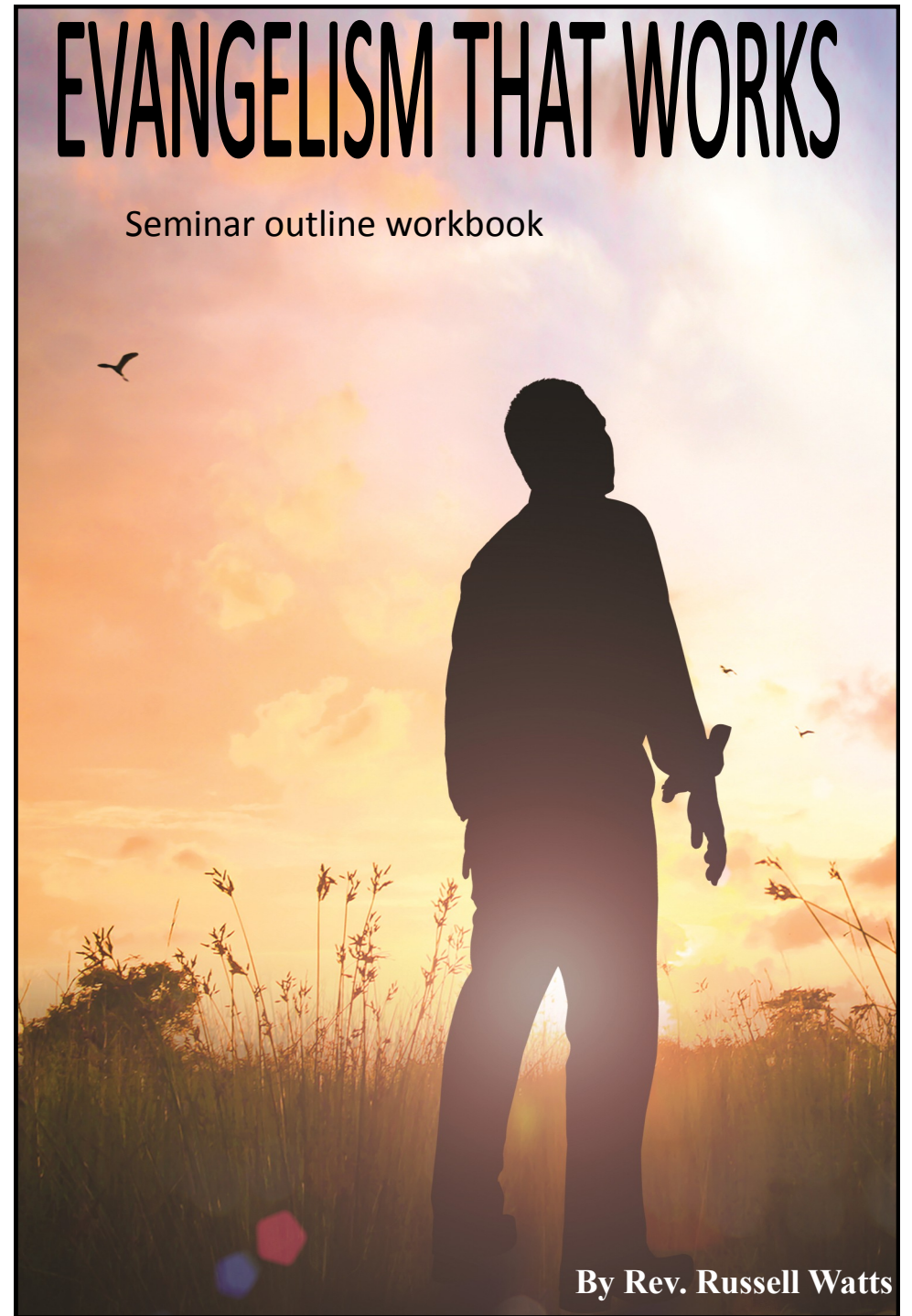


EVANGELISM THAT WORKS

Seminar outline workbook



By Rev. Russell Watts

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Introduction

Many people in the church in the West have negative feelings and experiences about evangelism. We know we should share our faith with pre-Christians but we have awkwardly tried programs and tracts and have been left disappointed and often embarrassed.

When Jesus said, “All those that follow Him should go into the world, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to do all that He commanded them to do;” He didn’t have a program, course, or an outreach event in mind.

I believe He had a very do-able adventure, a lifestyle, where you could be real and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Revelations that have increased my anointing to talk about Jesus

- I cannot save anyone. The Holy Spirit draws and convicts. He just wants me to join in and support Him with my ‘words’ when He asks me to.
- I will never see or meet someone that God doesn’t love and has already tried to draw to Himself in some way.
- There are not seasons of salvation. Today is the day of salvation for someone. Biblically, a ‘normal’ church will see people added to their number daily.
- It takes a team to make a disciple. It cannot be done apart from the local church.
- There isn’t cold turkey, hit and miss evangelism in the Bible. Confront someone with the gospel and be available personally to follow up. Paul, the Apostle I consider to be the most effective evangelist, would stay with folk, establish a church and then check up on folk pastorally.
- The model we most commonly use to bring people to salvation is very different from that of the early church.

