

Evangelism Update 06-18-06

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Note from Jim:

Click below to watch a really cool and entertaining video.

[Evangelism Linebacker](#)

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

Click below for details.



Scripture of the Week:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death." (John 8:51, NASB)

Quote of the Week:

"There is a temptation, when sharing the Gospel with someone, to make it more palatable, easier to receive. But if we reduce the Gospel message to what is 'acceptable' to the hearer we do not do them any service. Although the wisdom of Mary Poppins may be that 'a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down,' sugar-coating the Gospel only produces sickly Christians with a sweet-tooth for God's blessings." (David Collins, President of the Online Bible College)

Evangelism Resource:

I wanted to share something with you that was recently posted by Darrel Rundus, founder of the [Great News Network](#).

Rules of Evangelism

1. Pray, pray and pray some more. He who prays and doesn't witness is a hypocrite, but he who witnesses and doesn't pray is a lunatic. The battle is won in the prayer room. Witnessing is about being obedient and going out to reap the spoils of your prayers. **John 17:20, Acts 2:42, Romans 8:26, Romans 8:10, 2nd Corinthians 13:9, Ephesians 6:18-19 & Philippians 4:19 just to name a few.**

2. The power is in the seed, not the sower. You can always count the seeds in an apple but you can never count the apples in a seed. Everyone you share the gospel with, you lead to the Lord and they all make a decision. All you have to do is be a faithful farmer and sow the seeds of the gospel. God will do the rest. **1st Corinthians 3:6-8, Revelation 14:15**

3. Don't tell God how big your fear is tell your fear how big God is! God doesn't give us a spirit of fear but of love, power and sound mind. Fear comes from the enemy but God uses it so we will lean on Him and not on ourselves, others or even worse, the world. Remember the antidote to your fear is love, for perfect love casts out all fear. **2nd Timothy 1:7, 1st John 4:18, & 1st Corinthians 2:2-5**

4. Submit to the Lord, resist the devil and he will flee from you. If you will obey the great commission, fight through your fears and sow the seed of the gospel, amazing things will start to happen in your relationship with Him. From the first or second word out of your mouth the fear will flee and you'll find yourself supernaturally supercharged by the power of the Holy Spirit. You may go out dragging your feet but you will come back clicking your heels! **James 4:7, 1st Peter 2:17 & Psalms 126:5-6**

5. Never get mad at the blind man! If you were sitting at a bus stop and a blind man came by and tripped over you, would you say, "You stupid blind man, watch where you're going!" Of course, you wouldn't say that. Most likely you'd say, "Oh I'm so sorry, are you OK?" "Let me help you up." Remember those people we witness to are blind and cannot discern the things of the spirit because they are blind to them. Be patient kind, loving and gentle as you instruct and reprove them. **1st Corinthians 2:14, 1st Peter 3:15, 2nd Timothy 4:2 & 2nd Corinthians 4:4**

6. Law to the Proud and grace to the Humble. Remember, God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. So ask questions in order to ascertain if the person is proud or humble. Don't just assume they are proud and hammer them with the Law when they may be humble, at the end of their rope and looking for hope. They made need the healer and not the hammer, but the only way you'll know is to ask questions and evaluate their answers. Remember, the Law is good if used lawfully. **Psalms 19:7, Proverbs 3:34, John 8:7, Luke 18:18-20, Luke 10:25-29, James 4:6, 1st Peter 5:5, Galatians 3:24, 1st Timothy 1:8**

7. Always keep one eye on the cross. No matter what they say to get you off track, also remember the destination is the cross and God's grace. It's God's kindness that leads us to repentance. When you take off for a flight the pilot files a flight plan. During the course of the flight they might make several adjustments but they never lose sight of the destination. So it is when we witness. Always keep your eyes and mind on the destination, not the distraction. **1st Corinthians 1:17-18, Romans 2:4, Romans 8:2 & Colossians 1:20**

8. Love for the Lord and Love for the Lost. Our motive for witnessing can never be any more or less than love. We must always be focused on our love for the One who loved us so much He laid His precious and perfect life down for us. Remember, perfect love casts out all fear. **John 14:15, John 14:21, 1st Peter 1:22, 1st John 2:5, 1st John 5:3**

