

## **Chapter 1**

# **MINISTRY AND EVANGELISM**

## MINISTRY AND EVANGELISM

How can we care for people (**ministry**) and ultimately give them an opportunity to hear the message of God's love (**evangelism**)?

It is exciting to witness what God is doing today, both inside and outside the church. A "new thing" is emerging . . . "See, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19 NIV).

New churches are being started.

Maintenance churches and churches in decline are beginning to turn around.\*1

The trust level and believability of Christians is slowly being restored.

Externally people-focused churches are increasing in numbers, others are on the horizon. They are making a difference in their communities.

Creative ministries are building bridges between the church and non-believers, church "drop outs" and the community.

Ministry and Evangelism are less separate . . . they are becoming Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism.

It's a new day. God is doing a "new thing". "The Evangelical world is ready to move beyond methodological differences and theological non-essentials and engage our culture (through Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism -- *writer's comment*) with the love and joy of Jesus."\*2

God . . . He is awesome . . . mighty . . . powerful. His "wind" is blowing . . . freely blowing. "The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going" (John 3:8, GNT). When God's "wind" blows in the church His presence is evident in power. Evangelism increasingly becomes more of a priority for Christians and the church. Ministries become opportunities to get in on what God is doing . . . to experience His awesome presence and have part in His agenda.

## MINISTRY

“Meeting another’s need with the resources God has given to you”\*3

God’s agenda has always been about people. His Son, Jesus, ministered to . . .

His Disciples and washed their feet;  
A widow and raised her son from the dead;  
Jarius and healed his 12-year-old daughter;  
A woman who touched Him and He healed her;  
The 5,000 and He fed them;  
A Samaritan woman and He witnessed to her at the well and  
she received His lasting peace for a troubled life.

God’s agenda has not changed. It is still about people. Matthew 25:31-46 is as much for today as any time in the past. This passage is at the center of ministry for First Baptist Church, Leesburg, FL.\*4 “You make a tragic mistake if you do not apply these powerful words to individual action or inaction toward the needs in every period of history . . . . Taking this passage at face value, we recognize that Jesus taught that feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the ragged, caring for the sick and visiting the prisoner are like doing those things for (to) Jesus. On the other hand, closing our hearts and hands to persons with these needs is like turning away and refusing to help Jesus.”\*5

What are we doing with our resources? . . . We know what to do. It is a matter of doing it. We are to go, get involved with, and love the people around us, always ready to give a witness . . . a genuine love demonstrated to the unsaved . . . loving people into having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Take a “360 degree John 4:35” (“ . . . the crops are *now ripe and ready* to be harvested” NLT, writer’s italics) look around you! Fields are ripening all around and are ready “*now*” for the harvest. Look at your church community, where you live, your marketplaces, your place of work, where you socialize, where you do recreation and where you do leisure. What do you see? The masses of people. People and ministry opportunities in every direction. Mother Teresa once said, “It isn’t necessary to move to Calcutta to do something significant”.\*6 Our churches, neighborhoods and every area of life are surrounded with opportunities for ministry. They cry out for ministry care. It is exciting to see Christians discover creative ways for ministry (door openers for evangelism) to present the Gospel. Non-believers are waiting to clearly see and clearly hear the Good News. Many are waiting, even ready to respond to the Gospel and experience new life in Christ.

Charles R. Swindoll in his book, **The Bride**, says,

“Ministry is like mercury . . . it’s hard to get a grip on it. And, if you mishandle it, people get hurt. Slippery and dangerous, ministry needs to wear a sign like the ones that appear in expensive china shops . . . .

‘Fragile!’

‘Please Ask for Assistance’

‘Do Not Touch’

‘Please Take the Children by the Hand’”\*7

Swindoll continues to give ten statements about ministry which are easily forgotten.\*8 It would be good to make them a part of one’s personal ministry . . . even a church ministry.

1. The foundation of ministry is character.
2. The nature of ministry is service.
3. The motive for ministry is love.
4. The measure of ministry is sacrifice.
5. The authority of ministry is submission.
6. The purpose of ministry is the glory of God.
7. The tools of ministry are the Word of God and prayer.
8. The privilege of ministry is growth.
9. The power of ministry is the Holy Spirit.
10. The model for ministry is Jesus Christ.\*9

Even though ministry may be some what hard to hold on to like mercury and is wearing a “Handle With Care” sign, when coupled with evangelism the needs of people are met through ministry and evangelism both in the church and outside the church walls.

