

# Remembering the Practice of Evangelism

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## DEDICATION

To the scholars and practitioners of evangelism, may we never forget your tireless efforts to get us out of the four-walls of our churches. Thank you for all that you do for the kingdom.

I appreciate your scholarship and service to the Church.

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

It has been said that one of the greatest passions of the believer ought to be a desire to see lost men and women come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Evangelical Christian faith is a faith that believes that “soul winning “is the heart of God. It is the intent of this book to review evangelism methods of the Evangelical Church of Jesus Christ in North America. It is from this perspective, that we look at what it means for the church to have a passion for the lost. From these lenses we have chosen to examine the Church and observe her various ways and methods that have been used in evangelism. I am an evangelical believer that believes evangelism is a command of God, given for the purpose of winning the lost for the kingdom of heaven.

Christians in North America have numerous churches, associations and denominations. There are various groups of believers that all have autonomy from one another. It has been said that the Christian Church of North America identifies itself in two different categories. Some proclaim to be evangelical believers and others mainline Christians. To understand these two distinct groups let’s look at their definitions. According to [www.wickedpedia.com](http://www.wickedpedia.com) “The mainline (also sometimes called mainstream) or mainline Protestant denominations are those Protestant denominations that were brought to the United States by America's historic immigrant groups; for this reason they are sometimes referred to as heritage churches.<sup>1</sup>The largest are the Episcopal (English), Presbyterian (Scottish), Methodist (English and Welsh), and Lutheran (German and Scandinavian) churches. Because these groups tend to be open to new ideas and societal changes without abandoning what they

consider to be the historical basis of the Christian faith.<sup>[2]</sup> This places them to the left of the evangelical churches. They have been increasingly open to the ordination of women. They have been far from uniform in their reaction to homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals, though less dogmatic on these issues than either the Roman Catholic Church or the more conservative Protestant churches.”

“The Evangelical segment of the body defined by Wikipedia states “Evangelicalism is a Protestant Christian movement which began in Great Britain in the 1730s. Most adherents consider its key characteristics to be: a belief in the need for personal conversion (or being "born again"); some expression of the gospel in effort; a high regard for Biblical authority; and an emphasis on the death and resurrection of Jesus.<sup>[2]</sup> David Bebbington has termed these four distinctive aspects *conversionism*, *activism*, *Biblicism*, and *crucicentrism*, saying, "Together they form a quadrilateral of priorities that is the basis of Evangelicalism."

There is a well-known association of Churches that are called the National Association of Evangelicals. It was formed in April of 1942 when a modest group of 147 people met in St. Louis with the hopes of reshaping the direction of evangelical Christianity in America. According to Evangelical history, the nation was in the midst of a depression, we had just declared war on Japan and Germany. Things were dark, and the church needed an energized perspective on the kingdom of God. Because of the times, many were led to believe that conservative Christians had gone off of the scene. That’s when the NAE was established and began to once again focus on Christian missions and evangelism in North America. Author Randall Ballmer gives this movement a

vocabulary as he describes for the reader what an evangelical is.

Because of the nature and focus of this particular book, I want to look at the Evangelical arm of the Church of North America and review its 21st century approach to evangelism. These churches like to describe themselves as being evangelistic, conservative, and gospel centered, bible believing congregations with a focus on spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>

## CHAPTER 2

## WHATS IN THIS BOOK?

This book looks at three areas that the church is located within; urban, suburban and rural communities. According to the research, evangelism in these areas often times is conducted to reach the surrounding culture of the local church. There are many things that impact the evangelistic models of these churches in each community. There are cultural, racial, social, economic and political situations that help shape each congregation in their efforts to reach those who are not Christian in their communities. The research involved with reviewing these methods, reveal that all of these areas should be thoroughly investigated prior to any group doing any work in these perspective areas, because evangelism looks and is done different in our changing global context.

Because evangelicals are gospel centered churches, there are two types of evangelism models used by most of their churches. Dr. Luis Palau world known evangelist discusses strategies of evangelism at Amsterdam 2000, world conference on global evangelism. Dr. Palau believes that Jesus used two methods of New Testament evangelism, and this is what I believe we see today in our evangelical churches. There is corporate evangelism and personal evangelism. These two types of evangelism mentioned are very distinct. Corporate evangelism can be found in Luke chapter 10:1-9, as Jesus sent his disciples out on their first missionary journey. The bible says, that they all returned with the report about how great things happened in his name. In this model of corporate evangelism, groups of believers worked together to accomplish what God had called them to do for Him in the earth. The common goal was to preach the good news so that others

would believe. In the second example shared by Dr. Palau, he speaks about the personal side of evangelism. It is the side where individuals in the church are compelled to share their faith with those who do not have a personal relationship with God; we too can see examples of this once again in the scriptures of how this works. In St. John 3: 1-17 Jesus is sharing his faith with a religious leader who does not understand how to be born again. In Acts 8, Phillip is sharing His faith with an Ethiopian traveler who is searching for a personal relationship with God.

