

ARK MINISTRY

Acts of Random Kindness Can Change You, Your Church, Your Community and the Entire World

William J. Viel, Jr.

Forward by Thomas Wade Akins

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Acts of Random Kindness

Can Change You, Your Church, Your Community and the Entire World

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DEDICATION

To . . .

Linda, my wife and my best friend . . .

You are a genuine ministry partner . . .

You have given so much of yourself by being on the “front line” in ministry . . .

Without your love, encouragement, support and ministry,

this manuscript would not have been written.

TWS

AND ABOVE ALL, TO . . .

My Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ . . .

For giving **His Vision** and **His Call** for

Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF APPRECIATION

An endless number of people have crossed the path of my life's journey. Each has left their own impression on my life and ministry – especially when it comes to Inner Harbor Ministry, Baltimore, Maryland. They have made writing this book a reality.

Two people have found a place in the book through their ministry testimony. I appreciate them being so gracious to allow me to include their Servant Evangelism testimonies.

Thank you . . .

Beth Moore for giving permission to use your Servant Evangelism outreach testimony, “Lesson With A Hairbrush” from **Further Still**. Of all your writings, this is my favorite. Reading the testimony I laughed . . . I cried . . . I thanked God for you. What a joy to serve others.

Mark Jackson for sharing your powerful Servant Evangelism project testimony, “Extreme Makeover”. Much the same as the television series, but, oh so different. The project was God centered Servant Evangelism . . . and the church, the youth and the Jackson family was greatly honored.

And, others who have left their unique thumb prints all over the pages of this book. They are the ones who have made it further down the road in ministry than I. Without awareness of their role in my life and ministry, each has been a tremendous ministry model and, unknowingly, my mentor. I am deeply indebted to each one for leaving a lasting impression upon my life and ministry. They are my ministry heroes. I will stand before the Lord much more worthy in ministry and evangelism because of them.

My heroes . . . God has used you to do His work in my life and ministry.

Thank you . . .

Annie Walker Armstrong . . . even though not an appointed and commissioned “home-land” missionary, she was the “first” missionary to serve in ministry around the Inner Harbor. It has been a God-given honor and privilege to walk in Annie’s “shadows” of ministry and evangelism around the Inner Harbor . . . an awesome journey.

Debbie Wholer . . . my “long distance” ministry teacher from Lake Tahoe, CA. You have provided “how to” and “what to do” ideas for ministry, by far, more than all classroom and training sessions.

Ellen Udovich . . . my former supervisor . . . you remain a friend and great encourager in ministry. Your heart beats . . . “ministry”, “ministry”, “ministry”. Your ministry has afforded me great freedom in ministry and evangelism. Thank you.

Don Cowherd . . . a special brother-teacher for commitment to faith ministry. Through all of life's challenges, you have stayed true and remained committed to God's call to a faith ministry.

Thomas Wade Akins . . . God's best example I know for telling people "Jesus loves you" is fun. In the very beginning of your metropolitan – Washington, DC ministry, I caught your "fun" virus.

Jeff Wagner . . . one of my many North American Mission Board (NAMB) related supervisors. You are a super encourager. You know how to transfer your appreciation and love for ministry "beyond the walls" . . . to me.

Bill Black . . . from the Great Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and Smokey Mountain Resort Ministries. You are God's example of a ministry leader with vision, godly integrity and leadership wisdom. You have been one of my very special ministry mentors without knowing it. Thank you.

Harry Fowler . . . you are a friend to "test the waters" with for ministry. My feet got soaking wet with the Broom Ministry.

Chris Wroten . . . a former pastor of Lee Street Memorial Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD who was sensitive to God at work around the Inner Harbor. You gave me freedom to do ministry beyond the church "walls" . . . even "outside the lines".

Lee Street Memorial Baptist Church, Baltimore . . . a people of God who helped to give "birth" to the ministry. You, the Body of Christ, stepped out in faith and became the "door opener" for Inner Harbor Ministry (IHM).

IHM Board of Directors . . . co-laborers in ministry, valuable to Kingdom work and faithful supporters from the beginning of IHM.

North American Mission Board (NAMB) . . . you are my ministry family, in believing faith reaching out to those who have a "Beatitude Ministry" need and, through **Evangelism** to those who Jesus "misses most".

Association of Resort and Leisure Ministers (ARLM) . . . you are my outward focused family who has fun in ministry outside the lines . . . in unexpected places and uncharted waters. You are "outside the box" dreamers . . . visionaries . . . and in God's power you are "Creative-Innovators" and "front line" ministers.

And two others I greatly appreciate for their valuable assistance . . . to **Brandon Adams**, Visual Communicator, Baltimore, Maryland for his cover creation. He is "cool" . . . and **Ray Hoffman** for being the liaison between the printer and myself for the book's printing. Ray is a very dear brother in Christ and special friend of many years.

FORWARD

William Viel is a man who not only talks the talk but he walks the walk. I have known Bro. Bill personally since 1972. First as a Pastor and then as the Executive Director of the Inner Harbor Ministry in Baltimore, Maryland. In both ministries he was fully engaged in both Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism.

Bro. Bill expanded these two Biblical concepts in practice in other parts of the world such as the Ukraine, Haiti and other islands in the Caribbean as well as other regions of the United States.

Ministry Evangelism is a ministry that has a solid Biblical basis. It is not enough to preach the gospel to a man who is starving of hunger. It is not enough to proclaim the gospel just with our mouths. Along with our proclamation there must be positive action that illustrates in real life and in real time the love of Jesus Christ.

