

Our final strategies for this series on SHARING THE GOOD NEWS. We have looked at: **1. Walk needs to match our talk; 2. Learning to use the Bible and memorising scripture; 3. Focus your discussion on Jesus; 4. Allow for the work of the Holy Spirit. 5. DON'T FORGET TO GIVE PEOPLE A CHANCE TO RESPOND V37-41**

There are a number of things to note when looking for a genuine response to the gospel.

- > Don't push for an artificial response to the gospel. Witnessing is not about boasting in numbers or pride or stroking our ego.
- > Make sure people are clear about what they are responding to. It is always good to ask the right questions.

## PRAISE

the Lord for:

- ★ Distribution of 13,000 Challenge papers for **Haiti** and 5,000 for **Swaziland** through USA ministry called *Hands Against Hunger* who we partner with.
- ★ Increased print run for the USA prison edition of the paper.
- ★ A few USA churches each looking to sponsor one edition of paper into Cuba.
- ★ A number of recent gifts received for the ongoing work of Challenge here in Australia.

## DEVOTIONAL Acts 2:14-41 SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

### PART 3

- > Don't be frightened to repeat yourself if necessary, to help clarify things.
- > Be ready to answer questions. Again this is making sure people can understand why and how to respond to the gospel. This is the situation when Peter's audience ask him what they must do to get right with God.
- > Evangelism is a process and you may be speaking to a person who is only part of the way along their journey.
- > Remember we are called to be witnesses as we read in Acts 1v8. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts and converts. Paul echoed this for us in 1 Corinthians 3v6; *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."*
- > You cannot get a harvest, unless you sow a seed. In other words our expectation for evangelistic outcomes needs to be grounded.
- > The goal of gospel witness is not only to get people to pray a prayer of commitment, but to turn from their sin to God.  
Paul talks plainly to King Agrippa in Acts 26v19-20; *"Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance."*
- > For genuine conversion, three things must be grasped – sin, repentance and Lordship. We may not use such terminology but the principles should be clearly communicated.

*Continued over*

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## PRAYER

### needed for:

- ★ A replacement Editor to free up Carl to concentrate on promotion and development of the paper both in Australia and overseas.
- ★ Overseas editions sent out recently –USA (prison, main, Spanish), South Africa (main, prison, Zimbabwe).
- ★ The leadership team for Impact Africa as they work through itineraries and logistics for trip in July 2017.
- ★ Project funding for various areas of ministry with Impact Africa while in South Africa .

Luke 24:45-48 puts it: *“Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures and said to them; ‘Thus it is written, that Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’ ”*

> Every opportunity will be different so be flexible. Don't be a slave to a method but learn to adapt the principles.

### 6. CONTINUE TO BE WILLING AND PERSISTENT

Research indicates it takes about 8-10 meaningful contacts with the gospel before a person responds. We see persistence in Acts 17v6; *“When they did not find them [Paul and Silas], they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: ‘These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here.’ ”*

If you are willing and persistent, also take time to sharpen the blade. Have you ever watched an axeman before a competition. He takes time to oil and sharpen his axe. When need to prepare, to sharpen the blade spiritually speaking.

Study the scriptures carefully, especially those areas that deal with evangelism. For example, the woman at the well in John 4.

> Read books on evangelism: William Fay *Sharing Jesus without fear*; Bill Hybels *Walk across the room*; Greg Koukl *Tactics*; Ray Comfort *Hell's best kept secret*

> Do courses on evangelism. Learn all you can and watch how God will use it when you witness.

> Develop a prayer list of people you are praying for. These could be family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues.

> Create opportunities to witness: greet your neighbour; mow a lawn; cook a meal; join a sports club; look for opportunities. (I saw a lady with a cross around her neck, so asked why she was wearing it.)

Romans 10v15 declares; *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad news of good things.”*

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR CHALLENGE



## MY RESPONSE

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