These are the few biblical examples of what evangelicals believe that the bible says about their mandate to share the good news of the gospel. Author Rebecca manly Pippert, an evangelical writer, thinker and conference speaker wrote the book out of the Salt shaker and into the world. In her section on lifestyle evangelism, she comments on page 100 about Christ's thinking. She states "Christ life was marked by a deep love for his Father, His neighbor and Himself, as a result of this he practiced lifestyle evangelism". The model taught in the gospels showed his followers a way to live a lifestyle of evangelism. Jesus was personal and operated on the community model He lived and served in community with his disciples. In this community he taught them how to serve others and how to spread the good news with others outside of their group.

## CHAPTER 3

### EVANGELISM IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to what Rebecca Pippert has described, evangelism in the urban, suburban and rural communities today, has been said to be often times organized around the surrounding culture of the local church. The North American Evangelical Church, no matter where she is scattered uses corporate and or personal evangelism in their communities approach to evangelism. It is the desire of this writer to share current information on the many ways that evangelism models are carried out according to tradition, culture, economics and location. In Most Urban cities, local evangelical churches will use some of the following strategies of outreach, through corporate evangelism to reach their surrounding communities, they are as follows;

- Sports camps and leagues
- Concerts and drama presentations
- Church retreats and outreach camps
- Educational seminars & conferences
- Local prison, jail and detention centers outreach
- Gang prevention and Intervention programs
- After school mentoring and tutoring programs
- Vacation Bible school (day & evening)
- Child day care & evangelism
- High School Campus evangelism
- Youth Conferences and Rallies

Urban churches that tend to work in highly populated areas, work on other forms of evangelism, primarily those that affect the

immediate communities. Some of their passions may be combating hunger, poverty, crime, illiteracy and social justice issues. Urban Churches serve their areas through the following services and or programs;

- Clothing and feeding programs
- Educational services
- Bible studies
- Drug programs

Rural and Suburban evangelism will also use either corporate or personal evangelism strategies to reach the lost. The rural models of corporate evangelism may be served out in the following types of events;

- The county fair community celebrations
- The county wide feeding of the homeless
- Thanksgiving day feed
- Christmas parade down main street
- County revivals

Rural evangelist suggests that their model of outreach for these events will be attended and supported by the local churches in the rural area. During these outreach events there will usually be preaching singing and sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ. Rural personal evangelism may be door to door, friend to friend, and perhaps even done through compassion outreach events, like hospital or convalescent visitation. Most rural churches conducting evangelism events will have small teams sharing the good news with those they know and or care about. Rural evangelist says that their person to person form of evangelism will be a very intimate style of communication that enables believers to share their faith.

According to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Evangelism that takes place in the Suburban areas will also use either Corporate or Personal evangelism styles. Corporate evangelism in these areas is most likely to be held in private homes or arenas. Stadium driven events are where the masses can be called together from the suburbs of the city. Those hosting churches of suburban communities usually will have the resources to gather great crowds and or conduct large campaigns that reach a lot of people. (According to Dr. Ford, these events take a great deal of time to manage and to organize them.) They have traditionally been called; crusades, festivals, concerts and large community events.

Dr. Leighton Ford in his book, *The Christian persuader* tells a story of a young man on page 75 who is against “mass evangelism”, and how he has to be persuaded to understand that mass evangelism is really only a platform for personal evangelism. This is what is used at the suburban level of evangelism. It is all personal. The Youngman did not understand how so many could come and yet the event be personal to each one. According to Kevin Palau Executive Director of the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association, the suburban areas of many of our cities are good locations for mass evangelism. It is here that large outreach-evangelistic events may be hosted, but the masses of people in attendance, are friends of only a few people, who have been invited to attend such events. The design of the event is to use personal invitations to come and meet Jesus.

During a conference on world evangelism in Amsterdam Netherlands, Donald Tabb , a lecturer on evangelism follow up suggest that the after care or discipleship of new converts be done

through teaching the bible to them.(Gatherings through follow up classes, small groups, Sunday school, bible study etc.)These are sure ways to help new believers to grow in the faith.

In suburban communities, Evangelist Dallas Anderson of the Billy Graham Center for global evangelism suggest that Affinity evangelism is yet Another approach that is worthy of our attention. Affinity evangelism is where the use smaller venues such as golf tournaments, hunting tournaments, boating, horseback riding and people driven events where people are invited to bring friends to hear the word of God.

According Dallas Anderson, personal evangelism in suburban areas often times is done through dinners, parties, families, and other personal events, where people are invited to come and talk about Jesus. Rick Richardson on Inner Varsity and professor of evangelism at Wheaton College believes it is the individual contact, through small groups that help evangelism to stay personal. No matter where the location of the evangelical church, one can find a mindset that believes in reaching the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## CHAPTER 4

### EVANGELISM IN THE CITY

As a personal observer, and licensed and ordained evangelist for 18 years, I have been privilege to learn, observe and research evangelism across our country. My documented experiences, observations, and networks have taken me to major and rural cities in California, Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Illinois, New York, Tennessee, Florida, Texas learning and participating in Urban evangelism. These opportunities to evangelize have been with local churches, Para church organizations and private “Mom and Pop evangelical ministries.” It has been from these experiences that a discovery about evangelism has emerged. While attending the international conference on world evangelism with the Billy graham Evangelistic Association I had the privilege of learning about the three major types of evangelism campaigns that I think best describe the evangelism models shared with you.

