

CITY ON A HILL

Evangelism Support Committee Newsletter
October, 2010



Three Important Reasons for Evangelism

If there are more important verses than others in the Bible that relate to evangelism, then Isaiah 55:11, Romans 1:16 and John 12:32 are definitely three of the most important. In these verses we read the effectiveness of the gospel, the power of the gospel and the usefulness of ourselves to deliver the gospel to others, as it relates to evangelism.

In Isaiah we read the about the effectiveness of the gospel, that is the word of God. The word of God is a power to reckon with. We cannot, nor should not, stifle the wonderful news that we are allowed to share with others. Isaiah 55: 11 says **“So shall my word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”** It is the unique word of God by which makes things happen. He has power over all things and all people. The word of God is intentional with divine purpose, bringing about real and inspired change in people’s lives.

Jesus is called the Word in John 1: 1, 14. Jesus taught with authority and when he spoke things happened! Jesus had the power to forgive people their sins, to raise the dead, to calm the wind, to cast out demons and to heal people. Jesus’ words on earth show us that the word of God is powerful!

The Word of God is inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is truth from beginning to end, it frees us from our sin, it produces faith and it helps us discern the Word of God (being sharper than any two edged sword). Knowing the Word of God (Bible) is critical

to being able to share the gospel (good news) with others.

Romans 1: 16 gives us two very comforting reasons for doing evangelism. In Pauls letter to the Romans, we read **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”** If we know that God will accomplish what he wants to and that the gospel has the power to save anyone, then it should also comfort us that we are using two valuable resources: God’s Word and God’s Gospel. The Word of God is the Bible, and the Gospel of God is His revelation of redemption for sinners.

Finally, in John 12: 32 we read **“And I, being lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”** When we are witnessing, the death of Christ draws sinners to him. There is nothing that we can or must do. He does the work for us. We need to realise that the responsibility of salvation does not rest with us, but with God. And yet, we are the teacher, the deliverer of the good news. “How shall they believe in Him who they have not heard?” (Romans 10: 14).

These verses in the Bible should give us the confidence to bear the gospel with surety. We plant the seeds, God waters them. It is His Word that saves. It is His Gospel that has the power to save. It is through Jesus Christ that sinners are drawn to Him. Let us be bold, and let God use us.

Bruce Huizinga

Getting Missions on the Mind

Earlier this year I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to India and volunteer at a mission catering for destitute women and children. This experience has made me deeply passionate about encouraging others within our church community to dedicate some time to serving others.

If you had asked me a few years ago if I would work for free for two months in a third world country, I would have given you the answer before you had even finished speaking. **‘No way’ pretty much sums it up.** It had never occurred to me to give some of my time, money and efforts to help other people, especially foreigners in a place that didn’t even have clean drinking water! But about a year ago I was presented with an opportunity, and I decided that God had blessed me with a good life – a loving family, church, financial stability, and God-given gifts. And it was about time that I did something that, for once, wasn’t completely self-centred.

The thing that changed my mind, and eventually my whole perspective on missions, was the fact that I was *given an opportunity* to do something. **Sometimes people just need to have opportunities put under their noses in order for them to take notice and initiate something.** That is something that I would really like to encourage and promote in our churches, as there are numerous different opportunities for people to do some volunteer/mission work, both within Australia and abroad. I think it is too easy for us to say that we’re doing our part because we put money in the collections for mission, or we turn up to a fundraising event. Yes, those things are needed and are positive, but often they are a cop-out. Every member of the church has wonderful

God-given practical talents that would be of immense use on the mission field. **And the mission field isn’t just those clichéd visions of third world countries and full-on evangelism.** Mission work can simply be giving up your time to assist others who need help – often in practical ways. Simply helping them, without mention of religion, is planting a seed.

We need to encourage those around us to do more than contribute to mission financially and in prayer. Considering how blessed we are, we should be doing more to contribute to missions in more practical ways. So how do we do it? We work with the different missions that operate within our churches and look for opportunities where people can be of use. **Then we promote participating in mission work more actively in our churches, and give members specific information on how they can help.** The more awareness there is of opportunities to serve through mission, the more we will see people like me go from a ‘no way’ attitude towards mission, to someone passionate about mission.

If you would like to read more about my trip to India, I have published an article in the Mission News, August edition.

Kate Foreman

FINE FOOD AND CRAFT MARKETS

20th Nov 2010 Southern River Church
8.00am – 1.00pm, food, craft, kid’s
carnival, co-op stall, and much more

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

4th Dec 2010 Southern River Church
from 5.30pm, Carols on the Lawn,
BYO picnic dinner & seating