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Evangelism Update: eXtreme Evangelism 2007 Report

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Pictures! Pictures!

XE'07 photos are available at the following links:

- Click here for the [XE'07 Photo Video](#).
 - Click here for [my pictures](#) at Kodak Easyshare.
 - Click here for [Paul Kaiser's pictures](#) at Kodak Easyshare.
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Day 1:

Paul Kaiser and his son (Little Paul) got in Thursday night. They had dinner and spent the night at our place which gave them a chance to meet my wife (Kelly) and girls (Willow and Holly). It was a great time of fellowship.

Little Paul and the girls got busy with the Playstation while we grown-ups sat around the table and talked. You could tell we were evangelist families. The conversation shifted to apologetics and witnessing to Mormons and then wrapped up with a concordance and Bible spread out on the table for an impromptu study on Balaam and false prophets. (We're either hopeless or we just love what we do!)

Even though we headed to bed by 11pm, Paul and I probably didn't get more than three hours of sleep that night. We were like kids the night before Christmas.

Day 1

We met Greg and David for breakfast at 7am. As we prepared for the Friday morning meeting, I was determined to lay aside my plans and expectations for the event. I'd see to the organizing and basic flow, but really wanted his ministry to be done his way that weekend. Our Lord is so faithful! Within minutes of setting down at the table, he showed us he was in control. Last week, I encountered a guy standing on a street corner in a tie-dyed shirt and holding a "Hell has Christians in it! (Matt 7:21)" sign. Out of concern and curiosity I talked with to him, but something seemed a bit on the fringe. He wanted to join us for the weekend, but I had an uneasy feeling about it. I sought good counsel and put it before God. Then, this morning he walked into the restaurant and sat down at the counter right near our table. He recognized me and almost immediately told me he was leaving the area for Eugene! It was an answer to prayer ... the first concern for the weekend was removed. Praise Adonai!

We started the meeting at our church's youth house with seven people. A few that had registered or said they'd be there didn't show, but rather than get discouraged I again left it in God's hands. (Besides, this was double what we had last year.) As we opened with worship and prayer, God went to work raising up laborers.



First Carla Deems and her son Tait showed up at the door. A little later, Rick DeVos and Dave Mazzella came in. While we watched one of Ray Comfort's open air preaching videos, I got a call from my pastor. A gentleman from another church had called to ask about hooking up for part of our event. My pastor fielded the call and explained what we were doing and that usually there's training prior to going out on the street. However, he also knew the church this man went to and the pastor there and said he felt comfortable passing the message along if I wanted to contact him. I stepped out to call the gentleman back. He had pastored a couple of churches, was familiar with The Way of the Master and was active in passing out tracts. I made arrangements for him to find our group at a couple of the locations we'd be at. In the end, God effectively doubled our ranks to have more than a dozen seed sowers on the streets at different times throughout the weekend!

After lunch, we hit our usual downtown fishing hole on 6th Street. I started with an open air down amongst the shops and sidewalk sales. After that, the others jumped in picking up one-2-ones. Paul and the gang had a couple of good exchanges first with a Buddhist and then a Oneness Pentecostal.

My most memorable encounter that afternoon was with Steven. After recognizing me and David, he came up and told me I owed him \$20. (I was wearing my "Name Ten Get \$20" shirt.) I wasn't sure if he was playing me or not, so he further explained that he'd named all Ten Commandments but I didn't have the money to give him at the time because I was heading to Reignite in Las Vegas. To be fair, he went through and named all ten again and I gave him the \$20. He then told me what had happened since our encounter seven months ago. At that time, he'd been like most of the guys hanging out on the streets. He was a drunk and most often loitering in their usual haunt (the walkway beside the post office). That's where I'd met him and talked with him. Since then, he has given himself to Christ. He has been clean sober these past seven months. He's reading the Word and is plugged into a church where they're finishing a Way of the Master course. He's using what he's learning in the training to be a witness in a homeless ministry and gets the chance to help disciple some of the men that respond through that. Something that really touched me is how he said -- "If you'd given me this \$20 seven months ago it would've been a temptation and would have probably just gone to buy beer. I think God had you wait, because now it's going straight to the homeless ministry." God is good!