Let’s begin with urban corporate evangelism and serving churches in the inner city. (Urban-setting) In 2001 I had the privilege of observing, and being a participant with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and participating in a Crusade. The BGEA is North America’s oldest itinerant evangelism ministry in the country. Over several decades the Graham organization has worked with local churches to help to bring the gospel to many towns and cities in the USA. In the Fresno Ca. Campaign, Churches were first taught how to share their faith in personal evangelism through workshops, rallies and small bible classes through corporate training. Major denominations came together to host this valley wide event. The participating churches

and Para church organizations raised numerous resources to support and host a three day evangelistic event, in which Dr. Graham and team came and presented the gospel to over one million people. These events were hosted and developed by the local church but trained and nurtured through the Graham organization. Each event is comprised of a series of smaller events.

Through personal experience and participant research, I discovered how an evangelistic crusade takes place in a large city. The local church after training it's parishioners to pray for the lost and to share their faith sends them out to their homes, jobs, and communities to share the gospel in a personal context.

After they share the listeners are invited to attend one of the main stadium events. At the stadium events the gospel message is shared by Dr. Graham or another itinerant evangelist. After the preaching of the gospel an invitation to accept Christ is offered and those who have brought friends are encouraged to invite them to make a decision for Christ. To conclude these wonderful events churches that have invited people to attend a crusade are also responsible for helping them to make the transition into the local church. The BGEA has a team of teachers that assist in this great endeavor to reach the lost in the inner cities of our country.

## CHAPTER 5

### EVANGELISM IN THE COUNTRY

In Marion Alabama of June 2003 the Billy Graham Center of Wheaton College and the Institute of prison Ministries, lead a small evangelistic campaign in one of the poorest counties in North America. (Perry County) The county surrounding Marion Alabama has a population of 20,000 residents. There were approximately 50 to 60 churches for its residents. Through the Billy Graham Center the institute worked with 10 to 15 different churches and Para-church organizations to bring a week long rural evangelistic campaign to the City of Marion. These churches were small in nature with an average attendance of 20 to 40 people on a given Sunday. The Institute for Prison Ministries developed sports evangelism, compassion evangelism (feeding and clothing) and urban Hip-hop gospel concerts. Numerous souls were saved and the churches were encouraged and strengthened for their witness of Jesus Christ. Through personal evangelism Christians shared the gospel with their loved ones, at which time many people gave professions of faith.

This rural evangelistic event was impacting and life changing. It was Dr. Luis Palau who wrote in his book “Your new life with Christ” about the importance of the local church and about them sharing their faith”. Palau say’s That the book of Hebrews mentions that we are to spur one another on toward love and not give up meeting together, but encourage one another all the more as you see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

According to graduate student of Wheaton College “Our teams discovered small town rural evangelism is very effective in a

number of ways. Because the local churches know one another, there is a family feel to events". This helps this writer to understand the dynamics and interesting factors of rural evangelism. In the research reflecting on Post evangelistic events, follow up can also be very effective, because churches tend to be family driven and community oriented. The pastors of the community know one another, and serve well together, so when they combine efforts it's a powerful network of support and strength to get something done for Jesus.

## CHAPTER 6

### EVANGELISM IN THE SUBURBS

The third example of evangelism (corporate and personal) takes a look at evangelism in the Suburbs of North America. Once again, The Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College led a group of Itinerant Evangelist into Cary North Carolina in December of 2005. Under the leadership of Dr. Lon Allison, Director, Evangelist and Pastor/ Professor Campaigns were held in the suburban areas, to reach the upper class residents of Cary North Carolina. The campaign task was to bring the gospel into people's living rooms through familiar means of entertainment and other activities. The first task of these events was to work through large, mega church congregations that could host numerous small events in Cary. Through the churches networks, itinerant evangelist, come in to speak at smaller evangelism venues being hosted by church members over the span of one week.

Some of the venues held in Cary, were sports events, party events, youth events, senior citizen events, private clubs, men and women's social events. These evangelistic opportunities are called "Affinity evangelism". This style of evangelism allows for the "local mega church" to have its members host an event, which caters to their networks of friends.

Since these people groups are known for entertaining, the local churches were taught how to host parties/events that will be open doors to share the gospel with friends and networks that will not likely come to church or to any religious event. Affinity evangelism is powerful because it reaches people where they are, in a non- threatening or religious setting. Dr. Luis Palau

commenting on this form of evangelism, said in the book *Choose ye this day* on page 81 that the evangelist must meet people where they are in order to reach them with the good news.