How do we do this in a practical way? **ARK Ministry** tells you how.

What I like about this book is that it is not theory. It is practical! It is simple! It is transferable! It is teachable! It is applicable! It is action! It is a strategy! It is a process! It is incarnational! The bottom line is that it is simply "doing what Jesus did". It goes straight to the heart of what real ministry is all about . . . the way Jesus did ministry by serving others with acts of kindness.

One of the great features of **ARK Ministry** is that it has so many practical helps and resources. The main purpose of the book is to share how man can have a personal relationship with our Creator God through Jesus Christ. Bro. Bill has done a masterful job in this book to share with all of us "how to" practically serve others in the name of Jesus so that all may know Him as Lord and Savior.

I trust that God will use you as you apply what you read in this book. We are truly indebted to Bro. Bill for this great work on both Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism.

Dr. Thomas Wade Akins
Memphis, Tennessee

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PREFACE

It has been my God given privilege to be founder and past Executive Director of Inner Harbor Ministry, Baltimore, Maryland. Inner Harbor Ministry didn't just happen. God raised up a ministry unique to Southern Baptists . . . and other denominations – unique in that in 1988 there was no known ministry model developed or on-going in a place like the Inner Harbor, Baltimore. In no place did all ministries come together in Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism as they did at the Inner Harbor.

Inner Harbor Ministry really began April, 1985 in my heart – conceived in “pregnancy of the heart” and born three and one-half years later . . . November 1, 1988. It began with a vision of what God was doing and what He could do around the Inner Harbor. Inner Harbor Ministry was not a “tried and proven workable” model but it did blaze a new trail for ministry and evangelism in the marketplace of a business-resort / leisure location . . . the Inner Harbor of Baltimore.

In 1987 the words “ministry evangelism” were used to describe ministry around the Inner Harbor. I had no idea another was using the same wording . . . “ministry evangelism”.*1 I am indebted to Dr. Howard Ramsey and Bill Lee*2 for helping me more fully understand and appreciate ministry and evangelism for outreach around the Inner Harbor. Howard Ramsey was the one who helped me link ministry and evangelism together. We agreed “Ministry Evangelism” was the best way to describe ministry around the Inner Harbor.

I have experienced Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism in the marketplace . . . the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, the USSR, Russia, Ukraine, Haiti, Lake Tahoe, the Caribbean – Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix, and while pastor in Ohio and Maryland. Inner Harbor Ministry's Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism outreach, projects and events in Baltimore, Russia, Ukraine and the Caribbean are transferable ministries from the marketplace to the local church and have been used for church starting. I have witnessed Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism become a bridge between non-believers and Inner Harbor Ministry, and between the church and those outside the local church . . . building relational bridges to the unchurched and non-believers. . . the “missing persons”.*3

Compared to a regular edited book this book is a “tool box”. . . A reference book . . . A focused and comprehensive handbook . . . A valuable resource for Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism outreach, projects and events . . . A ministry directory . . . A book nudging people to build bridges to win those who are the ones “Jesus misses most” to faith in Jesus Christ.

ARK MINISTRY is filled with helps and “how to” do Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism. Many books on my library shelves are “tool boxes”. Most turned out to be just what I needed. These tools for Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism may be the very thing that helps you and your church to have a more effective ministry and increase witnessing opportunities to share the Gospel.

This writing is about much more than Inner Harbor Ministry's outreach around the Inner Harbor. It is about ministry and serving people so they will have the opportunity to clearly see and clearly hear the Gospel. It is about a para-church type ministry sharing the Good News in the marketplace through Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism.

ARK MINISTRY is not about ministry. It is not about evangelism. It is about Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism. Yes greater emphasis is on ministry . . . not because ministry is more important than evangelism. It certainly is not. It is about Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism that will help the Christian with witnessing, churches to experience getting outside the church walls to become more externally people focused, assist in church starting and growing a church. Generally, churches and Christians are good at doing ministry. Evangelism scares Christians (non-believers, too) to death. Consequently, ministry and evangelism have been separated – but not on this writer's part. They belong together.

Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism are fun-time opportunities for ministry and evangelism. FUN? Yes, fun!

Washing cars and telling people "Jesus loves you" is fun.

Giving away boxes of cereal and telling people "Jesus loves you" is fun.

Sweeping sidewalks and telling people "Jesus loves you" is fun.

Giving away hot coffee on a cold day or night and telling people "Jesus loves you" is fun.

Caring for the Babuskas (Russian for "grandmother") and telling them "Jesus loves you" is fun.

Helping people to have at least one good meal a week and telling them "Jesus loves you" is fun.

**Doing ministry and acts of kindness for the explicit purpose
of telling people "Jesus loves you" is fun.**

*"Don't forget to have fun. Evangelism has become way too serious. We have managed to turn the very activity we should get so much joy out of into something we avoid. We need to recapture the fun and adventure of ordinary Christians doing ordinary things to nudge the people Jesus misses most across the starting line toward Jesus."*4*

And, a final word. Ministry Evangelism opportunities are in abundance. Servant Evangelism outreach, projects and events are exciting possibilities for ministry and evangelism coming together. . . non-believers hearing clearly and seeing clearly the Good News . . . and providing care and spiritual nourishment to the new believer is an awesome responsibility . . . a great privilege to make an eternal investment in a new believer's life. It is exciting for God's agenda to be our agenda.

William J. Viel, Jr.
Rocky Mount, NC, USA
August 31, 2008