Me and Steven

Another laborer was added to the team as Bart McCurdy made his drive up from California and joined during dinner. We then set up in the main drag for the festival and concerts. We were moved from our first corner by the event staff (permits somehow making public area now private property), but the woman pointed us to another good and busy spot just across the street. She also gave us her card in case there were questions or anyone else talked to us. We set up with Bart's video camera and did a couple of street interviews. We actually met two sets of Mormons that day and Paul got to talk to the second pair on camera. Trouble started once we put out the dead-body (dummy in a sheet). The event staff were claiming they'd gotten several complaints within a few minutes. Parents were offended and saying it scared the kids. I don't think it was really the case, after all you should see Grants Pass at Halloween. However, the police were called and the woman we'd talked to on the first corner came over. They said as long as we put the dummy away we were OK. We stayed there about four hours! Paul had some good open air crowds thanks to a drunk heckler and debating Christians while the rest of the gang kept busy with tracts and one-2-ones.

Day 2:

Another laborer was added to our ranks as Dave Self joined us for his first time on Saturday. After breakfast, our group had a moving time of prayer and worship along the river at the park. God was working on us and preparing us for what lay ahead. It seemed the theme that kept coming up in our prayers was humility.

We then hit the Grower's Market for the first part of the day. It's another situation where the merchants buying permits turns a public city lot into private property. However, there are two specific corners that remain a public forum and we planted camp on both of them. Greg, David and I took turns preaching open air on the first corner while the Pauls set up their Prayer Station on the other. The rest of the team got busy with tracts and witnessing. In fact, Dave Self picked up his first one-2-one that morning. After a couple of hours we shifted over to the Prayer Station corner and wrapped up with Paul and I trading off some open airs.

We then headed for Riverside Park where the classic car show was in full swing. We set up a spot where there was a decent amount of foot traffic at one end of the food and merchant booths. It was hot, so some of the team took turns resting in the shade as Bart, Paul, David and I rotated through open airs. There's a blessing in every trial, however, and the heat eventually introduced us to some of the best snow cones we'd tasted!



Otto approached me during an open air.

Something that really stands out to me is how God was faithful throughout the weekend to bolster us and keep our spirits up. As we faced opposition, battled the heat and even dealt with our own flesh, we'd periodically have God send someone to talk to us or encourage us in our labors. For example, a heckler might curse us or storm off but then after the open air someone would come to shake our hand and thank us for what we're doing. The shop where I stopped to get an Island Juice was Christian owned with open Bibles on the tables. They loved the tracts we showed them and encouraged us in our work. Otto Reichart is an elderly German gentleman that approached me during an open air at the growers market. Paul got to talk with him and learned he'd written a book titled [Otto Pray! Otto Pray!](#) about his harrowing trials as a Christian opposing the Hitler Regime. At the park Paul got to talk with another man that stopped to encourage us. He had been an open air preacher himself in Mexico. (You can see him holding the boomerangs in the photo video with Paul.) Yet another woman involved with ministry and the CMA stopped to let us know how she appreciated seeing us out there. Little encounters like this served to fan the sparks within us and urge us along.