In affinity evangelism the purpose of communicating the good news does just this. The frame work for such an event is very much like that of the larger stadium evangelism event; in those personal invitations, and prayer is what drives the efforts to reach out to others for Christ. Christians are taught how to develop small group bible studies, and to do follow up in their homes with the idea of building small church networks.

Evangelism in these areas is difficult, but very practical. It is a picture of corporate evangelism, but conducted in multiple smaller venues. It uses the St. John 3 model when Jesus meets with Nicodemus at night, to answer his questions about eternal life.

What makes this evangelism event corporate is that a large body of the local “Church membership” is involved in this campaign. Because of this you could literally have thousands of people participating in or hosting these affinity events across the city at the same time.

At the end of the affinity week there was a major gathering of the groups in a corporate setting to hear the word of the lord at a local business place, church or smaller arena for another gospel presentation. According to the Billy Graham Center research, follow up to these evangelistic events were held in the host homes in the form of “smaller seeker friendly bible studies”. This type of suburban evangelism today is on the rise and countless people are coming into the kingdom as a result of the local evangelical church

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pressing in to the kingdom through corporate and personal evangelism outreach events.

## CHAPTER 7

### EVANGELISM RESEARCH

In 2002-2004, this writer had the opportunity to do participate again in the field with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center for Global evangelism in the international community. During these trips abroad our teams lead campaigns in Russia, Africa and Europe. Their communities were separated by class (Like North America) but evangelism was the same even in these countries. I believe this is because of the word of God. The mandate of our savior is the same wherever we go. As Jesus used these two styles of evangelism so are we to do as He has done.

Evangelism in our world today, continues to reveal the two main models of our research observation in evangelism. (Personal and Corporate)

In my personal opinion, North America has been successful in sharing the good news through evangelistic programs and events. The evangelical churches of our country have done a good job at creating ways to educate ourselves through the development of schools, institutes, classes and bible lessons to help others to prepare themselves in evangelism.

This country has evangelical ministries, associations, partnerships, and denominations that work in collaborations from time to time to help the gospel to be spread throughout the world. This review and research has encouraged me to continue in the efforts of

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evangelism and discipleship, to help more of our churches in North America to be Evangelical in nature.

Working through evangelical preaching and teaching conferences, small ministry networks, Christian Universities, and bible institutes many continue to be encouraged to make disciples through evangelism. It is encouraging to see and to research the work of God in our country being done through various denominational leaders, pastor's conventions and Christian educators in higher education, encouraging their groups to evangelize in these three aforementioned areas. It has given this student a fresh passion for seeing the simplicity of the gospel restored back into the frame work of our preaching and teaching. With the hopes that our congregations will again be excited about the truth of God's word and be equipped to share this good news with all that come across their paths

## CHAPTER 8

### PERSONAL EVANGELISM

In my current assignment as the University Pastor of Fresno Pacific University, I serve as the Dean of Spiritual Formation. As Dean I am charged to equip the students for the work of the ministry. Through the use of American evangelical leaders such as evangelist, teachers, pastors and guest lecturers The University agenda is to encourage and equip students to have the heart of God for the lost in the world. In addition to this assignment several colleagues and I are engaged in ongoing research of planting a new church in the inner City of Fresno California. (Urban evangelism)

The New beginnings Community Baptist Church is a small southern Baptist church plant congregation of about 160 people, and growing because of their evangelistic fervor and passion of the lord. We have been together for 10 months, and the congregation continues to demonstrate a heart for the lost and a passion to see God saving their families and loved ones. ([www.nbcbc.org](http://www.nbcbc.org))

We am currently experimenting with the same evangelistic, urban model and planning for a large 2010 evangelistic campaign for the city of Fresno. We have several committees, and denominations working together to develop this inner city event to reach the half a million residents of metro Fresno California. Through these learned evangelism ideals and practices the ministry of evangelism continues to grow and discover new ways to make the events practical and the message simple.

With the new wave of immigrants coming to California, our new challenges consist of languages and training people groups of different cultures to reach the Lost. God has brought the world to

us, and dropped them in our urban centers. Urban, Rural and Suburban evangelism is the move and activity of God in the earth. It was Jesus who said in St. John chapter 6 and verse 44a, that no man can come unto me unless my father in Heaven will draw him. All of the activity of God in the earth is done through the drawing of the Father by the Spirit of God.

In conclusion, all of the North American Evangelical Churches plans efforts and activity mean nothing unless the Spirit of God is drawing men to come unto him. In the previous mentioned book, I have found these truths to be very real. Trying to do evangelism without the work of the Spirit is useless, however, when prayer has saturated an event, and been placed into the hearts and minds of God's people, results appear to be amazing and the Lord moves in miraculous ways. As a result of this research I have found evangelism to be both rewarding and satisfying in the three afore mentioned areas of North American Evangelical circles. God is yet using people to win other people unto himself. It is a blessing to see the church work and to know that she has heard God speak. The great commission is alive and well, I pray that the Lord will be pleased with our efforts as a people. To God be the glory for opening doors to evangelism in North America.