**ON-GOING MINISTRY + EVANGELISM = MINISTRY EVANGELISM**

**ACTS OF KINDNESS + EVANGELISM = SERVANT EVANGELISM**

**“OCTOPUS MINISTRIES”\*10**

No church will be able to do all ministries,\*11 but **ALL CHURCHES** can do one or more. Smaller churches will do fewer and larger churches will do many more. Both smaller and larger churches may even recognize some to be “octopus ministries” -- ministries which give off “tenacles” or possibilities for new ministries. The “tenacles” are opportunities for ministry. They begin to grow and take on a purpose and value of their own. In turn, they become an “octopus” ministry and give off their “tenacles” and other ministries begin . . . one activity leads to another and to another and to another.

## **An Octopus Ministry Becomes a Church Start**

Ministry first started to the waterfolk,\*12 the live aboards\*13 at a small fishing village marina in the southern part of Ukraine. At first, it was ministry volunteers frequently stopping to visit live aboards and those who were “rescuers” of the ship wrecked on the Black Sea. Volunteers would give away Bibles, say “hello” and share the Gospel. There was an interest on part of the waterfolk to have a once-a-month meal together. Live aboards and rescuers from close by marinas were invited to the meal. Trusting relationships were built between the volunteers and the live aboards. Interest was expressed to have a Bible fellowship. Eventually, a water folk worship service was started . . . then a church start. Doors continued to open for other ministries . . . to live aboards, marina owners, management and staff members.

An “octopus ministry” . . . it started with giving away Bibles, saying “hello” and sharing the Gospel with the live aboards . . . ministry building upon ministry . . . eventually leading to a larger waterfolk ministry and outreach . . . eventually a church start. And, ministries keep being added and growing . . . ministering to people . . . witnessing to people . . . lost people experiencing redemption.

## **Servant Evangelism Give Away Becomes An Octopus Ministry Evangelism Outreach at Curtis Bay**

Curtis Bay, Maryland is a small and some what isolated southeastern area of Baltimore. A Ministry Evangelism once-a-week feeding outreach first started as a Servant Evangelism give away . . . on the sidewalk. . . . giving away hot dogs, baked beans and iced tea. Close by residents came. Residents from a boarding house on the opposite side of the street came. Even a postman would stop for his dinner.

Cold weather made for a change to the inside. Once inside, the Servant Evangelism give away became a Ministry Evangelism outreach . . . an on-going feeding ministry. Now, during the Ministry Evangelism feeding outreach, Servant Evangelism give aways are a welcomed surprise to attendees. The boxes of cereal and health kit give away times are received with appreciation . . . both are great door openers for evangelism.

An “octopus” Servant Evangelism outreach became an octopus Ministry Evangelism once-a-week feeding ministry. Opportunities for other ministries and give aways have been the result of the “octopus” Servant Evangelism outreach . . . Grocery give aways, School Supplies give aways, Table Evangelism Ministry, Cereal give aways, Health Kit give aways. A church-type outreach has been “conceived” in the pregnancy of the heart . . . now being born . . . small groups creating a togetherness with the people . . . those making a salvation commitment are discipled in their new life in Christ, Bible teaching, equipping new Christians to become effective witnesses for Jesus Christ, for worship and praise times . . . because of Servant Evangelism and Ministry Evangelism “octopus” ministries.

## **An Octopus Bible Study Ministry and Servant Evangelism Outreach Leads to a Church Start In Ukraine**

The people of Ukraine have a great appreciation for orchestra and choral music. Many cities in Ukraine have an “official” symphony orchestra and chorus. Kiev, capital of Ukraine, did not. Roger and Diane McMurrin had moved from the United States to Kiev. They were open for God’s “assignment for ministry”. They had a “missionary” and ministry heart for Kiev. They were open to being on God’s agenda . . . and they were musicians.

The McMurrins invited Ukrainian musicians to come together for symphony orchestra and chorus music. In time, the Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus were started. Ministry Evangelism weekly Bible studies before and after rehearsal times were started. Eventually, members of the Bible studies came together for worship services.

About the same time, Servant Evangelism “octopus” outreach opportunities and give aways started . . . many acts of kindness were expressed to the orchestra and chorus members. There were dinners and times for meeting physical needs of the musicians. “Octopus” ministries helped to start a church.

Today, because of Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism “octopus” ministries, the Church of the Holy Trinity is growing. “Octopus” Servant Evangelism ministries continue and, often times, become Ministry Evangelism outreach . . . Babuska (“Grandmother”) Ministry, Medical Ministry, Orphanage Ministry, Prison Ministry, Dinner Outreach, Adoption Support Ministry, Radio and TV Ministry and many others. Servant Evangelism acts of kindness are daily occurrences. Today, the Church of the Holy Trinity has a world-wide ministry through the Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus which started as an octopus Bible Study Ministry.