Other Courses Worth Looking At:

Alpha NZ— <http://www.alpha.org.nz/>

Alpha, plus Alpha Youth are great evangelistic tools but please bear in mind that the essential topics of repentance and water baptism are not mentioned to any real extent

Prayer Course - the link can be found on the bottom of the Alpha NZ Website, or directly on www.prayercourse.org.

Karl Frazer: Olive Tree Media <http://www.olivetreemedia.com.au>

**Towards Belief
Jesus the Game Changer**

Long Story Short: <http://www.longstoryshort.co>

Long Story Short is a video series designed to unfold the story of the Bible.

Nua: <https://nuafilmseries.org/>

NUA is all about exploration: it’s a film series that encourages questions, acknowledges doubt, and offers an engaging perspective on the Christian faith.

Bible Project

Website: www.thebibleproject.com

The Bible Project creates videos that show the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. The Bible is literary genius and has divine wisdom for the modern world.

The Natural Evangelism Course - J. John

Recommended follow-up courses:

Our resources can be found on <http://www.whangareicbc.org/finding-faith/>

Please feel free to download the following booklets. We have no objection to you changing the cover and putting your church name on there.

- “How to Connect With God” as a tool to help people understand the gospel.
<http://www.whangareicbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/How-to-Connect-with-God-1.pdf>
- “Foundations for New Christians”
<http://www.whangareicbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Foundations-for-New-Christians-Oct-18-new-front.pdf>
- Our children’s booklet “How to Join God’s Family”
http://www.whangareicbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/How-to-Join-Gods-family-_A5.pdf

We highly recommend that people do the 40 day devotion “What on Earth am I Here For” by Rick Warren (Zondervan) after the foundation course.

We highly recommend that people do the 40 day devotion “The Relationship Principles of Jesus” by Tom Holladay (Zondervan) after “What on Earth am I here for.”

We highly recommend that people study “School of the Holy Spirit” by Rodney W. Francis (The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry).

We recommend Tim Hawkins “Discipleship Training Series” (5 study books by Christian Education Publications) as being ideal follow up for teenagers.

We recommend Tim Hawkins “First Steps” Growing Young Disciples Series by CEP for following up intermediates.

We have struggled to find material for children, but Child Evangelism Fellowship material is good, (though often hard to find and a little dated). Free online devotions <http://truthforkids.com/kids-devotions-online> and Bible for Children www.M1914.org are also good.

Two scriptures that have become a part of my spiritual DNA and that I reflect on constantly:

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

In those months I answered these questions in my personal study.

Take a moment to consider your answers and discuss them with a friend before moving on.

Disturbed by the Holy Spirit - My story

1. Is there anything like a sinner’s prayer in the Bible?
2. Is the goal of evangelism to get someone to pray a prayer or to make disciples? (see Matt 28:19-20)
3. After Acts 2, the day of Pentecost (normal Christianity began on that day), is there any Christian in the New Testament who had not expressed faith, repentance, and been water and Holy Spirit baptized?
4. In the Biblical norm, how long did it take for someone to receive water and Holy Spirit Baptism?
5. How old does a person have to be before they can:
1) believe, 2) repent, 3) be water and Holy Spirit Baptized?

Take a minute to get some real encouragement from YouTube. Have a look at the Last Reformation Movie at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zka4DUYeJ5g>

Nine Principles on sharing our faith effectively

1. Sow Seeds Early

A Story about a Farmer: Luke 8

Romans 10:17 says that no one can come to faith without 'hearing' the message about Jesus Christ.

Consider for a moment how you might respond to these statements e.g. throw seed early:

- What a beautiful day?
- How's the family?
- What did you get up to in the holidays?
- How are you?
- This government is useless!
- Did you know that chocolate will make you feel happy!
- If you buy this all the girls/guys will like you!

2. Follow The Holy Spirit

Where you see the spoken words germinate with faith in someone, make yourself very available to follow them up. Be a co-labourer with Christ. Trust Him to guide you. Join in where you see Him working. Imagine you have four people who you have recently met and out of love for them boldly thrown a seed or two towards them.

Which one of these four should get your time?

- a) John who has lots of needs and wants you and your church to help him.
- b) Mary, who has a few questions about God and is not sure what she believes.
- c) Wendy who is a Jehovah's Witness and wants to talk to you about her faith.
- d) Gopalan who is a Muslim and not interested in your version of Jesus or
- e) All the above.

Resources

Phone app:

The best phone app to encourage us in evangelism ever is... 'yesHeis'

'Gospel in 7' is a great phone app, I just struggle with the 'sinners prayer' at the end.

Great Websites:

For youth the best is — www.godtalk.co.nz

Creation.org — <http://www.creation.org/>

Good book company — www.thegoodbook.co.nz

Love Your Neighbour — <http://www.loveyourneighbour.co.nz/>

This ministry has a weekend session to help the local church identify needs in the community and to meet them with the gospel.

OAC Ministries — <https://www.oac.org.nz/>

Be Thinking — <https://www.bethinking.org/>

Shininglights — <http://shininglights.co.nz/home/>

Willow Creek — www.willowcreek.org

Ray Comfort's Living Waters — <https://livingwatersdownunder.com/>

Questions of Life — <http://www.questionsoflife.com/>

AllTogether.co.nz/sermon-studies - this website gives you excellent free sermons and bible studies and links to video clips that really help the pastor get the church thinking about and engaged in evangelism

Book:

Andy Stanley "Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend"

Summary

For generations now 'evangelism' has become the scary word as we try pretty unsuccessfully to make disciples.