9. To be a "Complete Christian" and to have a full understanding of all good things you have in Christ, you must actively share your faith. The act of the one (sowing seeds), will enhance all the others (reading the word, prayer, compassion, fellowship, etc.). If you want to be successful, you have to copy a successful example. So, it stands to reason if you want to see God work in your life the way He did in the Prophets, John the Baptist, and the Apostles lives, you have to do what they did and take a stand for God. **Daniel 12:3, Proverb 11:30, Matthew 6:33, Acts 1:8 & Philemon 1:6**

10. You must remain humble in your walk, but bold in your witness. If Satan can't stop you from sharing your faith he will try to make you proud that you're doing it. The number one thing evangelists struggle with is pride. Do not fall prey to your pride, but rest and trust in the Lord and let the Holy Spirit do the work. **Psalms 25:9, Proverb 3:34, Acts 28:31, Matthew 5:16, Matthew 23:12, Luke 10:19-20, Ephesians 4:2, James 4:10 & 2nd Corinthians 4:5**

11. Remember your place in the body. Evangelists are the feet of the body of Christ and while the body can survive without the feet, the feet can't survive without the body. Always stay plugged into your church and maintain fellowship with other Christians. If you aren't there to encourage and to equip the other saints to share their faith, than who will train them up? Remember it's the sheep dog's job to chase the sheep into the pen, but the Shepard's job to tend to the sheep. Never forget, you're no better of a Christian than someone who doesn't share their faith. Our most righteous deeds are but filthy rags to God. **Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:8, Ephesians 6:15 & Romans 10:15**

Questions & Objections:

Q. I currently do not have a "fishing" partner. I'm very open (and somewhat anxious) to hear of some biblical wisdom for going out alone. I don't want to come off negative, but I've been taught that the example has always been going in least two's. I haven't heard a biblical argument yet for going out alone. Now, I think there is a difference between witnessing to those you meet throughout the day and purposely going out "fishing" or to open air. I've often shared tracts with people I come across in public, and have invited others to lunch to witness to them. However, I can't remember or find any examples where God sent someone off to preach or "fish" alone. For example, I can't recall Paul (even though he'd received the Holy Spirit) ever being out alone. He constantly talks in his epistles about the other laborers with him. I'm not talking out of fear, I'm in search for wisdom.

A. I've been active in my street ministry for about a year now. I started just prior to attending my first [Evangelism Boot Camp](#). For the first few months I went alone. In answer to prayer, God eventually raised up another laborer to join me, and Greg has been a faithful fishing partner. Recently, He added Randy & Terri to my team ... so there's four of us.

However, I still go alone to open air preach at the DMV on Wednesday mornings. There's also times the other three can't make it and I still go out and hit the streets alone on Saturday. For example, these last three weeks Greg has been sick and Randy & Terri couldn't make it.

There's definite wisdom and support in going as two or more. However, I'm not able to sit idle and let the seed go unsown simply because I'm on my own. It's may sound cliché, but with the Holy Spirit I'm the majority!

Acts 17 tells us about Paul in Athens. We don't have record of others being with Paul while he preached on Mars Hill. In fact, verses 15 & 16 tell us -- *"Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left. Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols."* That seems to imply he was on his own while he was preaching open air on Mars Hill and later at the Areopagus.

There's no record of anyone being with Philip as he preached in Samaria. Further, he was sent alone when he met the ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8)

There's no mention of someone with Peter as he traveled and preached around Lydda. (Acts 9)

That's just a few biblical examples. I'm not saying to build doctrine on their being alone, but it demonstrates the example that partnering with other disciples may be best ... but if circumstances mean you're on your own, don't leave the work undone.

Weekly "Fishing" Update:

The line at the DMV was slow in forming Wednesday morning. I attempted to strike up a one-2-one with a woman that was waiting at the doors. However, after a couple of tries at breaking the ice, she just didn't want to talk. I gave tracts to the others that had come to get in line in the meantime, but had to scoot off to work after that. Still, the seed was sown and the message of salvation was put into a dozen or more hands.