### **EVANGELISM**

God’s mandate . . . to share my faith with non-believers

Churches and Christians have used some of the most bizarre techniques to “witness” to the non-believer. Churches have marketed and advertised for evangelism . . . using some of the strangest means to get people to buy into something or to think a certain way.

**Evangelism is to be the number one priority of the church.** Every thing the church does should be geared toward evangelism. People may not think of it that way but God does. The primary objective of evangelism is reaching people for Christ and salvation – the poor, the wealthy, the lonely, the hurting, the unchurched, the non-believer, the missing ones – and is not just someone else’s responsibility. It’s mine . . . it’s all

believers who have a heart for evangelism. God's perfect will and plan is for man's redemption. From Genesis to Revelation the Word of God is clear as to God's will and plan for reaching people. **His perfect will . . .** lost man's redemption. **His plan . . .** believers to join Him – to get in on what He is doing. **His call . . .** "Come after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17, KJV).

Brian McLaren, Cedar Ridge Community Church, Spencerville, Maryland, has said,

"One of the greatest enemies of evangelism is the church as a fortress or social club; it sucks Christians out of their neighborhoods, clubs, workplaces, schools and other social networks and isolates them in a religious ghetto. There it must entertain them . . . and hold them . . . ."\*14

The Church is vital and strategic to Ministry Evangelism. The church is to equip it's members for Ministry Evangelism and sustain them while nurturing those whose lives are changed through Ministry Evangelism. Too few churches and pastors understand how vital this is to those who are volunteers in Ministry Evangelism.

A Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism opportunity with (at least) some evangelism training can be effective in bridge building and winning the non-believer to faith in Jesus Christ. There is an abundance of approaches to evangelism and training for evangelism . . . for evangelism "fishing".\*15

"Jesus came to earth to gather a planet full of fish. He knew fish. He loved fish. His passion was fish. Hang with fish and you pick up their odor. He was not a technique person. His only plan was to find fish, hang with fish, love fish, accept fish, heal fish . . . . Do Jesus stuff and the atmosphere of the kingdom will change everything."\*16 We have been trained, we have trained and we continue to train. We have the ministry "tools". Ministry Evangelism and Servant Evangelism provide two of the best ways for "fishing". It's time to start evangelism "fishing".

Pastors . . . most are "neck deep" . . . even in over their heads . . . with administration, committee meetings, "engineering services" (cleaning the building, putting out trash), "majoring on minors and minoring on majors". What would happen if pastors delegated some of their responsibilities, invited laymen to join them and together they did evangelism . . . personal evangelism . . . telling people "Jesus loves you"? What would happen? **Most likely, there would be no church decline or struggling with membership maintenance. There would be no church starting or church growth issues except "where do we reach out to start another new work" and "where do we put the people?"**

The primary method of evangelism is based on natural relationship bridges as a result of being like Jesus . . . ministering to someone and in some way doing acts of kindness. Jesus' way was interpersonal . . . crossing over relationship bridges for personal evangelism. The primary method . . . personal evangelism . . . to love people through evangelism into having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Introducing someone to Jesus Christ is the most exciting thing a believer can do. Giving a witness is not always easy. But, it is a great joy leading someone to faith in Jesus Christ. What is witnessing? "It is simply taking a good look at the Lord and then going out and telling others what you saw".\*17

Today, the Gospel is presented in many different ways. Each way has its own pattern of presentation adjusted to the situation. Jim Henderson writes, "When it comes to evangelism, we can be our ordinary selves and it turns out to be good enough. It turns out that all Jesus needs are the five loaves and two fish of our lives – something we already have. Rather than trying to escape the ordinary, we should exploit it and attempt something small for God – something ordinary."\*18

Some styles of evangelism have been severely criticized because they are aggressive or fear tactics are used to convert some one to their beliefs. Bill Hybles, in his book, **Becoming A Contagious Christian**, presents six significant styles of evangelism which are consistent with the witness' interests, gifts, temperament and abilities.\*19 Following are the **STYLES OF EVANGELISM**. Each person's style will make a significant contribution to the process of leading someone to faith in Jesus Christ. A healthy church will have a variety of evangelism -styles throughout the church. "It takes the whole church to win the whole world".\*20

### STYLES OF EVANGELISM

<u>Style of Evangelism</u>	<u>Biblical Witness</u>	<u>Scripture Source</u>
Confrontational	Peter	Acts 2
Intellectual	Paul	Acts 17
Testimonial	Blind Man	John 9
Interpersonal	Matthew	Luke 5:29
Invitational	Samaritan Woman	John 4
Serving	Tabitha	Acts 9:36