We have used a process and formulae which are not biblical (although God in His grace still blesses) and have tried to copy others who are effective. It has felt awkward and for the majority of the church it has been discouraging. It wasn't meant to be that way.

God loves His church and He has given us biblical examples and the Holy Spirit so show us how to make disciples.

You need to be intentional, you need to use words, but ultimately you just need to be you.

There's an adventure waiting for you and me every day.

Choose now to become a co-labourer with Him. Enter the adventure.

Fulfil your purpose in this generation.

3. Share The Gospel Lovingly

Numbers 10:29-31

4. Make Disciples

Who is the evangelist here?

(a) Mary interceded daily for her wayward teenage grandson Jeff.

(b) On a course a Christian guy introduced himself to Jeff and threw a seed i.e. said something about God.

(c) Jeff's car broke down on the side of the road and Martin a total stranger (a Christian) stopped, assessed the situation, towed Jeff home and when Jeff went to thank him, Martin just said "God cares about you mate, God bless."

(d) Jeff loved the \$\$\$ at work and was totally shattered when he was made redundant (last on first off). Steve (a workmate) asked Jeff if he could pray with him and in response to Jeff's question gave him a DVD testimony to watch.

(e) Jeff went with Steve to see Steve's home group leader Andrew, who explained the gospel clearly and answered his many questions.

(f) On hearing Jeff's confession of faith and repentance Robyn, the local Pastor baptized him and prayed with others for him to receive the Holy Spirit.

(g) Jeff joined the church and the young adults group where he was well mentored for the next two years with Alvin.

The question to ask is this. Which one of these people in Italics was the evangelist??? Take a moment to work out your answer or to discuss it with a friend before you move on.

5. Celebrate Our Priorities

The old adage is true "we become what we celebrate".

What we give attention to and celebrate as being important will shape the culture of your life and your church.

ENGEL SCALE

+10	Christlike
+9	Moving in great influence & power
+8	Appointed in the 5-fold ministry. Ephesians 4:11
+7	Recognised and appointed for leadership
+6	Faith proven & deepened through life challenges
+5	Effective sharing of faith
+4	Mature in gifts of ministry
+3	Discovering one's own calling/purpose
+2	Learning the basics of the Christian faith
+1	Church membership & serving
0	Repentance & baptism of water and of the Holy Spirit
-1	Challenge to respond personally
-2	Grasp of implications of the Gospel
-3	Aware of personal needs
-4	Experience of Christian love
-5	Positive attitudes to the Gospel
-6	Awareness of the Gospel
-7	Interest in Christianity
-8	Vague awareness of Christianity
-9	Experience of emptiness
-10	No God framework

team), ALL.

Leaders, if you lead, if you choose today to make God's primary reason for leaving us on earth still the main thing ...

- God will be faithful.
- He will confirm the gospel with signs and wonders.
- Your church will be messy (with seekers and new believers and their unusual ideas and behaviours). But they will be more united and passionate than ever before.
- Your joy will be full.

Will you lead the way?

Will you step out?

Will you keep God's vision for the local church in front of them?

Will you make space for testimonies and stories?

Will you lead your churches in the adventure that we were all made for?

Will you make a difference for Jesus in our generation?

Will you make evangelism, His priority, THE priority of every local church again?

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Right now, someone, somewhere is waiting for you to tell them about Jesus!
If you lead, they will follow!

To say that you are going to be upwardly focused (worship), inwardly focused (fellowship and discipleship) and outwardly focused (evangelistically) is not a vision.

Every believer everywhere does that, but what is God saying to your church?

Helpful questions:

- a. What were the spiritual foundations of this church? i.e. when it was planted, who did those founding members believe God was telling them to reach and how? You can add to your prophetic foundations a church but you should never neglect them.
- b. Where do we see God working now in bringing people to salvation?
- c. Where is the fruit?
- d. What is God currently blessing?
- e. Did God want ethnic congregations or multicultural congregations?
- f. Did God want a big service or multiple services?
- g. Who was God calling us to/gifting us to reach out to specifically (people groups)
- h. What might the process of discipleship and growth look like for us?

Please, my brothers and sisters, join those of us who want to go back to a biblical way of presenting the gospel to a lost and dying world.

Join us in birthing those new believers into His eternal family.

Join us in making the Main thing into the Main thing again, that is to go out into all the world, sharing the good news, baptising people into the Kingdom and then teaching them how to do all that Christ wants them to do.

It's not too late for anyone to start. The gospel still works with power today. Its not about having a gift or doing a program.

We are ALL called to make disciples (not just the evangelists or the Alpha

6. Birth People Into The Kingdom Biblically

Spend a long time thoroughly explaining sin, holiness, the awesomeness of God, heaven and hell, Jesus and the gospel to them **BEFORE** inviting them to put their lives right with God and enter His kingdom.

