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## Evangelism Update 08-12-07

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### Note from Jim:

Paul Kaiser has posted a couple of XE'07 reports at his blog:

Click here for [Day 1](#)

Click here for [Day 2](#)

The Day 3 report will be available after he gets back from a well-deserved family vacation. I thank God for you, bro.

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### Scripture of the Week:

Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13, NASB)

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### Quote of the Week:

"Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell." (C.T. Studd)

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### Recommended Resource:



Have you joined us at the [Fishin' Fools](#) message board yet? Our message board puts you in contact with other

teams and seed sowers across the U.S. and around the globe. You'll have access to the numerous tips and resources we share plus real encouragement ... which can be priceless.

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### Questions & Objections:

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

**Q.** Why is there suffering? That proves there is no 'loving' God.

**A.** Study the soil for a moment. It naturally produces weeds. No one plants them; no one waters them. They even stubbornly push through cracks of a dry sidewalk. Millions of useless weeds sprout like there's no tomorrow, strangling our crops and ruining our lawns. Pull them out by the roots, and there will be more tomorrow. They are nothing but a curse!

Consider how much of the earth is uninhabitable. There are millions of square miles of barren deserts in Africa and other parts of the world. Most of Australia is nothing but miles and miles of useless desolate land. Not only that, but the earth is constantly shaken with massive earthquakes. Its shores are lashed with hurricanes; tornadoes rip through creation with incredible fury; devastating floods soak the land; and terrible droughts parch the soil. Sharks, tigers, lions, snakes, spiders, and disease-carrying mosquitoes attack humanity and suck its life's blood.

The earth's inhabitants are afflicted with disease, pain, suffering, and death. Think of how many people are plagued with cancer, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, heart disease, emphysema, Parkinson's, and a number of other debilitating illnesses. Consider all the children with leukemia, or people born with crippling diseases or without the mental capability to even feed themselves. All these things should convince thinking minds that something is radically wrong. Did God blow it when He created humanity? What sort of tyrant must our Creator be if this was His master plan?

Sadly, many use the issue of suffering as an excuse to reject any thought of God, when its existence is the very reason we should accept Him. Suffering stands as terrible testimony to the truth of the explanation given by the

Word of God. But how can we know that the Bible is true? Simply by studying the prophecies of Matthew 24, Luke 21, and 2 Timothy 3. A few minutes of openhearted inspection will convince any honest skeptic that this is no ordinary book. It is the supernatural testament of our Creator about why there is suffering...and what we can do about it.

The Bible tells us that God cursed the earth because of Adam's transgression. Weeds are a curse. So is disease. Sin and suffering cannot be separated. The Scriptures inform us that we live in a fallen creation. In the beginning, God created man perfect, and he lived in a perfect world without suffering. It was heaven on earth. When sin came into the world, death and misery came with it. Those who understand the message of Holy Scripture eagerly await a new heaven and a new earth "wherein dwells righteousness." In that coming Kingdom there will be no more pain, suffering, disease, or death. We are told that no eye has ever seen, nor has any ear heard, neither has any man's mind ever imagined the wonderful things that God has in store for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Think for a moment what it would be like if food grew with the fervor of weeds. Consider how wonderful it would be if the deserts became incredibly fertile, if creation stopped devouring humanity. Imagine if the weather worked for us instead of against us, if disease completely disappeared, if pain was a thing of the past, if death was no more.

The dilemma is that we are like a child whose insatiable appetite for chocolate has caused his face to break out with ugly sores. He looks in the mirror and sees a sight that makes him depressed. But instead of giving up his beloved chocolate, he consoles himself by stuffing more into his mouth. Yet, the source of his pleasure is actually the cause of his suffering. The whole face of the earth is nothing but ugly sores of suffering. Everywhere we look we see unspeakable pain. But instead of believing God's explanation and asking Him to forgive us and change our appetite, we run deeper into sin's sweet embrace. There we find solace in its temporal pleasures, thus intensifying our pain, both in this life and in the life to come.

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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:

There wasn't a lot of foot traffic downtown as we met for street fishing on Saturday so we headed for Riverside Park. Dave got into a one-2-two almost immediately while David and I did a tract sweep through the park.