For the third Saturday in a row, I was solo down at Riverside Park. I started by preaching open air to a group of 10 to 20 people, with several others lingering around the area and on the playground. During the open air, a group of teens were sitting on a bench perhaps twenty feet away with their backs to me. I figured they weren't paying any attention to me, but they were. At one point during the open air, I offered a [Greatest Gamble](#) DVD to anyone who could tell me what God did to show he doesn't want you to go to Hell. One of the teens turned around with his hand in the air and said, "He came and died on the cross." Praise God! That just shows, you never know who's listening you when you're sharing the gospel.

I've uploaded the MP3 to our [audios](#) page. You can find and listen to it under *Open Air Preaching Audios*.



Teens still sitting on the bench after the open air. Their backs were to me, but they had been listening.

I also wanted to mention a couple of things I've started doing that seem to work well. I've been giving out [What Hollywood Believes](#) CDs and [Greatest Gamble](#) DVDs for the trivia questions and during the open air. Thus, if a person wins something and later breaks off from the open air, they're walking away with a full gospel presentation in their hands. Also, I tell them that someone there may get a gift card or \$5 cash at the end of things. When I'm done, I pull a Bible (or new testament) out of my bag and ask who wants it. As you'll hear in the audio, no one raised their hand. I then open the Bible and pull out the gift card or cash saying, "Well, I thought someone here would get this. But I guess not. See, you were waiting for the card but it didn't come as you expected. Salvation also doesn't come as you expect. You don't go to Heaven for being a good person. You go to Heaven because you're a bad person that'd been forgiven. You missed out on the card. Please, please don't miss out on your eternal salvation." It works the same even if someone takes the Bible. I ask them to open to page 70 (which is John 3 in these New Testaments) where they find the gift card or \$5. I then make the same point telling the others why they missed out on it.

After the open air, I did a sweep around the park and gave out [DaVinci Code](#) tracts. I then came across two young men (Tristan & Bryce) taking a break from frisbee golf. I asked if they'd do an interview for my website and we had an wonderful one-2-two. Both were professing Christians, yet missing some of the pieces for bringing the full picture of salvation together. **This may be my favorite witnessing encounter to date!** Tristan asked some great questions. We talked for over 40 minutes, covering the full count of the gospel (sin, righteousness, judgment, and AMAZING GRACE). Whether I got to plant a seed or water what was already there, I'm grateful that God lead me to these guys.

I've uploaded the MP3 to our [audios](#) page. You can find and listen to it under *One-2-One Audios*.



Stopping to read the DaVinci Code tract.

I had a couple of other encounters at the park, but I'll just share one more with you that was really encouraging. I wrapped up by passing out a few more [DaVinci Code](#) tracts. When I got to my car, a couple that I'd given a tract to approached me. The woman went to give the tract back saying, "I agree with everything this says. It's all about Jesus." I waved for her to keep the tract and give it to someone else. I told her she's going to come across someone later that I wouldn't have the chance to meet. She nodded, then stopped and said "You know what? I'm going to give this to my pastor and see if he'll go to the website and order some of these for our church." They attend [Valley Christian Fellowship](#) in White City. I then gave a tract to her husband, so they had one to share with someone and another to give to the pastor. I also showed them the [Million Dollar Bill](#) tract and they loved that. As we talked, I learned that they've seen [The Way of the Master](#) on TV, so I left them with one of our Fishing Team flyers and a flyer for our upcoming [mini-EBC](#) to share with their pastor as well.

Lastly, I wanted to mention that for part of Father's Day we spent the afternoon at a classic car show in Medford. We got there towards the tail end of things, and since I was there with family I didn't get into any one-2-ones. I was still able to give out over 100 [DaVinci Code](#) tracts and meet another Christian that was very interested in our ministry (he also turned out to be my step-brother's cousin).

Pray for the seeds that were sown. May Jesus receive the glory He is due!

Prayer Points:

- Greg is now in the [fourth week](#) of fighting a nagging cough he thinks may be a virus. Please pray for his full recovery.
- Continue to pray for Randy & Terri as they minister to their family. Two weeks ago I was told Randy's sister-in-law has had a relapse in cancer.
- 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)

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.

These newsletters have no copy-right. Take the liberty to share them with others.

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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