The Christian Faith is an action word; you cannot have faith and not live differently. You need to know who you have faith in and what that looks like. Always take people through repentance, get them to take time to confess the sins they need to be forgiven for, and to turn from them. I encourage them to confess habitual sins out loud before a respected believer.

When someone believes and repents, baptise them biblically, by full immersion, immediately.

At the same time pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

You give a person the greatest chance of a continued life with Christ if you bring them into the kingdom biblically.

7. Church Leaders Need To Model Evangelism

When you model it and talk about how you are sharing your faith with others, it will encourage the whole church.

8. The Awesome Power of Blessing

“The Awesome Power of Blessing” By Richard Brunton

9. The Power of the Question

Dave Mann - “You won’t know until you ask”

Alltogether.co.nz/equipping-videos-members click on 5 minute talk “You won’t know until you ask.”

Evangelistic styles

Jean Blasi wrote a book called “Prophetic Fishing” and she describes the adventure so well.

Prophetic fishing springs from the realization that we do not have to work for God to bring others to the kingdom. Instead, we have to get out of the way and let God work through us. It involves getting into the flow of what God is doing and going with it.

Mark 16:15-17

¹⁵ Then he told them: Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world.

¹⁶ Anyone who believes me and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe me will be condemned. ¹⁷ Everyone who believes me will be able to do wonderful things. By using my name they will force out demons, and they will speak new languages.

A. Confrontational style

One passage that I often read in services is Acts 2 where the Apostle Peter stood before a great crowd of Jews and said, “you guys have rejected the prophets and now you have killed the Messiah. You have really stuffed up and you will be in trouble one day when you meet your Maker.”

That’s kind of confrontational.

People with this style of evangelism are often very direct, very bold, and very assertive.

They don’t spend time on small talk; they just get straight to the point.

No matter how good you think you are, you are a sinner who one day will have to give an account for your life to a perfectly holy God and you won’t measure up.

This is an effective way of doing evangelism. In Acts 2 three thousand people were baptized that day.

Personally I think very few of us are good at this style of evangelism and so giving out tracts, knocking on doors etc. is both terrifying and ineffective for us. But some are very good at this!

Are you wired for this style of evangelism?

Rate yourself 0 – 5 ____

Get a friend to rate you 0 – 5 ____

The reality is the church becomes motivated when the team sees people being saved and transformed by His power.

5. Is a happy church and/or happy pastor a good sign of church health?

I heard a comment from one of our movement’s leaders recently that suggests that a happy church may not be a healthy church. The ‘happiest churches’ are often the ones where nothing radical is happening and they all know each other and congregation numbers are in slow, steady decline.

7. What are we going to measure?

Virtually daily, I see church family helping others re-commit to Christ or repent of their sins (and it’s awesome). But I don’t measure such events or prayers. At any Church I pastor I measure 4 things, as they all point to the discipleship process, i.e. people becoming Christians and going on to maturity.

a) baptisms

b) new church members

c) % of church volunteering in service in or through the church to the community

d) Our giving trends

VISION

Much has been written about vision in business circles and much said in Christian literature about what it means to have a progressive vision, however I find that most churches DON’T have a vision.

A vision describes what the future will look like for your specific church as the Holy Spirit has led you. It will say who you are going to reach, and how and what you expect the church to become as you follow His leading.

To reword the great commission IS NOT a vision.

Every local church is not called of God to reach the whole world, feed every starving person, support every missionary, relate to every people group.

to the faith that we have.

John 4:34

Jesus said:

My food (meat) is to do what God wants! He is the one who sent me, and I must finish the work that he gave me to do.

For leaders:

All of us who pastor churches, are elders and key leaders in the church would love to have buildings that are modern and welcoming. All of us would like to have multiple staff (experts doing their specialist roles well managed by the leader/s), and all of us, I suspect, would like to have huge social services and happy congregations. We are human. People have tried to draw on business models and the social sciences to 'improve' how we do church and make us socially, and emotionally and structurally healthy.

BUT

Consider these questions amongst your leadership team:

1. **How important were the buildings to the early church?**
If we have the best facilities and yet people are not being saved, would God be excited about our church?
2. **As volunteerism has declined in the west, we have begun to leave church to the 'experts'. Do we really want the experts (often the paid Christians) doing most of the work?**
 - a Does such an approach really help with discipling new believers?
 - b How does it fit with the biblical model of the church in the New Testament where we are all described as ministering parts in the one body, as priests, as living stones
 - c When you look at Paul's missionary journeys, were they really missionary journeys or church planting journeys?
3. **Does huge social services equate to doing evangelism/mission if no one is getting saved? Is one without the other even desirable to God?**
4. **We can amend constitutions, tweak position descriptions, hold forums and 'feel good' discussion meetings. But does any of that really unify and empower the church?**

B Intellectual Style

We may all like to think we have this style of evangelism but in reality only some do.

When Paul in Acts 17 met a group of philosophers in Athens this is the style of evangelism he used. Now if he had confronted these guys they probably would have shown him the door but he addressed them logically, intellectually and persuasively.

He said, "You guys have built a statue to an unknown God. I know who he is. His name is Jesus and this is how you can get to know Him."

People with this style of evangelism are very logical, analytical and often inquisitive. When they are discussing faith with others you will hear them asking questions like; "What do you think?" Or "How do you know that?" or "What brought you to that conclusion?"