North American evangelicals have a rich history and deep understanding of biblical truth. The sovereignty of God as taught by J.I Packard helps us all to trust and rely on the work of God to complete the task of evangelism. Evangelicals believe that God is at work in the earth and that it is his passion and desire for the lost that allows men and women to come unto him. It is my prayer that the Lord of heaven and earth continue to give the body of Christ in this country a desire to share the good news with our world.

## CHAPTER 9

### ANGULUS THE EVANGELIST

I was born in 1964, in Los Angeles CA. I was saved and born again in 1979. God had grace on me and I was able to complete high school and go on to Jr. College, in spite of the negative obstacles of gang involvement in the inner city. In 1984 relocation to Fresno California proved to be a very productive for this underachiever from South Central Los Angeles.

By his mercy I was able to excel in the community college curriculum and go on to receive a scholarship to Fresno Pacific Christian College where I would grow as a follower of Jesus Christ.

It was there that God sharpened his gifts for me in the field of ministry and social work. In 1989 I graduated with a bachelor's of Arts degree. Compelled to work with people with broken lives, and individuals in need of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I was called by the Lord into the Gospel ministry as an Itinerant evangelist.

As a vocation for this preacher, God blessed me to serve in the field of law enforcement. My experience has been as a deputy probation officer, director of the Kings County Probation Departments Juvenile Boot Camp and as a gang investigator for the king's county gang task force. It has been a privilege **to develop anti-gang prevention programs** in the state of California. Throughout the San Joaquin valley hundreds of lives have been saved and helped to flee the dangers of criminal lifestyles because of the experience given to me by the Grace of God.

As a prevention specialist and community organizer, I also had

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the opportunity to serve with West Hills Community College as an administration of justice instructor in the discipline of correctional science, and with the City of Coalinga as their Director of the Claremont Custody Center. (Male correctional facility) During all of these assignments I have received open doors to preach the word of God. It has been amazing to watch HIM move in my life and use someone like me to preach the gospel. (I am so grateful to be allowed such an honor)

Life's vocational experience has taught me a great deal about servant leadership, community organization and ministry. It is these lessons that I am able to draw upon as I enter in and out of various cultures and subcultures. By the time this writer was 17, he had been in jail at least a dozen times for petty misdemeanors and hard-core crimes such as assault with a deadly weapon. It was during this time that I attended a Bible study where Jesus Christ came into my heart and saved me. After receiving salvation and life formational training through several institutions of higher learning, I am using my life's experiences and ministry testimony to talk to others who are attracted to a life of destruction, and or who already are members of dangerous subcultures.

"I'm telling them how valuable they are, and that they are not worthless. There is a better way of life. I want all who hear the gospel to know that God can change their lives. If God can change me then he can change anyone. "I woke up one day and knew I didn't want that lifestyle anymore," I do recognize now, people have to come to a point in life where they are in desperate need of a savior, then a change can come. God will save them if they will only take heed to his word and repent of their sins.

I believe that the answer to humanity's problem is in God's word, there is but one thing humanity must do in order to save a dying world from the ruins of sin and destruction. That is to reach them with the uncompromising gospel of Jesus Christ, and teach them of his laws and grace through Christian discipleship and mentoring.

This longing to see the captives set free is a desire that burns in the soul of this preacher. As a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ I am compelled to save that which is lost. I also am moved by the sad state of mankind's eternal status. Oh that men would be saved and receive the Grace of God, before it is eternally too late! If only they knew the serious state of eternity, many might repent and turn their lives around before it is eternally too late.

### **My calling in life**

In 1990 Heaven dispatched a dream to this preacher in the month of February, two weeks after Sharon and I were married. In the midnight hour God showed me a young preacher in a large room filled with men in a giant circle, in the center of this circle in this closed room this young man was proclaiming something in which all these other men fell to their knees in prayer and tears about. This preacher was saying something to them, and then he began to pray for each one individually. The dream ended and left this newly wed in tears and a cold sweat. On my knees in prayer and in great fear and trembling I consulted God on what this great dream could mean! However there was no response.

After two weeks of sheer fear, and sleepless nights, tossing and turning, agonizing about this dream I spoke with my Pastor of our church for guidance and interpretation. This soul physician knew exactly what was happening to me. Pastor Davis insisted that I go

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back and tell the Lord yes I would go, if HE (The Lord) was calling me to preach.