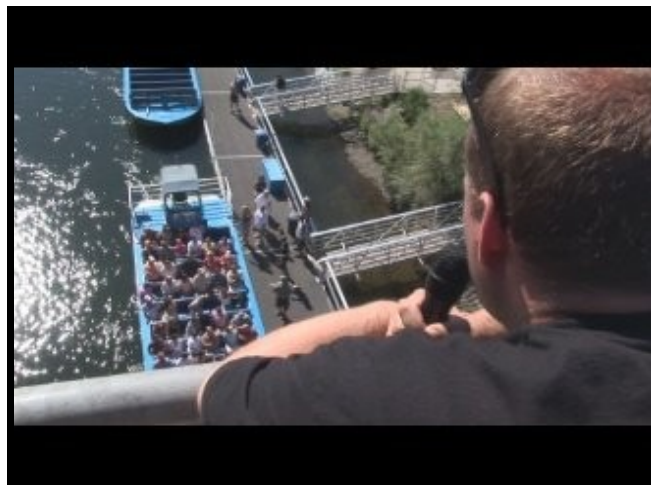


This man had been an OA preacher in Mexico.

While we were at the park I'd point out to the others how there was a constant line with dozens of people waiting to go on the Hellgate jeboat excursions. It's a big tourist attraction and the lines remain like that all throughout

the day. This has been a source of frustration for me, because it's a great opportunity to preach the gospel open air, except that they're on the other side of the river. Where they line up is private property for the hotel. We've dropped Million Dollar Bill tracts from the 6th Street Bridge to people coming and going from the line, but that's been the extent of it. Unless we could preach from a boat or jet-ski in the river I couldn't think of a way to do an open air.

However, this second day of XE provided a way! As things wound down at the park, a group of us headed up the 7th Street bridge which overlooks where they load the jetboats. Bart fired up his video camera. Dave angled the amp over the railing. I turned on the mic and gave the gospel to the people getting in the boats and lined up along the docks. (Click here to [watch the video](#).)



Hellgate Open Air

After dinner, we made our tract sweep at the Classic Car Cruise. It was great! We passed out between 3,000 to 3,500 tracts within a half hour. Considering the population of Grants Pass is just around 30,000 that's like 10% of the city getting the gospel in their hand that evening. As we were regrouping, we came across Pastor Gene and his team from The House of Prayer. They're a church I've gotten to know that has a heart for evangelism. Pastor Gene had a case of [This Was Your Life](#) tracts under his arm and they were out sweeping the cruise route as well. I introduced them to our XE crew and we gathered in a corner of the parking lot for prayer.

Our group then headed for the same corner we'd been at last night across from the concert stage, but the president of the Town Center Association was waiting for us this time. He said we couldn't be there. He claimed the lady last night had told us we had to move a whole block down and away from the plaza. He also claimed the police had told us we couldn't be there. As I reported for **Day 1**, this simply wasn't the case. The woman had pointed us to any of the three corners across the street from where we'd first set up. I even went back a second time to confirm with her after we'd moved. In fact, the police had been around to monitor the drunk heckler that was getting in Paul's face, they were fine with us and I have pictures of them playing with tracts and posing with Paul. Rather than fight it out and waste an hour or more of our limited time that evening, we acquiesced and shifted down a block. However, Greg did ask what we need to do to be allowed in that area next year, and the man told us to contact him before March. I have business cards for him and the woman we first talked to, and I plan to confer with some of the Christian legal organizations to review our rights before following up for next year.

God is sovereign though, and hindsight showed us that next corner down is where he wanted us. We set up for open air and I immediately ended up with people stopping back to back to talk on the heckler's mic. We talked about what happens after you die and I'd take them through the clear and simple gospel. Meanwhile, Pastor Gene and some of his people came across us and set up a second line of witnessing. As people would either finish at the heckler's mic or just stroll past the open air, Gene would pick them up at the corner and witness to them there. An older gentleman then showed up that wanted to banter about atheism and evolution. Paul had been trying to pick up an atheist heckler all night, so I handed the open air over to him.

I was getting some pictures of Bart and the others in one-2-ones when four drunk girls come swaying on the scene. They were young (probably no more than 18) and completely intoxicated. They laughed and fumbled

around with the hecklers mic for a bit and then went to literally hang and drape themselves on Paul. He held his ground though and called them on their sin, which sent them stumbling off down the street as they fled the light.