Are you wired for this style of evangelism?

Rate yourself 0 – 5 ___

Get a friend to rate you 0 – 5 ___

C Testimonial Style

In John chapter 9 we read the account of a blind man who is given sight by Jesus, and he runs around the city telling people about Jesus. When he is confronted by the religious leaders who try to question him about Jesus and Jesus' theology he says "All I know is that I used to be blind but now I can see." Every one of us has a story to tell about our conversion and stories to tell about our daily experiences of God, and we should tell those stories.

However some of us are going to find that a lot easier and more natural than others.

I think that those people with this evangelism style typically are good listeners, good story tellers and pretty good communicators.

These are people who can relate their life experiences to others in a way that is helpful to them.

Are you wired for this style of evangelism?

Rate yourself 0 – 5 ___

Get a friend to rate you 0 – 5 ___

D Interpersonal Style

While I might wish I had the intellectual style of evangelism, in reality this one is me. I enjoy people. I enjoy making friends and getting to know people. Probably 95% of the people I have discipled over the years I have genuinely treated as a friend before and after they decided to follow the Lord.

In Luke 5 we read the story of Matthew the IRD guy. He's just become a believer in who Jesus is and the first thing he does is to throw a special party. He invites all his mates to dinner where they can mix and mingle with Jesus and His disciples. Matthew knows that as a relationship is established and trust grows so will the faith of his friends.

Are you wired for this style of evangelism?

Rate yourself 0 – 5 ___

Get a friend to rate you 0 – 5 ___

E Serving Style

While no one is ever won into the kingdom of God without words, many people feel motivated and gifted to serve and speak at the same time. There is a huge amount of evangelism that takes place every week through food banks, op shops, budgeting services, counselling services, home help etc.

Dorcas in Acts chapter 9 was a lady who loved to make clothes for the poor and helping the poor in whatever way she could. Many, many people came into the kingdom because she used humble service and words hand in hand. I guess she must have been like the late Mother Teresa, where her service and her words impacted many. In Dorcas' case her kingdom impact on the community was so great that when she died – they turned around and asked God to raise her from the dead because they needed her so much.

No one should ever think that serving replaces evangelism. When we serve others we still need to use words!

Are you wired for this style of evangelism?

Rate yourself 0 – 5 ___

Get a friend to rate you 0 – 5 ___

¹⁸ *They will handle snakes and will drink poison and not be hurt. They will also heal sick people by placing their hands on them.*

In the Bible Jesus tells all of his followers to make disciples or to be his witnesses at home, outside your comfort area and to other ethnicities.

He tells all of us to be witnesses and to make disciples. And some would say, Lord that is unfair, you didn't give me the gift of evangelism so how can I be part of the all who bear witness to you?

If you look at the great commissions and what Jesus said to the gathered faithful before he ascended, the Holy Spirit is going to be given so that you can be His witness as you go about the world doing life.

How? Because he has given you all spiritual gifts.

Jesus said all believers can force out demons, speak new languages, survive when attacked by poisonous snakes as Paul did, and heal sick people by placing their hands on them.

I think that there is good biblical evidence that all Christians can prophesy, since we can all hear from God. Therefore why don't we who have the Holy Spirit stop trying to work for God, and instead just get close to Jesus and let Him work through us.

Words of Knowledge and Words of Wisdom

Healing

Deliverance ministry

If we **truly care** about our neighbours, our kids, our relatives, our workmates, they need to **hear** that there is a God, that some things are sinful and need to be repented of, that there is a heaven and a hell and they need to **see** evidence that the God we serve is real.

When Jesus commissioned us **ALL** to be witnesses He did that by sending us the Holy Spirit so that we **all** could use the gifts and the faith that we have been given to help lost people encounter almighty God.

In Romans 12:3-8 Paul encourages us to use the 'measure of faith' that we have. He goes on to encourage us to operate in the spiritual gifts in proportion

Colossians 3:23 (CEV)

Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master.

3. **By showing people what real Christians look like (Integrity through our work)**

4. **By having as our goals both financial independence and a desire to bless our customers.**

John 6:27 (CEV)

Don't work for food that spoils. Work for food that gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give you this food, because God the Father has given him the right to do so."

5. **By Giving you the Financial Means to Bless Others**

Ephesians 4:28 (CEV)

If you are a thief, quit stealing. Be honest and work hard, so you will have something to give to people in need.

6. **By Creating a network of relationships through which I can speak and demonstrate the Gospel.**

Romans 10:17 (CEV)

No one can have faith without hearing the message about Christ.

Supernatural Evangelism

Proposition: Everyone who has the Holy Spirit is empowered to be a witness for Jesus.

Acts 1:4-10 (CEV)

Mark 16:15-18

¹⁵ Then he told them:

*Go and preach the **good news to everyone** in the world. ¹⁶ Anyone who believes me and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe me will be condemned. ¹⁷ **Everyone** who believes me will be able to do wonderful things. By using my name they will force out demons, and they will speak new languages.*

F Invitational style

In John 4 we read of a woman at a well in Samaria. Jesus had just exercised a 'word of knowledge' over her life and she had begun to grasp who Jesus actually was. So she runs back into her village, knocks on all the doors and invites everyone in town to come and see this man who gets divine revelations from heaven.