No one person has the spiritual maturity for all styles of evangelism to be fully efficient, practical and productive as a part of his or her personal witnessing life . . . but Jesus did. The six "styles of evangelism" are revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus in the Gospel of John.\*21



## STYLES OF EVANGELISM REVEALED IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

<u>Style of Evangelism</u>	<u>Witness To</u>	<u>Scripture Source</u>
Confrontational	Samaritan Woman	John 4:4-15
Intellectual	Nicodemus	John 3:1-21
Testimonial	(Himself) "I am . . ."	John 6:30f
Interpersonal	Nobleman	John 9:1f
Invitational	Disciples	John 1:35f
Serving	Feeding the 5000	John 6:5f

Whatever the style of evangelism, the method is based on natural relationship bridges in a community. Jesus' way was to use the style that was best for the situation.

### WITNESSING "THE JESUS WAY"

Jesus had a divine appointment with the "Woman at the Well". Her life was a mess. He untangled her troubled life. He was the answer to her deepest needs. John 4:4-15\*22 is an example of Jesus' personal evangelism style. It is an outline of how to witness "The Jesus Way".

#### **The Situation** (vv. 6-9)

"Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noon time. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Please give me a drink'. He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refused to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, 'You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?'"

#### **Her Interest** (vv. 10-12)

"Jesus replied, 'If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you living water'. 'But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket', she said, 'and this is a very deep well. Where would you get this living water? And besides, are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us the well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his cattle enjoy?'"

#### **Her Need** (v. 13)

"Jesus replied, 'People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water'."

**His Claim (v. 14a)**

“But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether’.”

**The Invitation (v. 14b)**

“It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life’.”

**Her Response (v15)**

““Please, sir’, the woman said, ‘give me some of that water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to haul water’.”

**ANOTHER “JESUS WAY”**

Rick Richardson in his book, **Evangelism Outside the Box**, gives another way to witness “The Jesus Way” in Matthew 9:35-39. Lou Allison of the Billy Graham Center has “suggested that Jesus practiced a three-step process of evangelism: prayer, care and share”.\*23

**Prayer:** God the Father revealed to Jesus where He was to go and ones He was to heal and teach.

**Care:** Jesus had a genuine care and compassion for others.

**Share:** Jesus preached, taught, proclaimed and explained the Gospel.

**“JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM” EVANGELISM**

I am convinced that people will do (more) personal evangelism if it is easy for them to do it. **Just Walk Across the Room**\*24 by Bill Hybels encourages and equips readers to routinely initiate spiritual conversations with those who don’t know Christ. It all starts with a walk across the room. How much easier can it get than for someone to “just walk across the room”?

What if you knew that by simply crossing the room and saying “hello” to someone, you could change that person’s life forever . . . just a few steps . . . to make an eternal difference. It has nothing to do with methods and everything to do with taking a genuine interest in another. All you need is a heart that’s in tune with the Holy Spirit and a willingness to venture out of your “Circle of Comfort” and into another person’s life.\*25

Believers generally affirm that evangelism is a vital part of what God calls them to do, but very few make a practice of doing it. They feel awkward and non-equipped, either because they’ve never been trained or because of their lack of interaction with non-Christians.

“Just Walk Across the Room” Evangelism is exciting. Just think . . . I can have a life-changing impact for someone standing a few steps away. For me, I learn the power of extending care and compassion.

Why . . . “Just Walk Across the Room” Evangelism?

**First, it is simple.** You look for opportunities to walk across a room or any place where you can connect with another person.

**Second, there’s no pressure . . .** to do anything other than connect with that other person.

**Third, I have to look outwardly and listen.**

Let’s do “Just Walk Across the Room” Evangelism and see what happens. If nothing happens, we’ve lost nothing, but if something happens then we’ve gained everything. No longer do I need to wait for the next outreach campaign. I can reach out as I go about my daily life.

It is exciting to observe someone “who has never before shared Jesus in a personal way then become alive and effective in leading others to Him”.\*26 How? Just being like Jesus in the marketplaces of daily life.

Biblical evangelism needs to be translated in the context of our normal traffic patterns . . . connecting with people through acts of kindness (Servant Evangelism), giving a witness to those we meet at a . . .

**Traffic Patterns**  
Sports Event / Fishing tournament  
7-11 convenient store  
School event  
Emergency room waiting area  
Bus stop  
McDonalds  
Boat Convention gathering

**Connecting With People**  
Take pictures, give copies to participants  
Wash door windows, clean the parking lot  
Teachers’ last day of school cook out  
Listen to - pray with a patient’s family  
Coffee give away on cold winter days  
Christmas concert  
Meet attendees, use water folk language

. . . and to those we see daily who are our neighbors, co-workers or class mates.