This writer obeyed the wisdom of the soul physician and received a calling from the Lord into the gospel ministry. From that very day I have had the privilege to preach in numerous states in America, where the gospel has been proclaimed to inmates, students, senior's citizens and various socioeconomic cross cultural groups from numerous denominational backgrounds. The only desire of this preacher is to reach people everywhere who are lost and in need of the saving, life changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

## CHAPTER 10

### MY ULTIMATE PURPOSE

I am a minister, called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. This purpose is huge! I cannot explain it all, but I can go to the word for direction and explanation. The apostle Paul one of the greatest leaders of the church shared the same love for humanity, in that he had a desire to preach the good news to all he could before he left earth to be with the Lord. HE and I both are what you might call prevention specialist. We both are concerned with changing lives and helping people to escape dangerous lifestyles and eternal separation from a Holy God. It was God that gifted men with the ability to help others to escape the dangers of destruction. As a preacher I have received this divine gift, For 17 years I have used in bi-vocational ministry to help people in trouble with the law, and in trouble with themselves to escape the death, hell and the grave. I am an evangelist, set apart for proclaiming the word of God to sinners that they may be saved.

In the New Testament, this office goes various places and spreads the good news on earth. The office of the evangelist can be found in the books of Titus, acts I and II timothy. Apostle Paul the author of these previously mentioned epistles writes in the Ephesians letter that the office of the evangelist is responsible for equipping and building up the body.

The ministry of the evangelist consists of ordaining elders (I timothy 5:22, Titus 1:5). Committing the word to faithful men. (II timothy 3:2. Titus 3:8). Training, teaching, rebuking, exhorting with patience and instruction (I timothy 1:3). This preacher is to warn others about false teachers and most of all evangelize the lost

for the kingdom of God (I Tim 4:1-16).

It is the job of the evangelist, to explain the nature of God and his plan of salvation for all mankind. This preacher must proclaim the facts of the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is called to tell the story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the meaning and the power he has to supply the spiritual needs of men. Using music, preaching, and testimonials, I attempt to gets this message across throughout the United States.

As the evangelist I must explain the way of salvation, I am accountable to heaven for explaining the necessity of repentance and faith to a dying world. In addition to this I must keep a keen eye for the harvest and I myself must be a personal disciple of Jesus Christ. It is my job to prevent people from killing and damning themselves.

I have a manual that is the world's number #1 best seller, it is called the bible. The bible describes the anecdote for rebellion and sin against God. It's also a book that proclaims prevention. In the New Testament, the gospels writers give plenty examples of those that followed Jesus closely, and practiced prevention. They were saved from calamity and changed their lives by faith. In following and obeying him, they discovered what he required of them and what he was truly like. We call this in chystiandom "discipleship". Francis Cosgrove author of The Essentials of discipleship describes the lifestyle of a disciple, he says the following about discipleship.

- A disciple of Jesus is a learner (Matthew 4:19)
- A disciple puts prayer first (Matthew 6: 9-13)
- A disciple is committed to a life of purity (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

- A disciple has a daily devotional time with Jesus (Psalm 27:4)
- A disciple demonstrates faithfulness (John 8:31)
- A disciple shares his faith (Matthew 28:19-20)
- A disciple attends church regularly to worship (Acts. 16:5)

This calling and commitment is one that is centered in Love for God and obedience to his Son Jesus Christ. Therefore to follow him in sacrificial obedience is a pleasure and an honor. The ultimate purpose of this preacher is to win souls for the kingdom of God and see them disciplined into spiritually mature saints of the Kingdom, In that they too might experience the Joy of serving Jesus and entering into fellowship with him, which is the essence of discipleship. This writer loves the Lord an

Desires nothing more in this world than to serve him wherever he desires.

## CHAPTER 11

### A PHILOSOPHY OF EVANGELISM

The God of heaven and earth is interested in lost souls. He is busy searching the dark areas of the world for that which is lost. This is illustrated in St. Luke 15 in the three parables spoke of by Jesus. The master himself said (Jesus) I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. (ST. Luke 5:32) (Prevention)

There are many sinners who are living in social, economic, physical, cultural, and spiritual dilemmas. As the Evangelist I believe that by establishing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, lives can be transformed and restored.

This is a picture of the people I desire to serve and minister too. This vision of service includes evangelism for the masses of people in our inner cities, rural towns, those incarcerated, influenced by suicide, racism, negative associations, family problems, poverty, and chemical dependency, along with hopelessness and despair.

Our nation (North America) is plagued with alarming statistics that reflect a culture in extreme danger of moral decay and spiritual oppression. Teen pregnancy, gang involvement, increase in crime, violence, mass prison expansion, family deprivation, domestic abuse and homelessness are on the rise and are just a few of the symptoms that describe society's problems. Jesus is *committed* to reaching all those people who are in need of a personal relationship with HIM. This particular culture of people are struggling with wicked and sinful traditions that are harmful to the soul and the spirit, and therefore I have attempted to minister to their souls in

the places that they frequent, and suffer in. With the hope of making a difference for the kingdom. (The power of prevention)

### **Christian community activism**

In 1991 in Fresno Ca, I began ministry at the Fresno County Juvenile Hall through the Grace Community Baptist Church, to minister to troubled youth who were lost without a savior. Many souls were saved and added to the church of Jesus Christ.

In 1992 street evangelism was organized in visible high crime areas of Southeast and Southwest Fresno, where women and pimps were headed for a burning hell. All night prayer retreats, Church collaborations, and Boulevard preaching was conducted. Souls were saved and lives transformed from evil.