When there is a church event or special meeting think;

- Who can I pick up?
- Who can I invite or phone?

People with this style feel comfortable asking others to come and see, come and hear, come and experience.

Statistics show that this is a very effective style of evangelism.

One survey showed that 1 in 4 pre-Christians would come to church if they were invited personally by a believing friend.

To invite someone to church is pretty effective. To pick them up and sit by them in church is very effective. The potential for kingdom growth through this style of evangelism is huge.

Are you wired for this style of evangelism?

Rate yourself 0 – 5 ____

Get a friend to rate you 0 – 5 ____

Could child evangelism be God's priority mission field?

If I were to ask you what people group in the world is most open to the gospel, what would you say? Maybe the poor, or Africans, or those in crisis? The answer is in fact 'children', more specifically young people between the ages of 4 – 14. It is hard to know whose statistics to believe, but around 1/3 of the people I have led into a life-long relationship with Jesus have been in this age-group and some statistics suggest that up to 85% of those coming to Christ today in the world are of this age group.

In the West, psychologists have convinced us that people cannot make life-long decisions until they are around 25 years of age. God has a different view. Of the people I have led to Christ at a young age, very few have drifted away from the Lord or the church (a greater number of 30 and 40 somethings have gone back

to their previous ways of living).

I vividly recall reading some research work Nigel Cottle did for the Union over a decade ago reflecting shocking statistics re young people exiting the church at around 18. Today I suggest things are worse, with around 75% of our church youth leaving at this age and up to a third of those returning to church after they have made major life decisions once they start a family.

We say we are running good youth and children's programs and yet Karen Warner recounted the real stats in her article before the Hui last year. In the last 10 years we have 13% fewer adults in church, 22% fewer teens and 26% fewer children. Please don't tell me that our Baptist movement is healthy or that we are doing well. It's not true. The most important thing to Our Father in Heaven is that lost people come into a saving relationship with Jesus. Our population is growing in NZ but we are in steady decline.

We are in decline. Our ministries, including our youth ministries, are not healthy. Our community ministries on a whole are not producing salvations. We are missing the 'main thing' the church is called to do (evangelism) while overlooking these little ones as maybe too young to be Christians or a part of the Body of Christ. When, in fact, God does not see things that way.

BUT GOD.....

Ten years ago when our excellent children's and families ministries were resourcing parents through concepts like 'think orange' I felt that we were partly on track. We had maybe half of the picture for the future that we needed. What we have failed to focus on, and now God is inviting us to see, is that children are the most fertile mission field in every country NOW; that evangelism focused towards children bears lasting fruit and in fact children are often the best evangelists in our churches (unless you tell them that evangelism scares us adults).

I am convinced that if we focus on church kids, we'll lose around 75%. But if we focus our evangelistic efforts on reaching pre-Christian Children we will reach thousands for Christ who are currently lost and in the process retain most of the already found.

For years I have led adults to the Lord and had to spend long periods of time: helping them get healed of past trauma and mistakes; time deconstructing

What do you do with your time (the associated question)

(NB about 1/4 of Whangarei are on benefits but may volunteer in the community)

5. ***Flying off an arm on the clock is a plane (the picture)...***
Have you ever travelled? (the associated question)
6. ***Propelling the plane is a tennis racket(the picture)...***
What do you do with your spare time? (the associated question)
7. ***Holding the tennis racket to the plane is a light bulb(the picture)...***
What kind of things do you like to think about? (The associated question)

F. Setting Your Church Up As A Tool For Evangelism

We have several resources on setting your church up as a tool for evangelism. You can view most of the resources on our website or watch this youtube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LA3dp7uZ_u4

My Work – My Mission Field

How Can Our Work Become Our Mission Field?

1. **By letting our Love for God and our Grateful Attitudes flow through our work.**
2. **By Reflecting His Creativity/Craftsmanship through our work.**

You and I were made 'in His image'. God has made the world amazingly well. He has given you gifts and talents so that you can do things well. Everything we do in our job should be done in such a way that it will bring Him glory.

John Piper said this:

"God created us to work so that by consciously relying on his power and consciously shaping the world after His excellence, we might be satisfied in Him, and He might be glorified in us. And when we remember that all this God exalting creativity and all this joy is only possible for undeserving sinners like us because of the death of Christ, every hour of labour becomes a boasting in the cross."

Romans 3:23

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

Ask them what they think it means. At the bottom of the page make a note to the next text.

Romans 6:23

Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ask them what they think it means. At the bottom of the page make a reference to the next text.

John 3:16 & 36

¹⁶ *God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.*

³⁶ *Everyone who has faith in the Son has eternal life. But no one who rejects him will ever share in that life, and God will be angry with them forever.*

Again ask them what they think it means and be prepared to give some explanations.

E. Seven safe questions you can ask a church visitor or a potential friend

A picture stack which reminds us of seven safe questions that you can ask anyone new anytime (Taken from the Caleb leadership course)

1. **A name on a letter box (the picture)**
My name is(the comment)
(then hopefully they will give you their name).
2. **A big house (the picture)....**
Where do you live?(the associated question)
3. **A group of people standing on the roof(the picture)...**
Tell me about your family (the associated question)
(NB many families are blended and 21% of Whangarei families are single parent families)
4. **One of the people is holding a big clock(the picture)...**

unhealthy concepts of God and reconstructing them around the Word; time healing relationships and sorting out the consequences of big life mistakes.