I came across a young man that I recognized sitting on a bench and reading a book near the river, so I stopped to talk. I'd met Peter on the streets a couple of times before. The first time was just before Christmas. We had been using the [Christmas Quiz](#) as an icebreaker and I was engaged in a one-2-three when Peter stopped to listen. He joined in the conversation; saying some of the right things like a new Christian. However, other things just didn't fit. I guess you could say the walk didn't quite match the talk. You can download or listen to the audio of that witnessing encounter back in December by [clicking here](#). Peter had his baby with him in a stroller and it was cold, so afterwards he asked if we could give him a ride home. Carla and her sons (Tait and Creighton) were with us, and they offered to drive him. I rode along while Greg and some of the others stayed at the fishing hole. Peter lived out past the community college, which gave us another 20 minutes or so to talk with him. He wasn't with or married to the baby's mother and there were other things going on in his life. We shared and witnessed as we could and then left him in God's hands.

I next met Peter on a Monday a couple of months ago. He was coming out of the Evangels bookstore reading his Bible. I was wearing a t-shirt with a quote from Charles Spurgeon on it - *"Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that."* He stopped to ask me about it, and we got to talking. I didn't recognize or remember him from the prior encounter, so it kind of became another one-2-one. After a bit, he asked me to go across the street to the Calvary Chapel church with him where they have free coffee and we could talk some more. He asked a lot of questions and I did what I could to open the Bible to him. His main issue was that he was struggling with sin. He and the mother of his baby were now living together. They were "engaged" but with no definite plans of getting married. He knew this was wrong in the Lord's eyes, but admitted he wasn't willing to surrender or deal with it in a definite way. We talked for another half-hour or more. I touched again on the issues of sin, righteous judgment and grace. I also shared the story about a father and son going fishing amongst the alligators, trying to help him see the error in recognizing Jesus' sacrifice at the cross but continuing to pursue his sin. Then once again I left him with his Creator to wrestle it out.

Now Peter had been brought across my path this third time and I got to see real fruit from God working in his life. First off, he was reading *Fox's Book of Martyrs* ... that's not typical reading for a disinterested Christian. Secondly, Peter made a point of letting me know he and his fiancee have set a date next month (September 8th) to get married and get that dealt with. Thirdly, he is really interested in witnessing and sharing his faith. He'd

seen me talking to some Mormons recently and was full of questions about how to witness to them. As we walked through some things, I could tell he'd been reading and studying his Bible. Dave had finished with his one-2-two by this time and came up to join us. Peter asked if he could walk with us as we headed back up 6th Street and we invited him along.

I hope I can express well enough how different Peter was from the other two times we'd talked. He continued to ask questions about witnessing and sharing his faith. I told him that one approach I often use when talking with Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses is saying "Pretend that as we're talking here on the sidewalk, a car goes by and you hear POP! POP! It's a drive by shooting and I just took one or maybe two bullets in the back. I'm not going to make it 'til an ambulance comes. You can't save my life. I'll die in maybe three minutes. I say 'Help me! You seem to be Christian or something like that. Tell me what I need to do to be saved and have eternal life. What do you tell me?" (They don't have a good answer. It shows that their's is a works-righteous religion.) Peter, however, stepped right in and said "I know what I'd say! You've sinned against God. It's only the blood of Jesus that will protect you on Judgment Day. You have to repent and believe in him to save you." You could hear in his voice and see in his face that he got it now. The gospel was personal and real to him. He really wanted us to help equip him and prepare him to more readily share his faith. I loaded him up with a [Hell's Best Kept Secret](#) CD, a DVD with a good evangelistic message, a [Why Christianity?](#) booklet and a pack of [What If?](#) tracts. I also gave him a card with my number and our website on it so he can get in touch with me.

God is good! Often times we don't get to see the fruits of our labor this side of glory, but lately he's been gracious to bring us back across some of these people so we can see the impact and work he is doing in Grants Pass.



As we made our way back up 6th Street, we passed the Havoc shop where the young men had run away from me last week (see the [Aug 5th newsletter](#)). No one was outside this time, but before we knew it David opened the door to step inside and tract the guy at the counter. Praise God for boldness in the field.

Please pray for the seed that was sown. Jesus, may you receive the glory that you're due!

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#### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the salvation of your lost friends and family members this week.
  - "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).

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

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'til the nets are full...