In 1993 Men from the Grace Community Church began to travel as a team of Evangelist to the Corcoran State Penitentiary to plant churches behind the wall, baptize, and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, great things happened for the kingdom in that facility, crime dropped, assaults were down and souls were saved.

In 1995 the prison ministry expanded to the central California Women's Facility of Chowchilla California, the largest women's prison in the nation. There we have seen God move in mighty works through the masses calling upon the Lord for Salvation.

A strong church has been planted there and Christian leaders are being trained for urban missions. Souls have been delivered from demonic torture and criminal and immoral lifestyles.

In addition to this, I have served and visited Avenal State Prison in Avenal California and San Quentin's death Row in San Quentin California. Both of them were known for their violence and need

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for the gospel. Since that time protestant chapels at both facilities are worshipping and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Revival has fallen on these prisons. San Quentin is the State of California's end of the line for the worst of the worst offenders.

There is a group of believers on death row that meet regularly for church services to pray for the church out here. We have had the privilege of meeting and teaching these men the good news of Jesus Christ.

Since 1997 this evangelist has preached in Inner city crusades throughout Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties of California. Numerous souls have been won for the kingdom of God. High school, college, church retreats and revivals are conducted by request from evangelical congregations throughout the nation. The world needs Jesus and the preacher must tell the story to all who will listen. The poor, rich, nice, mean, pretty, ugly, free, incarcerated all who are alive with the breath of life must receive the good news of Jesus Christ to enter into Gods Glory. This writer Loves the lord and continues to preach & proclaim God's word.

### **Ministry goals**

It is the goal of this evangelist to be a part of a movement in society that is on the cutting edge of divine prevention, and to serve the church and the community in the field of evangelism. The opportunity to partner with local churches, public agencies, private community groups and other cross-cultural fellowships is very exciting, and biblical. God has called the evangelist to serve within the body of Christ as a gift to the Body of Christ.

The Bible says in St. Matthew 28:19-20 go into all the world and

make disciples, baptizing them in the Name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit. This is the goal of the evangelist inside the body of the local church. Teaching the local congregation how to share their faith, how to spread the good news, and how to reproduce themselves in others through responsible evangelism is the goal for the preacher within the structure of the church community.

To equip the believers for kingdom service according to scripture best describes this honor. Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 4: 11-14, “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; *For the perfecting of the saints*, for the work of the ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

Within these goals there is opportunity for church revivals, teaching in training conferences, and church campaigns all done through corporate worship and church council strategic planning. The Evangelist does not operate on his own, but is accountable to the church and a servant of the church. The goal of this preacher is to enhance the local body by sharing the gifts of teaching and preaching, loving and leading, sharing and caring and serving as a soul physician in the “The Local Body”.

There is one final goal in the heart of this preacher and that is the goal of ministry reconciliation. The church must be a body of reconciled believers to God and to one another. The church has no

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business being a racially divided body. There is but ONE LORD ONE FAITH and ONE BAPTISIM. (Ehp.4: 5) The goal of this preacher is to cross-denominational lines, racial lines, gender lines and preach Christ and him crucified. Keep Jesus lifted high that he may draw all men unto him. (John 12:32)

### **My ministry methods**

It was in graduate school at Wheaton College, that I heard Dr. Lyle Dorsett Evangelism Professor at Wheaton College give a lecture on the philosophy of discipleship. The Professor was discussing the great awakening period in America, talking about revival and discipleship. We began to discuss the life of Rev. John Wesley's philosophy of ministry. The lecture was so profound I find it quite necessary to include some of my thoughts in this book. Rev. Wesley had a view of discipleship that blast today's shallow believeism out of the waters of follow-up and discipleship. It is his form of ministry method that must be and shall be used in my ministry of preaching, teaching, worship, discipleship and love.

Rev. Wesley's ministry transformed lives, sharpens dull saints, intensified weak believers and caused a fire to ignite in many a soul. He believed in small group discipleship and accountability groups that went out and got involved in evangelism. Rev Wesley believed that the following actions were identifiable and typical of one who is a disciple of Jesus.

- Confession of sins
- Praise & worship
- Prayer & thanksgiving
- Giving and exhortation
- Bible study

- Bearing others burdens
- Service & outreach to the poor
- Evangelism & reproduction

It is in these actions that the ministry methods are reflected, if they are taught, caught, nurtured and encouraged, one can reproduce a powerful work such as Rev. Wesley's. Don't get the writer wrong, we do not seek to become like Wesley but we do seek to produce the same fruit that will bring the Savior honor and glory.

It was these eight facts discovered in a letter Rev. Wesley wrote to Rev. Mr. Perronet in 1748 that showed the church how profound a list of discipleship actions could be. It could be said that these characteristics are missing in many of our North American pseudo fellowships of easy believism. Oh how we need a breath a fresh air in our ministry methods that will ignite the soul a flame with the love and passion for the sinner. Developing teaching programs that will nourish the passion and commitment to Jesus is a must in the urban context, where life lived every day is in a state of terrorism. Many a saint in this context needs survival tactics and tools for biblical living.