“There will be a wide range of approaches, but the purpose is always the same -- to lead a person to faith in Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior and Lord . . . . Regardless of where they are approached (*sometimes in the most unexpected places*), they must understand who Jesus is, what their condition is, and that they must make a response, the positive response of receiving Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord”.\*27

## “A Long Way from Home”

Night Life Ministry is exciting. It really is exciting. I enjoy it. It's fun. You meet all kinds of people and life styles in all sorts of places. Lori was one of those people.

Before Night Life Ministry on this particular night I felt it would be wise on my part to stop by the police kiosk to see if one of the officers would be walking in my direction. Walking with him would be much safer than doing it alone. In fact, this night God made it clear to walk with an officer would be a wise decision. Peace. I put a flak jacket on for safety. I had no idea what God had waiting for me.

As we crossed into the Night Life turf a young girl came around the corner. Needless to say, all three were startled. The officer asked her name . . . “Lori”. “Why are you walking in this area”? . . . “To stay alive. I'm homeless. It's safer not to sleep on the streets at night. I sleep during the day.” About the time the officer was starting to ask more questions he got a call and immediately left. All my uneasiness about safety was gone. I could tell this was God's time. This was going to be a “God thing”.

It seemed as if Lori wanted to talk with someone who would listen. She talked. I listened. She had a past history with alcohol. Lori and her parents did not have a good relationship. In fact, they did not get along with one another. She walked out of the house one day, taking nothing with her and went to Dallas, TX. She worked to earn enough money to buy a bus ticket . . . to Los Angeles. She worked and bought another ticket . . . to San Francisco. Then to Chicago, on to New York and finally to Baltimore.

I felt when Lori left our time together I would not see her again. Night Life Ministry was a ministry outreach for the opportunity to tell someone “Jesus loves you”. I was confident that I needed to ask Lori the most important question I could ask.

“Lori, are you a Christian”?

“No”. She had a list of reasons why not.

This was God's time and I needed to talk with Lori about running away from home and, all the while, God loving her. She was one who Jesus “missed most”.

“Lori, you have walked out on your parents. Even though you did not get along with them they might like to know what is going on with you or where you are. You may feel they are not good parents but they are your parents. You have run away from home. You have run away from your parents. You are still running. You have got to stop running.”

“I'm not running.”

“Yes you are. You are even running from God. You are going in the wrong direction.”

“No I’m not. I’m getting ready to go to Atlanta.”

“Lori, I’m not talking about running to another city. I’m talking about running from God. He loves you Lori.” When I told her God loved her . . . tears and more tears. They were real. She felt anything but loved. I knew she needed to hear who she was, a young girl without Jesus, and a girl who did not know Him as the One who loved her and died for her. We talked for hours while sitting on the steps of a business. Then . . . very simply I told her again who Jesus was. I talked with Lori as the one Jesus missed most. I asked her to let Jesus into her life . . . to receive Him as her Savior . . . to pray and ask God to completely change her life.

Finally, after many hours of talking she said “yes” to becoming a Christian. We prayed. In the very moment Lori asked Christ into her life, she knew she had a new life . . . a new life in Christ. She was wearing ragged clothing. Her hair was dirty and matted. Her skin was crusted. She stood as a 21 year old girl with new life in Christ. Lori was a beautiful young lady. She was smiling. There were more tears. Now she knew a peace she had been searching for while “running” in the wrong direction.

The darkness of night had turned into morning sunlight. Before leaving for home I told Lori I would return later in the morning and help her to find a place to stay . . . help her to call her parents. When I returned Lori was gone. No one knew where she had gone. I did learn that a police officer had given her some money to make a phone call. For three months I tried to find Lori. No one had seen her.

During our talk time, Lori had given me her parent’s name and phone number. Months later I called her home in Texas. I learned the morning I had returned to help Lori she had called her parents. They listened while Lori told them where she was and what she had been doing. She told them she was a “brand new Christian” (Lori’s words).

Lori listened while her mother talked. After Lori left home her parents had become Christians. They had been praying for their “run-away prodigal daughter”. They waited patiently and prayerfully. They made arrangements for Lori to return to her Houston home. They welcomed her home. Lori and her parents celebrated her return.

God has given Lori a special ministry of music and testimony. Every day she is some where giving a witness . . . sharing her testimony. I have had an “airport lay over visit” with Lori and her parents. It was short but a very special “family” reunion.

In the most unexpected places, sometimes you meet someone who “Jesus misses most”. Lori had been one who Jesus had been “missing most” for a long time. Not any longer.