said it was because men killed him. I pressed him on it, and he said Christ was the Son of God, but not God. He came up with other weird ideas that his Ten Commandments and mine weren't the same (claiming Jesus changed them with his references in Matt 19 and Mark 10). He also said we believed in a different Jesus. He got really paranoid. I was trying to bring it back to the cross and his conscience, pleading with him that if he believed in a different Jesus than what's revealed in the Bible the very matter of salvation is at stake. He got agitated in a manner that obviously revealed either a degree of madness or something demonic beneath the surface. I prayed for him as he stormed off, sensing the Holy Spirit reminding me that Satan could quote scripture and even the demons believe in Jesus. Pray for William.

I've posted the MP3s from the two open airs at our website. Click here to go to the [audios page](#) and then select **Open Air Preaching Audios**.

Prayer Points:

- Greg has been unable to shake off a nagging cough/cold for about two weeks now. Please pray for recovery and relief.
 - Randy just informed me that his sister-in-law has had a relapse in her cancer and is given months to live. Please lift her and the family up in prayer.
 - Please continue to pray for our Lord's blessing over the Southern Oregon Seed Sowing mini-EBC we'll be holding in July.
 - "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38, NASB)
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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).
- **DMV O/A** (Recurring)
Wednesdays
Open Air preaching at 8:45am to the people waiting for the DMV doors to open.
- **[Seed Sowing at the Rooster Crow](#)**
Rogue River, OR / June 25
The city of Rogue River fills with people for this annual event.
- **Church in the Park**
Grants Pass, OR / July 2

- **[Mini-EBC - Southern Oregon Seed Sowing](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / July 21-23

Our first mini Evangelism Boot Camp. We'll be taking the Gospel to the Jackson County Fair, Ashland, and the streets of Grants Pass.

Registration Deadline: June 30th.

- **[Seed Sowing at Back to the 50's Summer Celebration](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / July 28-29

Last year there were hundreds, if not thousands, of people along 6th St for the Friday night parade. Saturday downtown and at the park should be good "fishing" too.

- **[Seed Sowing at Josephine County Fair](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / August 19

We gave out 800 tracts along with doing one-2-ones within just three or four hours last year.

- **[Seed Sowing at Asian Cultural Festival](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / September 9

We'll hit the park and "fish" amongst the people this will draw on Saturday. We may even get to witness to Buddhists.

- **[Seed Sowing at Art Along the Rogue](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / October 7

Last year I was able to open air preach to about 300-400 people. Big time fishing opportunity right there are 6th & H St.

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

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May Jesus receive the glory He is due!

'til the nets are full...

Jim Jones

"Sin and hell are married unless repentance proclaims the divorce." - Charles Spurgeon

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