Paul wrapped up the open air and stepped off the stool to continue talking with the evolutionist. It was kind of a mixed witnessing encounter, because there was also a high strung Native American heckler that had been hanging around. Then our newest team member (Dave Self) stepped in and drew him off to the side. Dave talked with him for quite some time while Paul continued with the older gentleman. Considering this was Dave's second one-2-one ever, his boldness and compassion was something to really thank God for.

In the end, there was no question God had led us to share the truth right where he wanted us that night. It was well after 11pm as we wrapped up. We were tired but it was that good kind of tired you feel after hard work. Many of us were running low on steam from lack of sleep, but we'd just draw on Christ's strength with another day ahead of us.

Day 3:

Seven of us gathered for breakfast and then prayer and worship in the park. I call it snot and tears Sunday. Many prayers were salted with sobs and tears. The last day of an event like this is always emotional. The culmination of God's work throughout the weekend is coming to a head. Our hearts are softened and we're more aware of the burden we carry for the gospel. We also know friends will be leaving and heading back home when it's done. It was a blessed time and something so vital. I've learned the battle is really on our knees before we even walk out on the street.



We then hopped over to take a group photo at the Hellgate sign and loaded up to head for Ashland. The environment in Ashland there is a lot different from what we'd encountered in Grants Pass. It's a university campus city ... much more pagan and openly liberal. People there seem to be hesitant to take tracts, so you have to rely more on just talking and preaching. Rick DeVos joined us as we found a place and set up next to the Lincoln statue at the entrance to Lithia Park. There was quite a bit of foot traffic through there and we found ourselves in one-2-ones before the open airing started. Greg and Paul were engaged with a shirtless guy that seemed to express multiple personalities in drastic shifts. He hung around the place pretty much the full time and played a fiddle, being nice and courteous one moment and then cursing or challenging us the next. Meanwhile, I had a pretty good conversation with some agnostic evolutionists. Rick "the machine" had a series of one-2-ones and David talked with a man that had "Jesus is the Lord - Son of God" signs on his bike. Paul and I then rotated through a few open airs and were blessed with some hecklers (i.e. the George Bush Hater and Mr. "F" Bomb) which helped draw attention and a few crowds. Our spot was also near a large green area where people could sit without showing themselves to the preacher, but those of us playing "rent a crowd" noticed that that they were

listening too. Plus, there were some apartments and townhouses above us where people would come on their balconies to hear the open air.

Last year, we experienced some real spiritual warfare when we went to Ashland. I know several of you were aware of it and were praying for us this time. I thank God for you. It made a real difference! The police in Ashland were favorable toward us. During the second open air, as I was preaching, an officer came up and asked if we had a permit for the amplification. I told him we didn't know that we'd need one. He said he'd check, so as I continued he walked off and called in to someone. He came back shortly and said we needed the permit, so we had to turn the amp off but could continue on otherwise. I confirmed it was OK to just raise my voice and he said that was fine. We preached and did one-2-ones for another couple of hours after that. He and another officer were in and out of the area a times, but had no problem with us after that. They were primarily keeping an eye on the antagonistic fiddle player. In fact, I asked more about the amplification permits and one of them was very helpful in telling me where I could get one if we'd be in the park and where to get one for the city. It was surprising, considering the opposition we'd encountered in Grants Pass Saturday night. Praise God!

We broke camp a little after 2pm for a late lunch and a mini graduation with certificates and sharing stories. Bart had to leave a little earlier and after lunch we sent the Pauls on their way. I thank God that these three brothers were able to make the trek up from California to join us. Paul, David, Darrin and I then made our own ways home for much needed showers and sleep.

It was three long hard days of labor in the fields, and I praise Adonai for every moment of it. Providing Christ tarries, we plan to have one each year during the Back to the 50s weekend. Put it on your calendar now ... we'd love to have you join us for **XE'08!**

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.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the seed that was sown and that Jesus receives the honor he is due.
 - Pray for eXtreme Evangelism 2007 New England which is starting today.
 - "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...