How much better would it be to focus on reaching people while they are young, helping them to hear His Voice and to fully trust His Word so that they can grow up confident in a Biblical World View.

Before arriving in a new pastorate in Whangarei last year, God had already been redirecting my heart and what He wanted to do in the church here in relation to children. Though the church I came to was mostly senior in age, the Holy Spirit clearly directed me and the team to focus on two things:

“Raising World-changing Christians – Blessing Northern Churches”.

As a church we will welcome anyone and reach out to anyone, but we are becoming very deliberate in making evangelism to our 4-14 year olds the priority. We are changing every aspect about our building, signage, services, social activities, etc to fit around that vision. We are forming a faith development strategy where we will pick up children, both church and unreached, at the age of four and invest into them deliberately and track/mentor them intentionally until they are 25 years of age. We want to see children involved in virtually every area of ministry in the church including all age worship teams, door greeters, prayers, evangelists, and leaders. We aim to take multiple risks of faith so that they get every opportunity to really know the Lord and His power and calling on each of their lives. We want to give them opportunities in community ministries, overseas mission and leadership development.

We aim to surround every church or unchurched young person with at least 5 meaningful relationships outside of their own family.

We want their parents (churched and unchurched) to find us as their ‘best’ supporters.

Karen Warner has given me many books, links and resources that have helped us shape our future ministry at Central Baptist in Whangarei. One of the best has been George Barna's book “Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions.” Here are four quotes from this book:

“... by the age of 13, your spiritual identity is largely set in place.” (p.34)

“Many churches do not adequately or appropriately support ministry to children because kids are seen as the ‘bait’ that enables the church to land the real treasure ie adults – rather than as a valuable, if unrefined, treasure in themselves.” (p.41)

“The research reinforces one simple but profound truth over and over again; if you want to have a lasting influence upon the world, you must invest in people’s lives; and if you want to maximize that investment, then you must invest in those people while they are young.” (p.41)

“Having devoted more than two decades of my life and all my professional skills to studying and working with ministries of all types, I am now convinced that THE GREATEST HOPE FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH LIES IN RAISING GODLY CHILDREN.” (p.49)

I have been in pastoral ministry for a long time. I have had the profound pleasure of seeing so many people come into the Kingdom. Right now I believe God is opening our eyes to see the obvious, and inviting us to change our patterns of church and evangelism that are largely failing. Right now, there is a harvest field of souls in your neighbourhood and mine. They won’t tithe for some time, they have lots of energy and make life messy, but if you and I reach out to them and invest in them, the church of the future will be growing and dynamic! Unleash the gospel to the young then unleash them in the church and you will see – how awesome our God is!

Matthew 18:1-14

What About Community Ministries?

Ask yourself now, or your group.

In the community ministries in your church, how many people have come to faith in the last three months?

How many hours of volunteer and paid service were put into those ministries?

Ask yourself.

If getting a grant for that new van or that community service means we cannot talk about Jesus, does God want us to take the grant?

Discuss with your community ministries teams how you can be more deliberate and prepared to speak to the folk you are serving about Jesus. They expect you

When we begin to talk about ourselves many of us naturally want to give a long, detailed account. It’s also really hard to choose words that someone who has never been to church will understand.

Practise writing down your story on how you came to trust Jesus with your life:

· Use secular language (no Christian jargon)

· Keep it brief

Keep it personal – use ‘I’, ‘me’ statements. You are not giving a sermon, you are sharing your story which no one can argue with. It’s your experience.

· Don’t focus on all the bad things you have done. Make the focus what Jesus has done for you.

Appropriate scriptures have power.

· Finish with a challenge.

Take time now to write out your two minute testimony for:

- Before I trusted Jesus.....
- How I trusted Jesus ... (include scripture if possible)
- Since I have trusted Jesus.... (challenge)

Practise it with a friend and get them to watch out for any Christian jargon.

D. How To Prepare Your Bible As A Tool For Evangelism

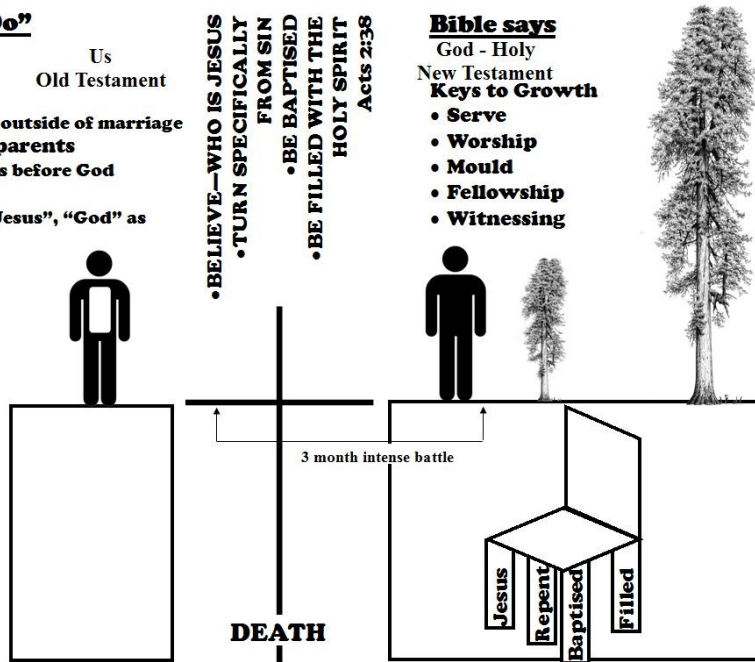
Remember that the Holy Spirit is significantly at work in the hearts of people when they hear the word of God and so if you have the opportunity to explain salvation using your Bible get the person to whom you are talking to do all the reading out loud.