Working in and throughout the church was Jesus model of ministry. You often find him in the synagogue, in the small groups, doing itinerant work, but never far from the local synagogue. The Master was connected to the temple, defended it, taught in it, preached in it, and so must this ministry also be.

These passions of Wesley's come from the Master. These are the ministry methods that are desired to be used for the advancement of the kingdom, throughout the local church.

### **How to effect change in the community**

The practical implications of change in the community, come from this frame of reference, that ministry must occur through and within the church. God has given the local church all of the gifts she needs to be productive for the kingdom. This writer has discovered that men and women cannot fully realize the blessings of the kingdom of God without knowing the pleasure of serving in the church.

It is in the church that souls are caught and taught, trained and disciplined in the faith. When families are sick, and need of care it is the church that they come to. When lovers need to be wed they come to the church. When the deceased need to be buried, they come to the church. When the world is in turmoil, they come to the church. The church is the training ground for the child of God. Yet it is also the hospital for weekly surgery, where skilled soul care physicians operate on the sin sick souls of millions who live in a fallen world. I love the church. I must serve her, she is the bride of The Lord of the universe, and there is no other that I want to give my life too. I need the church.

When I went to Wheaton to study evangelism, I was under the cloud of suspicion of the church; I believed the lie whispered to me by the underworld that really wasn't making a difference in the community. I thought that it was something of a past time. However it wasn't until I began to dive into her history and take a new look at her strengths that I realized she was one of the oldest living organisms in the universe designed and built for change, prevention and salvation.

Jesus said in St. Matthew 18:18 Thou art Peter and upon this rock

I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. This is the chosen vehicle by which God will use his people in the world to do the work of the kingdom.

The practical implications for this writer are that the church is where these gifts given to men must be utilized. If change is going to happen in the local community it will begin in the local church. The church has the spiritual authority in the earth to help our governing bodies of men to work together to stamp out evil in the society.

I left graduate school with a new fervor for serving the local church, and the community. Encouraged with the tools of teaching for the equipping of the saints.

God has enriched my life greatly through spiritual teaching, sharing, caring and encouragement in my life. Many great leaders have helped to reshape my ministry. I am encouraged to know that through evangelism of the local church, change is designed to occur in the community. It was the early church that turned the world upside down with her doctrine and community service. It is the church of the new millennium that keeps the evil subsided in the earth with her prayers and acts of service and mission to the masses. We need the church. If change is going to occur in the earth we have got to connect with the church. She is God's divine vehicle, for prevention, change, evangelism and discipleship.

It is through the church that prevention is most effective. The church is set up and designed to operate as an agency of prevention. God is into prevention. He equips us to avoid the snares of life. The church is therefore thoroughly equip to aid the ills of society through soul care and prevention.

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In closing I would like to CALL ON THE SAINTS OF God in the North American Church community to develop programs to help reach gang members and the criminal community for change. Perhaps some of these ideas can help to curb the tide of violence in our communities.

**Practiced and proven strategies**

1. Sports camps and leagues
2. Concerts and drama presentations
3. Church retreats to summer/winter camps
4. Educational seminars & conferences
5. Juvenile detention centers outreach
6. After school mentoring and tutoring programs
7. Child day care & evangelism
8. High School Campus evangelism
9. Youth Conferences and Rallies
10. Block by Block Churches witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
11. Street by Street Churches conduct small outreach campaigns that are done through various nontraditional modes
12. City to City, and County to County Churches can be mobilized for prevention events.
13. Through feeding programs
14. Educational services
15. Bible study
16. Personal mentoring
17. Drug programs
18. Prison ministries
19. Revivals, crusades, festivals, picnics, block parties,
20. Adult sporting leagues, special services

*May the Grace of our lord and Savior Jesus the Christ be with you.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angulus was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Fresno Pacific University. Pastor Wilson has received his theological training from the Conroe School of Theology, Merced, California, Fresno Pacific University, Wheaton College of Wheaton, Illinois, Birmingham Theological Seminary of Birmingham, Alabama, and Ecclesia University of Divinity, Fresno Ca.

Dr. Wilson has served in higher education for approximately 15 years. Institutions such as West Hills College of Coalinga Ca, Wheaton College of Wheaton Il, Samford University of Birmingham, Alabama, and Fresno Pacific University of Fresno California.

As a licensed and ordained Baptist Pastor, Angulus has served Grace Community Missionary Baptist Church of Fresno, California, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois, and as the Sr. Pastor of the New Beginnings Family Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama. His university ministry at Wheaton College, Samford University, and Fresno Pacific has consisted of serving students in evangelism and spiritual formation. He is currently serving as the Senior Pastor of the New Beginnings Community Church, and as the *University Pastor* and *Dean of Spiritual Formation* at Fresno Pacific University.

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