After each passage ask them what they think it means and help them with the answers if necessary.

Cults say "Do"

Liar Us
Thief Old Testament
Murderer
Adulterer—sex outside of marriage
Dishonouring parents
Idolatry—things before God
Sabbath—rest
Blasphemy— "Jesus", "God" as swear words
Greed
Own religion

God 100%
Purity Scale
Us 0.01%



C. How To Prepare Your Testimony

The Bible encourages us always to be ready to give an account for what we believe. It's important to prepare a testimony. Have a clear testimony of your salvation prepared in your mind and also be prepared to give a testimony of what God has done today, this week or this month. Personally I find that the most recent testimonies to God's goodness flow most easily and with the most naturally worshipful attitude as you tell them.

If you read Paul's testimony to King Agrippa in Acts 26:1-29 you will notice that it follows a pattern that Christians have been using for years.

- Before he trusted Jesus
- What was the process? What does it look like to become a Christian?
How he trusted Jesus.
- Since he trusted Jesus

to, and Jesus longs for you to!

List each community ministry and brainstorm how you can be more strategic, honest and bold for the kingdom.

In the New Testament was the majority of community service to believers or unbelievers?

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

What If Small Groups And Ministry Teams Had An Evangelistic Focus?

Acts 2:42-47

John 13:34-36

What if every small group or ministry team agreed to meet for a defined time? E.g. only commit to a couple of months or a term at a time.

And,

What if every small group was formed around their familiar passion?

Maybe there are groups of people with a passion for a certain neighbourhood, or fatherless youth, or art, or fishing, or music, or hiking, or solo parents. What if those people with a similar passion met together for real fellowship three out of four weeks?

What if every small group or ministry team had a built in outreach component? That is if about every fourth week they did something evangelistic in the area of their passion e.g. street BBQ (with testimonies), a fishing trip (with prayer and testimony), a cooking evening etc. If every group was praying for the lost and working together to do something on a regular basis to reach

the lost, they would become a very tight team, very dependent on the Holy Spirit and they would grow through those who are being saved.

Tools That Can Help You Be Prepared To Talk About Jesus In Any Situation

A. 5 Fantastic Questions

William Fay and Ralph Hodge produced a DVD course called, “Share Jesus without fear”

This four week course is full of practical ideas and perspectives on evangelism that help take fear out of the picture.

The thing that struck me most about this course was Mr Fay’s 5 fantastic questions.

Though this is not my natural way of talking about Jesus, I have written these questions in the front of my pocket bible as a great resource/memory jogger for later. When you ask these questions of the person you are speaking to, Mr Fay suggests that you just listen and acknowledge what they are saying ... ah ah...

Here they are:

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you believe that there is a heaven and a hell?
4. If you died today would you go to heaven or hell? Why would he let you in?
5. If what you believe is not true would you want to know?

Asking the five questions is really simple and requires only that you listen. If they don’t know Jesus but answer question 5 that they would like to know the truth if they are wrong, you can launch in naturally and share the gospel and your testimony in a natural way.

B. How To Present The Gospel

Over the years I have benefited from what I have learned through the Willow Creek “Contagious Christianity course”, Ray Comfort’s “The Way of the Master,” “Alpha” and Rick Warren’s “The Purpose Driven Life”.

If you want to see how I put these elements together stressing the most important elements of a gospel presentation take 20 minutes to view “Getting to know God” on our church website: www.whangareicbc.org.nz home page. It is very kiwi and I have found works well in my context.

However you present the gospel message these elements are important:

God is Holy and awesome. We are not!

My sin causes that separation from God and my awareness that I am empty, disconnected from God. God is not only Holy but He is just.

Therefore a just judge will punish sin.

I explain the pattern of how to become a disciple from the New Testament starting at Acts 2:38 where Peter says once you believe in who Jesus is you need to turn from your sins, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit.

I then share the principles of the way of “The Purpose Driven Life”

and say if you want to grow from a seedling into a mighty tree (Kauri) 5 things are essential:

Fellowship – hang out with other Christians every week.

Worship – learn to thank God for everything .

Discipleship (although I would use the word moulding) and explain that God will guide you throughout the day and as you obey Him and learn about Him you will be changed over time to become more like Jesus.

Service – God will put a desire in your heart and gifts in you to serve Him in a way that is fun and effective.

Witnessing – you will find a way of witnessing, talking about Jesus that will work for you and be authentic.

Take time to practice presenting the gospel in a way that makes sense and comes across naturally through you